

**Census trial:
NPC solicits for
cooperation**

Page 34



News: PPC holds Editorial staff in-house training Page 4

Sports: Pinnick vows to fight detractors Page 39

Feature: Drunkenness: Robber of respectability Page 4

Sunday Standard



TRUTH EXALTS A NATION

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

VOL. 13 NO. 752

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2022

N250

e-mail:nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

Fuel subsidy: To be or not?

For several years, the subsidy regime in Nigeria's oil sector has become a subject of intense controversy. From one administration to the other, the subsidy on oil has been enmeshed in an unending drama, accusation and counter-accusation.



SUNDAY MAGAZINE
Pages 10, 31



I won't rest until I bring relief to Nigerians

>Page 2

-Buhari



Northern Governors call for NLTP/L-PRES speedy implementation

>Page 2

Will self -defense pay off?

It is a fact that insecurity has pushed an already charged and bewildered nation to the precipice and both young and old, the haves and the have nots in the past 23 years have spilled their blood as sacrificial lambs on the altar of sheer madness by dare devil insurgents whose only motive is to maim, kill, destroy and to take Nigeria back into the dark ages.

Despite supplications by prayer warriors across all faiths, and, with trillions of Naira gone down the drain spent by the Federal Government on prosecuting the war against insurgency, the situation has remained the same and is getting worse by the day making life miserable, short and brutish.

The increase in cases of banditry, kidnapping and terrorists activities as witnessed throughout the length and breadth of the country particularly in the North East, North West and North Central regions and which continuous to spread like wildfire spells doom for a people trying to cope with the harsh living conditions made worse by unemployment, poverty and disease has further opened a corridor for people to be used either as informants or easy recruits for such nefarious activities.

Pained and frustrated by these hydra-headed evil, which are still claiming innocent lives in droves as collateral damage, depicts a nation at war with itself, a situation that forced at one time or the other Governors of Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Sokoto, Niger, Katsina, Zamfara and Kaduna states to cry to the Federal Government for intervention as the situation spirals to heights never imagined.

Sadly, the latest move by Zamfara State Governor, Bello Matawalle, insisting on enacting laws that would allow residents of Zamfara to carry arms in self defence suggest that the citizens are helpless and have lost confidence in the system to protect them owing to the fact that the security agencies are already overwhelmed especially with the spade of killings of both security personnel and civilians.

Although there are misgivings coming on the heels of the directives by Governor of Zamfara State from the Chief of Defence, Lt. General Lucky Irabor and some other prominent Nigerians on the pros and cons of such an order, which they fear may snowball into a repeat of the same danger of the proliferation of arms from outside the country that have found their way into wrong hands leading to this point in time.

We, however, call for caution in this regard as any negative consequences may boomerang on the already fragile peace and tranquility of the nation that could replicate the experience of failed states like; Somalia Libya and so on.

Our stand therefore, is for the security agencies to purge the bad eggs within them who appear to be compromised and living fat on the misfortunes of the country and have seemingly become accomplices in the perpetration of evil against their fellow humans.

Perhaps, it is time for the Federal Government to match words with action and convince Nigerians that they have the political will to tackle the ugly menace. Perhaps, by convening a national conference on security with a view to seeking viable options that can take the country out of the woods.

We join stakeholders in agitating for the decentralization of the entire security apparatus to make it easier for the states to handle security challenges based on their own peculiarities and strategies for effective protection of lives and property.

I won't rest until I bring relief to Nigerians -Buhari

President Muhammadu Buhari has again reassured that his administration would continue to address the current security challenges and costs of living in the country, saying "I won't rest until I bring relief to Nigerians."

Mallam Garba Shehu, the President's media aide in a statement, said the president gave the assurance in his Eid-el Kabir message to Nigerian Muslims and other citizens, recently in Abuja.

I am quite aware of the difficulties people are facing and working to resolve them," the president added.

He, however, urged Nigerians to put the interest of the country above selfish interests and "use religion as a motivation for the love of our common humanity."

Buhari said that "if we are putting the teachings of our religions into practice, most of the evils afflicting our society would have been solved."

According to the President Muhammadu Buhari has again reassured that his administration would continue to address the current security challenges and costs of living in the country, saying "I won't rest until I bring relief to Nigerians."

Mallam Garba Shehu, the President's media aide in a statement, said the president gave the assurance in his Eid-el Kabir message to Nigerian Muslims and other citizens, on Friday in Abuja.

"I am quite aware of the difficulties people are facing and working to resolve them," the president added.

He, however, urged Nigerians to put the interest of the country above selfish interests and "use religion as a motivation for the love of our common humanity."

Buhari said that "if we are putting the teachings of our religions into practice, most of the evils afflicting our society would have been solved."

According to the President,

religion should not just be used a mere badge of identity, but a motivator for doing good for the country and humanity.

He frowned at the exploitation of the people by traders and the stealing of public funds by civil servants and other holders of public trust, saying these negative vices were reflections of the abandonment of the teachings of our religions.

"Our society is a bundle of contradictions. People display external religiosity without fear of God; they make life difficult for others; money becomes their god; leaders abandon their oaths of office by taking money meant for the welfare of the people and divert it to their private pockets," he said.

Buhari congratulated the Muslim Ummah in Nigeria and the world on the occasion of the Eid, citing for special mention, "the brave men and women in uniform fighting terror on many fronts and their families, as well as others held hostage and kept away from their families by wicked and heartless terrorists."

He used the occasion to call on all Muslims to reflect on the significance of the sacrifice epitomised by Eid.

"We should show love and care to our neighbours and others while celebrating this spiritually important event in our lives," he said.

President Buhari also advised Muslims "to promote the good virtues of Islam through personal examples and practice.

"Muslims should avoid association with violent extremist ideas that have wrongly given Islam a negative image or poor perception."

The President expressed the hope that this Eid would be a source of blessing, peace, prosperity and safety for all Nigerians, stressing that coexistence and stability would prevail in the country. (NAN), religion should not just be used a mere badge of identity, but a

motivator for doing good for the country and humanity.

He frowned at the exploitation of the people by traders and the stealing of public funds by civil servants and other holders of public trust, saying these negative vices were reflections of the abandonment of the teachings of our religions.

"Our society is a bundle of contradictions. People display external religiosity without fear of God; they make life difficult for others; money becomes their god; leaders abandon their oaths of office by taking money meant for the welfare of the people and divert it to their private pockets," he said.

Buhari congratulated the Muslim Ummah in Nigeria and the world on the occasion of the Eid, citing for special mention, "the brave men and women in uniform fighting terror on many fronts and their families, as well as others held hostage and kept away from their families by wicked and heartless terrorists."

He used the occasion to call on all Muslims to reflect on the significance of the sacrifice epitomised by Eid.

"We should show love and care to our neighbours and others while celebrating this spiritually important event in our lives," he said.

President Buhari also advised Muslims "to promote the good virtues of Islam through personal examples and practice.

"Muslims should avoid association with violent extremist ideas that have wrongly given Islam a negative image or poor perception."

The President expressed the hope that this Eid would be a source of blessing, peace, prosperity and safety for all Nigerians, stressing that coexistence and stability would prevail in the country.

Northern Governors call for NLTP/L-PRES speedy implementation



The Northern Governors' Forum has met with the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Mohammed Mahmood Abubakar, over the National Livestock Transformation Programme and the State Level Project Socialisation on Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) in the region.

By PALANG KASMI

THE Northern Governors Forum have met to fast track the implementation of the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) Programme of the Federal Government towards modernising pastoral activities and encouraging sustainable peace in the region.

The Governors met with the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Mohammed Mahmood Abubakar over the NLTP and the state level Project Socialisation on Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES), in the region at the Transcorp Hilton Abuja.

The meeting was chaired by Governor Simon Bako Lalong,

Chairman of the Forum and Governor of Plateau State and was attended by Governors of Kwara, Niger, Kebbi, Kaduna and Deputy Governors of Benue, Kogi, Bauchi and Nasarawa States.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting held behind closed doors, Governor Lalong said, the engagement was necessitated by the concern of the Northern Governors over the implementation of the programmes which have direct bearing on the lives of the people.

He said the Governors were worried over the slow pace of the implementation of the National Livestock Transformation Programme which was conceived to

tackle the challenges confronting herdsmen and farmers.

He said, because agriculture is the main stay of the north, the Forum welcomes the introduction of the new outfit Livestock, Productivity and Resilience Project, (L-PRES) which it believes compliments the NLTP and will yield a positive result.

Lalong said that the meeting was fruitful as the Governors got assurances from the Minister of Agriculture that the Federal Government will continue implementing all programmes in partnership with the States for the benefit of the people.

On security for farmers, he explained that the implementation of the programme would also help in addressing the security challenges which farmers were experiencing in their farming activities.

He said "We are not sleeping the issue of insecurity as it has been a matter of concern where in some place farming activities have been interrupted. We are working with other stakeholders especially the security agencies to see how to help farmers. This is the time that farmers would need a lot of our support and assurance to produce food for the nation".

The chairman also disclosed that the meeting discussed the revamping of the textile industry through the Northern Nigerian Development Company as a way of addressing unemployment and crime.



With
**Katdapba
Y. Gobum**
On Sunday



gobum_katt@yahoo.co.uk 07037977744 (sms)

"For how long shall we continue to be in the hospital? Only our resolve to leave the ward matters. Who will rescue the country from the 'hospital ward' and put the patient back in form and willing to work again"

Nigeria: We are a sick nation

THE nation has been described variously by different people. They may be right and wrong. But most Nigerians are of the view that several things going on should not have been so had we been serious and conscious of the need to develop. We took wrong decisions or that we are generally not ready for nationhood.

There are several negatives about the leadership of the country. There are indeed a lot of challenges that have been self-inflicted; waiting for the right frame of mind to deal with them. Truth is, nations don't need to be stuck in one station for long. Those who do not want it to move must be shown the way out.

I have heard from the mouths of Nigerians how we arrived at our present station today, and they do not mince any words about the culpability of the leaders and how we came to be under the same commonwealth. While many still don't believe, I am sure there are numerous signs that are rife today threatening the very foundation of the country. The things that should hold us together are no longer there again.

Reading and accepting the views of many Nigerians say a lot about how we have left the right path, only to chase what some of us are interested in; for only their good, and to the detriment of the nation.

It has been observed and rightly so, that 'the corrosion and coarseness that have afflicted the state manifest in the general and unbelievable poverty in many parts of our country. Rather than to build a secular state as enshrined in our constitution, what we have done is to abandon the state to religious bodies – some moderate and others extreme – to deal with the state the way they wish. The manifestation of these tendencies can be seen in our people abandoning their responsibility and hard work and pinning all their hopes on so called breakthroughs on God/Allah.

'When the poor people do not get instant gratification they either become violent or reverse to their primitive pre-Christian or pre-Islamic beliefs and practices including human sacrifices which we have witnessed in many parts of Nigeria where people are killed in rituals supposedly designed to make money. All these maladies and killings including the recent killing of Miss Deborah Samuel Yakubu are a manifestation of state failure and state collapse'.

Take a look at the incident that took place at the Kuje Custodial Center this week. Sadly some people were reported to have lost their lives during the attack, it cannot be said that there was lack of intelligence before the attack. It is unacceptable, like it has happened in Jos, Ibadan and in some other centers where it is known that such centers are



Buhari

inhabited by some of the elements that should be protected against escape.

The visit by high ranking government officials including Mr. President and the Senate President in the week should tell the reader that much is expected and given the rate such government facilities have been attacked in the past, it should be enough reason to know what to do in order to protect life and property. To be caught napping after other centers had been attacked in similar fashion is an indictment which should attract sanction on the leadership of the Nigerian Prison Service.

The rain started to beat us right from our amalgamation by the colonial masters. There are stifling conditions orchestrated by our colonial masters. They left yawning gaps that have become our albatross. They conceived ideas for the new nation some six decades ago that have returned to haunt us in more ways than we can imagine.

Some other Nigerians think the current state of the country should be blamed on the 'worrying attitude of the Nigerian public and the care freeness of political leaders'. From education, economy, politics and several other sectors, a lot of things are happening here.

Sadly, one of the worrisome aspects noted of Nigerians and which have affected us all is that we 'loathe honesty, kindness and love'; rather, we prefer 'bigotry, hatred, mendacity and corruption.

Nigerians are said to 'love the sensual and the sedentary and they worship money whilst they

have contempt for those who place more value on discipline, restraint, holiness, virtue, honesty and decency'. There are many more.

It was the former Minister of Aviation, Femi Kayode wrote: "They (Nigerians) place no value on education or the educated but place all value on those that flaunt cash and worship money. They build mega churches which refuse to cater for the poor and they go there to ask God for prosperity and promotion instead of love and salvation.

Continuing, he noted: They condone Pastors that offer round-trips to heaven for 310,000 naira and they tolerate Sheiks that promote, protect, defend and pamper bloodthirsty terrorists and heartless kidnapers. We are a sick nation in dire need of delivery and prayer. We need the light and the power of God. We need a miracle. We need a new beginning.

'We need young, strong, God-fearing and dynamic leaders who have no fear and are prepared to tread on the toes of the mighty to get things done. We need leaders who haven't been charmed or seduced by the forces of darkness and who do not bow to satan in the secrecy of their closets'.

It was Jide Osuntokun who wrote in May 2022 in The Nation sometime that 'Nigeria at independence had all the attributes of a future powerful and successful state and has perhaps the potentiality of becoming the Japan of Africa. Nigeria was seen as a country capable of wiping the racial slur on black peoples as never-do-well, some kind of what Germans would call

"untermenschen" or sub humans.

'The prime minister of Nigeria was the toast of the powerful countries in the world. President J. F. Kennedy lavishly welcomed our prime minister, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa to the White House in 1961. The British knighted him and even the USSR under Nikita Khrushchev tried unsuccessfully to open its country's embassy in Lagos but was rebuffed by a proud country which did not like the "subversive tendencies" of the USSR in Africa.

'The imperious General Charles de Gaulle met his match in the standoffish Sir Abubakar who cut Nigeria's ties with France in 1965 when France refused to accede to the request of Nigeria and other West African states to stop testing atomic bombs in the Sahara desert because of its radioactive fallout which might have endangered the lives of Nigerians and other Africans.

'Even the prime minister of Great Britain, our former colonial masters, Harold Macmillan, took seriously Nigeria's positions on institutionalized racial discrimination in apartheid South Africa which forced its prime minister to withdraw the country from the commonwealth in 1961'.

Continuing, Osuntokun wrote emphatically thus: 'A few weeks after this demarche, the prime minister, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the premiers of the West and the North and high ranking military officers were slaughtered in a coup overthrowing the democratically-elected government of Nigeria. That was the beginning of our problems. The country was not perfect before this time. The British colonial masters were not philanthropists who cared for any black people whether in Africa, Asia or the Americas.

'They naturally cared for themselves and their country's future. They planted seeds of future divisions in our country so that we would always be beholden to them as our patron to whom we would always run to during our predictable problems. The dice was heavily loaded against us. The federation of Nigeria was an unbalanced state with the size and population of the North bigger than the two southern regions combined.

'The population of the north appeared to have been rigged by the British to give it numerical advantage over the south. In spite of these hidden problems, Nigeria perhaps could have remained on the path of steady growth and reform until perhaps a reformer in the mould of Mustafa Kemal would have appeared on the scene. Nigeria has not had that fortune but rather what we have had were military adventurers and soldiers of fortune who conquered the state and treated it as a conquered territory good for plunder. This is what has happened to Nigeria since 1966'.

Speaking sincerely, I have always maintained that there are things to be done and Jide Osuntokun lays the blame squarely on what should be our responsibility: 'But it is not the religious leaders alone who have work to do. Our political and other leaders have work to do also. We need to build our country into a modern state where it will not matter whether one is a Muslim or a Christian. We must stop using religion as the opium of the people. Highly educated people whose material needs are met by the state or through gainful employment will not resort to murder over religious differences. This is why the crowd contesting various elections next year should first take a look at the country they want to rule. If we continue like this there will be no country to govern'.

Ikechukwu Amaechi writing in his column in the Vanguard on Nigeria: A sick country with hinged citizenry recently noted: Nigeria is a sick country, very sick. What is worse, Nigerians have increasingly become unhinged. Many of the things happening in the country are bizarre and it takes only an unhinged population to condone the maladies.

'You are wrong if you think I am talking about the importation of adulterated fuel which has grounded almost the entire country and destroyed many vehicles. In any other country other than Nigeria where there are consequences for actions of state officials, heads would have rolled by now. Sick country. What convinced me beyond any reasonable doubt that our country, Nigeria, is sick and the citizens unhinged is the latest case in town'.

For how long shall we continue to be in the hospital? Only our resolve to leave the ward matters. Who will rescue the country from the 'hospital ward' and put the patient back in form and willing to work again?

Nigerian leaders don't seem to have the fighting power. Nigerians have always preferred the situation we have found ourselves and it does appear, we are feeling better off in our despondent condition. Other nations didn't have this feeling of satisfaction while they were in the process of growing.

That feeling of being a national of a country which is ready to defend its people is enough to be patriotic. Many Nigerians don't have that sense of patriotism, on account of the fact that the nation may not have protected them and given them a sense of direction. While it may be true to some point, Nigerians in themselves have not helped matters. We have our faults. The need to heal ourselves of them has become imperative now than it used to be. Let us not lay the blame on the leaders; after all, we are responsible for installing them.



Drunkenness: Robber of respectability

ONE of the oldest reasons often given for getting drunk is to dull pain or an escape route. In the Bible, Apostle Paul told his spiritual son, Timothy to take a little alcohol for his stomach pain. It could have been as medication or to dull the pain.

A few people say they drink to boost their ego and to embolden themselves. From experience one can say with authority that the number of people who belong to this group is very large. It includes people without liver. Yes, cowards, subordinates who begrudge their superior but to keep their job, they have to keep their peace. Wives who fear their husbands or vice versa. It could be an employee that is offended by his/her boss. In the drunken state, they will pour out their minds. Mission accomplished, they apologise when they are sober.

In the journey of drunkenness, the aspect that is very common is robbing one of respectability. There is a lady one used to know that anytime she was drunk, she would expose her nakedness to everyone. One could say, she became a free show for everyone.

One of the worse things she used to do, was openly plaiting her pubic hair before the whole family which was made up of more than 15 boys. It was so terrible but to us then (kids) it was funny. This trait drove away every suitor from marrying her.

My aunt's husband who was highly placed in the society changed the narrative of his life one fateful day. As usual, he went out in the evening to wind up at a beer parlour. But that day, he came back very late and very drunk.

I and my siblings had come around because our mother was undertaking another training in School of Nursing, Vom. We were awoken by noises. I opened the door just a little and what I

As early as 6:00am, my aunt summoned her husband's relatives and narrated to them their ordeal. By that time, he was sober. Through out her narration, his head was down. He could neither look her nor his relatives in the eye. If I had not been a witness to what happened, I would have sworn that he didn't force his wife and nieces to march round the house for hours. The retired high ranking police officer had exchanged his honour for shame in a drunken state. A young man said good bye to alcohol after he woke up in a gutter just as he was about to be bundled into an ambulance to be deposited in a mortuary. He said, he remembered vividly, mistaking ITF office Bukuru for his house the night before.

saw made me to lock up immediately.

My aunt's husband was holding a cane. And lined up before him were my aunt who was half dressed, and his nieces all indecently dressed in their under wears or transparent night wears. He was forcing them to march as sleepy as they were and looked. My aunt was the leader of the march pass.

"Left right!!!" He was saying. Any one who did not do as commanded got the swipe of the cane. "Forward March!" And the sleepy bunch took off on unsteady legs.

My siblings and I were watching from our bedroom window. It looked funny but since my tough aunt was the most humiliated, one could not laugh openly. The parade carried on for most of the wee hours of morning. The drunk took them round the house, then outside the house. Neighbours were the ones that came to the rescue of my aunt and Co, around 2:00 am.

As early as 6:00am, my aunt summoned her husband's relatives and narrated to them their ordeal. By that time, he was sober. Through out her narration, his head was down. He could neither look her nor his relatives in the eye. If I had not been a witness to what happened, I would have sworn that he didn't force his wife and nieces to march round the house for hours. The retired high ranking police officer had exchanged his honour for shame in a drunken state.

A young man said good bye to alcohol after he woke up in a gutter just as he was about to be bundled into an ambulance to be deposited in a mortuary. He said, he remembered vividly, mistaking ITF office Bukuru for his house the night before. The guards gave him a hard chase. In the course of running, he fell into the gutter along the road that leads to Bukuru and there made his bed for the night.

Like a dream, he started hearing whispers around him just as he was stirring due to discomfort caused by the cool morning dew and breeze. The people were talking about somebody murdered and disposed in the gutter. Out of curiosity, he opened his eye slightly in the semi darkness and discovered he was the centre of attention. Someone was saying something about the police being on their way to pick the body. Again, he opened his eyes slightly, looked for an opening in the crowd that was growling. Without warning, he stood up, scattering the crowd and made a run for it.

Imagine what would have transpired if he was picked by the police. That experience had separated him from alcohol for good. If he does not tell you his story, you will think he had never touched alcohol bottle in his life.

The advice always given by alcoholic drink sellers is to drink responsibly. Why don't we heed their warning? There are some people in police custody because of offences committed under the influence of alcohol. We need to practice some restraint. Don't ever allow yourself get drunk. Always be in control of your faculties. Or in the alternative, when drunk (preferably at home), please go to sleep.

NEWS

PPC holds editorial staff in-house training

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

EDITOR Daily of the Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), Publishers of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** and **SUNDAY STANDARD** newspaper Jos, Mr. Paul Jatau has challenged Editorial staff of the corporation to take their work serious.

Jatau disclosed this during an in-house training organised for the editorial staff held at the newsroom, last Wednesday. He said that staff should be disciplined while discharging their duties.

The Editor pointed out that the training was to re-jig the staff's minds to improve the content of the newspaper and its reportage.

Jatau urged staff to work and justify "This is where we earn our living and we need to put in our best in doing our work diligently and professionally", he noted.

He encouraged the staff to take advantage of technology to enhance their work in the journalism profession especially, in this modern era, where people are getting ahead with use of technology.



Jatau

He pointed out that "we have lost the essence of our founding fathers who stood firmly to establish **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, which remains the voice of the Middle Belt and the voiceless".

He tasked unit heads of the directorate to ensure that they look into possible ways of strengthen their work.

In their separate remarks Mr. Bulus Gambo, Mrs. Francisca Adidi, Mr

Kenneth Dareng, Mrs. Lucy Chindaba, and Mr. Peter Title was tailored towards making new approaches to the work that would help to sustain the legacy of the founding fathers.

They stressed that with the right attitude to work and teamwork, the staff would achieve more adding that unseriousness to work should not be condoned.

Taraba pensioners protest over lack of payment

From VICTOR GAI,
Jalingo

RETIRED civil servants took over the Taraba State government House last Thursday in protest over the nonpayment of their pensions and other entitlements.

The retirees came from 16 local government areas of the state with a few of their children and spouses.

They earlier gathered at the office of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners, where they mobilised and trekked to the Government House, carrying placards and chanting slogans.

Some of the placards read: "Pay our consequential adjustment arising from the implementation of minimum wage for civil servants in 2019". "Give us our rights, Taraba State government". "Pay us our 33 percent pension increase approved since 2014". "Pension is a right, not a privilege". They also sang: "Darius, give us our pension and gratuity".

The retired workers are also demanding the enrolment of over 1000 local government retirees for pension, prompt payment of gratuity,

leaders had to take a leave.

The Pensioners had penultimate week, in a press conference, resolved not to participate in the general elections in 2023 over the government's failure to settle their outstanding entitlements.

According to the state chairman, Kefas Katan, Taraba State government owes retired civil servants in the state up to N30 billion.



Darius

SUNDAY POLITICS

PLHA confirms 14 nominees as board chairmen, members

By PAULINE DALLONG

THE Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA), has screened and confirmed the appointment of fourteen (14) nominees who are to serve as chairmen and members, governing board of both the state and local government office of the auditor general.

This is sequel to a communication received from the Executive Governor Simon Lalong, requesting for the screening and confirmation of the appointees, which is in line with the state assembly's constitutional mandate.

Those confirmed for the Plateau State governing board of the auditor general's office are Mr. Daniel Fanto as chairman, Barnabas A. Achaka as legal adviser while Thomas T. Duksuk, Rauta J. Dakoko, Elizabeth N. Kuju, Aishetu J. Garang and Rimam Selchum Lar are to serve as members.

For the Plateau State committee for the office of the auditor general local government audit, Mr. Yarima Bunu Jakola will serve as chairman while Ajik Danny Izang, Agnes Emmanuel Dimka, Bawa Longman Bernard, Grace S. Ahmadu, Shanglong Hoomsuk Henry and Dakup Maicibi



Sanda

are to serve as members. When asked to give an overview of the state of affairs at his office, the state auditor general said poor funding, inadequate manpower and lack of cooperation from MDAs in carrying out audit exercise are some of the challenges faced.

Members in their separate submissions applauded the state Governor Simon Bako Lalong for painstakingly bringing on board notable crop of professionals and administrators to carry out the assignment and particularly, commended him for including women and youths.

The Speaker Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda subsequently, moved a motion for the confirmation of the appointment of the

nominees which was unanimously agreed upon by the House.

PDP senatorial flagbearer tasks members on victory

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Senatorial candidate on the platform of People Democratic Party (PDP) in Kogi East, Dr. Victor Adoji has appealed to members and supporters of the party to work harmoniously as one indivisible entity in order to win the 2023 general elections.

Dr. Adoji made the appeal in an appreciation message to members of the party for the mandate given to him as the candidate of PDP to contest the 2023 senatorial election.

From JIDAUNA YANUNG Abuja

AHEAD of the 2023 general elections, the member representing Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency of Plateau State in the House of Representatives, Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren has thanked the people and residents of his Constituency for the support and cooperation him from 2015 to date.

He also commended them for the opportunity given him to represent them in the lower chamber of the National Assembly in the past seven Years and urged them to support his ambition again in 2023.

Speaking when he received a delegation of residents of the constituency in Abuja, Hon. Maren assured them of his commitment and determination to continue to promote their welfare and embarking on programmes and projects that have direct bearing on the people.

He tasked the visiting delegation to continue to work towards sustaining the party at the grass root, urging them to show greater commitment towards sustaining the victory

Lawmaker appreciates constituents for their co-operation



Maren

of the party in the area. He also thanked his constituents for rallying round policies and programmes of his representation urging them to continue in that regard.

The Legislator stressed the need for strong synergy among the people of the

constituency for victory in next year general elections.

He also called on them to work as a team to deliver the party in the coming elections and also vowed to ensure everybody is carried along in all spheres of the journey.



Ayu

The PDP senatorial flagbearer stated that, as the

general election moved closer, it behoves on every member of the party to put behind outcome of the primary election and shun mundane considerations to enable the party triumph during the forthcoming general elections.

Hon. Bagos charged all indigenes of Plateau State working in the National Assembly to participate fully in the voter registration.

He explained that the call became necessary, "in view of the critical need for all of you to obtain your Permanent Voters Cards (PVC)".

The legislator maintained that Plateau Indigenes working not only in the National Assembly but in Abuja in general to ensure that everybody exercises his or her civic responsibility in the forthcoming general elections in 2023.

On the 2023 general elections, the legislator urged Nigerian to obey the rules and regulations guiding the elections and vote candidates of their choice.

ever dream of doing it alone. I am not a fool and I will not be a fool because I know too well and reckon that I can not do it alone without the support of others.

"It is important and sacrosanct to bear in mind that 2023 provides a huge opportunity. Therefore I will say 2023 is more of painstakingly taking a decision that will not only affect our future, but those of our children, grand children and survival of our ethnic nationality", he said.

While expressing his unreserved gratitude to Senator Isaac Alfa, Dr Obolo Opanachi and Alhaji Abubakar Suleiman who contested the primary election with him for their sportsmanship, Adoji commended them for their uncommon disposition after the election.

"On average and verifiably, these highly respected and responsible gentlemen have shown that their particular interest are subservient to the larger interest and I am immeasurably grateful to them for such uncommon disposition.

"In the same vein, I can not quantify the huge support from all members of our great party, the stakeholders and our well informed leaders. To all of you, I say a very big thank you as I cannot adequately express appreciation to you all", the PDP flag-bearer stated.

Be good ambassadors, shun self interest - Bagos

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

The member representing Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency of Plateau state in the House of Representatives, Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos has called on the newly elected Executive Council of the Plateau State Indigenes Forum in the National Assembly (PIFNASS) to be good ambassadors and shun self interest, primordial sentiments or consideration.

Hon. Bagos gave the warning recently at the inauguration of the Executives held at the Senate hearing room one, in the National Assembly complex.

The Lawmaker further urged them to carry every member of the forum along and operate an open door policy so as to give every member a sense of belonging expressing optimism that God would

intervene in any challenge they may encounter in their discharge of their duty.

However, Hon. Bagos singled out the immediate past

president of the forum. Mr. Paul Kapnan for his hard work and dedication throughout his tenure.

He promised that he and his



Bagos

SUNDAY POLITICS

Nentawe picks Botmang as running mate

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE gubernatorial candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Plateau State, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, has picked the State Commissioner of Works, Hon. Pam Botmang, as his running mate ahead of the forthcoming Governorship election.

He made the revelation Wednesday at the State APC Party Secretariat, Kalwa House Jos, the state capital clearing all doubt coming from the opposition that, the Governorship candidate was denied Certificate of Return by the party.

Addressing the party faithfuls at the party Secretariat, the State Chairman of APC, Hon. Rufus Bature said there were so many arguments on the Social Media about the nomination of the Deputy Governorship Candidate, but it was their tactical decision to make consultations before unveiling this to Plateau people.

He said, "with this in place, we are going to have a campaign that would be free and friendly to the people of Plateau State because we are not concentrating on the cosmopolitan area, but the grassroots. I urge all party faithfuls to go to the grassroots where your Polling Units are and campaign for APC".

Presenting his running mate, the Gubernatorial Candidate of APC, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, thanked the people of Plateau State for giving him the privilege to lead the party come 2023. "After the primary election, it was incumbent for me together with the stakeholders and party leadership to nominate a running mate.

"I am fortunate to have someone who is working in this government, someone who has experience, someone who is just and someone who can replace my deficiencies. He is Hon. Pam Botmang! I will give him an enabling environment to contribute with his wealth of experience to develop Plateau State.

"I want to appeal to other key stakeholders who have contributed a lot to this success that the table of the Governor is very big it can accommodate all. When elected by God's grace, I will have the capacity to accommodate the good, the bad and the ugly because we are one", he



Botmang

assured. Responding, the newly unveiled running mate to Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, Hon. Pam Botmang, described his principal as a humble and down to earth person. And promised to give him not only 100% loyalty, but 180% loyalty for them to change the Plateau State narrative.

He, however, commended the leadership of the party for projecting him to the gubernatorial candidate and promised to not to destroy the confidence reposed in him saying, "I am going to be the conductor to the driver who is Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe and will ensure prudence and accountability".

It was all through dancing

when the two Pilots came out to address the mammoth crowd who could not have access to the hall because of how jam-packed the state secretariat was and it took the intervention of security personnel to clear the road for the the candidates.

Earlier, the State APC Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang, while debunking the speculations making the rounds that the gubernatorial candidate has been denied Certificate of Return by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) said, it was the duty of the party to present Certificate of Return and not INEC describing the speculations as mischievous and misleading.

FNASS President reanstates commitment to predecessor's programmen

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

THE newly elected president of the Plateau State indigenes Forum in the National Assembly (PIFNASS) Mr. Caleb Danfulani has reiterated his commitment to sustaining the various programmes of the pat Executive Councils led by Mr. Paul Kapnan Nanvyap.

Danfulani: Disclosed this recently at the inauguration of the new EXCO of the forum which took place at the National Assembly complex Abuja.

To this end, he solicited for the support and cooperation of all members of the forum to achieved this agenda as well as assuring that he and the other EXCOS will leave up to expectations.

Earlier the out going

President of the Forum, Mr. Paul Kapnan Nanvyap ha disclosed that under his leadership, the forum had achieved a lot which include among others first ever PIFNASS constituency

Advocacy and Enlightenment programme in the three Senatorial District of Plateau state as well as organized end of year celebration/send forth for its retirees.



Lalong

Deputy Governor debunks rumours of resignation

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

While reiterating his support and loyalty to the Governor, remour mongers who are bent on causing disharmony in the state are warned to desist from such acts as it will not yield any fruitful result to them.

BAUCHI State Deputy Governor, Senator Baba Tela, has said that his position as Deputy Governor of the state is intact, adding that, "I am still in my office as the Deputy Governor of Bauchi State".

Baba Tela was responding to a fabricated and malicious publication in the social media that he has resigned as the Deputy Governor of Bauchi State.

The reaction of the Deputy Governor was contained in a press release made available to journalists in Bauchi recently by the information officer in the Deputy Governor's office, Sani Mu'azu Ilellah, where the Deputy Governor denied the story and described it as unfortunate.

The statement reads, "the attention of the Deputy Governor of Bauchi State Sen. Baba Tela has been drawn to a fake news on social media that, the Deputy Governor has resigned his position. The said report on the social media is a figment of the imagination of the writer".

The release added that, "for the avoidance of doubt, we would like to assure the peace loving and hard-working people of Bauchi state in particular and the Nation in general, that Sen. Baba Tela has not resigned as the Deputy Governor of Bauchi State.

"His Excellency, the Deputy Governor, remains committed to the objectives and is loyal to the government of Bauchi State under the able leadership of His Excellency, Sen Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed", the statement said.



Tela

Bello forwards commissioner nominees for confirmation

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Yahaya Bello has forwarded names of three Commissioner nominees to Kogi State House of Assembly for confirmation

The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Onogwu Muhammed disclosed this while speaking with journalists in Lokoja on Tuesday.

He said that the nominees are; former Commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley Fanwo, (Kogi West) Dr. Zakeri Usman and Engr. Mohammed Abdulmutalab from Dekina and Okene Local Government Areas respectively.

The new EXCOS are: Caleb Danfulani as President Mikat Patience as Vice president, Austin Nyam as Secretary, Sarah A. Treasure while Sambo Nanfo will serve as Assistant Secretary others are: Monday . D as financial Secretary Asabe Shehu as welfare Secretary and Ayuba Damul as PRO. Respectively.

The Information Commissioner, Fanwo had resigned his appointment to contest the Yagba West House of Representatives ticket of the All Progressives Congress but lost.

It was also gathered that Dr. Usman if confirmed by the assembly, will replace the former Commissioner for Health, Dr. Saka Haruna Audu who was sacked by the Governor from office in April 2022, over allegations of misappropriation of funds.

Meanwhile, Abdulmutalab will also replace Engr. Abubakar Ohere who resigned to pursue his senatorial ambition. Ohere emerged the Senatorial candidate of the APC for Kogi Central Senatorial seat, and would be slugging it out with Barr. Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan, the candidate of the main opposition, the People's Democratic Party, PDP.



Bello

Covid-19 is real observe laid down protocols

SUNDAY POLITICS

Botmang: APC gubernatorial running mate at a glance

Honourable Pam Botmang, the young energetic and an accomplished businessman-turned politician was born in Jos to the famous family of Chief Michael Joseph Botmang, former Deputy Governor of Plateau State and Ngo Lydia Botmang on 22nd October, 1973. Sylvanus Namang

The very dynamic, promising Pam Botmang went to the famous Boys Secondary School, BSS, Gindiri, a missionary school which has become a fertile ground for the raising of leaders, technocrats and academicians of high standing in the Nigerian State, including the late Josephh Dechi Gomwalk, the revered former military governor of the Old Benue Plateau State.

In search of the golden fleece, the urbane and cosmopolitan Pam Botmang left the shores of this country where he studied and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Law LL.B at the University of Buchingham and another BSc Degree in Management and Law at the University of London.

In order to adequately prepare himself for the corporate world, the now 48-year-old Pam Botmang obtained several certificates and diplomas in different fields including Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineering from the Nigeria College of Civil Aviation Zaria, Diploma in Banking at the famous University of Jos, Development leadership Competences at Cranfield University, UK and Owners Management Programme at the Lagos Business School, Nigeria amongst several others which at this brief but epoch-making event.

This shrewd and very calculated businessman traversed like a colossus the corporate world where he remained a shining example and a pride to the people of Plateau state.

The humble and unassuming Pam Botmang having sufficiently cut his teeth in the maritime environment where many feared to thread based on the competition and



Yilwatda unveiling his running mate Botmang recently

challenges therein, in 2002 he decided to set up the Platinum Services Ltd which has since then been in operation and has stood tall amongst such ventures in Nigeria's commercial hub of Lagos.

The company provides a full range of logistic services to clients across the globe.

He became an employer of labour in his early thirties and has since remained so as the company which has two subsidiaries with a staff strength of 55 is still flourishing to the admiration of all.

Not forgetting his beloved state, many had thought that Pam Botmang would not leave the comfort zone of Lagos to accept to serve the state.

To the pleasant surprise of all, the charismatic Pam

Botmang accepted His Excellency Governor Simon Lalong's clarion call to join him in the rescue administration as a member of the State Executive Council at the twilight of the first tenure in 2015.

He was assigned the crucial task of serving as the Honourable Commissioner of Works where he performed creditably well thus earning him a second appointment as Hon. Commissioner in the same ministry where he has handled to the admiration of all crucial infrastructural works including the construction of the British America Flyover and Lamingo Road Dualisation.

Governor Simon Lalong has not been disappointed by the appointment of this role model who has ably proved that performance on the job is not a function of age but determination and sagacity.

Like father and like son, the amiable Pam Botmang has no doubt successfully stepped into the big shoes of his father who was a well-known politician and great mobiliser.

He has brought his long experience in Lagos, which is acknowledged home of excellence, to bear on Plateau State.

The long search by the APC gubernatorial candidate in the state, Dr Nentawe Yilwatda for an acceptable and suitable running mate has culminated in what is being witnessed today, the unveiling of a dependable and most befitting choice. We



"Like father and like son, the amiable Pam Botmang has, no doubt successfully stepped into the big shoes of his father who was a well-known politician and great mobiliser. He has brought his long experience in Lagos which is acknowledged home of excellence to bear on Plateau State. The long search by the APC gubernatorial candidate in the state, Dr Nentawe Yilwatda for an acceptable and suitable running mate has culminated in what we are all witnessing today, the unveiling of this dependable and most befitting choice."

know naysayers, especially the political family which respects and cherishes democratic values, the APC is blessed with two digital and 21st century leaders as our candidates to take Plateau to the next generation.

Apart from a renowned

SUNDAY PEOPLE

NORTHERN GOVERNORS MEET AGRICULTURE MINISTER

The Governor and Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong and his colleagues governors of the North held a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Mohammed Mahmood Abubakar on the National Livestock Transformation Programme and the State Level Project Socialization (NLTP/L-PRES) in Abuja recently



Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State (left) delivering his remarks, flanked by the Minister and Governor Atiku of Kebbi State



A cross section of some NLTP/L-PRES officials from Plateau State and other states



Plateau State SGS, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (left) showing something of interest to Governor Lalong and others



Some members of the committee listening to speeches at the meeting

PPC EDITORIAL STAFF HOLDS IN-HOUSE TRAINING

The Head of Editorial, Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC) and Editor, THE NIGERIA STANDARD newspapers Jos, Mr. Paul Jatau recently held an in-house training for the editorial staff in the news room of the Corporation



Mr. Paul Jatau, Editor of the paper is seen observing some issues on the pages of the newspaper during the training



Mrs. Francisca Adidi, Editor, Sunday Standard newspaper (left) with Mrs. Yvonne Ishola, news editor of the organisation listening with rapt attention



A cross section of the Editorial Staff listening and taking notes during the in-house training



The Editor, Mr. Paul Jatau (middle) editors of the newspaper and staff of the Editorial Department after the in-house training in a group photograph

Photos: JOHN LAR

IN line with the planned remodeling of Jos New Market also known as Kwararafa Market, the Plateau State House of Assembly has advised Jos North Local Government council authority and the Kwararafa Market Traders Association to follow due process in all their consultations. Recently, the House Committee on Local Government and Chieftancy Affairs led by the Chairman Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan who is also the member representing Jos North North constituency, brought together all parties involved with a view to resolving some of the issues that came up.

The dialogue between the House committee and Jos North Local Government Council, as well as the Market Traders Association became necessary following tension that ensued around the market. Recall that there was a misunderstanding which led to a little friction sometime back as a result of a virile misinformation and fake news that was circulated with the intent of causing dissatisfaction and pitching the local government council against the people. As the two parties appeared before the committee to dialogue on what the chairman said has become a social media sensation, Baba Hassan warned against unwarranted comments by both parties, calling on them to instead amicably resolve the matter.

Narrating their own side of the story, Jos North Local Government Council represented by the Chairman Hon. Shehu Bala Usman said it was the council's idea to remodel the market and give it a face-lift following its dilapidated condition. According to him, the idea was to be accomplished through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with a reputable company that is committed to delivering the desired results within four months. Usman maintained that after duly informing the chairman of the traders association on the development, it was now left for him to inform his members but to his surprise, the traders denied ever having any meeting on the matter.

On the issue of providing an alternative place during the period of work, Usman disclosed that the plan was for the traders to shift to a part of the market not fully occupied so as to allow for the commencement of work and do vice versa once work is completed on either side. The council chairman expressed concern that traders were not officially informed, neither were they aware of the council's position. To him, why would the council embark on a project of such nature against the wish of the beneficiaries? He however, informed the committee that consultations and negotiations were still ongoing with the traders association as he expressed the resolve to honour every outcome arrived at.

On his part, Chairman of the traders association Mallam Sabo

Inuwa pointed out that his members do not need the remodeling work on the market. He deduced their stance on the shock experienced after the inferno that engulfed the Jos Ultra Modern Main Market some years ago, to which he said they were now gradually recovering from. He revealed further that most traders were currently on loans sauced in order to keep their businesses afloat since the present economic situation is not favourable to them. Moreover, he added, that they were not sure about the type of structure to be constructed, whether it will be suitable for



PLHA plenary and legislative activities



Sanda



Hassan

the aged who make up about fifty percent of the traders or if it will be spacious enough to accommodate their wares and all.

Other market leaders present during the dialogue agreed that they will not support any idea on remodelling the market, describing the idea as unacceptable and detrimental to their members. Members of the committee who were present during the meeting included: the Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong, Hon. Daniel Nanbol Listick and Hon. Livinus James Kwapfuan who all blamed the gap in communication as reason for the misunderstanding. They advised that information be relayed properly and clearly as they encouraged both the local government authority and the traders to return to proper consultation.

In the meantime, following a report of violence received regarding the impasse, a motion on adjournment was raised during the last sitting by Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan on security challenges within the

legislative chambers of Jos North Local Government Council, where some councillors were attacked by persons said to be hoodlums with some sustaining various degrees of injuries. The lawmaker therefore, called on the House to set up a committee in order to investigate the matter and unravel those behind the attack, including their sponsors.

Members in their various contributions condemned the attack on the local government legislators, saying that an injury to one was injury to all. Afterwards, the Speaker Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda directed the House Committee on Local Government and Chieftancy Affairs to handle the matter and report back to the House within one week.

In an additional prayer, Hon. Mohammed Ballo representing Qua'an Pan South constituency lamented the poor treatment of Plateau State intending pilgrims at the Bauchi International Airport whose verification and documentation exercise has taken different dimensions. Subsequently, a three man

committee was set up comprising Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan, Hon. Mohammed Ballo and Hon. Abdul Yanga to investigate the stranded Muslim pilgrims in Bauchi International Airport.

Meanwhile, the need for skills acquisition and entrepreneurial development has again been brought to the fore as the Plateau State House of Assembly during plenary, called on the Plateau State Microfinance Development Agency (PLASMIDA) to look into ways of harnessing the abundant unrefined talents we have in the state, towards ensuring that it is being exploited for the benefit of the nation's economic growth. Plateau State is known as hub for abundant natural talents, especially among the youths.

In a motion on adjournment moved by the Deputy Speaker and member representing Dengi constituency Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong, the legislator extolled the entrepreneurial skills of one Daniel Dung who is an indigene of Jos North Local Government Area. Dung was recently recognised alongside

others by the Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo during a Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMES) programme in Abuja. He noted that SMEDAN as an agency of government has succeeded in transforming young Nigerians into being self-reliant businessmen and women, and called on PLASMIDA to replicate same in the state.

Contributing to the motion, the House Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency Hon. Na'anlong Gapyil Daniel narrated the story of Natalya Kanos, whom he described as the pride of Plateau for having an outstanding performance while studying in a foreign university. In his opinion, both Dung and Kanos deserved a state recognition by the Plateau State government for representing the state well and putting it on the spotlight. Also, three bills which came up for consideration scaled through first reading. They include Plateau State Legislative Renumeration Bill, 2022, Plateau State Anthem Bill, 2022 and Plateau State Co-operative Society Bill, 2022.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Syvia



Kyari

Fuel subsidy: To be or not?

For several years, the subsidy regime in Nigeria's oil sector has become a subject of intense controversy. From one administration to the other, the subsidy on oil has been enmeshed in an unending drama, accusation and counter-accusation. VICTOR ALI writes.

As a nation blessed with myriad of both human and natural resources, Nigeria, the self-acclaimed "giant of Africa," has for decades become a mono-cultural economy. With the discovery of the "black gold", otherwise known as oil in Olibiri, in present day Bayelsa State in 1956 and the oil field coming on stream in 1958, the country has become heavily dependent on this as its major revenue earner.

Though before the advent of oil, there were some resources, particularly in the agricultural sector that kept the country going. The groundnut pyramid in Kano, the cocoa enterprise in Western Nigerian the coal striving industry in Enugu, nay the Eastern part of the country were the golden eggs that laid the foundation of pre-independent Nigeria. But suddenly, oil took the center-stage in Nigeria's economy and even politics.

Governments have consistently and persistently been given reasons why it subsidizes fuel, but again, there have been foul cry from some government functionaries themselves.

Writhing in her first book, *Reforming the unreformable*, the erstwhile Minister of Finance under former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and Mr. Goodluck Jonathan declared that, the subsidy issue was a scam. She further highlighted the racketeering that was becoming in the name of fuel subsidy in her other book, **Fighting corruption is dangerous.**

While governments have been arguing that fuel subsidy was aimed at ameliorating the hardship of and on the people, the contrary seems to be the case. This is most encapsulates, by Bolaji Abdullahi, a former Minister of sports in the President Goodluck Jonathan-led administration in his book, on a

Platter of Gold-How Jonathan won and lost Nigeria.

He opined that, perhaps, the strongest interrogation of the first-subsidy administration to that point came from the Senate on 11th September 2011. Then Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Ecology, Bukola Saraki, raised alarm over the astronomical increase in fuel subsidy spending and moved a motion for an investigation.

Bukola Saraki, who later became the President of the Senate noted that, even though a sum of N240 billion was budgeted for subsidy in 2011, as at September N931 Billion had been spent, translating to an unbudgeted expenditure in excess of N771 billion. He further observed that, although the monthly allocation to subsidy was N20 billion, the sum of N165 billion was expended in August out of which the NNPC alone took N88 billion and independent

marketers got N77.7 billion.

Bolaji Abdullahi in the aforementioned book further quoted Senator Saraki as saying that, "with trend, by year end, we will have a fuel subsidy bill of over N1.2 trillion as against the N240 billion budgeted for the programme in the Appropriation Act. This expenditure is treated as a first line charge and by implication all other expenditures to the state and Local Governments, which we represent are secondary.

"The processes, audit, scrutiny and value for money in the entire subsidy management lack transparency and control as the costs have continued to maintain and upward swing if nothing is done to address this situation urgently, we risk the non-implementation of the 2011 budget and the hopes of Nigerians that much can be achieved this year will be a mirage"

As Nigerians and its leadership comprehend on whether the fuel subsidy should be retain or abrogated altogether, there have been palpable tension, apprehension and even outright mistrust on the pros and cons of the subsidy regime. While some analysts are wont to argue that, fuel subsidy has one along way toward ameliorating the plight of the citizenry, others have posited vehemently that

it has only created a new set of novae riche, syndicates and racketeers in the oil industry. It seems to be a kind of Mafioso that knows no bound.

Doing an analysis on **The economics and politics of Nigeria's fuel subsidy removal** in *Premium times*, Bisi Daniels noted that "for the first time since the inception of his government in 2015, President Buhari, while presenting a N16.39 trillion Appropriation Bill for the 2022 fiscal year to a joint session of the National Assembly, acknowledged how much petroleum subsidy had eroded national revenues, making it impossible for the country to adequately fund its annual budget, despite significant appreciation in crude oil prices.

From the foregoing, it is obvious to even a casual observer that the fuel subsidy regime is a conduit pipe in which Nigerian leaders and their oil marketers collude to siphon billions in the name of subsidy. While this pilfering and unabated stealing of our common patrimony continuous with all the concomitant and relentless repercussions, the leadership keep arms *akimbo*.

In a recent media report, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD, Wednesday June 1, 2022**, it averred that, "with Nigeria's fuel subsidy payout averaging N500 billion monthly, total

continues of page 31

"As Nigerians and its leadership comprehend on whether the fuel subsidy should be retain or abrogated altogether, there have been palpable tension, apprehension and even outright mistrust on the pros and cons of the subsidy regime. While some analysts are wont to argue that, fuel subsidy has one along way toward ameliorating the plight of the citizenry, others have posited vehemently that it has only created a new set of novae riche, syndicates and racketeers in the oil industry. It seems to be a kind of Mafioso that knows no bound".

NEWS

PLSG to partner security agencies

By DUMAH RANDONG

THE Plateau State Government has reiterated its resolve to partner with all security agencies in its efforts to protect lives and property of citizens in the state. Governor Simon Lalong gave this assurance at the passing out parade of 233 new recruits of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, Plateau State Command which took place on Thursday at the Command Headquarters in Jos.



Lalong

The passing out parade of the newly recruited members of the NSCDC, 2022, started with the inspection of guard and parade mounted in honour of the Governor and reviewing officer, Governor Simon Lalong.

Governor Lalong congratulated the new recruits on their successful training and sacrifice to contribute in the task of securing lives and property of citizens.

The Governor who was represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, noted that the issue of banditry, kidnapping and farmers/herders clashes and other security challenges calls

for urgent attention.

He expressed the satisfaction of the state government and its citizens with the activities of the NSCDC in combating crime and other security problems affecting the state.

As a demonstration of its support in fighting crime and criminality, the state government has funded the security outfit, Operation Rainbow to compliment other security agencies as well as the provision of operational vehicles and motorcycles this is aimed at protection of lives and property.

Commandant, NSCDC, Plateau State Command, Alexander Barunde described the occasion as special day in the service as the passing out parade was being held through out the states of the federation after a mandatory training by the corps.

He assured that with the increase in personnel, the corps will continue to compliment other sister agencies in combating crime in the country.

2023: We will bring PDP down in Bauchi

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

ALL Progressives Congress (APC), stalwart in Bauchi Comrade Sabo Mohammed, has boasted that the APC governorship candidate Air Marshall Saddique Abubakar (retired) stands a better chance of dislodging Governor Bala Mohammed of PDP in the forthcoming Governorship election in Bauchi State.

institute to restore its lost glory.

"He promised to improve the general well being of the citizens but the reverse is the case." That is why we are optimistic that APC dislodge Governor Bala Mohammed.

"We have a solid candidate that can dislodge Governor Mohammed.

Comrade Sabo made this known while chatting with journalists in Bauchi recently where he said that incumbency does not work in the State.

"The former Chief of Air Staff Saddique Abubakar served the country well and was among the longest serving service

Chiefs.

"And in appreciation they were settled with ambassadorial appointments, the first in the history of the country"

Comrade Sabo Mohammed explained that the candidature of Saddique Abubakar has excited the people of Bauchi State because not his immense investment in the lives of citizens of the state.

"While he was in the air Force he reciprocated the gesture by bringing in

projects that impacted on the lives of the people.

The APC Chieftain argued that the gale of defections of some aspirants of the APC to other parties in the aftermath of the primaries would not affect the fortunes of the party.

He advised those who lost out to concede defeat and come on board to work for the success of the party.

"Some of us contested election since 2015 and lost but will remain committed to the APC.

FRSC mobilizes 700 officers to man Kogi highways

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THE Federal Road Safety Corps has mobilised 700 personnel and 20 equipment to highways in Kogi State to ensure the free flow of traffic during the Sallah celebration.

The Kogi Sector Commander, Corps Commander Stephen Dawulung, stated this on Wednesday in a statement issued in Lokoja.

"We have deployed more than 700 FRSC Regular, Special Marshals, and Road Safety Club members, 20 patrol vehicles, seven ambulances, and tow trucks to the roads for this special operation.

"The deployed personnel and equipment for the special operation within Kogi is to enhance hitch-free and safe

travels during the forthcoming Eid-el-Kabir celebrations.

"The broad objectives of this operation include reduction in road crashes, fatalities, injuries, prompt response to victims, sensitisation of the public, speedy removal of obstructions and enforcement on critical offences, among others," he stated.

Dawulung added that the Special Patrol operation would start from Wednesday and end on July 13. He stated also that there would be a mega rally at the Lokoja Mega Park where

motorists and the public would be sensitised on the need to share in the responsibility of road safety.

The FRSC commander wished drivers and passengers safe travels to, and from their respective destinations. He urged drivers to be disciplined and to obey road traffic regulations by avoiding unwholesome practices that could lead to crashes and fatalities.

He listed speeding, overloading, use of phones while driving, riding motorcycles without crash helmets, non-use of seatbelts and child restraints as causes of accidents on Nigerian roads.

Other causes he listed were driving under the influence of alcohol or psychoactive substances and wrongful overtaking. He advised commuters and the public to report crashes, obstructions or traffic jam to the nearest FRSC office or through its Situation Room numbers: 07054005754, 07054005712 08056294021/08056295022 and the FRSC toll free



Dawulung

"If you go through the political events that brought Governor Bala Mohammed to power, he has made many mistakes," he said.

"He made a lot of promises that centred around the welfare of civil servants.

"He talked about improvement of business activities in Bauchi and palliatives to entrepreneurs.

"He promised to recruit 500 workers. He promised to reinvigorate the traditional



CLCN raises alarm over senseless killings

THE apex body of the Catholic Laity Council of Nigeria (CLCN), has raised alarm over senseless killings of priests and its members describing government silence and failure to protect Nigerians as an indirect signal for people to defend themselves using all other means.

This was contained in a press statement signed by National President, Catholic Laity Council of Nigeria, Hon. Sir Henry Yunkwap (KSJI) and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State Capital Thursday.

The Council, said, "we the members of the Catholic Laity Council of Nigeria (CLCN) are completely saddened and find it very painful to once again address the sore issue of insecurity in our nation.

Terrorism taking tolls on Nigerians-Buhari laments

Following recent attack in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State, claiming the lives both soldiers and civilians, President Muhammadu Buhari, has regretted that the war against terrorism is taking its toll on Nigerians.

He condemned the act describing it as a direct affront on Nigerians which would not be allowed to go unpublished in a statement signed by Garba Shehu, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity and made available to **SUNDAYS STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

Lalong condoles the family of Ngo Naomi Jugu over her demise

The Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, condoled with the family of late Mama Ngo Naomi Jugu, over her demise describing her death as a great loss to Plateau State, the Berom Nation and the ECWA family.

The late Jugu died at the age of 82 and popularly known in many cycles as "Delo-Berom" for her very active role in the Berom sociocultural activities and her impact in gender activism and a leading female voice in the state and country at large.

Germany set to return Benin bronzes to Nigeria

Under the terms of the declaration, Germany is expected to participate in archaeological exploration work, provide training for Nigerian Museum staff, help build a new Museum in Benin and return looted Benin Bronzes from Germany, museum collections while promoting international traveling and joint exhibitions.

A statement signed and issued by Segun Adeyemi, a Special Assistant on Media to the Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Muhammed, said, many of the 1,130 looted Benin Bronzes got to Germany institutions via trade and donations.

Plateau PDP: Mufang picks Piyo as running mate

The People's Democratic Party (PDP)'s Gubernatorial Candidate for Plateau State, Hon. Caleb Mufang, has picked former Council Chairman of Riyom Local Government Area, Hon. (Mrs) Josephine Piyo as running mate in the forthcoming general 2023 elections.

This is contained in a press statement signed and made available to Journalists in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently after series of consultations made by stakeholders and leadership of the party on the possible strategy to win the election come 2023.

Nentawe picks Botmang as running mate

THE gubernatorial candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Plateau State, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, has picked the State Commissioner of Works, Hon. Pam Botmang, as his running mate ahead of the forthcoming governorship election.

He made the revelation Wednesday at the State APC Party Secretariat Kalwa House Jos, the State capital clearing all doubts coming from the opposition that, the Governorship candidate was denied Certificate of Return by the party.

Addressing the party faithfuls at the Party Secretariat, the State Chairman of APC, Hon. Rufus Bature, said, there were so many arguments on the social media about the nomination of the Deputy Governorship Candidate, but it was their tactical decision to make consultations before unveiling this to Plateau people.

P/Utd clinches Continental ticket

Plateau United Football Club of Jos has clinched a CAF continental ticket when they beat relegation threatened Lobi Stars Football Club of Makurdi 2-1 to place second on the league table after Rivers United in match week 36 played at the Jos International Stadium on Sunday.

Speaking after the tough encounter to journalists, Fedilis Ilechukwu, the Technical Adviser of Plateau United, stated that the club achieved this as a result of the support given to them by the State Governor and the Management of the team.

Compiled by **EZEKILE DONTINA**

SUNDAY FEATURE

Insecurity: Firearms license and control at the crossroads

Indubitably, insecurity has attained an industrial proportion across the length and breadth of Nigeria. One aspect of insecurity which has drawn a lot of attention concerns banditry. Zamfara is one of the most affected states in the country. At the outset, it was said to have been precipitated by gold mining. The state of insecurity in the area has persisted for a long time and calls for concern by all. Consequently, the governor of the state recently opted for granting license to the citizens in his state to start bearing firearms for self-defense NENDIMMA DOGO GONET writes.

THIS has been viewed as extreme option. But it remains doubtful if there is a limit to self-defense, not forgetting the fact that the bandits have been extreme in their modus operandi. This decision by Governor Matawalle has received serious backlash from many commentators and pundits. While self-defense is a constitutional right, many have failed to find the position of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Zamfara State any palatable. Actually, he remains the Chief Security Officer of the state. He was sworn on oath to guarantee welfare and security to the people of his state. Yet, it appears the trust shoved upon him in that capacity is failing him so he feels no effort is too much to safeguard his people. The points to be introspective about are that, while the governor has good reasons for his decision which has been taken in good faith, those with counter views seem to have genuine fears about the new order. At this stage, what comes to mind is the fact that whether it is the license that will improve the security or lack of it that is the solution.

Theorizing The Anti Firearm License

It is true that there are prohibited and no, prohibited firearms. There are also laws guiding the possessions of each category of the firearms. Prohibited firearms are the ones specified to be possessed officially by the law enforcement agencies. At the moment, they can be described as shoulder rifles, magazine fed, self-loading and gas regulated. These firearms also have the feature of being semi-automatic and automatic, etc.

The non-prohibited category are lesser in capacity like the Dane guns, pump actions, double barrels, etc, that the populace can possess when granted the licenses to do so. Perhaps, the governor made reference to non-prohibited firearms; whether so or not, the bandits use the sophisticated and prohibited category in the course of their nonstop invasions. The import therefore is that possessing the non-prohibited category may not even do any magic nonetheless.

Thus the governor feels half bread is better than none. The truth remain that whether directly or not, the governor is referring to prohibited firearms which the bandits terrorizing the area bear. The intention is born out of genuine concern for the protection of human lives. It is on records that before the governor went to the extent of opting for license to possess firearms, he had taken some drastic measures to curtail banditry but to no avail. There was a time in Zamfara State that the governor declared an order or Riot Act regulating the use of motor-cycles, sell of petrol in containers, seizure of telecommunication network, etc but all these failed to address the challenge.

The implication is that the governor has opted for firearm possession for self defence as the last resort. Unfortunately, this measure may not scale through considering how law enforcement agencies have risen up against the decision of the governor. Ironically, it is the duty of the law enforcement agencies to guarantee internal



security. Surprisingly, before the governor disclosed his decision on letting the citizen bear arms, this author had the same thought as panacea to the subsisting banditry in the county. Fortunately too, many Nigerians are throwing their support behind the idea from the day the governor made it public some myriad of comments so far against anti firearm possession include: That if everyone is allowed to bear arms, and per adventure the banditry is contained through that process, the post banditry era will birth another worse form of internal insecurity; with ubiquitous arms in the possession of many to be misused.

But this writer finds this hypothesis to be preposterous because the idea is that such firearms must be licensed, in which case such license can be withdrawn at any time. That is, discreet measures are expected to be taken into consideration in the course of granting such licenses so that same can be recanted when the need may arise in the future. The issue of gun-license in advanced countries is no longer a new thing. It is believed at a point in time, there was no such license to possess firearms, as it were, until insecurity went out of control which necessitated such action in those countries that practice that. Even at that, whenever security barometer signifies danger owing to license to possess firearms, such license is divested.

That too, is often based on the expertise of those in control of such situation, well, in the actual sense, it can be argued that we have not attained the level of maturity of advanced countries concerned to start granting license to bear arms, if the debate should be gauged both sides, there was equally a moment that bandits in Nigeria were not mature enough to bear the kind of arms they have currently but now that they are mature enough to attain this sophistication, our law abiding citizens should automatically become mature enough to bear arms too. Likewise, our chief security offices must think

outside the box and invoke measures that equal to balance of terror.

Therefore, on no account lives should be wasted at such proportion while those entrusted with security of lives continue to fold their arms on exercising old methods but be expectant of viable output. The sad aspect of this debate is that those who have good reasons to rise against the right to firearms possession cannot offer any superior security solution for formidable internal security system and that is unfortunate.

There are those who believe that granting the rights to possess firearms can lead to arbitrary self help by the populace who are not trained. Someone said if civilians are allowed to bear arms, some can be tempted to brandish the arms in the event of slightest provocation that is not proportionate to the rule of engagement. But it is to be noted that upon granting such right to possession, it becomes the duty of care on the part of the government officials, who live through taxpayers money for their upkeep to guide those who need protection through that means.

It is not true that this will be the first time for citizens to be permitted to handle arms and no records of recklessness have been to that effect. Nevertheless, in everything that has advantage, there are likely to be disadvantages, arms bearing inclusive; in consideration, the advantages must outweigh the disadvantages as this case portrays. Again, the denial of the right to bear arms in this clime should not sound like racial inferiority and our security agencies should not be seen as bereft of ideas on how to protect the citizens or regulating how the citizens should defend themselves.

There are those that question the right of the governor to make such decision. However, it can hardly be said that the governor started it since inception. Self-defense is a constitutional matter. Granting of license also predated the governor's decision. The governor has been helping the law enforcement agencies, holding security meeting

with the head of security agencies discussing security matters as they affected his state until the state insecurity continued to be intractable which necessitated this decision.

The shared burden of Matawalle

At this stage, we will agree that the governor, who shown on oath to protect his people, became short of options before he opted for firearm possession. Ordinarily, he wouldn't have taken such decision despite the right to self-defense. It is believed, the governor, like many members of the society is saying that we need protection from bandits. And in the actual sense, we can't continue to do the same thing we need protection from bandits. And in the actual sense, we do differently as a nation; The governor's agitated for state police but was turned down. License to bear arms too has been muzzled. Defense budget from taxpayers remains high without any impact in the lives of citizens. No amount of arrest has deterred those who intend to perpetrate criminality in the name of banditry. What should we do?

We have heard some citizens complained that the government is equally complicit since SIM card registration were said to have been carried out so that criminals can be tracked with ease yet people are being abducted and calls made to negotiate for their release without being tracked. There are instances whereby it was insinuated that the criminals use their victims as human shields. But in such circumstances the security agencies should have had a way of neutralizing the whole camp with gas and in the process access the victims for possible evacuation to be revived later.

In short, how did the foreign countries that successfully surmounted this challenge do? Example abound that there was a point in time in this country that some foreign nationals were abducted and kept somewhere in the same Zamfara State but the security agencies in that country came all the way and rescued them

unscathed, so we were told. In reaction to Matawalle's position, one of the retired Inspectors-General of Police granted interview to the AIT on the 27th June, 2022, during which he called on the government and security agencies to mop up the illegal firearms possessed by non-state actors as a way of sanitizing the society. That is expedient enough and this should have been done long before the governor is shoved to take this decision.

Nevertheless, to make it sound as though the present proliferation of firearms in the hands of licensed persons, resulting in the present state of insecurity, came as a result of any previous licensing may not be plausible. The need to mop up firearms in the hands of non-state actors who unleash violence on innocent law abiding citizens is long overdue. Nigeria has been having series of bilateral talks towards improving security condition with all manners of countries but without any better results. The responsibility rests upon the Federal Government with our kind of centralized security architecture to take tough decision as done by Governor Matawalle to help contain this unhealthy sate of security.

In the real sense of the word, Governor Matawalle has not said anything bizarre by the decision for firearms/gun license. Even if the opted for prohibited firearms possession, out of doctrine of necessity, the responsibility shifts to those who quote firearms act like scripture to justify why such act should not be reviewed in a time like this; otherwise, victim communities see the bashing against the governor as criminalizing self-defense, inhuman reaction by those who failed to call for review of firearm act but allowed matters to deteriorate to irredeemable state. Those who do not have superior decision over this should remain silent forever because he who wears the shoe knows where it pitches.

The governor feels the pains of the citizens in his state. His people remember the campaign promises to contain insecurity each time they have been attacked. Nigerians, in spite of how unpopular the option sounds, are mindful of the fact that welfare and security are primary purpose of government. Without welfare and security, no development can take place or be appreciated; they are foundational irrespective of the docile disposition of average Nigerian citizens.

Insecurity has become so common and many governors are saying the same time, having felt the pulse of the members of society. Other than the Matawalle's decision, options that transcend academic exercises are needed here and now. But while people are entitled to their opinions, we should be mindful of the fact that this is a matter of life and death. Finally, in any decision one vents, such a person should put himself in the shoe of the Executive Governor of Zamfara State; that is, would you hold same opinion if you were from Zamfara State and or if the victims were your direct relatives.

SUNDAY FEATURE

'Strikes have been killing education sector'

The Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Prof Idris Muhammad Bagaje has said that for Nigeria to achieve greatness, by building a strong and dynamic economy that would enhance the quality of life its citizens, a paradigm shift from paper qualifications to skills acquisition has become imperatives. Made the assertion in a paper titled: Equipping Nigeria youths in skills acquisition for industrial revolution" he delivered at the Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa in Nasarawa State as part of ceremony to mark its 10th combined Convocation lecture at the Muhammadu Buhari recently. Bugaje observed that Nigeria is Africa's largest economy with a GDP of about USD432 Billion, a population that is almost 20 percent of Africa's and 60 percent of ECOWAS, majority of who are youths that are largely unemployed. And Nigeria, in the next 28 years, is expected to be the third largest country in the globe, after China and India. MOHAMMED ABDULLAH writes.

AS such this definitely means Nigeria must re-invent itself to take up the enormous responsibilities ahead and give hope to its youths by making them productive. He added that, this productivity can only be achieved by turning around the educational system, both tertiary and sub-tertiary levels, with greater focus on skills, both hard and soft.

"On the other hand, the world has recently entered the 4th Industrial Revolution (IR). The first IR occurred with the invention of the steam engine, perfected in 1774 by craft men fabricating different machines, basically replacing human labour with machines. He added that the Second industrial Revolution (1850-1950) was another great leap forward in technology and society with new innovations in steel production, petroleum was discovered and electricity invented, that led to the introduction of automobiles and airplanes" he disclosed.

The NBTE Chief Executive Secretary who lamented that today tertiary institutions Nigeria is facing herculean trials from ASUU/ASUP strike to out dated curricula, full of theories with little hands on skills content, producing jobs seekers instead of job creators, an army of unemployed and unemployable bunch many ending up fueling the banditry and insecurity in the nation (the only growing industry today!) and based on that a paradigm shift from paper qualifications to skills is therefore imminent.

Bugaje disclosed that, the term "Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) was adapted officially at the World Congress on Technical Education held in 1999 in Seoul, South Korea, to express this vital system of education which stands parallel to the University system and the two complimenting each other. That it is no doubt the bedrock of technological, industrial and economic development of any nation because TVET equips people with wide variety of skills, attitudes and knowledge for active and meaningful participation in work and social environment and just like



other countries of the world, TVET in Nigeria is meant to produce skilled manpower for the industrial and economic activities of the country.

He stated that, realizing the importance of skill Development to the Nigeria economy, the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) is currently engaged in well coordinated advocacy and enlightenment campaigns across the country from its headquarters and through the newly established six zonal offices on the realization of the value of skills in our training programs adding that in order

to encourage Polytechnics to drive this vision for skill development, it is expected that all Polytechnics should establish Skill Development Centers (Either as stand alone or jointly with Entrepreneurship Development Centers) to train, assess and certify learners in relevant skills areas by 2023.

He assured that, the Board is supporting the development of National Occupational Standards (NOSs) in emerging and highly demanding skills needed by Nigerian industries to provide the youth with opportunities to fill job vacancies both at home and abroad in projects such as the AKK

gas pipeline, the 3050MW Mambila Power project, oil and petrochemical Industries. In Lekki and elsewhere in the country, the recently approved and upcoming Trans-Saharan Gas from Nigeria to Morocco e.t.c.

The Board is also encouraging TVET institutions, with Federal Polytechnic in the forefront, to collaborate with Nigerian industries and also form strategic partnership with top performing institutions in countries like Morocco, South Africa, China and India to improve Skill Development and create employment opportunities for Nigerian youths.

He further disclosed that the visit this week by some TVET institutions in Nigeria to the Kingdom of Morocco is one step in that direction stressing that, the Board has also commenced digitalization of its quality assurance activities to meet global best practices and reduce cost on the Polytechnics.

Earlier, the Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr. Abdullahi Alhassan Ahmed stated that the Convocation Lecture is an important aspect of the Convocation Ceremonies as it afford the Polytechnic an

opportunity of inviting an eminently qualified individual as Guest Lecturer to address any national or international issue of concern.

He recalled that, at the last Convocation Lecture the Polytechnic had the opportunity of inviting Professor Vincent Ado Tenebe, a scholar of high repute and former Vice Chancellor of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), who delivered lecture on "Entrepreneurial Education as a Panacea for Self Actualization" which of course, addressed some pressing national issues.

Ahmed further explained that, this understanding formed the basis of its choice of the 10th Convocation Guest Lecturer, Professor Idris Muhammad Bagaje, the Executive Secretary of NBTE, who has keen passion on Technical and Vocational Education and who has in just short period at the helms of affairs of the National Board for Technical Education, revitalized the entire Technical and Vocation Education (TVET) sector for better performances, as such that will contribute to the nation's development and will alleviate the problem of unemployment among our teeming youths.

"The NBTE Chief Executive Secretary who lamented that today tertiary institutions Nigeria is facing herculean trials from ASUU/ASUP strike to out dated curricula, full of theories with little hands on skills content, producing jobs seekers instead of job creators, an army of unemployed and unemployable bunch many ending up fueling the banditry and insecurity in the nation (the only growing industry today!) and based on that a paradigm shift from paper qualifications to skills is therefore imminent."

NIGERIANS, we are such emotional people. We value our togetherness as an ethnic group. We are a community as opposed to individuals. In fact, individualism is not something that is encouraged in our society. This is a beautiful thing. However, like every beautiful thing, community life has its down side.

When we say all-for-one and one-for-all, the idea is that all hands are on deck and the weight is evenly spread at all levels. However, in Africa and particularly in Nigeria, in every community, this saying breeds parasitism because lazy people get to hide in the crowd so that while a group of people are working their fingers to the bone, others are sleeping and living a life of dependence on those who do the hard work.

Let me give you an example. Some politicians have been found wanting in the area of accountability. They have stolen billions of naira. One would wonder what they would want to do with these monies. A close look at the politician under scrutiny, will reveal that he is "a man of the people". Let us take a look at the average politician who goes home to his constituency for a visit. Whether he likes it or not, there will be a group of people in his community who have simply refused to apply themselves to work and have made it their call in live to be professional dependents. As such, these group of people believe that since the politician now has access to money, he has the duty of doling out cash to them and they have the right to depend on him. These set of people do not invest, they do not work but they do not consider themselves to be beggars or parasites.

If this politician is married, the entire lineage and clan that his wife comes from, believe that it is his duty to supply all their needs and wants in any denomination of their desire, because their collective beautiful daughter is his wife. If he comes from the north and is married to four wives, multiply that by four. If this is not putting pressure on the politician to "pad", I do not know what it is.

As much as we would like politicians to stop stealing from our taxes and revenues, we also need to ask ourselves some questions. What role do we play in encouraging the culture of embezzlement and laziness in this society? If a politician goes to a social event and arrives in one car, is simply dressed and does not "spray" or display his "stupendous" wealth, we call him or her names. Long time ago, a man served as a commissioner. On his retirement, it was discovered that he did not amass any wealth from government treasury. He was mocked and laughed at. Now, let us tell each other the truth, who likes to be mocked and laughed at for doing good, by the same society for whom he or she is doing good? We are consciously or unconsciously, by our social construct and ideology and philosophy of life, encouraging politicians to amass ill-gotten wealth when they are in power, so that when they leave those positions, they are not laughed at. Why do we put so much pressure on the average politician in our community by refusing to do meaningful work for self-reliance?

In our communities, there are people who are able-bodied but simply refuse to work because someone is siphoning and supplying to them. It could be through doling out monies to lazy able-bodied men and women in the community or through wishy washy contracts. I am not talking of those who will do any job to put food on their tables, I am talking about people who wake up from sun up to sun down, with a list of rich people they call and get money from. If he or she is a graduate, he or she could use the excuse of lack of employment. He or

she could also refuse to do any other work if it is not government work or politics. These are the sycophants, the super-dependents in the family of the politician, the entitled, the owners, the in-laws, etc. Sometime, politician have to give phantom contracts just to fill this gaping hole that takes everything and gives nothing back. This is the first level.

The second level is the family level. If I have a rich uncle or an Aunt, as a dysfunctional Nigerian, I believe that my life is sorted out because he or she owes me the duty and responsibility of sharing his wealth with me. If I do not get a job, it is his fault, if I do not have money, it is his

and society. Most Nigerians are hard-working but there are people in our group who believe that the wealth of their grand uncle's son's son is their birthright. We need to stop these bad habits because it breeds dependency and laziness. In western cultures, these are not tolerated.

The first thing to remove all pressures from the politician to provide for our entire community from his pocket. Where is he going to get the money from? Let us encourage the politician to create jobs for able-bodied member of the community using the allocations received, as opposed to expecting him or her to dole out cash and live a



Culture of catching your own fish



Ngige

fault, if I have no roof over my head, it is his fault. If I have no clothes on my back, it is his fault. Do not be surprised to hear me say something like: "that my wicked uncle that does not help anyone in the family. I am sure that it is his wife that is influencing him not to help his family. She is a witch!!!" Now, I do not know what my uncle does for a living or how he makes his money. That is not my business. All I know is that he must provide for me as I desire because we are related, and he is rich. Multiply me by 20 and leave my uncle at our mercy. Two things will happen. It is either my uncle will become the father Christmas of the family and end up like the rest of us, give me a loan and ask me to go and do business and never come back, ignore me and the other 19, or die of heart-attack trying to make twenty of us happy. We come at him, not to him, to give us money. Full stop.

Usually, every member of society, has a measure of responsibility. It could be towards his children, his aging parents and the really poor in his family and community. The first priority is usually children and aging parents. However, because of the society we live in, where we pick and choose what to do to put food on our talk, where fake class is better than honest hard work, we insist on not only associating with the wealthy member of our families but we run them down with our sense of entitlement when they fail to meet our needs. What bothers me most, is that these group of ours, will never come to the rich member of our family with a well-researched business plan, to ask for a start-up capital...
#WeJustWantMoney!!! It is our right!!!

It is time for some of us Nigerians to start copying some western culture as a way of building ourselves

certain live style to prove to us that he has arrived in society. In the same vein, we should avoid putting undue pressure on members of our family to give us massively to the point where they start stealing where they work because of pressure. It all boils down to tax payers and investors' money.

Question is, why do we put ourselves in the position of professional dependents? Why can we not ask to serve in order to earn our keep? Rich members of society who are members of our family often have businesses where they can employ us, or they have money that they can give us decently to encourage us to do business. Why can we not focus on fishing for ourselves instead of expecting our uncle to go out there, break his back, make his money and come back to give his life's savings to us? The culture of refusing to fish and expecting to be fed at the expense of anyone notwithstanding, is evil. The bible says that he who does not work should not eat. It also says that we should be content. That is not to say that if you are unemployed, you should not eat. It means that if you are an able-bodied person who refuses to work to contribute your own quota to your family and society, you should not be given food. Satirically speaking, it means that the rich members of our families and our local politicians, particularly my uncle, can confidently tell me and the 19 other professional lazy dependents, to take a hike and God will please him for doing service.

It will shock you to know that in this hard times and in this society we live in, with our plethora of economic problems, there are people who refuse to fish for several reason. Let us take a graduate of history, for example. Realistically speaking, that is an obsolete course in the collection

of job qualifications, unless you combine it with other living courses such as journalism or find a viable area of specialization therein. But all is not lost. Abroad, that could be useful. A graduate of history will refuse to do any other work except work within the confines of Government ministries or parastatal or within a business enterprise. As what? This individual may have catering skills but will refuse to ask for capital to start a catering business, knowing fully well that it is a money-spinning industry. He or she displays pride in this regard. He or she will bombard and harass any well to do relation for a job that the relation cannot provide, and then proceed to malign if this desire is not fulfilled. Furthermore, he or she becomes a professional dependent and turns to the rich in the family to provide for him or her under the guise of unemployment. This is done with a sense of entitlement. Why should this be tolerated? Because it is our culture to be communal and to embrace the parasitism therein.

President Barack Obama's Daughter waited tables when her Father was **THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**. The following is an excerpt from the story:

It's applause-worthy that 15-year-old Sasha Obama has given up the comfort of the White House and has taken up a job at a seafood joint. The Obama girls Malia and Sasha have mostly avoided staying in the limelight despite being daughters of the most powerful parents in the us. Though their moves are always followed by the prying eyes of media, the teenage daughters of President Barack Obama have mostly managed to stay away from becoming news for the wrong reasons. But it's applause-worthy that 15-year-old Sasha Obama has given up the comfort of the White House and has taken up a job at a seafood joint in Massachusetts during her summer break. Her job at the joint called Nancy's on Martha's Vineyard reportedly includes waiting the tables, maintaining cash register and helping the restaurant prepare for lunch. Also, in the photographs that have gone viral on social media, Sasha wears the restaurant's uniform, blue t-shirt and a cap. According to Boston Herald, she is accompanied by six Secret Service agents who wait outside till she completes her four-hour shift. "She's been working downstairs at takeout. We were wondering why there were six people helping this girl, but then we found out who it was," a co-worker told Herald. Reportedly, the joint is Obamas' favourite and they don't forget to stop by during their annual vacation to Martha's Vineyard. Also, the owner Joe Moujabber is their friend. Barack Obama and Michelle Obama are known to raise their daughters as normally as possible and this proves just that. Their elder daughter Malia Obama also has interned twice in the past at film sets, reports BBC.

The forgoing is from Indian Express. In continuation of this

conversation, If Obama's daughter can humble herself and wait tables and if her parents, who can give her the whole world and some, can embrace humility and the dignity of labour and teach their kids same, who am I not to fish with whatever hook life throws at us? Who are we not to have a menial and be self-reliant? Who am I not to sweep for a leaving if it is a decent job and it can put food on my table? How many of us want to start thinking like Sasha, Obama and Michel? How many of us can humbly wait tables in our own community to put food on our tables, or pay rent and school fees without being ashamed? In addition to humility and dignity in labour, The Obamas are teaching their beautiful daughters self-reliance and "fishing for self" without being dependent on anyone. These daughters may never have to work for one day of their lives and yet their parents are teaching them to be humble, hardworking, independent, and self-reliant. One lesson a lot of us adults are yet to learn or teach our kids early. Some rich people do this. It is some of us over here, at the popular side of the stadium of life that would rather harass the rich for our living as a right.

My wise father told me once when I was torn between reading law and French, he said "what you do for a living really does not matter as long as it is not a crime. If you want to be a cleaner, you will sweep for Presidents if you excel at what you do". Satirically speaking, to expand on that, me and my 19 others can go and tell that uncle of ours that we would like to start an industrial cleaning business and would like some help with startup capital". We can register a company and start providing industrial cleaning for companies and households. We can start a laundry and industrial dry-cleaning business too....Right now, start we must, even if it means starting with our local brooms and detergent. Who *dey work na him dey chop*.

I am talking to those of us who are not in touch with current realities and are still constituting and unfair burden to one member of their family or community in one way or the other. Are they working for us? Did they come to this world because of us? Are they in political positions and in position of wealth and power only for us? Who made their resources that they work so hard to earn, our family heirloom? Who made their wealth our rights?. Why have we embraced dependency as a way of life when we can also put our hands to the plough and work hard? It is time for our society to push such lazy people into the cold. The politician and the rich man should bring development to his people and family by helping those who truly need a job or a business. People who are handicapped and sick or aged need help, Poor people who are ready to work for a living need help. For those who insist on being lazy and parasitic, let hunger wake them up from their slumber. Stop distracting or politicians!

IN the past few weeks we have been talking on the third of four major hindrances to believers receiving from God which I have identified as unbelief. The first which we have discussed is fear; the second is doubt; while the fourth is strife.

Last week in expounding on the subject of unbelief we landed on a chapter in the book of Psalms. Psalms 78 which is a summarized recounting by the prophet of the children of Israel's journey through the wilderness and their displays of unbelief against the commands of God even though they were witnesses of His numerous wondrous works and mighty deeds.

So again, Psalms 78:2-5 **I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:**

Then Psalms 78:9-13 **the children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law; And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had showed them. Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap...**

As I give this narrative can you begin to think about your own life? Think on all the marvelous works of God in your own life. Psalm 78:14 goes on to say; **in the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.** If you notice, these verses

are in a sense counting the goodness of God and His mercies.

Do you know why? Because if you make it a habit to count the mercies of the Lord and to sing of it every day like the song goes: they are new every morning; it will drive your mind to always remember and be mindful of God's goodness which in turn will work faith in you and drive out unbelief.

Psalms 78:15-18 **He clave**

of God's goodness to you.

Some time ago, during our pastors' prayer meeting in church, I sat down, opened my eyes and began to look round and I began to talk to myself. I said to self, My God! Do you know, we have a wonderful auditorium here? We would indeed like to be having more services in here than we currently do but my God! We do have a good auditorium here.

Then my mind took me back

Four major hindrances to receiving from God



the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths. He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness. And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.

This is what many people, including myself (God help me) are doing to God every day. In spite of all of His goodness toward us every day, we still walk in unbelief, dishonoring God in our lives. But one of the antidotes to a heart of unbelief is to bring to remembrance all

to August 2008 when we were unceremoniously booted out of our former place of worship. Then we had no place to lay our head but God began to move, one step after the other. I remembered how, when we were shown this place, it looked so large and for nearly two weeks, my heart beat was as erratic as a band in a rock concert.

I kept asking God, how? While the People kept looking at me like I was some cool and calm pastor, but they did not know that on the inside, I was a carcass; a walking dead, until God started moving, one step after the other and I saw things begin to happen.

I wish I could say that through



Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

I want you to know brethren that God can furnish a table anywhere. His cheques do not bounce. God's orders are never refused!

I meditated on these verses for quite some time and I believe I got the answer by the Spirit of God. What angered God was not the fact that they asked the question, but their heart motive behind the question.

There is a way in which a man can ask one question but hide behind it the real question. This is when you ask a question but in your heart there is something else you are trying to get at. When they said, **"Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?"** They knew he could! They had no doubt about the fact that he could. These are people who saw with their own eyes, signs and wonders - ten plagues that brought them out of Egypt.

When they got to the Red Sea, there they saw with their eyes how God parted the Red Sea. They saw how the thing that Satan had ordained to be the instrument of their destruction become the instrument that destroyed their enemy.

These guys had seen God at work, so God knew the question they were asking was not, "God, can you do it?" They knew God could do it. The question they were asking was, "God, will you do it this time?" They put a question on God's faithfulness; a question on his character; that was what pained God. God said, "I've shown you all of these miracles! You should know by now."

One time, a leper came to Jesus and said, Master, I know that if you will, you will cleanse me and Jesus looked at him and said, I will! God's 'I will' is forever. I will heal you; I will bless you; your life is not going to end this way. It is an 'I will' from heaven. That 'I will' was demonstrated at the Cross. It is irreversible and it is set in concrete.

Knowing God's will and His faithfulness towards you will drive away unbelief in your heart and put you in faith every time. Praise the Lord.

"There is a way in which a man can ask one question but hide behind it the real question. This is when you ask a question but in your heart there is something else you are trying to get at. When they said, "Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?" They knew he could! They had no doubt about the fact that he could. These are people who saw with their own eyes, signs and wonders - ten plagues that brought them out of Egypt. When they got to the Red Sea, there they saw with their eyes how God parted the Red Sea. They saw how the thing that Satan had ordained to be the instrument of their destruction become the instrument that destroyed their enemy".



With **BULUS GAMBO**

Mach-Hommy: Paying it forward

THE process of speaking with **Mach-Hommy** is nearly as labyrinthine as his music. After spending days navigating a network of anonymous calls and dead ends, an assistant passed me the number to one of hip-hop's most elusive artists. Mach wanted to speak en route to a video shoot in L.A., but filming had already begun by the time I called. An hour and a half later, a little after 1 a.m., my phone rang. In a flash, a figure in all white with a Haitian flag tied across his face beamed in via FaceTime.

The New Jersey-based Haitian-American rapper is used to working at a prolific clip from the shadows. Most of the nearly two dozen projects he's released since his 2016 breakout HBO (Haitian Body Odor)—which he initially promoted and sold himself via Instagram—still aren't available on streaming services. Their scarcity has built a cult of personality further amplified by Mach's raps, tightly constructed yet freely floating through hip-hop's past and present like ghosts in Gore-Tex jackets. The sales of HBO and Mach's decision to sell subsequent projects for thousands of dollars through services like Bandcamp made every album a collector's item and set a trend that the new generation has followed to this day.

With two critically-acclaimed albums, Mach finally brought his vicious wordplay to a much larger audience last year. Both *Pray For Haiti* and its spiritual followup *Balens Cho* (Kreyol for "hot candles") received more traditional releases, appearing on streaming services right away. Last year's big push was, in part, meant to draw support for Mach's countrymen in Haiti.

Multiple times throughout our conversation, he stressed that his share of equity from *Pray For Haiti* and his recent "\$payforhaiti" single with Montreal producer Kaytranada will go to the Pray for Haiti Trust Fund, which will be dedicated to education and building a technology institute for young Haitian children. "We talking about a place where potable drinking water is a serious problem," he says. "There's no work of art that could take the place of a home to live in or public waterworks or electricity. It's a work in progress, and until we start to cross some serious thresholds with these efforts, it really won't mean much of anything to anyone on the ground suffering."

Putting a finer point on it, he says bluntly, "If niggas wanna do me a favor, play *Pray For Haiti*, man. It's not about the album cycle being done—this is people's lives we're talking about." At this point in Mach's career, the music is about more

Mach-Hommy: Look man, I hate to be the voice of reason, but I'm still waiting for the turn-up. Don't get me wrong: My day ones stay with a lead pipe in they backpack and are ready to tear shit down like football hooligans in Manchester. But more people need to start getting in tune. You can show that you like it. Nobody's gonna cancel you.



YOU begin "Tunnel Vision" from HBO saying you want your python trench coat, and you're still looking for it five years later on "The 26th Letter" from Pray For Haiti. Do you feel like you've earned it?

I earned 10,000 python trench coats. I don't want no flowers. I just want my coat. Some people say you gotta do that for yourself, so it's actually getting made right now. It would've been cool to receive it as a gift, but hey.

I'm also a designer, so I understand the process of what goes into that coat. Think about the surface area of a python's body. How many pythons you need to do that? I don't want a python print—I want a python skin trench coat. You're not gonna get it in yards, you're only gonna get it piece by piece. And it takes real skill to put it together and make it look seamless to the untrained eye. It's definitely a work of art and something to aim for. You gotta be ambitious because most people is gonna be dispossessed by the price of a sleeve.

How did your recent song with Kaytranada, "\$payforhaiti," come together?

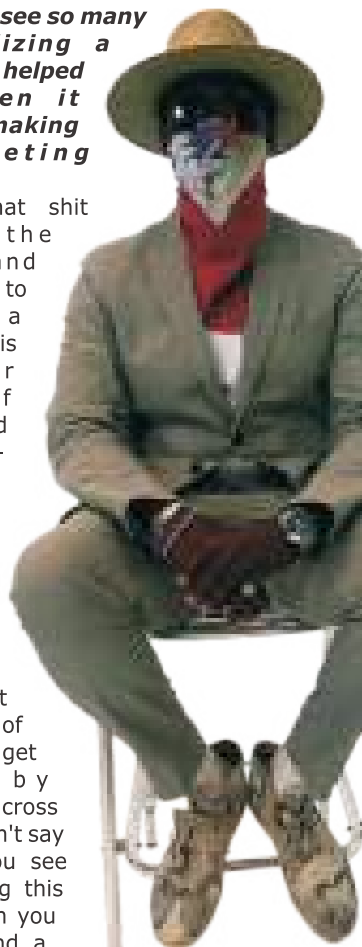
Again, everything I do gotta fall into place naturally. The hip-hop scene in Montreal and Quebec is brolic, son. It's one of the meccas outside of the U.S. lowkey. They're really serious about it out there. Kaytranada got better beats than a lotta cats in the underground. I'ma keep it real: The boy Kay is clear, but I don't know if other

people will hear that other side of him. He already knew what I was into. We definitely caught a wave with ["\$payforhaiti"] and splashed the joint up, but people don't understand his range. We got some deep cuts that I don't know if y'all will get to hear, but they out there

I'm so blessed because the universe got things set up for me that I didn't even know about. I walk into the room, and he already had shit ready and waiting for me. When it's natural and it's supposed to happen, that's how it happens. It's just grace, grace, grace, a transference of grace.

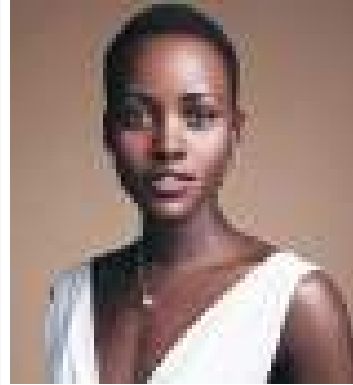
You were one of the first rappers to set high price points on your music, inspiring a newer generation of musicians to be confident in the value of their art. How does it feel to see so many artists utilizing a blueprint you helped create when it comes to making and marketing music?

Beautiful. That shit bled into the periphery and made its way to the core. For a long time, this particular iteration of spoken word that we call hip-hop has been marginalized and kept on the outskirts like some type of illegitimate third cousin or something. But you see a lot of the practices get adopted by entertainers across the board. I won't say names, but you see pop stars doing this shit, son. When you avant-garde and a



Continued on page 25

Most beautiful black actresses, singers



Lupita Nyong'o

(Born March 1, 1983) is an actress, film and music video director of dual Kenyan and Mexican citizenship. Her role in the film "12 Years a Slave" was widely acclaimed, earning her the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, among numerous other awards and nominations.



Beyonce Knowles

(born September 4, 1981 Houston, Texas, U.S.) is an American recording artist and actress. Her father - African American, and his mother - Creole.



Lisa Bonet

(Born November 16, 1967) is an American actress. She is best known for her role as Denise Huxtable Kendall on the long-running NBC sitcom *The Cosby Show*, and originally starring in its spinoff *A Different World*. Her African-American father, Allen Bonet, is an opera singer.



Dorothy Dandridge

(November 9, 1922 - September 8, 1965) was an American actress and singer. Dandridge was the first black actress to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress. She performed as a vocalist in venues such as the Cotton Club and the Apollo Theater.



Halle Berry

(Born August 14, 1966) is an American actress and former fashion model. She won an Academy Award for Best Actress in 2002 for her performance in *Monster's Ball*, becoming the first and, as of 2014, the only woman of African-American descent to win an Oscar for a leading role. She is one of the highest paid actresses in Hollywood and has been involved in the production side of several of the films in which she performed. Berry is also a Revlon spokesmodel.



Lena Horne

(June 30, 1917 - May 9, 2010) was an American singer, actress, civil rights activist and dancer. Both sides of her family were a mixture of European American, Native American, and African American descent.

Continued on page 25

INTERNATIONAL

Ex-Japanese Prime Minister, shot dead

FORMER Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is feared dead on Friday after being shot in the chest while giving a campaign speech in the south of the country.

Abe, 67, who is Japan's longest-serving PM having held office twice from 2006 to 2007 and 2012 to 2020, was shot around 11.30am local time in the city of Nara - near Osaka - while speaking outside the train station.

Firefighters who rushed to the scene described him as having 'no vital signs', while medics said he was 'in a state of cardiopulmonary arrest'. That phrase is commonly used in Japan when someone has died but doctors have not officially pronounced it.

Suspected shooter Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, a military veteran, was tackled by security and arrested at the scene on suspicion of attempted

murder - with police also confiscating what appeared to be a homemade firearm.

Witnesses reported hearing two shots while Abe was making a campaign speech ahead of Sunday's election for the parliament's upper house. He then collapsed holding his chest, with his shirt smeared with blood.

Fumio Kishida, the current prime minister of Japan, called the shooting 'absolutely unforgivable' and said he is 'praying' that Abe survives.

It was a stunning development in a country with famously low levels of violent crime and tough gun laws, involving Japan's best-known politician.

Former prime minister Abe was shot at around 11:30 am, in the country's western region of Nara, chief cabinet secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

'One man, believed to be the shooter, has been taken into custody. The condition of former prime minister

Abe is currently unknown.'

'Whatever the reason, such a barbaric act can never be tolerated, and we strongly condemn it,' Matsuno added.

The suspected gunman, who was tackled at the scene and arrested, is a former soldier who was in the Japanese self-defense forces and appears to have built the improvised weapon used in the shooting, Radio 4 reported.

Several Ministry of Defense officials confirmed that Yamagami had been working for the Maritime Self-Defense Force for three years until around 2005.

It was reported that Abe had his security team around him during the speech on Friday, but the attacker was able to pull this gun out and shoot him at close range 'without being checked.'

The former leader had been delivering a stump speech at an event ahead of Sunday's upper house elections when the apparent sound of gunshots was heard.

A column of people with torches approaching the town, around 40km (25 miles) south-east of the city of Beni.

SERGEY Lavrov, the foreign minister of Russia, has said he would not chase after the United States for talks as his counterpart, Antony Blinken, declined to see him at a Group of 20 (G20) summit in Indonesia's resort island of Bali.

Top world diplomats and envoys gathered this week for the meeting of the foreign ministers of the G20, which was set up as a club of the world's major economies. As the summit, which put some of the staunchest critics of Russia's invasion in the same room as Moscow's top diplomat, opened on Thursday, host country Indonesia told participants the Ukraine war must end and differences resolved through negotiations.

The United States has sought to isolate Russia on the world stage and aides to Blinken said they saw no point in speaking to Lavrov so long as Moscow continues its war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month.

"I fled, thinking that they would spare the hospital, but unfortunately they burned my father in the hospital," Vikere said.

Russia will not go 'running after' US



Lavrov

Lavrov, while saluting Indonesia, denounced the approach of Western nations at the G20.

"It was not us who abandoned contact; it was the United States," Lavrov told reporters on Friday. "We are not running after anybody suggesting meetings."

The foreign minister dismissed what he cast as the West's "frenzied" criticism of the war in Ukraine, scolding Russia's rivals for scuppering a chance to tackle global economic issues.

"During the discussion, Western partners avoided following the mandate of the G20, from dealing with

issues of the world economy," Lavrov said.

He said the West's discussion "strayed almost immediately, as soon as they took the floor, to the frenzied criticism of the Russian Federation in connection with the situation in Ukraine. 'Aggressors', 'invaders', 'occupiers' - we heard a lot of things today," Lavrov said.

"Everyone is telling us to put an end to the operation and reach a peaceful solution."

But, he added: "Despite the behaviour of our Western colleagues, this is a useful discussion."

Nine patients killed in eastern DR Congo

SOLDIERS stand in an a field camp in Paida near Beni, North Kivu Province of Democratic Republic of the Congo.

At least nine patients have been killed in an attack on a clinic in Democratic Republic of the Congo's east, the army has said, blaming the raid on a local armed group.

Assailants believed to be from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan armed group that has operated in the dense forests of the region for decades, attacked a church clinic at around 10pm (21:00 GMT) on Thursday night, two witnesses said.

The ADF, which the United States has deemed a "terrorist" group, is considered the deadliest of dozens of armed militias that roam mineral-rich eastern DRC. It is linked to the armed group ISIL (ISIS).

An army spokesman said on Friday that the attackers were actually from a local fights collaborating with the ADF and using the same methods.

The army killed three fighters and captured one when it responded to the attack in the town of Lume, in North Kivu province, said army spokesman Anthony Mualushay.

He said there were nine dead, including three children, while a nurse at the hospital counted 13 bodies.

"In the hospital ward there were four patients who all burned to death, in the paediatric unit all the mattresses are burned and in the side wards we just collected nine bodies," said Kule Mwenge Salomon, a nurse at Lume health centre.

Kakule Vikere Lem was feeding his father at the clinic when he saw a

Abbas meets Israel's Gantz before Biden visit

PALESTINIAN Authority President Mahmoud Abbas received Israeli defence minister Benny Gantz at the PA's headquarters in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah [File: AP Photo/Alex Brandon]

Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority (PA), has met Israeli defence minister Benny Gantz, days before United States President Joe Biden's scheduled visit to the region next week.

The meeting, held late on Thursday at the PA's headquarters in the



Abbas

occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, was the third

between the two in less than a year.

Abbas stressed the "importance of preparing the calm atmosphere" before Biden's visit, senior PA official Hussein al-Sheikh said in a statement on Twitter, adding that the PA welcomed the US president's trip.

The PA president also "stressed the importance of creating a political horizon" as well as "respecting the signed agreements and stopping the actions and measures that lead to the deterioration of the situation", al-Sheikh said.

For his part, Gantz said on Twitter the meeting was

Biden visit

held "for the purpose of security and civil coordination in preparation" for Biden's visit.

He noted it involved an agreement "to continue close security coordination" between the PA and Israel.

The controversial policy requires the PA, which administers pockets of the occupied West Bank, to share intelligence information about Palestinian activists and those wanted by Israel. Palestinians have consistently called for an end to the policy, including in large anti-PA protests last year.

Abbas and Gantz last met publicly in December 2021 at the latter's home in Rosh Ha'ayin in central Israel. They also met in August in Ramallah.

Biden is expected to visit Israel, the occupied West Bank and Saudi Arabia between July 13-16.

A statement last month by the White House said he would meet Israeli leaders "to reinforce the United States' iron-clad commitment to Israel's security and prosperity" and to discuss "its increasing integration into the greater region".

Ukraine: Moscow politician sentence

ALEXEI Gorinov, 60, was arrested in April after he was filmed criticising the invasion in a city council meeting.

Under the post-invasion law, anyone who spreads "fake news" about the military faces up to 15 years in jail.

Russians are banned from using the word war to describe the invasion.

President Vladimir Putin has instead coined the phrase "special military operation", although he spoke of the "war in the Donbas" in remarks to parliamentary leaders on Thursday.

Human rights activist Pavel Chikov said Gorinov's sentence was the first jail

term under the new law. Until now judges have only handed down a fine or a suspended sentence.

Judge Olesya Mendeleyeva ruled he had carried out his crime "based on political hatred" and had misled Russians, prompting them to "feel anxiety and fear" about the military campaign.

Appearing in court in northern Moscow, Gorinov held up a piece of paper with words he had written in pen: "Do you still need this war?" A security official held up his hands to try to obscure the message.

The opposition councillor was arrested in late April, more than a month after he

addressed a district meeting in the Krasnoselsky area of north-east Moscow.

At the meeting Gorinov objected to the idea of a children's drawing contest being held when children were dying in Ukraine. He had also tried to start the council meeting with a moment's silence to remember the victims.

Another opposition councillor who supported his remarks has since fled Russia. Prosecutors said they had both deliberately conspired to discredit the Russian military. Russian political expert Tatiana Stanovaya said it was clear

the authorities were sending a warning to "dissenters". Using the term war was sabotage in the eyes of the authorities, she said. But when combined with political action such as Gorinov's it was seen as almost terrorism and would be met with a long jail term.

Russian prosecutors are also calling for a long prison term for prominent pro-democracy figure Andrei Pivovarov, who was removed from a plane as it was about to leave St Petersburg in May. His lawyer said he was accused of directing an undesirable organisation, Open Russia.

INTERNATIONAL

Johnson: What the world make of his exit?

Boris Johnson's almost three years in Downing Street have included their fair share of turbulent world events: Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Covid pandemic and, of course, Brexit to name three.

SO how is his resignation being seen around the world?

Is the EU rubbing its hands with glee at Boris Johnson's downfall? Yes - but also no.

Over the last 24 hours, I've been getting texts and calls from EU diplomats, filled with multiple question and exclamation marks. European media headlines drip disdain and incredulity at what they view as a political opera *buffa* (slapstick opera performance) currently unfolding in the UK.

But the EU view has often been one of impatient disappointment that Mr Johnson lasted so long as prime minister.

A number of European countries - particularly those in central and eastern Europe - are exceedingly grateful to Boris Johnson for his hardline stance on Russia, even before Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. But they believe that to be a UK position that will hold even after he is no longer prime minister.

Few in mainland Europe will shed a tear when Mr Johnson goes. Politicians blame him for blustering his way through Brexit. They accuse him of failing to be honest with the British people about its true implications.

Wholesale rejection of Mr Johnson's bill currently making its way through parliament, to unilaterally rewrite the international post-Brexit treaty on Northern Ireland, has managed to unite the normally bickering EU institutions: the Commission, Parliament and Council.

That said, no one I've spoken to in Brussels sounds particularly hopeful as to who may eventually take over from Mr Johnson as UK prime minister. Most here say they view the plethora of resignations of Conservative ministers as self-interested career-saving attempts, rather than evidence they disagree with Mr Johnson's policies.

Not even opposition Labour leader Keir Starmer talks about reversing Brexit, or noticeably softening it.

The main EU hope expressed today is the same I heard immediately after the 2016 Brexit vote: EU politicians wish for a UK leader, they say, who has the political confidence to talk and negotiate with Brussels, rather than constantly playing to, and being distracted by, the political gallery at home.

Joe Biden and the Democrats in control of the US government are unlikely to be too distraught over Boris



Boris Johnson and Joe Biden at last month's Nato summit in Madrid

Johnson's fall from grace. Some, in fact, may celebrate the news that has made headlines across the US.

In a statement released on Thursday to BBC US media partner CBS News, Mr Biden simply notes that the "special relationship" between the US and the UK "remains strong and enduring", never mentioning Mr Johnson by name. The embattled Brit didn't even get a "we wish him best of luck in his future endeavours".

The American president has never appeared a fan of his British counterpart, disagreeing with him on the wisdom of Brexit and expressing particular concern for the difficult situation it has created for his ancestral homeland of Ireland.

It is true that Mr Biden has relied on Mr Johnson as a steadfast ally in his attempts to rally a united European response to Russian aggression in Ukraine.

And the two have worked together to counter rising Chinese influence in the Pacific.

But to many Democrats, Mr Johnson and Donald Trump are political peas in a pod, with similar views on trade and immigration and similarly iconoclastic political instincts.

By their logic, anything that is bad for Mr Johnson bodes ill for Mr Trump and his Republican allies. And anything that hurts Mr Trump is good for the Democrats.

Mr Biden may want to take pause, however, as Mr Johnson's undoing could have less in common with Mr Trump's political disposition than with his own.

Setting aside the litany of scandals that were the

proximate cause of Mr Johnson's downfall, the British prime minister had seen his political standing eroded by issues bedevilling most Western democracies - economic uncertainty, surging inflation and social discord.

No one - in the UK, US or elsewhere - has figured out an easy solution to these problems. And they all may eventually reap the whirlwind that public discontent with the status quo has sown.

So while the American Left may welcome what it sees as Mr Johnson's final reckoning, his departure could be a harbinger of doom for those

currently in power in the US, not for the Republicans on the sidelines or the man contemplating a political revival in Mar-a-Lago.

For those keenly following British politics on the continent, a common thread is emerging from early reaction to news of Boris Johnson's resignation as party leader and prime minister in a few months' time: one of envy.

Those who've taken to social media have lamented how uncommon it is in many African countries for a leader to step down from power or even for his party to force him to leave over a lack of performance.

They've used his resignation to comment on the seeming lack of accountability of politicians in their own countries to the people they govern.

It's important to add, however, that Mr Johnson has not been seen as a close friend of Africa during his term in office. It is perhaps to be expected that news of his leaving has been met with limited reaction.

This is big news in places such as Australia, India, Malaysia and here in Singapore as well, of course - countries that have had historical links to the UK and inherited their parliamentary system as part of being previous colonies.

And more than one commentator has asked the question: what kind of signal is the UK sending about the state of democracy to the rest of the world, when even after a number of his colleagues have asked for him to step down - ostensibly for the good of the country - the leader initially refused to go?

Is this - many are wondering - the slow demise of the democratic system?

There's also concern about how this might affect geopolitics, given the war in Ukraine, and whether this is a distraction in the West that again could take away from more pressing issues that Asian governments are concerned about - like the cost of living, inflation and the rising influence of China in the region.

Source: BBC World News.

"It's important to add, however, that Mr Johnson has not been seen as a close friend of Africa during his term in office. It is perhaps to be expected that news of his leaving has been met with limited reaction. This is big news in places such as Australia, India, Malaysia and here in Singapore as well, of course - countries that have had historical links to the UK and inherited their parliamentary system as part of being previous colonies."

EVIE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Avoid having the same quarrels over & over

THE only thing more exhausting than fighting with your partner is realizing that you're having the same fight every time you disagree.

Many couples find that, over time, arguments tend to get distilled down to a few key areas of disagreement. Some common conflict themes include "My feelings don't matter to you," "You don't trust me," and "You want to control everything."

Those repeating phrases are accompanied by a feeling of hopelessness and exhaustion. When you feel like you're hitting the same wall, again and again, it's time to put aside what led to the latest fight and who's right.

Here are 4 ways to restore your relationship Commit to fighting

Couples have to embrace an idea that can feel kind of nutty: stop trying to stop fighting.

This is not to say that you should embrace fighting, but alternatively to see it as something inevitable and natural, and to shift the way you fight.

Some problems are entrenched and need a lot of attention. That means you might need to fight them out for a long time. But if the way we do the arguing is toxic, then we tend to shut down. Hearing the same argument over and over, we feel immediately defensive, and tell our partner why they shouldn't feel that way. Our partner, in turn, feels resentful—no one wants to hear why their reactions are wrong—and responds with anger and distrust.

Learn to fight better

Arguing well involves three cardinal rules: Listen closely and make sure you understand, respond with compassion, and speak without contempt. To make



it even more clear, in any conflict, each partner has specific responsibilities.

3. Follow the rules

The speaker's rules are:

1. Talk about your feelings (use "I" statements and explain how you are hurt)

2. Speak without criticizing or

attacking (assume your partner is your friend)

3. Ask "how can you help me to feel better about this?"

The listener's rules are:

1. Try to hear the unmet need (listen attentively)

2. Don't defend yourself and say why you are right in the speaker is wrong

3. Take a break if you feel angry (returning as soon as you are calm).

When we use these skills, communication shifts, from each-in-our-own-corner combativeness to concerned empathy. We can start to look at this nagging problem with new eyes, and without the expectation that change must happen right away.

Find what works, throw away what doesn't

Imagine committing to making mistakes and fighting over them, and having faith that this is part of your journey with your partner. Imagine agreeing to "screw this up together," and collaborating on the next move even though it might involve more setbacks. Through this system, we find what works, throw away what doesn't, and then go on to the next step—which will also be imperfect and fail in places.

This is a "two steps forward, one step back" philosophy, which might sound frustrating but most people actually find to be a big

relief. Instead of feeling lousy that we keep getting it wrong, we focus on the parts that we get right and accept and assume imperfection.

Final thoughts - Don't lose the sight of the prize

Earning stability sometimes looks like an uphill struggle, but try to look at it, not as a price you

pay, but a prize you win. It can be truly lovely to continually commit to a struggle together. The message you send is: We are worth the work. To investigate and problem-solve with compassion for each other is a joy and a great gift to one another. And it starts with simple communication tools.

Source: Marriage.com



EVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Parenting

How emotional invalidation hurts your children

EMOTIONAL invalidation is the explicit or implicit rejection, minimization, or dismissal of one's feelings. Feelings of invalidation are associated with problems in a child's social-emotional development and psychological distress in adulthood¹

There are generally three types of invalidation in childhood^{2,3}.

1. Punitive – Punishing a child or restricting their privileges

2. Minimizing – Dismissing the importance of the child's emotion or redirecting their attention without first addressing the real issue

3. Distress – Parents themselves become dysregulated, for example, lashing out, in response to the child's negative emotion

Why parents invalidate
Parents who invalidate their children's feelings do so for a variety of reasons, some of which are innocent, while others are abusive.

They consider it unimportant
It is not uncommon for children to get upset about things that adults don't even notice. The parents invalidate because they have a difficult time empathizing with their children and agreeing with their feelings.

They misunderstand how emotions work

Most parents who ignore their children's feelings think that if you don't see it, you won't feel it. They, therefore, sweep their children's feelings under the rug in an attempt to make them disappear.

They are uncomfortable dealing with feelings

People sometimes dismiss someone's feelings since they don't know how to deal with them or are uncomfortable facing them.

They disregard others' feelings
There are parents who lack empathy, whether it is for another adult or their own children.

Their own belief about having



emotions
Some parents, especially those who have sons, think that having or showing negative emotions are signs of weakness.

Their lack of emotional regulation

Parents who have a hard time validating others also tend to lack emotion regulation themselves. They are easily dysregulated when confronted with their children's negative feelings^{4,5}.

They deny being the reason

In cases where the child has negative feelings about the parents, the parents may refuse to acknowledge them because they do not want to admit or accept responsibility.

Controlling invalidation
Psychologically controlling parents invalidate and

manipulate their children's emotional experiences and emotional expressions. They often intrude on the social-emotional development of the child^{4,5}.

Consequences of emotional invalidation

The way parents react to their children's negative emotions can profoundly impact their social emotional development and psychological health outcomes later in life.

Positive responses from parents to negative emotions help children accept and manage those emotions.

When parents discourage their children from expressing emotions through dismissive, punitive, or emotional responses, children learn to suppress their overt emotions. However, they still need to deal with those emotions internally without acquiring the skills to regulate them.

Experiences with emotion invalidation make it harder for children to resolve their emotional issues and learn regulating skills. Instead, children learn to suppress their emotions in a maladaptive way⁶.

Children with emotion regulation difficulties and chronic emotional inhibition tend to have mental health issues including depression, anxiety⁷, and eating disorders⁸.

How parents can validate their children's emotions

Taking a child's emotions seriously goes against what most

tone, and most likely the pain in them.

·Attune to their emotions. For example, if they're crying, you shouldn't laugh.

·You don't have to agree with their feelings. It's not about you.

·You don't (and shouldn't) offer a solution (unless you're asked).

·Don't compare their feelings. It's not a competition.

·If you're the target of the emotion (e.g. mad at you) you don't have to be defensive. Because it's not about you.

Validating someone's feelings is about acknowledging and accepting their existence even if you don't agree with them. Again, it's not about you.

When you show your acceptance, your child will also accept their own feelings and start working through them adaptively.

The next time your child approaches you with an emotional statement or reaction, here is what you can do.

Acknowledge
To acknowledge, you can repeat what they say or describe what you see.

"You are hurting. I hear you."
"You lost your toy. I saw that."

"It broke. And it's your favorite card."

"That boy pushed you. It happened over there, right?"

Label their feelings and describe them from the child's perspective

"You are so upset."
"It feels unfair."

"That makes you so angry."
"It must be painful to carry all those hurt feelings inside."

Stay with them
At this point, you don't have to say more.

S o u r c e :

Parentingforbrain.com





Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi
 peekembo@yahoo.com
 08036417305, 08095322786

Family bonding ideas for busy parents

GETTING very busy these days to make ends meet has become a daily norm for parents.

And parts of the reason why they have to work so hard is to pay the bills and meet up with their family's needs.

According to momnewsdaily.com, "Sometimes, hectic schedules and the demanding nature of your jobs can get the best of you and cause you to slowly feel disconnected from your family members. Most especially since screens, gadgets, technology, and the Internet have taken up most of your time, it's now challenging to make time to bond with your family, especially your children".

"However, if there's one thing you must not sacrifice for the sake of your job, it's your time and moments with your children, therefore spending enough time around your children can significantly affect their growth and development. Not only will it help cultivate a healthy and profound parent-child relationship, but it'll also help your kids feel like they have a support system, making them feel more confident, independent individuals".

So, do you still remember the last time you had a fun family bonding together? If not, this may be a sign that it's time to reconnect with your family and create amazing memories together.

Momdaily website however advice that despite being busy parents, make sure you make family time a frequent occurrence by keeping a list of these five family bonding ideas and try them out one at a time as follows:

Cook Together

Despite having hectic schedules, it's natural for parents to make time for kitchen chores and cook meals for the family. So, why not utilize this time not only for cooking, but as well as family bonding? Together, you can decide on what meal or dish you should work on for the day's meal. Make sure you keep your kids



involved through the whole process by letting them do the mixing, stirring, or slicing, if they're capable.

For younger kids, you can also focus on creating baked goods, like cupcakes, cookies, or mini-cakes.

Your kids would be happy to participate in mixing the eggs, rolling the flour, making the icing, and decorating the baked goods with their favorite colors.

Your kitchen can be the best place for your family to bond, get creative,

and make great memories together. Check out parenting sites, like The Parenting Daily, for more at-home activities that would encourage your child's creativity and participation.

Schedule a Movie Night

If weekdays are for work, then make sure your weekend nights are scheduled for movie nights! Movie nights are a perfect time to bond with your family in the living room and snuggle with each other as you watch a movie. To make it more

interesting, let every family member decide which movie the family should watch for the night by taking turns each week.

If your child wants to watch a cartoon movie for the night, then do so. The point is you let your child feel involved with the planning. You can have your movie night at home or move your TV outdoors under the stars, or you can also do this in a movie theater.

Sit down for meals together

Gone are the days when it's always a family tradition to sit down and eat meals together, regardless if you're running late for work or your kids are off to school. Nowadays, it has slowly become a norm for some families to eat individually, anytime they want. To bond with your family even during your busy days, make it a routine to eat meals unitedly as a family as often as you can. You can put down your paperwork for a bit, tell the kids to pause their screen time, and, together, you can sit down at the table and catch up.

If not, you can, at least, schedule two to three days a week, wherein a family dinner is a must. This way, you can bond together during this time and be able to catch up with each other's happenings and the latest events of the week.

Have a Treat Night

As you and your spouse are working long hours at work every day, it may be hard for you to catch up some time with your kids or even bond together as a family. As a way of making it up to them, while at the same time finding a way of bonding

with your family, designate one night every week for a treat night. It can be a Friday or a Saturday night.

For this treat night, make it a habit to bring some delicious treats for you and your kids to enjoy. This way, your kids will surely look forward to this treat night every week, as not only will this be a night for them to enjoy delicious treats, but because they also get to spend time with their parents and bond as a family.

Go Backyard Camping

Perhaps, as busy parents, you may not have enough time to plan elaborated travels or faraway family road trips, or arrange overnight camping out in the woods or the mountains with your family. However, that doesn't mean you can never go camping ever. Why not make use of your lawn and have backyard camping?

You can go backyard camping together as a family and still do camping activities as if you're camping in the real woods. You can build a campfire, tell them stories, stargaze, and sleep out for the night with your tent. This will surely be one of the evenings your kids will never forget.

Praying together and teaching them a skill are other ways of bonding with your kids that will leave them with a lasting impression about YOU.

Therefore take some time off work, bond with your family, and create unforgettable memories together. Remember, a time well spent with your family is never a wasted time.



THE SUNDAY STANDARD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Health

Why you should eat more vegetables and fruits

VEGETABLES and fruits are an important part of a healthy diet, and variety is as important as quantity.

No single fruit or vegetable provides all of the nutrients you need to be healthy. Eat plenty every day.

At least nine different families of fruits and vegetables exist, each with potentially hundreds of different plant compounds that are beneficial to health. Eat a variety of types and colors of produce in order to give your body the mix of nutrients it needs. This not only ensures a greater diversity of beneficial plant chemicals but also creates eye-appealing meals.

Tips to eat more vegetables and fruits each day

1. Keep fruit where you can see it. Place several ready-to-eat washed whole fruits in a bowl or store chopped colorful fruits in a glass bowl in the refrigerator to tempt a sweet tooth.

2. Explore the produce aisle and choose something new. Variety and color are key to a healthy diet. On most days, try to get at least one serving from each of the following categories: dark green leafy vegetables; yellow or orange fruits and vegetables; red fruits and vegetables; legumes (beans) and peas; and citrus fruits.

3. Skip the potatoes. Choose other vegetables that are packed with different nutrients and more slowly digested carbohydrates.

4. Make it a meal. Try cooking new recipes that include more vegetables. Salads, soups, and stir-fries are just a few ideas for increasing the number of tasty vegetables in your meals.

There is compelling evidence that a diet rich in fruits and



vegetables can lower the risk of heart disease and stroke.

The higher the average daily intake of fruits and vegetables, the lower the chances of developing cardiovascular

disease.

Cancer

Numerous early studies revealed what appeared to be a strong link between eating fruits and vegetables and protection against cancer. And, in general, data from cohort studies have not consistently shown that a diet rich in fruits and vegetables prevents cancer.

Diabetes

Some research looks specifically at whether individual fruits are associated with risk of type 2 diabetes. While there isn't an abundance of research into this area yet, preliminary results are compelling.

Gastrointestinal health

Fruits and vegetables contain indigestible fiber, which absorbs water and expands as it passes through the digestive system. This can calm symptoms of an irritable bowel and, by triggering regular bowel movements, can relieve or prevent constipation. The bulking and softening action of insoluble fiber also decreases pressure inside the intestinal tract and may help prevent diverticulosis.

Vision

Eating fruits and vegetables can also keep your eyes healthy, and may help prevent two common

aging-related eye diseases—cataracts and macular degeneration

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



BUSINESS WORLD

Women inclusion: Key to Nigeria's oil and gas wealth

The oil and gas industry is the mainstay of Nigeria's economy, providing thousands of direct and indirect jobs and contributing substantially to the nation's foreign reserves. SOLOMON ASOWATA writes.

IT is a known fact that oil alone accounts for 40 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 70 per cent of budget revenues and 95 per cent of foreign exchange earnings.

Despite the invaluable contribution of the sector to the economy, experts believe that it still has huge potential, and that there is need for deliberate inclusion of women in the sector to unlock the potential.

However, the industry remains male-dominated at all levels; from leadership roles in major corporations to jobs in mines and on oil rigs.

According to a recent study by the Global Energy Talent Index, whereas women make up 48 per cent of the global labour force, they only account for 22 per cent of the labour force in the oil and gas sector.

The study said women occupied about 50 per cent of non-technical positions at entry-level compared to only 15 per cent of technical and field role positions.

"This implies that the gender diversity and inclusion decreases with seniority, with only a tiny proportion of women in executive positions.

"The percentage of women in the industry drops from 36 per cent to 24 per cent between the middle and executive levels," the study added.

In Nigeria, women have been pushing for more inclusion in the energy space and are beginning to make progress despite the socio-economic, political and cultural challenges.

For instance, Elohor Aiboni, was in March 2021 appointed as the first female Managing Director of Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Ltd. (SNEPCO).

Similarly, President Muhammadu Buhari, in January 2022 appointed



Sylva



Tallen

Senator Margery Chuba-Okadigbo as the pioneer Board Chairman of the [Nigerian National Petroleum Company](#) (NNPC) Ltd.

Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, said the Federal Government had been deliberate in introducing gender-friendly policies that would promote women inclusion in the oil and gas industry.

Mr Sylva, who spoke at a recent Nigerian Women in Oil and Gas Conference in Lagos, said this included increasing access to funding, award of contracts and support for research and development in the interest of women operators in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

The minister harped on the need to get more girls into Science Technology

Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), which was a pathway to careers in the oil and gas industry.

He also advised women in the Nigerian oil and gas industry to work together towards increasing participation of women in the industry by engendering growth, building capacities and capabilities, identifying opportunities, mentoring and coaching.

Also, Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), recently announced that the board would soon begin the disbursement of the 40 million dollar Women in Energy Fund to support women in the sector.

Mr Wabote said the fund was set up by the NCDMB in partnership with the Nigerian

Export-Import Bank (NEXIM Bank), adding that 15 applications had been received and three had been approved for disbursement.

He also canvassed the inclusion of women in the administration of the various Trusts and Funds that were established by the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021, notably the Host Community Development Trust, Host Community Development Trust Fund and Environmental Remediation Fund.

The NCDMB boss further confirmed that the Oil and Gas Industrial Parks in Bayelsa and Cross River were getting ready for completion and would commence operations in 2023.

He noted that the board had started inviting applicants for allocation of plots to set up manufacturing outfits in the park and encouraged women-owned businesses with workable proposals to apply.

Mr Wabote promised that women would be given special consideration as part of the board's commitment to mainstream them into the oil and gas industry.

On her part, Mrs Chuba-Okadigbo challenged the NCDMB to institute a development programme like the Project 100 for oil and gas firms owned by women.

She said the implementation of the PIA provided a good opportunity to mainstream more women in oil and gas

activities and also recommended formal mentorship and role modelling for younger women.

While the recent appointments of Mrs Chuba-Okadigbo and Mrs Aiboni are quite significant, experts believe that there is a lot that still need to be done for inclusion of more women in the oil and gas industry.

Funmi Ogbue, President, Women in Energy Network, insists that government at all levels should promote women leadership in the energy sector by appointing more women to head agencies and institutions at sectional, regional and international levels.

Mrs Ogbue said this would help bridge the gap in the sector, while also giving more women opportunities to contribute their quota to national development.

Also, Anita Ogboile, Chief Executive Officer, Deep Blue Energy, said there was need to create awareness of STEM and its importance to younger females, especially those in secondary schools.

Mrs Ogboile said demystifying the myth that women would not succeed in the industry was very key and would help encourage others to go into the sector.

Indeed, the exploits of women in the oil and gas sector holds brighter prospects for the sector, and invariably the economy.

Source: Premium Times:

The study said women occupied about 50 per cent of non-technical positions at entry-level compared to only 15 per cent of technical and field role positions. "This implies that the gender diversity and inclusion decreases with seniority, with only a tiny proportion of women in executive positions. "The percentage of women in the industry drops from 36 per cent to 24 per cent between the middle and executive levels," the study added. In Nigeria, women have been pushing for more inclusion in the energy space and are beginning to make progress despite the socio-economic, political and cultural challenges.

BUSINESS WORLD

Nigeria gets highest share of IDA package

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari, recently, joined African leaders in Dakar, Senegal to launch "the largest financial package ever mobilised in the history of the International Development Association (IDA) - \$93 billion - geared towards a "robust and resilient economy for Africa."

Seventy percent of the global fund will be spent on African countries between now and 2027, with Nigeria getting the biggest cut among the African States.

President Buhari, who was personally present at the event convened by Macky Sall, the President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairperson of the African Union, in his submission at the opening dialogue of African heads of state on development Challenges and priorities at the International Development Association (IDA) summit for Africa, stressed that in view of the current challenges faced by world economies, the Nigerian government is determined to ensure that the economy is able to withstand the shocks by building a resilient economy capable of creating jobs. This, according to him, will be achieved by looking inwards and adding value to the commodities produced in the country.

He, therefore, called on global partners for concerted efforts to help in the realisation of these objectives.

"I wish to therefore call for concerted global efforts to mitigate and sustain food systems. These efforts must involve key stakeholders, including Governments, Farmers, Investors, Multilateral Organizations, Regional Bodies, International Financial Institutions, Private Partners and Civil Societies. As African countries continue to grapple with the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and now the Russian-Ukraine war, the continued support from the World Bank Group, particularly from the IDA is critical to help us meet financial needs."

He noted however, that "Nigeria's priority amidst these global challenges is to build the resilience of our economy and drive jobs-rich growth. Therefore, our focus is on the transformative scale-up of industrialisation, to be driven by Backward Integration and Export Development based on value-addition to key commodities and access to new markets."

According to the President, "In order for us and in particular Nigeria to achieve these priorities, we must continue to build partnerships and global solidarity that will address the challenges of the most vulnerable population and look forward to stronger collaboration among members of the International Development Association."

President Buhari expressed confidence that the Summit will build on the Abidjan



Buhari

Declaration of 2021 and comprehensively address the debilitating effects of COVID-19, climate change, insurgency and lately, the war in Ukraine.

"As we gather here today, I am confident that we will consolidate on the resolutions adopted at the previous high-level meeting on the IDA, that was graciously hosted by President Alassane Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire in Abidjan in July 2021, and which highlighted the need for an ambitious replenishment of the IDA-20, to support Africa's economic recovery agenda, following the shocks of the COVID-19 Pandemic."

"The situation," he stressed, "has been particularly difficult for us in Africa, as the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine have continued to increase our development challenges, with many countries on the continent experiencing a prolonged severe food crisis, dwindling government revenue, rising levels of unemployment, widening infrastructural needs over the past three years and the consequences of a preponderant debt burden, in efforts to mitigate these problems."

The Nigerian leader commended the World Bank and the IDA for their interventionist programmes designed to address areas germane to the African continent like agriculture, technological innovation and gender matters among others, aligning "with Nigeria's post-COVID-19 economic sustainability plan, which has a major component, called the Agriculture for Food and Jobs Programme, where we seek to

High exchange rate cause of fuel scarcity - NOGASA

THE Natural oil and Gas Suppliers Association (NOGASA) has warned that except the federal government through the Central Bank of Nigeria provide a 5-month emergency window that would enable importers of gas access the dollars at official rate and engage in massive importation to ease the queues being

experienced in the Federal Capital Territory and its environs.

National President of NOGASA, Bennet Korie, who made this known to journalists recently as part of the associations' resolution, added that failure of the government to act quickly will lead to loss of jobs.

This is just as he urged the government to fix the four refineries as it will end

leverage suitable technologies to build a resilient food system for the country.

"I must commend the current initiatives by the World Bank Group, particularly the donor countries of the International Development Association, for the robust Ninety-Three Billion US Dollars (\$93 billion) which is the 20th replenishment package (IDA-20), to help low-income countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis and build a greener, more resilient and inclusive future. The decision to shorten the IDA-19 period and advance the IDA-20 replenishment by one year, in response to urgent needs is highly commendable and greatly appreciated."

"I am pleased to also note that this is the largest financial package ever mobilized in the history of the IDA and this package will prioritize some key areas such as: Agriculture and Food Security, Human Capital, Climate Change Adaptation, Bridging the Gender Gap, Job Creation, Digital and Technological Innovation, among others."

President Buhari, who was later conferred with the highest National Honour of the Republic of Senegal, 'L' Ordre National De Lion Senegal (The National Order of the Senegal Lion) thanked his host, President Macky Sall, for the honour, extolling the excellent diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Senegal which have spanned over sixty years having started informal interactions for a longer period. "Minerals and non-minerals revenue contributed N12.84 trillion (56.61 per cent) and N6.57 trillion (28.97 per cent) respectively, while VAT accounted for N3.27 trillion (14.42 per cent).

importation of fuel.

According to Korie, as long as the dollar is high and diesel importers still continue to go to the black market to get dollars, there won't be an improvement in the situation.

Korie said: "Just make dollars available at an official rate. As long as they continue to buy at the black market the price will not come down."

It said the "purported" takeover was announced "in spite of a

MR Alex Okoh, the Director-General, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), says 16 firms have pre-qualified for the privatisation of five National Integrated Power Projects (NIPPs) in the country.

Okoh said this in a statement issued by the Bureau's Head of Public Communications, Mr Chidi Ibeh, in Abuja recently.

The director-general listed the plants to include, Geregu, Omotosho, Olorunsogo, Calabar and Benin-Ihovbor.

Okoh, who announced at the Investor pre-bid conference for the privatisation of the five NIPP plants, said the 16 pre-qualified bidders included Mota-Engil Nig, Amperion Power, and Sifax Energy.

Others, according to him, are Pacific Energy Company Ltd and Globeleq Africa L, Geoplex Drillteq Ltd, Asfalizo Acquisition Ltd, Launderhill PJB, Launderhill Tata, Unicorn Power Genco Ltd, and Connaught Energy Services Ltd,

He named others as ENL Consortium Ltd, Arдова Plc, Central Electric and Utilities Ltd, North South Power Consortium and Quantum Megawatt Consortium.

Okoh said that the power sector remained a viable investment in the country given the low per-capita Megawatts recorded in Nigeria.

DisCos restructuring, temporary - FG

THE Nigerian government has said that the restructuring of five of the nation's energy distribution companies is temporary.

The Minister of Power, Abubakar Aliyu, said this in a statement signed by his spokesperson, Isa Sanusi.

The government announced that the Port Harcourt, Kano, Kaduna, Ibadan and Benin distribution companies were the affected electricity companies.

The statement said that qualified private sector investors will buy the bulk of the equity in the companies, re-capitalize and run them profitably.

The entity will be supported as it undergoes reorganisation and repositioning to better serve the residents of the franchise area, the government said.

It added that it will facilitate the activation of emergency funds through the Nigerian Electricity Market Stabilisation Facility.

"The ministry has received confirmation from the BPE and the Central Bank of Nigeria that in exercising the rights of lenders to the core investors, the financial institutions do not retain the ownership of the shares and management of the DisCos in perpetuity," the statement said.

"Minister has been briefed by Nigerian Electric Regulatory Commission (NERC) and Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE) on the recent events relating to corporate governance in Kano, Benin, Kaduna, Ibadan and Port Harcourt electricity distribution companies (DisCos) necessitating a change in the respective Board of Directors and Management."

subsidising order of court in suit FHC/L/AMC/92/2021 granted on September 8, 2021 and varied on December 3, 2021 respectively."

It said that IBEDC was unlawfully included in the announcement, adding that the government's publication was "ill-conceived".

"The steps as it touches and concerns IBEDC is an affront against due process amounting to contempt of court in the peculiar circumstance, especially in view of the Receiver/Manager's veritable lien against IEDM's shareholding interests in IBEDC which have been registered and sanctioned by duly constituted court of law and the concerned authorities aforesaid.

The general public is hereby informed that the current management of IBEDC remains intact as the Receiver/Manager and its appointed Nominee shall resist any illegal imposition that runs athwart of the spirit and intendments of the recently concluded privatisation exercise in the power sector by the Federal Government and create unnecessary tension and avoidable confusion within the fragile Nigerian Energy Distribution sector."

16 firms pre-qualify for national power projects- BPE

"The interest shown by bidders and the opening up of the generation aspect of the power sector confirms the vast opportunities that abound in the sector."

"The bureau and other relevant stakeholders are committed to making the sector sustainable."

Okoh said the objectives of the pre-bid conference were to address possible questions from the prequalified bidders about the transactions and provide clarity on any issues in the transaction documents.

The director-general said that the forum would also highlight the potential of the Nigerian power sector.

"This event is a continuation of the Federal Government's reform of the power sector to ensure that assets within the sector are fully utilised and transformed into world-class facilities."

"This will be achieved through the injection of private sector capital and deployment of more efficient and technical capacity."

According to Okoh, the event attracted critical stakeholders in the power sector including the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Niger Delta Power Holding Company, and Nigerian Bulk Trading Company.

"It would be recalled that the National Council on Privatisation

(NCP) in April 2021 approved the adoption of a fast-track strategy for the privatisation of the five NIPP plants.

"Council also approved the engagement of CPCS Consortium as the Technical Adviser for the 100 per cent sale of the five NIPP plants, in line with the policy of divesting government shares from thermal generating plants."

"Subsequently, the bureau advertised in three national dailies (This day, Business Day and Daily Trust Newspapers), and an online news platform (The Cable) on Thursday, May 6, 2021.

"The advertisement called for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from prospective investors for the sale of the five NIPP power plants, with a submission deadline of Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

"At the expiration of the deadline for the submission of EOIs, 36 EOIs were duly submitted from the prospective investors."

"The closure for the receipt of the EOIs was witnessed by the representatives of the Department of State Security Services, Anti-corruption and Transparency/Servicom Unit (ACTSU) of the bureau." (NAN)



Aliyu

The statement said the changes announced were as a result of the receivership of the core investors in Kano, Benin, Kaduna and Ibadan DisCos whereas the actions in Port Harcourt are sought to provide much needed liquidity

"It is therefore expected that clear timelines for exit of the banks would be prescribed by the regulators as and when appropriate," it added.

"We wish to reassure electricity consumers that the recent changes in the governance of the DisCos would not adversely impact on the ongoing reform initiatives including the National Mass Metering Program," it noted.

In a reaction to the government's intentions to restructure the companies, the managers of Integrated Energy Distribution and Marketing Company (IEDM) said they own 60 per cent shareholding interests in the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company.

A statement by IEDM advised the public to ignore the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), purporting to take over control and management of IBEDC.

It said the "purported" takeover was announced "in spite of a



Mach-Hommy: Paying it forward

Continued from page 16



trendsetter, people follow. That's what happens when you lead. The real problem is when it doesn't get reported in the press. I like to see the reaction, the response, and I like to see people adopt and repurpose. The only thing I'd say is to acknowledge the origins.

You gotta know the history.

C'mon, son. For instance, imagine the name

Tesla beginning and ending with an electric car. And no one knows anything else about the name and it doesn't spark the slightest curiosity. It's just like, "Oh yeah, Elon Musk" and that's it. Beginning and end. But [inventor Nikola Tesla] died like 100 years ago, son. And I'm still alive and working. It's cool but I guess we're failing to acknowledge where things come from.

You said earlier that you don't want flowers, but is there a difference between getting flowers and being acknowledged?

When people talk about flowers, it's more so like things you should be able to do for yourself. You can tell yourself you're the greatest. You can get up in the mirror and say some affirmations or meditate or commune with God. I'm talking about actual facts. We dug the hole and poured the concrete in 2016. Now, there's an edifice that towers over the landscape and casts a shadow over half the city, but we're gonna act like the elephant isn't in the room, right? It's not opinions, taste, and preference; this is actual fact. I came, I saw, I conquered, and I'm still here.

When all is said and done, what do you want the Mach-Hommy legacy to be?

Excellence in the face of adversity.



Most beautiful black actresses, singers

Continued from page 16



Gugu Mbatha-Raw

(Born 1983 Oxford, Oxfordshire, England, UK) is an English actress. Her father is an African doctor, originally from the Republic of South Africa. Best known for the role from the film Living with the Enemy and Choice of Straws.

Николь Шерзингер / Nicole Scherzinger

(Born June 29, 1978) is an American singer-songwriter and television personality. She then joined burlesque-inspired girl group The Pussycat Dolls as lead singer. Her father is of Filipino descent, and her mother is of Hawaiian and Russian descent.



Joy Bryant

(Born October 18, 1974) is an American actress and former fashion model, who is currently starring as Jasmine Trussell in the NBC family drama Parenthood.

Катерина "Кэт" Грэхэм / Kat Graham

(Born September 5, 1989, Geneva, Switzerland) - American actress, singer, model, record producer and dancer. Best known for the role of Bonnie Bennett from the TV series "The Vampire Diaries." Has Liberian roots on his father.



Tamara Dobson

(May 14, 1947 - October 2, 2006) was an African-American actress and fashion model.

Christine Milian

(Born September 26, 1981) is an American actress and singer-songwriter. Born to Afro-Cuban parents.

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

How to turn huge cashew waste into wealth

Nigeria, the sixth largest producer of cashew nuts globally, exports more than 80% of its raw cashews primarily to Vietnam and India where they are processed into various consumer products such as butter, food and cosmetic ingredients. But Africa's most populous nation can extract more economic value out of cashews by using their wastes to produce citric acid. AKINTOLA LATEEF and ADEKUNLE O. ADEOYE writes.

CASHEW is a tropical tree cultivated for its fruit (cashew nut) and pseudofruit (cashew apple). The nut is the major reason for planting cashew because it is very nutritious. The fleshy 'apple' part yields a juice which is high in vitamins and minerals.

But the juice is high in anti-nutrients too. These are compounds that prevent the body from absorbing nutrients. They also make the juice less palatable. Because of this, cashew apples are mostly discarded.

The apple pulp, shell and liquid from the shell are all wasted or underutilised. Yet, these are valuable materials and they can be improved by biotechnology.

We've been conducting work into the potential of producing citric acid from cashew juice. It was the first effort globally to produce citric acid from cashew juice. Citric acid is widely used to preserve blood, drugs and processed foods and drinks. Its global value is expected to reach US\$4 billion in 2027.

We used cashew from Ogbomoso, South-west Nigeria, an area that produces some of the best cashew nuts in Nigeria. Attention is yet to be focused on other parts of the country like Kogi, Benue, Kwara, Nasarawa and the FCT which is also largely endowed with large cashew plantation of good breed.

Cashews in Nigeria

Nigeria currently harvests 200,000 to 240,000 metric tons of raw cashew nuts each year, with about 85% of this exported. Nigeria is not different from other African countries that export the bulk of their production as raw cashew nuts.

Africa, with production of 2,334,405 tons, is the world's largest producer and exporter of raw cashew nuts, accounting for more than 50% of production.

Between 2000 and 2018, world trade in raw cashew nuts more than doubled to 2.1 million tons, and African producers led by Côte d'Ivoire accounted for almost two-thirds of the growth. In 2020, trade in cashew nuts was worth US\$6.87 billion.

Cashew farming contributes about N24 billion (about US\$58 million) to the Nigerian economy annually. It employs more than 600,000 people.

The sector could do more. Our work shows that citric acid can be produced from cashew apple juice, which is abundant in Nigeria. Domestic production would save Nigeria US\$31 million a year in foreign exchange, based on citric acid imports for 2020.

Nigeria can produce citric acid from cashew apple juice by using biotechnology which is the science of using biological processes to produce valuable materials and services. For instance, man makes use of some bacteria to convert milk to yoghurt. Yeast is used in producing bread via biotechnology. Biotechnological products were valued at US\$752.88 billion in 2020 with



projected growth of 15.83% for 2021-2028.

Cashew wastes, too, can be turned to wealth by creating new products. For instance, cashew nut shell liquid produces chemicals that can be used in the making of paints, varnishes, agrochemicals and medicines. Shell and pulp are used through biotechnology to produce animal feeds and bioethanol. Biotechnology can also turn the juice into drinks and ethanol.

Citric acid from cashew

In our efforts to add value to cashew, we focused on the underutilised cashew apple juice and aimed to test the possibility of producing citric acid from the juice.

The demand for citric acid is growing because of its usefulness in food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. New sources of nutrients are needed to grow micro organisms that produce citric acid.

Nutrients in the cashew juice and pulp support the growth of

microorganisms.

We used cashew apple juice to grow black mould to produce citric acid for the first time globally. Black mould is a fungus that is widely distributed in the environment. It produces black spores when it grows. It is scientifically known as *Aspergillus niger*.

The mould grows on simple and cheap materials. It has been used to produce citric acid since 1919. It is used to produce different products, including enzymes, proteins and animal feeds. It is celebrated as a micro organism that has made huge contributions to biotechnology for 100 years.

The best locally sourced black mould consumed the juice to produce citric acid in large quantities. It produced 92.8g of citric acid per litre of juice after 10 days of growth. The yield is considered very high compared to those that were earlier reported.

We used the citric acid to coagulate soy milk to make

cheese. Citric acid is used as coagulant in producing cheese. We asked a panel to test the quality of the cheese. They found the soy cheese to have better characteristics than those produced locally using fermented liquor of corn. These include better colour, texture, flavour and firmness.

We then used scientific techniques to increase the citric acid production. We manipulated growth conditions of the mould and applied nanomaterials in its nutrition in this regard. It was the first report globally to increase citric acid production by applying nanotechnology.

At various times, we used four techniques to improve capability of the mould. These include obtaining high-yielding mould by exposure to radiation. Then, we added sugar to the juice to study its effect on yield of citric acid. We evaluated the addition of zinc oxide nanoparticles on citric acid production. Finally, we determined the best growth

conditions to support citric acid production by our mould.

These efforts increased citric acid production by the mould in cashew juice by about 2.38 to 11.98 times of the original production. For instance, addition of zinc oxide nanoparticles gave yield of 34.62% citric acid per day. The best growth conditions turned in 92.61% citric acid per day. These results showed that we can improve the productivity of the mould to enhance the commercial production of citric acid.

Moving forward

Large-scale production of citric acid using cashew apple juice could achieve several benefits. It could add value to cashew farming and increase income from planting the crop, reduce the environmental nuisance of disposal of cashew apple, enhance Nigeria's potential to produce citric acid locally, boost the economy and save foreign exchange reserves.

Courtesy Metro

Change of Name

LOHNA	IRMIYA	ISTIFANUS	PLANGNAN	MRS. NAKOM	IBRAHIM
I, formerly known as MIRI LOHNA , now wish to be known and addressed as LOHNA PEACE NJINAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as IRMIYA NANPAN NDEK , now wish to be known and addressed as IRMIYA NAANPAN NDEK . Correct date of birth is 06/10/1994 not 06/10/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ISTIFANUS ESTHER NANYI , now wish to be known and addressed as ISTIFANUS ESTHER SAMSON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as PLANGNAN DISHIP , now wish to be known and addressed as PLANGNAN DISHIP KARNILIYUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS NAKOM DUNGBAM GOTAU , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NAKOM DUNGBAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ATAKA BLESSING MUSA now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM BLESSING DIMAS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
AISHA	SAMUEL	NWANKWO	ISHAYA	FWANGMUN	NGUDEL
I, formerly known as AISHA UMAR DAUDA , now wish to be known and addressed as AISHA UMAR ABARE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SHARTER PRAISE SAMUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as SAMUEL PRAISE SHARTA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ANASTHESIA M. NWANKWO, AWASTHESIA CHIOMA NWANKWO , now wish to be known and addressed as NWANKWO MARYGEOGINA CHIOMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ARIN NUHU MARKUS , now wish to be known and addressed as ISHAYA YAKUBU ITSEGOK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as FWANGMUN HYACINTH YAMWA , now wish to be known and addressed as FWANGMUN HYACINTH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as GUDEL, BITRUS SOLOMON , now wish to be known and addressed as NGUDEL, BITRUS SOLOMON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
DASHWEP	MATHEW	DUNG	FAROUQ	DAWUL	DAJAGAT
I, formerly known as DASHWEP ANGELINA BIGSHIK , now wish to be known and addressed as DASHWEP ANGELA DAUDA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as OTSEPA MATHEW MICHAEL , now wish to be known and addressed as MATHEW MICHAEL OTSEPA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as WANG JACKLIN DUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNG JACQUELINE WANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM FAROUQ FAROUQ , now wish to be known and addressed as FAROUQ IBRAHIM AIMAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as COSMOS TOM MACHAM , now wish to be known and addressed as DAWUL MACHAM TOM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MANAME WISDOM DAJAGAT , now wish to be known and addressed as DAJAGAT NAANGOEME WISDOM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
HABIBU	DALYOP	MUSA	SUNDAY	ASMAU	CHOJI
I, formerly known as HABIBU USMAN , now wish to be known and addressed as HABIBU NUHU USMAN . Correct date of birth is 24/05/1967. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as THOMAS DANJUMA , now wish to be known and addressed as DALYOP, THOMAS DANJUMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AISHATU DAHIRU , now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA AIHATU DAHIRU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SUNDAY YOHANNA ODO , now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY YOHANNA TURU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ASMAU NURU ISMAIL , now wish to be known and addressed as ASMAU HABIBU ISMAIL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as CHRISTIANA PHILIP , now wish to be known and addressed as CHOJI CHRISTIANA PHILIP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
NALFA	DAMTER	CHARITY	BITRUS	GOKIR	MATHIAS
I, NALFA VONGDUN TAKDUL , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 22/12/1991. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KYENPIA FAITH JAMES now wish to be known and addressed as DAMTER, KYENPIA JAMES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AWOS CHARITY PETER now wish to be known and addressed as CHARITY PETER MALLAU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BITRUS EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as BITRUS PAM EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GOKIR NENMANE CLEMENT , now wish to be known and addressed as LENGDANG NENMANE CLEMENT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MATHIAS UJAH , now wish to be known and addressed as NATHANIEL UJAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ULASI	YAKUBU	STEPHNORA	JOSHUA	DANIEL	GOLIT
I, formerly known as ULASI BLESSING , now wish to be known and addressed as ULASI AZUKA BLESSING . My correct date of birth is 11/11/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as YAKUBU MERCY , now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU MARY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as STEPHNORA MAFENG DUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as STEPHNORA MAFENG OSEDEI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOSHUA TUMBA KWAJI , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSHUA KWAJI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DANIEL NENDIRMWA , now wish to be known and addressed as GOTOM NENDIRMWA DANIEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DOKKAS GOLIT , now wish to be known and addressed as DOKKAIAS GOLIT EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ONUICHE	GAVOU	JOHN	IDI	NKECHI	DANIEL
I, formerly known as ONUICHE JULIET , now wish to be known and addressed as IDOKO JULIET ENEWA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GAVOU da-FOM , now wish to be known and addressed as GAVOU CHARLES AMBROS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOHN JOSHUA now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN JOHSUA MAILAMBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as IDI REBECCA , now wish to be known and addressed as IDI REBECCA ZAMAGUNI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as NKECHI MARYANN OBIOMA NKECHI MARYANN , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL NKECHI MARYANN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DANIEL GAVOU , now wish to be known and addressed as RUTH ILIYA DANIEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
QUEEN	ATANKU	PONJUL	ZANKUNI	DEBORAH	NAANKWAT
I, formerly known as QUEEN NANYAK BALI , now wish to be known and addressed as DALLANG CHALYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ADANKU ANAMA , and ANAMA ATANKU now wish to be known and addressed as ATANKU ANAMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as PONJUL ISTIFANUS GONJI , now wish to be known and addressed as PONJUL GONJI . My correct date of birth is 3/3/2000 not 3/3/1993. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BOT MARY HURUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as ZANKUNI MARY HURUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DEBORAH YAKSE , now wish to be known and addressed as DEBORAH IFEANYI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as STEPHANIE NAANKWAT MUNALONG , now wish to be known and addressed as NAANKWAT KWAPYEN MUNALONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
MARTHA	GODWIN	EKEH	GOEWAM	MRS. NGOZIKA	DAWAR
I, formerly known as MARTHA MUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as MARTHA JAMES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOYZ GODWIN , now wish to be known and addressed as GODWIN JOYCE ENE . My correct date of birth is 4/4/1988 not 3/3/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EKEH JOY , now wish to be known and addressed as EKEH CHINOYEREM JOY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as FEDELIS DAWANG NANYEN , now wish to be known and addressed as GOEWAM FIDELIS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS AGOZI CHINYERE EZE , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NGOZIKA CHINYERE SHADRACK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAWAR ENOCK DASHE , now wish to be known and addressed as DAWAR ENOCH DASHE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
NKIRUKA	MBONU	CHRISTIANA	BABALE	ODHE	GRACE
I, formerly known as OPUTA NKIRUKA JUDITH , now wish to be known and addressed as NKIRUKA JUDITH JOSEPH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EBUKA MBONU , now wish to be known and addressed as MBONU EBUKA ISRAEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as CHRISTIANA ISA , now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTIANA EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DENKWAL BABULE , now wish to be known and addressed as BABALE SABASTINE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ODHE MICHAEL , now wish to be known and addressed as ODHE MICHEAL . My correct date of birth is 14/7/1960 not 1/1/1960. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GRACE ANGU AGRE , now wish to be known and addressed as GRACE ELISHA KUJE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NEWS

Sule appoints Igbos as Special Advisers

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

NASARAWA State Governor, Engineer Abdullahi Sule has appointed two members of the Igbo community in the state as his Special Assistants.

This was contained in a press release signed by the media aide to the Governor Ali Abari and made available to the **NIGERIA STANDARD** in Keffi Wednesday.

Engr. Sule announced the appointments when he hosted the Igbo community from across the state, who were on a courtesy call at the Government House.

Those appointed are Mr. Chukwuemeka Igweidima from Lafia, as Special Assistant on Interstate and Mrs. Lovelyn Okechukwu from Karu, as Special Assistant on Culture.

The Governor appreciated the Igbo community for demonstrating their entrepreneurial skills, as well as their willingness to live in peace without fear in every part of the country.

He therefore assured the Igbos that they have the freedom to live in every part of Nasarawa State peacefully with their host communities.

Engineer Sule then used the opportunity of the visit to call on members of the Igbo community to ensure they register for their PVCs, to enable them and participate in the coming general election.

He particularly appealed to them not to leave the state and register in the east but that they should register in Nasarawa State which is their home.

"It's important for you to understand that where you live, that is where your home is. It's important who you register here in Nasarawa State. It's good for you to vote for persons that will represent you directly where you live" he stated.

"I'm urging you to stay and register in Nasarawa so that you will be able to feel comfortable about voting for people who will make impact on your life," he further stated.

The Governor therefore urged them to take advantage of the period of extension by the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) to register for their PVCs.

He informed them about the commitment of his administration to secure the lives of the people of the state, stressing that security remains the number one priority of his state government under his leadership.

The Governor further called on the Igbo community to join in the crusade for peaceful



Sule

coexistence.

"I want you to this because security is number one job for the government. We want to make sure our people are secured. Once you live in peace where you are, then you will continue to express your entrepreneurial skills," he said.

He assured that his administration will continue to provide critical infrastructure such as roads, water, education and health,

amongst others.

"We believe in living together as a people and we will continue to do everything possible to accommodate everybody," Engineer Sule said.

Earlier, in a joint address, the EzeIgbo 1 of Nasarawa State, Igwe Nathaniel Nduba Udeh who spoke on behalf of the Ndieze Nasarawa State, as well as APC Igbo Political Group under the leadership of Chief Collins C. Ezenwa (Mai Maggi), thanked the Governor for his kindness.

Two corpers get automatic employment in Kogi

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

KOGI State Governor, Yahaya Bello has granted automatic employment to two corpers who served in the state. The two beneficiaries of the automatic employment are; Jemilu Akpah from Kogi, a physically challenged and Mary Aimuan from Edo State who won the prestigious NYSC Meritorious Award. The Governor also doled out N7.25 million to support the transportation of 725 youth corps members of the 2021 Batch 'B' Stream I, who completed their service in the state. Bello, who spoke at the passing out ceremony of the batch at the Muhammadu Buhari Square, Lokoja, promised to give N10,000 to each of the 725 outgoing NYSC members to support their transportation back to their various destinations. The Governor said that the automatic employment for Jemilu Akpah being a physically challenged; and Mary Aimuan, was for their contributions to the improvement of their host communities. He thanked the outgoing NYSC members "for the sacrifices they made toward uplifting the standard of peoples' lives. Your specific contributions in

Primary Health Care delivery services, provision of quality education and rural infrastructure and advocacy in Sustainable Development Goals were critical in fostering and promoting government's transformation agenda. "Your deployment to various communities must have endeared you to their custom and tradition and consequently broadened your perception and understanding of the imperatives of a united Nigeria. "Your post service aspirations should be toward making Nigeria a better place through selfless service, dedication to duty, honesty, integrity and accountability. "You should be good ambassadors of the scheme and spread the gospel of its good virtues," Bello said. The Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Mr Idris Musa, commended the Governor for creating enabling environment which ensured the safety and wellbeing of the youth corps members in the state. Musa, who doubles as the Chairman NYSC Governing Board urged corps members to continue to display the spirit of humility, patriotism and shun all vices that could adversely affect the image of the country. Earlier, the NYSC state Coordinator, Pastor Mrs. Mofoluwaso Williams, had

IN recognition of his vital contributions and services to his community and humanity in general, Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa has conferred its fellowship award on the Former Deputy Governor of Plateau State and presently the paramount Ruler of Edegen-Mbeke chiefdom, Alhaji Hatlu Bala Usman its fellowship award.

The fellowship award which was conferred on him during the 10th combined convocation ceremony of the Polytechnic was meant to encourage and spur him to greater services in his present capacity and other humanitarian aspects.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Rector of the Polytechnic, ESV Dr. Abdullahi Alhassan Ahmed stated that the institution had carefully observed

Federal Poly confers fellowship award on Usman

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

and satisfied with the remarkable contributions of the awardee as such the institution through its management and board and management decided to confer the award to him a mark of recognition and encouragement for him to continue to do more.

While congratulating him no behalf of the Board and management of the Polytechnic, the Rector also wished him well in all his endeavours.

He then assured that the Polytechnic would continue to accord its recognition to all deserving people that have been making their lives more meaningful to the socio-economic development of their fellow human beings.

Responding, through his first son who represented

him, Alhaji Bala Usman thanked the board and management of the Polytechnic for the honour done to him who he described as highly inspiring and encouraging.

He therefore assured his determinations to strive within all possible means to reciprocate the gesture especially in his various humanitarian services to the society as a while.

The SUNDAY STANDARD Sunday observed that the fellowship awards conferred on the former Deputy Governor of Plateau State, HE Halilu Bala Usman and presently the paramount Ruler of Edege-mbeki Chiefdom has received an accolades and jubilations from the people.

PLSG to partner with security agencies

BY DUMAH RANDONG

THE Plateau State government has reiterated its resolve to partner all security agencies in its efforts to protect lives and property of citizens in the state. Governor Simon Lalong gave this assurance at the passing out parade of 233 new recruits of the

Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, Plateau State Command which took place on Thursday at the Command Headquarters in Jos.

The passing out parade of the newly recruited members of the NSCDC, 2022, started with the inspection of guards and parade mounted in honour

of the Governor and reviewing officer, Governor Simon Lalong.

Governor Lalong congratulated the new recruits on their successful training and sacrifice to contribute in the task of securing lives and property of citizens.

The Governor represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, noted that the issue of banditry, kidnapping and farmers/herders clashes and other security challenges calls for urgent attention.

He expressed the satisfaction of the state government and its citizens with the activities of the NSCDC in combating crime and other security problems affecting the state.

As a demonstration of its support in fighting crime and criminality, the state government has funded the security outfit, Operation Rainbow to compliment other security agencies as well as the provision of operational vehicles and motorcycles this is aimed at protection of lives and property.

Commandant, NSCDC, Plateau State Command, Alexander Barunde described the occasion as a special day in the service as the passing out parade was being held through out the states of the federation after a mandatory training by the corps.

He assured that with the increase in personnel, the corps will continue to compliment other sister agencies in combating crime in the country.



Bello

NEWS

Eid-el-Kabir: Lalong sues for peace, unity, sacrifice

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has said the country's insecurity can only be tackled when there is unity, collaboration and sacrifice among Nigerians.

He said this in his message while felicitating with the Muslim Ummah as they join their counterparts worldwide to celebrate the 2022 Eid-El-Kabir.

Lalong in the Sallah message congratulated the Muslim Ummah for commemorating another significant event in the Muslim calendar which brings to fore the message of sacrifice, love, tolerance and unity as preached by the Holy Prophet (PBH).

The Governor urged Muslims to celebrate this significant spiritual event by reflecting on the issues that Nigeria has been confronted with such as insecurity, intolerance, religious bigotry, ethnic bias and poverty among others that can only be tackled when there is unity, collaboration and sacrifice among all Nigerians.



Lalong

He said the matters that are weighing down national progress are such that Nigerians must look beyond parochial and selfish interests to enable people from all strata of society get equal opportunities contribute to solutions irrespective of their backgrounds.

While expressing optimism that Nigeria will surely overcome its challenges, Lalong challenged all stakeholders to work hard in building values and ethos that

promote national agenda, equity, justice, fairness and respect for diversity particularly now that political activities are in top gear.

He also called on the Muslim Ummah to continue to pray for Plateau State and Nigeria and support the government as it works hard to fulfil its electoral mandate to the people.

Lalong also urged those in the holy land to pray and offer supplications to God for divine intervention in the affairs of the nation.

From ABBAS GUNGURA,
Bauchi

Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has felicitated with Muslim faithfuls in the state on the occasion of the 2022 Eid-El-Kabir celebration and urge them to use the period to strengthen their existing interpersonal relationships.

The Governor gave the message through a statement signed and made available to journalists in Bauchi by the Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to Bauchi Governor, Comrade Muktar Gidado, where he said, in a goodwill message on the occasion, the governor recalled that, the eid-el-Kabir is celebrated annually in commemoration of the great sacrifice and total submission of Prophet Abraham (AS) to the will of Allah when he answered the Divine call to sacrifice his only son, Prophet Isma'il which is the highest spiritual sacrifice that has ever been made in observance of divine injunction.

Describing the sacrifice as a worthy of emulation, especially by the Muslim Umma, Governor Mohammed said the occasion of the Eid-el-Kabir should be used to reflect on how the muslims fared morally and spiritually during the last one year so

Bauchi Governor congratulates Muslims on Eid-el-Kabir celebration.



Mohammed

as to take corrective measures, where necessary, for them to be amongst the believers who will enjoy the mercies of Allah (SWT) in the hereafter.

"I want to start by giving Glory to Allah (SWT) for sparing our lives to witness yet another Eid-el-Kabir celebration Islam as a religion that propagates total submission to the will of Allah (SWT) and peaceful co-existence amongst the Muslim Ummah and with adherents of other faiths, the Holy Qur'an has also commanded all Muslims to give something (in charity) out of the treasure which Allah has bestowed on them. This should be done without consideration for religious, ethnic or political differences.

"I want to appeal to all motorists to observe traffic regulations, so that we can minimize accidents on our highways throughout the period of Eid-el-Kabir celebration and beyond. I also appeal to parents to

monitor the movement of their children and wards in order to reduce the incidents of missing children during this festivity."

He stressed the need for Muslim faithful to imbibe the spirit of forgiveness, humility and respect for one another and pray for the prevailing peace in the state to be sustained and for adequate rainfall for a bumper harvest during this farming season.

The governor used the opportunity to reiterate his administration's commitment to continue to serve the good people of Bauchi State and to take the state to greater heights and pointed out that, since the inception of the administration about three years ago, it has delivered dividends of democracy in infrastructural development, education, health, water supply, youth and women empowerment, housing, agriculture among others.

Nigerians urged to vote candidates with track record

A political and socio-economic advocacy group, Fusion774 has urged Nigerians to vote into power come 2023, candidates with impeccable track record in human capital, economic development and security.

The National Coordinator of the group, Mr Sadiq Jikta, made the call while addressing newsmen on the state of the nation recently, in Abuja.

Jikta said the news conference was convened to express the concerns on the economic and security situation in the country, especially at a time the nation is working toward electing new leaders.

He said that both the citizens and political leaders had failed to leave up to their responsibilities, adding that citizens must act fast to make things right towards achieving the country of our dream.

According to him, the upcoming 2023 general election is going to be an opportunity for us to elect leaders that have the capacity to deliver in terms of addressing the economic and security situation of the country.

"When we are voting for leaders in the next election let's look at those with the trait of building people, those that has the track

record in investing in people. "This is the future we are looking at; we have to get it right this time and we must come out and vote in numbers.

"We have to get our Permanent Voter Card (PVC) which is our tool for working out good governance.

"Our participation to make things right is going to be the choice decision we are going to make, while electing the right leadership.

"We the Nigerian citizens deserve quality governance and we are responsible for it," he said.

Jikta said that Nigeria currently had poor human development index, saying that human resource development plays vital role in the prosperity of every nation.

He said that the nation would achieve a quantum leap, if it invest in human resources and address unemployment among the youth, adding that unemployment remained one of the pressing problems in Nigeria.

The coordinator however, challenged the political parties to convince Nigerians with their roadmap, manifestoes and issue based discussions and not trivialities.

"The group will use this opportunity to urge the PDP

as a party to base its campaign on issues that affect the life of Nigerians, not attack on persons, like the recent take on the Nigeria's Ambassador to Benin Republic Amb. Tukur Buratai on issues that has been duly addressed by ICPC.

Jikta condemned the recent killing of military officers in Niger State as well as other happenings in Zamfara, Katsina, Plateau, South East and other parts of Nigeria.

He said the recent attack on Kuje Correctional Centre by terrorists leading to the release of suspected dangerous elements into the society had further heightening insecurity precipitation in the country.

He urged the government to live up to its responsibility and double effort to stem the tide.

The coordinator also urged citizens to play active role in addressing insecurity by providing useful information to the security agencies, while calling for more support for community policing or vigilante groups.

He said the group had continued to mobilise citizens from bottom top at local levels and sensitive them on the need for right leadership in the country.

The National Mobilisation Secretary of Fusion774, Mr Mahmud Abubakar, called for character reformation and value reorientation on the part of the citizens to be able to choose right leaders. (NAN)

NGF eulogise Barkindo

By PALANG KASMI

THE Northern Governors Forum (NGF) have eulogised the late Secretary General of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Dr. Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo.

Chairman of the Forum and Governor of Plateau State Simon Bako Lalong in a statement said the demise of Barkindo is a huge loss to the oil and gas sector.

He said the Forum received

with shock the news of death of the OPEC Secretary General who was on official duties in Nigeria when his death occurred.

In his words "The death of Dr. Barkindo is a great loss to his immediate family, Nigeria and the international community because of his contributions to the energy sector and development of oil and gas in Nigeria and throughout the world".

"Dr. Barkindo was a

technocrat who distinguished himself in the field of oil and gas having put in many years in the industry and rising to head the NNPC where he led many reforms and initiatives to transform the industry".

"Barkindo gave a good account of himself when he was elected Secretary General of OPEC as he led the Organisation through some of the most challenging periods in global energy crisis and the COVID-19 Pandemic by ensuring recovery and stability".

Lalong said the Northern Governors Forum is proud of his achievements and support towards the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), and exploration of oil and gas prospects across various parts of the country including the Northern Region and will surely miss the professional expertise he rendered to the country.

While commiserating with the family and people of Adamawa State, Lalong prayed God to grant his soul eternal rest and comfort the family.



Barkindo

NEWS

Controversy over APC flagbearer resolved - Danbaba

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

A Member of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly representing Nasarawa Central Constituency, Hon. Ismail Danbaba has stated that the controversy over who is the authentic flag bearer of the All Progressive Congress, (APC) in that constituency has been officially resolved.

Speaking with the **SUNDAY STANDARD** via telephone interview, Danbaba stated that he had already filled the nomination form and even returned it to the appropriate authorities for their further actions.

According to him, from the initial stage, he was the person that won the primary election not as falsely claimed by his co-contestant as such; after diligent investigations by the committee set-up by the party, he was later vindicated by the handing over the nomination form to him after declaring him as the true winner of the election.

Danbaba therefore expressed his gratitude to the people of his constituency for their mandate to him to represent them again in the state's legislative body and re-assured his determination to continue to do his best by providing them a purposeful and popular representation in such a way that meaningful



Danbaba

developmental activities would be attracted towards improving the socio-economic activities of his constituents.

The lawmaker who was highly excited with the development further assured that he would continue to work hand in hand with all relevant authorities both in the House of Assembly and other relevant government institutions and organizations with a view to attract more development for his people.

While commending his party the (APC) for standing by the truth, he assured them that their efforts would not go in vain.

"in Fact it has become highly imperative to specifically expressed my appreciation to the party and my teeming supporters who stood firmly by my side during any trial moments and I want to

assured them that their effort would be reciprocated accordingly" he assured.

To his co-contests and all aggrieved people, the lawmaker assured that he is going to extend his hands of fellowship to all of them with a view to healing the wounds and join hands to move together as one as big family.

He further assured that he would be magnanimous in victory by carrying all along in the spirits of togetherness in view of the need to re-build a solid relationship and promote the virtues of democracy.

"I want to assure all my co-contestants and aggrieved amongst us that I would always be magnanimous in victory by carrying all along with a view to building the spirit of togetherness since all of us are winners" he concluded.

THE Inspector-General of Police, Mr Usman Baba, has ordered security beef-up nationwide ahead of the 2022 Eid-el-Kabir celebration.

The Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi said this in a statement on Thursday in Abuja.

Baba had directed Commissioners of Police (CPs), Tactical Commanders and their supervisory Assistant Inspectors General of Police (AIGs) to beef up security ahead of the celebration.

He said the directive was to prevent untoward situation in their Areas of Responsibility (AoR) throughout the Eid-el-Kabir season and beyond.

The I-G urged supervisory AIGs and their respective CPs to ensure adequate deployment of officers and assets to prevent the occurrence of crimes and criminality.

He called on officers and men of the Police to engage in critical assessment of threat prone areas, thorough stop and search, raids on black spots and other anti-crime strategies to sustain

Eid-el-Kabir: I-G orders security beef up nationwide



IGP Alkali

the peace and public safety in Nigeria.

Baba warned that while remaining security personnel deployed must be professional and mindful of the fundamental rights of the citizens.

He called on the officers to discharge their responsibilities with all sense of decorum and alertness.

Baba congratulated Muslim faithful in the country on the occasion of the Eid-el-Kabir celebration and enjoined

them to celebrate and enjoy the beauty of the celebration while remaining security conscious.

The I-G called for the report of all suspicious individuals, movements or activities to the police for prompt intervention.

He urged citizens to cooperate with police operatives and other security agencies on duty at strategic places for the Eid-el-Kabir celebrations nationwide.

Court fixes 12 July for hearing on primary election

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

The Federal High court, Lafia Division Nasarawa State has fixed the 12 of July for hearing of a case filed by Barr. Labaran Shaibu Magaji a frontline

politician challenging the outcome of the senatorial primary election held on the 4 June, 2022 which produced Architect Shehu Tukur as the ticket bearer of the party

The defendants in the case are Architect Shehu Tukur, Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC), State and National Chairmen of APC, Hon. Abdullahi Abbas, Alh. Yakubu Mohammed, Alhaji Bello Soja, Hon. Yusuf Adamu Auta, Major General AT Jibrin (rtd) and Princess Miriam Onuoha.

In a press statement signed by the plaintiff, Barr. Labaran Shaibu Magaji and made available to Newsmen in keffi on Thursday, alleged that the defendants collaborated and used fake and unregistered delegates to vote during the primary election.

In view of the above, Magaji is therefore, praying

for the court to nullify the primary election because of the illegalities involved in the process and declare him as the winner.

He further contended that during the election, the first defendant Arch. Tukur was said to have scored 179 votes while he (Barr. Magaji) was declared to have scored 114 and if those illegal votes were subtracted it will show that the first respondent only scored 54 votes while he scored 114 as such he has the majority number of votes casted.

It will be recalled that the appeal committee of the party had recommended that a new primary election should be conducted or on the event of time constraint he Labaran Shaibu Magaji should be declared the winner of the primary election based on the genuine facts and figures he presented before the committee.

Youths urge elites to exercise caution on security issues

SOME youths under the aegis of the National Youth Forum (NYF) have urged the elites to exercise caution while commenting on the security challenges bedeviling the country.

NYF made the call in a statement signed by its President, Tanko Gambo and Secretary, Jamiu Adigun, on Saturday in Abuja.

The youth group said the statement was in reaction to the comment by a former minister who accused the military high command of failing to proffer solution to

the nation's security challenges.

According to the group, the former minister also accused the military of being part of a conspiracy to truncate the country's democracy as well as ignoring an earlier warning on the Kuje attack.

It said the forum, however, commended the former minister for his concern on the situation, saying it reflected the current mood of the nation.

"We as youths and students are concerned with what is happening in our dear country.

"We are not here to defend anyone but, having studied the situation, we feel that caution and faith are needed to see us through these trying times.

"Sincerely, like what our senior brother, the former minister, said, the situation is bad, but it is not hopeless."

The group noted that for some obvious reasons, the military would not come out publicly and say what it was doing to stem the security challenges, but that did not mean it had failed or not doing anything about it.

"Just this week, we read that troops of Operation Hadin Kai neutralised some terrorists at Gamage in Borno.

"We believe several efforts are being made to restore peace and stability in the country," it said.

The forum said that President Muhammadu Buhari had on several occasions acknowledged the efforts of the military and the successes from the renewed interservice synergy being marshalled by the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Lucky Irabor.

It dismissed the allegation that the military was working to truncate democracy, saying the military high command had time without number

pledged loyalty to democratic rule in the country.

The forum commended the former minister for also acknowledging international dimension to the security situation, adding that the assertion might not be far from the truth.

It called for a united front to face the challenge head on, adding that countries across the world were facing different challenges.

"Just this year, there have been more than 300 mass shootings in the U.S., according to the Gun Violence Archive.

"The shooting of July 4, parade in Highland Park III that left six people dead and dozens injured was one of 14 mass shootings over the long weekend.

"There have been just over 100 since a rampage at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, which left 19 children and two teachers dead on May 24.

It acknowledged that the situations abroad might not be an excuse for mayhem in the country.

"NYF insists that just like U.S. citizens, we must come together and quash the evil plans by enemies of the country.

"We must not cause more harm in trying to proffer solution."



Farouk



Sule

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Fuel subsidy: To be or not?

continue from page 10

expenditure on subsidy could hit a record N6 trillion mark by year end, the international Monetary Fund (IMF) warned. The multilateral lender also revealed that, a macro fiscal stress test it conducted on the country showed that, interests payments on debts in the country could amount to Nigeria using 100 per cent of its revenue to service debts by 2026 if not closely monitored.

According to the news media, the IMF's Resident representatives for Nigeria, Mr. Ari Aisen made these disclosures while presenting the latest, sub-Saharan African Regional Economic outlook, in Abuja. He also revealed that Nigeria received a total of \$16.9 billion facilities from the IMF following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

To further buttress Nigeria's dire predicament(s), he revealed that Nigeria received \$3.4 billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) and as well as loan in the same amount. The IMF chief was blunt and worried that many African countries, including Nigeria risk sliding into critical debt servicing problem unless urgent actions were explored to significantly raise revenue.

While noting that over 80 percent of the Federal Governments revenue was committed to debt service, he described the situation as "existential problem." He was quoted as saying it is a reflection of how revenue is an

existential issue for Nigeria of. It is essential for macro-economic stability, it is important for the provision of social service." Further x-raying the fiscal challenges, he regretted that as an oil exporter, Nigeria was not only unable to take advantage of the current global high oil prices to build reserves, but also confronted by low earnings due to the subsidy on petroleum products.

With this precarious situation which smarks to get hopelessness with the fuel subsidy regime or policy, what is to be done? There have been divergent views on whether the policy should be continued or not. The point of convergence it seems it is the fact that the policy has become a veritable avenue for monumental corruption. Even with this seemingly consensus believe, some analysts are of the opinion that removing the fuel subsidy at the moment would only increase the hardships Nigerians are presently going through.

Finance Minister, Ahmed said the Federal Government had initially planned to remove subsidy on petroleum products from July this year but it has discovered that the timing is problematic. She explained: "the provision was made sequel to the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) which indicated that all petroleum products would be deregulated. Sequel to the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), we went

back to amend the fiscal framework to incorporate the subsidy removal".

Amidst this confusion and controversy surrounding the issue of fuel subsidy, the federal government recently said it has no plan to remove fuel subsidy at this time, because such action would lead to chaos and instability in the country. According to media reports, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, Wednesday, July 6, 2022, Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed made this position with known during an interview *Reuters*, noting that other countries were introducing measures to help citizens cope with high oil energy prices, adding that Nigeria will not be an exception.

"When you consider the chaos, the social disharmony and instability such an action of abolishing subsidies would, facilitate, is it worth it? I don't think so", Mohammed was quoted as saying. It would be recall that, oil price hit the highest level of \$123.7 per barrel in 14 years, and there are fears in government circles that the country may surpass its monthly fuel subsidy budget.

Again, experts are of the opinion that Nigeria may not be able to maximize the benefits of rising oil prices because of the fuel subsidy burden. As at 2021, when crude oil prices average \$62 per barrel, the Federal Government spent a whopping sum of N1.2 trillion

subsidising petrol. This, from all intent and purposes, would have gone along way in providing developmental infrastructure in the country and for the benefits of the citizenry.

Media report **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, Wednesday July 6, 2022, has revealed that, in January, February, March and April of this year, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd incurred N210.38 billion, N219.78 billion, N245.77 billion and N271.58 billion for payments of fuel subsidy respectively, giving a total of N947.51 billion during the four-month period".

Though there are pros and cons of fuel subsidy, the

institutional mechanism to curtail its stark abuse as epitomized in flagrant fraud and monumental corruption have been its greatest undoing.

It is quite obvious that, while the original fuel subsidy idea and intention was to cushion hardship on the people, what obtains now is an avenue in which few people with access to power get themselves and their lackeys stupendously rich. In this quandary something must give. The million dollar question still linger: fuel subsidy, to be or not? Apparently, it is now between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea!

"Finance Minister, Ahmed said the Federal Government had initially planned to remove subsidy on petroleum products from July this year but it has discovered that the timing is problematic. She explained: "the provision was made sequel to the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) which indicated that all petroleum products would be deregulated. Sequel to the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), we went back to amend the fiscal framework to incorporate the subsidy removal".

METRO-FOCUS

Dogs are best companion animal to man

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

THE human-dog relationship precedes the agricultural revolution which domestic dog includes the dog's genetic divergence from the wolf, its domestication and the emergence of the first dogs. Genetic studies show that all ancient and modern dogs share a common ancestry and descended from an ancient, now-extinct wolf population or closely related wolf population which was distinct from the modern wolf lineage. Dog's similarity to the grey wolf is the result of substantial dog into wolf gene flow, with the modern grey wolf being the dog's nearest living relative.

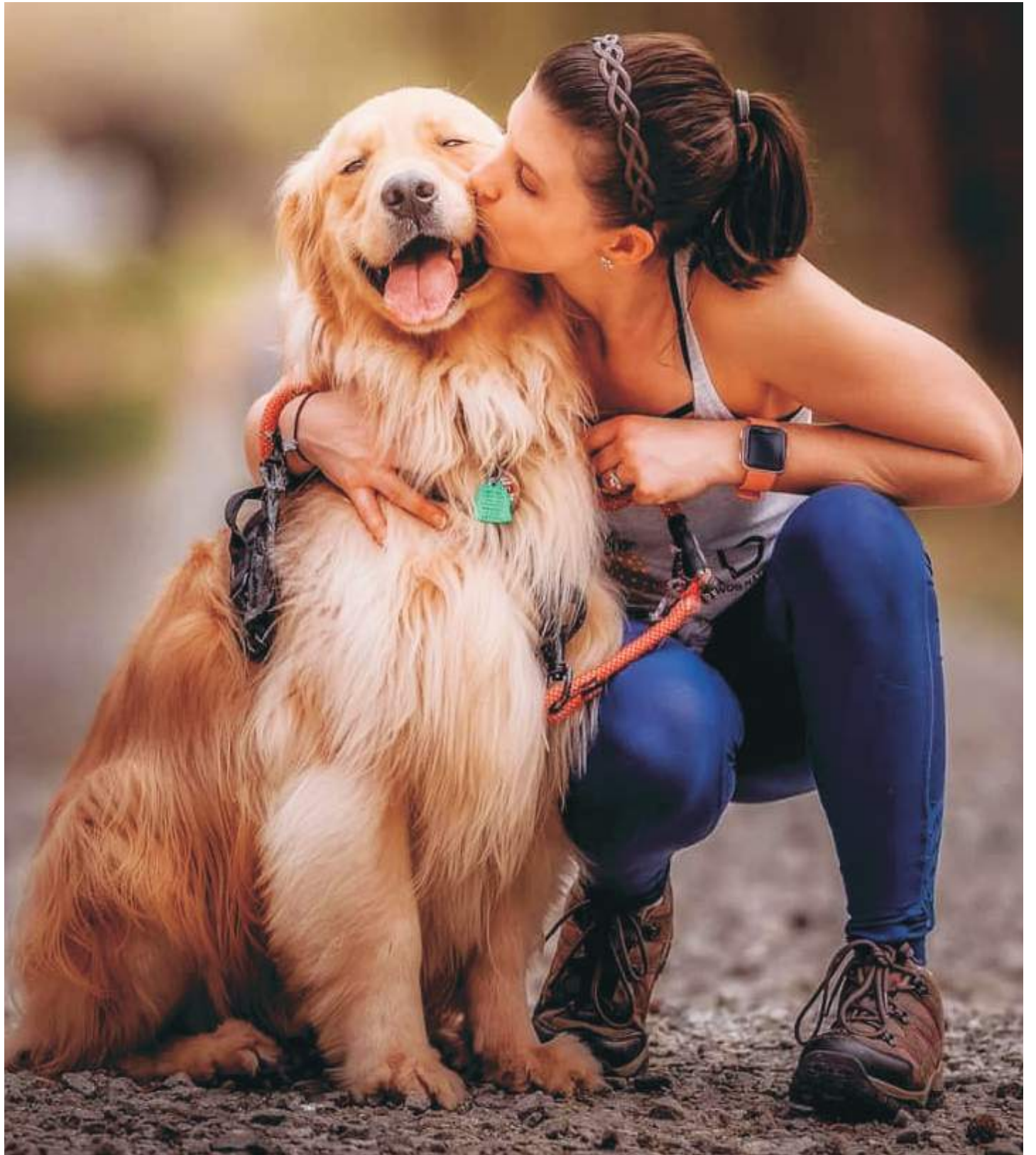
However, you may have many best friends but your dog is one among because of their numerous services rendered to man. In developed countries, dogs serve as guide to blind persons, as assistance that lead visually impaired and blind people around obstacles. There are one of the most commonly known types of service dogs. Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Lab/Golden hybrids are often dog breeds chosen as guide dogs, although other breeds, such as Poodles, can also be well suited to be this type of service dogs.

Dogs are trained to dictate diabetic in humans, also known as DADs. These service dogs can provide independence and security by alerting to chemical changes in blood sugar. The scent changes associated with hyperglycemic or hypoglycemic events in diabetics are imperceptible to humans, but not to dogs. These service dogs alert their people to blood sugar highs and lows before the levels become dangerous.

When a diabetic alert dog alerts, the patient knows to test his or her blood. Then can inject insulin or ingest a dose of glucose before his blood level gets dangerous. Many of these dogs are trained to alert others in the household or set off an alarm system if their human needs medical care.

Kids with autism spectrum are now assigned special dogs. These dogs provide a sense of predictability as the children navigate social settings. The dogs can be a big help for kids who have trouble connecting with classmates. The canine acts as an icebreaker in social situations. They improve the child's quality of life by reducing isolation and comforting the child in stressful times. These dogs are also trained to keep children from running away and can track children if they do run off.

People with hearing impairments, service dogs assist by alerting to noises such as alarms, doorbells or crying babies. When the dog hears the sound, they'll touch their human and lead toward the noise. And a lot of other services that you cannot imagine.



METRO FOCUS gathered that in some parts of the continent, mostly the third world countries, Nigeria inclusive, dogs are not regarded as important and useful to man, as it should be. Dogs are cruelly dealt with in the name of meat. Dog meat market thrives largely in many states, particularly in Plateau State and some states in the South-West and South-South. These states feature prominently dog sellers and buyers with the latter mostly specialists who prepare dog meat for sale. There are many spots within the Jos metropolis where dogs are killed, dressed, and prepared for consumption.

Again, the brutal killing of dogs is worrisome, because of the way dogs are kept in a cage, served only with little food and water to await death. The killing process is gruesome and dog lovers will hate to witness.

In Nigeria, the concerned authorities should do more to

protect the rights of animals in the country. Although there is no report that anybody has ever been tried and convicted for the offence, the 1999 Constitution prohibits the abuse of animals under Miscellaneous Offences. It states in Chapter 50 on 'Cruelty to Animals' that any person who cruelly beats, kicks, ill-treats, over-rides, over-drives, over-loads, tortures, infuriates, or terrifies any animal would be imprisoned for six months or a fine of fifty thousand naira.

Importantly, dogs are proven to loyal animals to their owners even at the point of death. A devoted dog waited for three months at a hospital for his owner, unaware that he had died from Corona virus. The moving story of Xiao-Bao's long wait was shared on social media and has left people teary-eyed. It has been compared by many to the touching tale of Hachiko - the dog who waited for his owner at the



same spot for over nine years.

According to the New York Post, seven-year-old Xiao-Bao waited patiently for three months at be China's Wuhan Taikang Hospital, not understanding that his owner had died of coronavirus just five

days after being admitted.

How touching! the loyalty of dogs is to their owner is one of unconditional look. it boosts ego and gives one a reason to live or smile. Why not acquire one? You wont regret it.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

NSCDC POP

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) passing out Parade (POP) for new recruits, Plateau State Command took place in Jos on Thursday with Governor Along as reviewing officer



Plateau State Governor, through his Deputy, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden reviewing the parade by the NSCDC recruits



Mr. Cornelius Shiobial, Permanent Secretary, Cabinet and Special service in a photograph with members of the State Security Council



A cross section of officers of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps at the passing out parade ceremony



Plateau State Governor, represented by his Deputy, Prof. Tyoden being accompanied by the State Commander, NSCDC, Commandant, Alexander Bissa Barunde inspecting the parade



Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, Deputy Governor who stood in for the Governor (right) shaking hands with the member, Federal House of Reps, Hon. Dr. Simon Mwadkon Fwet, PDP Senatorial candidate, Northern Senatorial District



Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner of Information (left) in a warm handshake with the NSCDC Commandant, Commander Alexander Bissa Barunde



Corps PRO, Chris Longbit Madaki (right) anchoring the ceremony, flanked by members of Security Council



One of the recruits, Samuel Abok Gideon (middle) with his family and well-wishers

Photos: DANLADI DUK



Road Runner
 Michael Agada
 SAFER TOGETHER
 magada122@gmail.com
 +234 803 333 5313

Attitude lamination see but not seen

THE attitude of drivers has to compliment the safety features fitted to their car and not be overshadowed by them. Safety design and equipment of cars should never replace our own obligations of just prudence and duty of care. We have the ability to judge all road situations, anticipate the movement of others and prioritize our safety continually. Inanimate objects like airbags don't compete on our level, yet because we have them fitted, our level of complacency may rise due to their presence. Stand by any road side and observe drivers on their driving demeanor and the answer will naturally concur.

Sit on any of today's family hatchbacks and compare it to what was available less than ten years ago. The interior design of today's state of the art automobiles should immediately welcome you into their mobile living rooms. Quality carpets, supportive seating, nice décor, good lighting, good ventilation complete with factory fitted stereo system, all for your maximum pleasure and comfort. Indeed, since we transcended from primordial transportation system to modern motorized transportation system, our mental and physical dexterity has greatly improved alongside our ability to build quite phenomenal trans-global motor transport. Powered windows and mirrors, assisted steering and anti-lock braking systems from the standard equipment on most cars.

The fact that each and every car has a laminated front windscreen has long subsumed into significance. The hairline cracks that appear in windscreen hit by foreign objects are generally accompanied by expletives and derogatory terms regarding the perpetrator. No one ever gives thanks to auto-tech for the lamination that prevents the said object from entering the car and inflicting grievous bodily harm on the occupants. The side and rear windows offer no such lamination.

The recent trends of creating Darth Vader's cars by the post purchase fitting of darkened film to the car windows is fraught with danger. While such lamination has an

undoubted security value, this can be totally surpassed by the danger of restricted vision to the driver.

As a nation, we are often preoccupied with the weather. Our sometime terrible weather has great demands on the driver to get and maintain a clear view in the typical Nigerian weather. It rarely makes a difference whether it is dry or rainy season as both have their unique challenges.

Looking through clear glass is onerous enough, yet people have shot themselves in the legs by devising extra sensory perception by their ability to ride around at night peering through shaded windows, akin to driving in darkness wearing sun shades. It is rather alarming how sexy designs have now superseded all other safety considerations. Techno phrases now in vogue include: Anti-lock braking system (ABS), Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Electronic Stability Programme (ESP), and Emergency Brake System (EBS). Supplementary Restraint System (SRS), Automatic Stability Control (ASC). Etc. Let's analyze the Airbag (SRS) briefly.

Supplementary Restraint System (SRS) Airbag

Written and embossed on most airbag systems, the key word here is 'supplementary'. Airbags are only as good as the driver's deportment and the additional use of seatbelts. Drivers who sit too close to the steering run the risk of injury if the airbag activates.

Remember the contact with the airbag should occur when the bag has fully inflated and just prior to deflation.

Seatbelts in most new cars will pull tight in an impact, forcing the driver/passenger into the seat thereby ensuring that all-important safety space between them and the inflating airbag. Always adjust headrests to their proper position cupping your head as you lean back. In a nutshell, airbags are only supplementary and designed to be used alongside seatbelts.



NEWS

Census trial: NPC solicits for cooperation

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

CHAIRMAN of the National Population Commission, (NPC) Alh. Nasir Isa Kwarra has solicited for cooperation among selected communities where the census trial would be conducted.

Kwarra stated this during a press briefing to mark the end of the 12 days training workshop organised for adhoc staff enumerators and supervisors in Jos.

He expressed it was another milestone for the commission to provide Nigeria with the quality data for national planning and development.

He added that the census trial, is a mini-census to be conducted in selected Enumeration areas to test the machinery and the procedures for carrying out enumeration. This would ascertain the capacity and readiness of the commission to conduct the census exercise on a full national scale by next year 2023.

Kwarra, who was represented by the Federal Commissioner, representing Plateau State, Hon. Mrs. Cecilia Dapoet said that the commission has developed and introduced new technology that would aide in the process of census taking in the country adding that such equipment is the Personal Digital Assistant, (PDA) which would collect data from respondents electronically through questions that would be transmitted directly to a central server in real time. Storage of data would be automatically digital and be easily retrieve, evaluate analyse for the publication of data to the end users.



Kwarra

She pointed out that the enumeration processes in the field would be monitored at the situation room in Abuja, the commission's Headquarters.

The census trial would be carried out in 7,718 enumeration areas of 285 Local Government Areas across the 36 states of the Federation, including the Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

Dapoet stated that in Plateau State, they have trained a total number of 104 adhoc staff assigned to 46 enumeration areas in 9 Local Government Areas of the State as follows, Mangu in Mangu LGA, Daffo in Bokkos LGA, Jengre in Bassa LGA, Gindin Akwati in Barkin-Ladi LGA, Chip in Pankshin LGA, Njak in Namu, Qua'an-Pan LGA, Jarawan Kogi in Jos East

LGA, Panwasa in Shendam LGA and Pilgani in Langtang North LGA.

She maintained that enumerators would embark on building numbering and household listing from July 11 to 19, 2022, while enumeration of persons would commence July 20 to 24 and final mop up of enumeration areas would be done between July 25 and 30.

According to her she calls for support from the Traditional rulers, Citizens, Stakeholders, Security Agencies, media, Local Government Authorities, Community Development Associations and the Vigilante Groups etc, to give the enumerators the maximum cooperation during the exercise programme ".she concluded.

Bauchi Police Command assures of hitch-free Eid-el-kabir celebration

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

The Bauchi State Police Command has put in place adequate security measures ahead of the Eid-el-Kabir celebration.

SP Ahmed Wakili, the Command PRO gave the information to journalists in Bauchi.

The statement stated that Police in Bauchi will continue collaborating with other relevant Security Agencies and all critical stakeholders to ensure that, the celebration is peaceful and hitch-free.

"To this end, the Commissioner of Police has ordered the deployment of officers and men comprising of conventional Police and other Tactical Teams of the Command as well as necessary logistics to all praying grounds and venues of events in the State"

"The personnel deployed for the critical assignment are under the strict instruction of the Commissioner of Police to be civil but firm in the discharge

of their duties.

"Also, visibility policing structures have been put in place while patrols, particularly around residential areas, major highways, and Government/private infrastructures. Furthermore, the Command is prepared to deal with hoodlums, political thugs and other disgruntled elements that may attempt to cause break down of law and order before during and after the festive period.

"The Commissioner of Police extends his warm greetings to all Muslim faithful and other citizens in the state as they celebrate the 2022 Eid el Kabir and enjoined them to co-operate with Police and other relevant security agencies in their efforts towards ensuring peaceful celebrations" The statement read in parts

The police urged citizens of the State to report any suspicious person or questionable object around them to the nearest Police Station for quick response.

Bishop Dodo passes on

From **JOHN FWAH, Kaduna**

The death has been occurred of the Catholic Bishop of Zaria, Most Rev Dr George Jonathan Dodo. His death was announced in a statement made available to reporters in Kaduna on Friday.

The statement, signed by Rev Fr Abraham Bisan Nake, the diocesan vice chancellor, said the bishop died Friday after a brief illness. Bishop Dodo is the pioneer bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Zaria, according to the release of

NEWS

President Buhari calls for more patriotism

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has called on Nigerians to put the interest of the country above selfish interests and "use religion as a motivation for the love of our common humanity."

In his Eid-el Kabir message to Nigerian Muslims and other citizens, President Buhari said that "if we are putting the teachings of our religions into practice, most of the evils afflicting our society would have been solved."

According to the President, "religion shouldn't just be used as a mere badge of identity, but as a motivator for doing good for our country and humanity."

He explained that "the exploitation of the people by traders and the stealing of public funds by civil servants and other holders of public trust is a reflection of the abandonment of the teachings of our religions."

"Our society is a bundle of contradictions. People display external religiosity without fear of God; they make life difficult for others; money becomes their god; leaders abandon their oaths of office by taking money meant for the welfare of the people and divert it to their private pockets," he said.

President Buhari congratulated the Muslim Ummah in Nigeria and the world on the occasion of the Eid, citing for special mention, "the brave men and women in uniform fighting terror on many fronts and their families, as well as others held hostage and kept away from their families by wicked and heartless terrorists."

He used the occasion to call on all Muslims to reflect on the



Buhari

significance of the sacrifice epitomised by Eid.

According to the President, "We should show love and care to our neighbours and others while celebrating this spiritually important event in our lives."

President Buhari also advised Muslims "to promote the good virtues of Islam through personal examples and practice," adding that "Muslims should avoid association with violent extremist ideas that have wrongly given Islam a negative image or poor perception."

On the current security challenges and costs of living in the country, President Buhari assured Nigerians that "I won't rest until I bring relief to Nigerians," adding that "I am quite aware of the difficulties people are facing and working to resolve them."

The President hope that this Eid will be a source of blessing,

peace, prosperity and safety for all Nigerians, stressing that coexistence and stability will prevail in the country.

THE police in Ondo State have arrested a suspected child thief who has confessed to selling two children she stole for N30,000 each.

Adeola Omoniyi was arrested on July 1, 2022, in Ore, while attempting to make away with a five-year-old child.

Funmilayo Odunlami, the police spokesperson in Ondo, recently that the minor lives with her grandmother.

"A grandmother sent her granddaughter, Precious Aje 'female' 5years, on errand and on her way she was accosted by one Adeola Omoniyi 'female' of Ilutitun, Okeasa Street, held her and was taking her away but for the neighbours who recognized the child and raised the alarm before she was rescued," she said.

"The suspect confessed to have stolen two kids which she sold for ₦30,000 each."

The police spokesperson also hinted that the suspect's father allegedly aided in the sale of the children and had been arrested.

In a similar occurrence, the police command also has in its custody, a woman who was

How woman sold two children for N60,000 – Police



Alkali

caught while attempting to escape with a three-year-old she stole in Ikare Aloko.

According to Mrs Odunlami, one Mrs Bamitale on July 6 at Ikare-Akoko left the child in her shop to buy some toiletries, but before she came back, one Aanu Afolabi, 23, went into the shop and carried the little girl.

The suspect reportedly carried the child on her back.

As she was about to cross the road, she was hit by a motorcyclist.

"While the motorcyclist and people around were trying to help her, one of the sympathisers realize the child she was carrying belongs to her neighbour and raised alarm," Mrs Odunlami said.

She added that an android phone and a bucket were found in her possession.

Buhari to Security Chiefs: Ensure no more prison breaks

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has directed Nigeria's security agencies to ensure there is no further successful attack on any prison anywhere in Nigeria.

The president gave the directive in the aftermath of Tuesday's attack on the Kuje prison in Abuja during which over 800 prisoners escaped. About half of the escapees have been rearrested while the other half, including over 60 Boko Haram terrorists, are still at large.

Mr Buhari gave his order



Irabor

at at the National Security Council meeting, held at

the Presidential Villa, Abuja, on Thursday.

Details of the discussions were provided by the Minister of Police Affairs, Maigari Dingyadi, who briefed journalists after the meeting.

"The President was deeply concerned about these developments and he initiated today's meeting, to enable security agencies, service chiefs, the Inspector General of Police, to brief the Council on what actually happened and the way forward," Mr Dingyadi said.

"The service chiefs have been given very clear directives to ensure that adequate measures are taken not only to investigate what happened but also to take steps to forestall the occurrence of such incidents.

"We had a very successful meeting and the meeting has agreed to take proactive measures that will ensure that a repeat of what happened these few days will not be witnessed anymore."

Mr Dingyadi assured Nigerians of a full-scale investigation into the attack, as he solicited their

support in fighting all forms of criminality.

"The president is surprised that what happened in Kuje actually took place in spite of all the security arrangements that have been made to ensure that such an incident does not happen.

"We are assuring the nation and Nigerians in general, that arrangements have been made to ensure that full investigations are carried out and to ensure that a repeat of the incidents will not occur.

"We call on Nigerians to continue to support the federal government in the effort to ensure that we fight criminalities to finish and to ensure that this country is brought back to normalcy in a more secure and a more peaceful atmosphere," he said.

The attack on the Kuje prison joins a growing list of attacks on prisons in the past two years. At least seven prisons across Nigeria have experienced similar attacks by different armed groups.

It was reported that the interior minister, Rauf Aregbesola, said Thursday that the Kuje prison attack occurred despite the fortification of prisons nationwide after a similar attack on the Abolongo prison in Oyo State last October.

Hundreds of prisoners who escaped from the Oyo prison are yet to be recaptured.

On Friday, the Nigeria Correctional Service published the names and photos of the Boko Haram members who escaped from the Kuje prison.

Police nab suspected bandit, recover AK-47

THE Police command in Kaduna State, said its operatives arrested a suspected bandit and recovered AK-47 rifle in Mariri Village, Saminaka, Lere Local Government Area of the state,

The spokesman of the command, Mohammed Jalige, confirmed the arrest in a statement on Saturday in Kaduna.

Mr Jalige said the command received credible intelligence on suspected movement of illicit arms around Mariri Village, Saminaka in Lere LGA.

According to him, the Commissioner of Police, Yekini

Ayoku, ordered an immediate security cordon of the area which yielded positive result with the arrest of a suspected armed bandit on July 7, at about 1800hrs.

He explained that the tactical execution of this operation was in line with the directive of IGP Alkali B Usman, of intelligence led police operation as well as community policing strategy geared toward nipping crimes in the bud.

"Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspect aged 25, hailed from the same Mariri village

"Recovered from him are the following items: One Ak47 rifle loaded 29 rounds of 7.62 X 39mm live ammunition and one mobile phone as he confessed to have been a member of kidnapping and cattle rustling syndicate in the area.

"The commissioner while reiterating the directive of the IGP, ordered for a meticulous investigation in a bid to arresting other members of the gang as well as recovering their operational logistics for prosecution," he said.

He said the CP equally called on the communities to redouble their current effort in

providing actionable and result oriented intelligence such as this to assist the command and its sister

agencies to minimise the current security challenges in the state.

Change of Name

PADA

I, formerly known as **PADA S. MATTHEW**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PADA MATTHEW SAMUEL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

VICTOR

I, formerly known as **DENNIS MAKANI MARY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **VICTOR, MAKANI MARY**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

AKAFI

I, formerly known as **JEMIMA TOMA AKAFI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AKAFI TOMA JAMIMA**. My correct date of birth is 30/5/1981 not 20/5/1981. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL NAME

This is to notified the general public that **BETHANY KIDS ACADEMY** has change its name to **BETHANY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STAFF SCHOOL**. Henceforth the School will be known as **BETHANY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STAFF SCHOOL**. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

SPACE FOR SALE



El-Rufai

SUNDAY SPORTS

The players with a point to prove this season

PAUL Pogba left Manchester United this summer, saying he wanted to show the club "they made a mistake".

BBC SPORT revealed that, the France midfielder, who is expected to rejoin Juventus on a free transfer, lifted the World Cup with his country in 2018 - but won only the Europa League and Carabao Cup at club level during his six-year second spell at Old Trafford.

His last three campaigns only produced eight goals.

But Pogba is far from being the only big name in Europe's major leagues with a point to prove this season.

From players who had disappointing loan spells to others who have barely played, who else really needs a big campaign?

Dele Alli

Dele Alli's stock has dropped dramatically in the past four years.

His first three seasons at Tottenham - as a teenager and in his early 20s - yielded 46 goals from midfield.

But instead of kicking on, he seemed to go backwards, only scoring 21 goals in the next three-and-a-half years - to the extent Spurs let him go to Everton without any upfront fee.

The change of scenery did not do Alli much good, though, and he failed to score in any of his 11 appearances - with only one start in half a season.

With the pressure off Everton after avoiding the drop, can the 26-year-old fare better for Frank Lampard's side this year? And who knows what is next for the one-time England international if he does not?

Donny van de Beek

It is hard to imagine a better managerial appointment at a better time for Donny van de Beek than Erik ten Hag's arrival at Manchester United.

The Dutch midfielder played 110 times for Ten Hag at Ajax, scoring 32 goals, before leaving for United.

But he only made four Premier League starts in almost a year and a half under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer before going on to a disappointing loan spell at Everton.

He would probably have been expected to leave Old Trafford this



Several of last season's Manchester United team will feel they have a point to prove

summer - but under Ten Hag, he has a big opportunity to become a key part of the team and prove Solskjaer wrong.

Billy Gilmour

A loan spell is meant to help a youngster's career kick on but if anything it seems to have dented Scotland midfielder Billy Gilmour's reputation.

After 22 appearances as a teenager for Chelsea, many expected a loan stint at Norwich and a season of regular football to be the making of Gilmour.

But he only played in 60% of Norwich's Premier League games as they were relegated without much of a fight and he failed to score a goal.

Whether he stays at Chelsea or tries his luck elsewhere, it is a big season for the Scot.

Romelu Lukaku

The Belgium striker was meant to be the missing piece in the Chelsea jigsaw when he joined from Inter Milan for £97.5m last summer.

He was clearly unhappy at Stamford Bridge and although he scored 15 goals, there was a feeling Chelsea were not playing to his strengths and he had spells out of the team altogether.

He is now back at Inter on loan and, although it was his choice to leave, he will want to show manager Thomas Tuchel what he could have had if he had built a team around him.

Marcus Rashford

Marcus Rashford could really do with a big season at Manchester United to prove wrong those who claim his off-field work has got in the

way of his football.

The 24-year-old made headlines in 2020 with his role in persuading the government to provide free school meal vouchers to pupils in the summer holidays.

He won book of the year at the British Book Awards this year for You Are A Champion, which was written to inspire young people.

But Rashford only managed five goals in all competitions last season - none since January - and was left out of the England squad for their Nations League games this summer.

Rashford must have a strong start to the season if he is show he should be part of the Three Lions squad for the World Cup in Qatar this winter.

Dean Henderson

Manchester United goalkeeper Dean Henderson is another who has

about three months to play himself into England's World Cup squad after joining Nottingham Forest on loan.

At the end of 2020-21, he appeared to have overtaken David de Gea to become United's first-choice keeper - and was named in England's Euro 2020 squad, although he had to pull out through injury.

That came after three full seasons of football during loan spells with Shrewsbury and Sheffield United.

But last season he did not make a single Premier League appearance, only featuring in three cup games, and has yet to add to his single England cap.

Aleksandar Mitrovic

Too good for the Championship, not good enough for the Premier League?

For the third time in five years, Aleksandar Mitrovic and Fulham come up to the Premier League looking to emulate their Championship form.

In 2018-19, the Serb scored 11 Premier League goals. In 2020-21, it was just three.

But last season was his best Championship campaign by far, with a record 43 goals in 44 games. Is this the season he finally cracks the top flight?

Jesse Lingard

Jesse Lingard will be desperate to show Manchester United they should have given him more of a chance last season - when he finds a new club.

The 29-year-old's career seemed to be petering out until he joined West Ham on loan 18 months ago. He netted nine goals in 16 games and won Premier League player and goal of the month in April 2021.

He returned to Old Trafford high on confidence last summer - and scored twice off the bench in September - but then only made four starts all season in all competitions.

Manchester United would not sell him in January to Tottenham, Newcastle or West Ham - but still never gave him a proper run in the team.

He left Old Trafford at the end of his contract and is now mulling over



Dele Alli has scored one Premier League goal since football was paused for the first coronavirus lockdown in March 2020

SUNDAY SPORTS

Nwakali's brother rubbishes FC Zurich transfer rumours

KELECHI Nwakali's brother, Allwell, has categorically slammed reports that the Nigeria international turned down FC Zurich over a financial disagreement.

Goal said that the Super Eagles midfielder did not turn down the reigning Swiss Super League champions because of a financial discrepancy.

The talented midfielder's future has been a hot topic of debate since Spanish side Huesca terminated his contract in April.

Nwakali was close to joining the Swiss Super League giants afterwards, however, that ambitions faded into the thin air.

And reports in some sect of media claimed the former Arsenal youngster turned down the 13-time Swiss kings because he was not contented with the club's offers financially.

However, **GOAL** has since learned that FC Zurich never offered the 24-year-old any contract, while Allwell hit out at the 'malicious' news spread around.

"Yes, I can confirm that there were talks between Kelechi Nwakali's representatives and FC Zurich and there seemed to be strong interest from the club," Nwakali's brother told **GOAL**.

"However, in football, there are a lot of moving parts, the communication dwindled when their coach left for the Bundesliga.

"Kelechi never received an official offer from FZ Zurich not to talk of refusing an offer because of money.

"Kelechi is committed to playing football in a club with a good footballing project and money is not the primary consideration for him at this time.

"For anyone to start a story about him to label him in this manner seems malicious and unfair."

Currently, the midfielder is training alone and his next destination is expected to be announced before the start of the 2022-23 campaign.

During the 2021-22 season, Nwakali featured in 19 league games before joining the Nigeria national team for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations.

Since his return after the Super Eagles' failed expedition in Cameroon, he was considered for action by manager Xisco Munoz at his club.

The midfielder claimed the club refused to pay his wages while his mother took ill and threatened to leave him out of the team following his decision to compete at Afcon.

"It comes with huge regret that I am writing this message after SD Huesca announced the termination of my contract," part of Nwakali's statement on social media read.

"I have kept silent out of respect for the Huesca fans and my team-mates, but I will no longer suffer in silence. The



Nwakali

time has come for people to know the truth and why these past few months have been awful for me and my family.

"In December 2021, I experienced the biggest honour of my life after I received a full international call-up for my beloved Nigeria.

"But the joy of this moment quickly came crashing down when the club's sporting

director, Ruben Garcia, put extreme pressure on me not to go to Afcon due to it 'not being an important tournament'. He told me that if I go to Afcon I will not play for Huesca again. This behaviour and the lack of respect shown to my country Nigeria was truly heart-breaking and it was just the latest example of the club attempting to bully me into getting their own way."

Oshoala, three others nominated for CAF Player of the Year



The Barcelona Femeni forward has won the award four times and may be on her way to the fifth as she has been nominated

ASISAT Oshoala, Rasheedat Ajibade, Chiamaka Nnadozie and Uchenna Kanu have been nominated for the CAF Women's Player of the Year awards.

All four players have been named as part of a 30-player list of nominees including 6 South Africans, 3 Moroccans, 3 Ghanaians, 4

Cameroonians, 2 Zambians, 2 Zimbabweans, 2 Tunisians, 2 Botswanans, 1 Burundian, and 1 Togolese player.

The Nigerians are all currently at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) where the Super Falcons lost to South Africa

Oshoala, who will aim to win her fifth award has been ruled out of the WAFCON, in what's a big threat to her chances of

NIGERIA'S Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Hon. Sunday Dare has stated that the domestic league, Nigeria Professional Football League, NPFL, is the fulcrum that would give vitality to Nigerian football, and says the league's stakeholders must do the needful to make it attractive.

In a chat in Abuja, the minister made reference to the working model of a robust league as a critical component of football vitality in any country, but is nonexistent in the NPFL.

Dare emphasized the need for enforcing club licensing, governance and welfare of players as demands needed for the growth of NPFL.

"We have good laws governing the league but we need to be firm on their enforcement. Look at what Samuel Eto'o is doing at Cameroon. We have these laws, we need to enforce them," the sports minister said.

"If we must take bank guarantees to ensure players payment are secured, then we should do that. We know that State Governments are the owners of these clubs, but there must be ways out of these."

Dare added: "In my speech at the NFF AGM in

Dare calls for revamping of NPFL

2019, I mentioned that there is no league without a proper calendar. This is needed to gain the trust of investors, consistency is key, taking a cue from the EPL and others. Organizations also have budget cycles and this would help them plan."

Dare said that before the start of the next NPFL season, there would be a roundtable with all League stakeholders to find ways around issues holding down the league, through engagements and implementation of tough decisions to help the league grow.



Dare

Kano Pillars FC on the verge of relegation

KANO Pillars Football Club are on the verge of relegation from the Nigerian Professional football league following the decision of the NFF Disciplinary Committee to activate and deduct 3 points following the Violent incidents of the Matchday 34 clash vs Dakkada Fc, BSN Sports.com.ng gathered.

The NFF Disciplinary Committee sitting in Abuja on Friday 8th July 2022 at the instance of an appeal filed by Dakkada Fc ruled in part that;

"The League Management Company in her summary jurisdiction of 17th April 2022 in matchday 23 fixture between Kano Pillars FC and Katsina United FC imposed a sanction of forfeiture of three (3) points accruing to the club in the event of any similar breach. In this case, loss of property or valuables which they failed to implement.

"The Committee having found that Kano Pillars FC officials destroyed camera (Sony HD Full HD 1920x1080) belonging to Dakkada Int'l FC and lost valuables belonging to Uchenna Iyioke hereby activates the three (3)

points suspended sentence contained in the summary jurisdiction of the League Management Company between Kano Pillars FC and Katsina United FC in matchday 23 fixtures dated the 17th day of April, 2022. Particularly paragraph 5(k) to wit: "In the event of any further similar breach of the League Rules, Kano Pillars FC shall forfeit three (3) points from the points accruing to the club in addition to any other sanctions that may be deemed appropriate".

Kano Pillars Fc who were before this decision placed 16th on the NPFL Standings with 45 after Matchday 36 will drop to 19th on the log with 42 points with two matches to the end of the 2021/2022 NPFL season.

Kano Pillars are guests to Nassarawa United in Lafia before a final home game vs Shooting stars sports club to round up what has been a turbulent season for the Kano State government sponsored club.

The Disciplinary Committee also gave judgement on appeals on the following games ; Kano Pillars Vs Katsina United and Niger Tornadoes Vs Lobi Stars . The full text of the committees decisions is presented below .

SUNDAY SPORTS

Football: VAR as kill joy

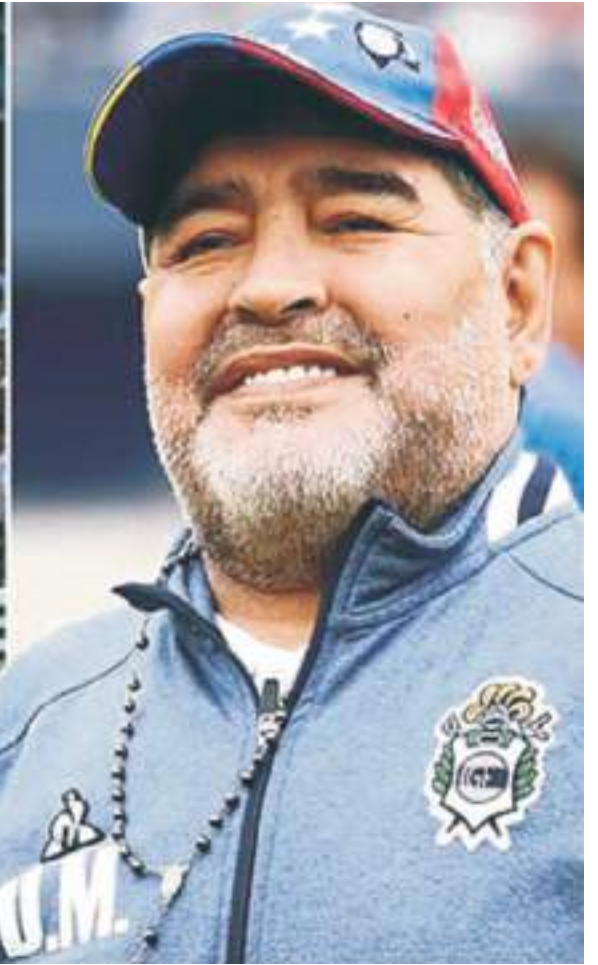
BY VICTOR ALI

FOOTBALL is arguably the most popular, the most watched and the most entertaining sport of all seasons. Apart from its entertainment value, Football has become a big industry that generates millions, if not billions, of dollars or Euros for individuals and countries all over the world. The lucrative nature of this singular sport is all too discerning.

If Polo is the sports of kings, then, certainly, football is the king of sports; its allure, captivation and attraction knows no bound. It is one sport that knows no boundary. It is a global sport that defies continental segregation and religious extremism or fanaticism.

Watched and played all over the world, from the glamorous English Premier League (EPL) the Spanish La Liga, German Bundesliga, Italian Serie A South Africa and even Nigeria's Premier League, football, has served as a unifying factor and a healthy tonic across creed, race and religion and also against actions that are inimical to the existence of mankind.

The ongoing Russia - Ukraine war readily comes to mind. The world football governing body



Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) says "No To War" and dutifully followed up with banning Russian teams from participating in FIFA related competitions like the Champions League. Sorry for the digression.

Over the years, football has metamorphosed with its changing dynamics, particularly regards the rules of the game. Continually, there have been a conscious, albeit systematic method of trying to improve the sport as it pertains

to the rules of the game.

Hence, the introduction of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR). The bug of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has caught up with the football fraternity. The usage of the VAR is a direct fallout of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) era.

Officials (referees) of the round-leather game are human beings, hence, the propensity for misjudgment or decisions taken should be expected by fans or soccer enthusiasts.

Over the years, even in high-profile football competitions like the quadrennial football World Cup some decisions taken by referees often proved unpalatable to both clubs and countries. The controversial goal scored by the late Argentina Football maestro, Diego Amand Maradona at the 1998 World Cup in Mexico of America readily comes to mind.

While the referees deemed the goal scored by the conic Maradona as proper, a critical review showed that Maradona used the "assistance" of his hand to score the goal, the (infamous hand of god in the glamorous World Cup.

As a result of the non-availability of the VAR technology then, the clear hand ball was upheld as an authentic goal.

Against this backdrop, the invention of the machine, Video Assistant Referee (VAR), has to a very large extent curbed some of the misjudgment and controversial decisions. Of recent, that has been

witnessed in some leagues around the globe, and the Champions League. Several decisions, have been upturned, courtesy of the review of the Video Assistant Referee.

Scoring of goals are a vital and important component of the Football enterprise. The ecstasy, frenzy and wild jubilation of football fans in stadia, homes and viewing centres when goals are scored are the ultimate joy of Football-loving fans. What happens when such goals are suddenly being cancelled via the VAR?.

It simply translate to kill joy! Nonetheless, there is equally a flip-side to this scenario. While the souring side may lament the cancellation of the supposed goal, it will be joy all the way for the opponent. Different stroke for different folks, you may say.

Indeed, the dynamism of life itself warrants period and constant changes in all aspect of human endeavor, football and other sports inclusive.

The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology being deployed in officiating football, like all other human inventions have its limitation.

There are still some controversial decisions taken from the view point of the VAR. after all, it is a human invention which is equally liable to failure.

One is also mindful of the fact that it is the human being that invented the VAR and it is the same human being that operates the VAR. therefore, it cannot be full - proof.



SUNDAY SPORTS



Pinnick

Pinnick vows to fight detractors

EMBATTLED Nigeria Football Federation, NFF President, Amaju Pinnick have given condition to convene an emergency Annual General Assembly, AGA of the federation even as he has vowed to fight those who seek to "distract" the federation, www.bestchoicesports.com.ng can report

Mr Pinnick who has been under immense pressure since we reported his clandestine move to actualize his 3rd ambition, said he would call for the AGA only if the federation's lawyers are communicated to by the court on the withdrawal of the legal case

earlier stopping the Assembly

In a press statement on Tuesday, Mr Pinnick who has come under attack for deploying journalists to blackmail the President, Mohammadu Buhari and sports minister, Sunday Dare, vowed to fight those "hawk blatant falsehood"

"As I speak, we are making arrangements to hold the Annual General Assembly once the court communicates to our attorney the Notice of Discontinuance of the two cases that have been delaying the convocation of the Congress.

"I could have kept quiet over this kind of silly

campaign but it is important to put the record straight and also, I have the highest regards for the person of His Excellency, President Buhari, the Government and its institutions. This is a hatchet job, and such can always happen in political times. The campaigners have failed woefully."

"It is time to give it in full measure to those who hawk blatant falsehood and spend their days and nights planning evil. It will no longer be business as usual."

"President Buhari has remained an amazing father and lover of Nigeria Football and the National Teams. None of these dirty campaigns by disgruntled persons and haters can have any impact."

Domestic league is the strength of Nigeria football - Dare

MINISTER of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare has stated that the domestic league is the fulcrum that would give vitality to Nigerian football. In a chat in Abuja, the minister made reference to the working model of a robust league as a critical component of football vitality in any country. Dare emphasized the need for enforcing club licensing, governance and welfare of players as demands needed for growth. The sports minister said "We have good laws governing the league but we need to be firm on their enforcement. Look at what Samuel Eto'o is doing at Cameroon. We have these laws, we need to enforce them. If we must take bank guarantees to ensure players payment are secured, then we should do that. We know that State Governments are the owners of these clubs but there must be ways out of these"

"In my speech at the NFF AGM I in 2019, I mentioned that there is no league without a proper calendar, this is needed to gain the trust of investors, consistency is key, taking a cue from the EPL and others. Organizations also have budget cycles and this would help them plan", he added.

Dare said before the start of the 2021/2022 season, there would be a roundtable with all League



Dare

THE League Management Company (LMC) has announced that the remaining fixtures of the 2021/22 season will be played simultaneously on Sunday at all centres.

According to the LMC, the decision is to allow for equity and fair play as the season reaches its climax. With this development, matchday 37 and 38 games will now be played on the same day.

LMC Announces new dates for end of season fixtures

Stanley Eguma's Rivers United have already won the title, the first time in the history of the club. Former champions, Plateau United have also cemented the second position. Rivers United and Plateau United will campaign in the CAF Champions League next season. The race for the third

position which guarantees a spot in the CAF Confederation Cup is however still open. Remo Stars, Kwara United, Rangers, Enyimba, and Sunshine Stars are vying for the ticket. Also, the relegation battle is still on with five clubs in a tough fight to escape the drop.

Osimhen, Folorunsho kicks off season with Napoli

NAPOLI have included Super Eagles star forward Victor Osimhen and Nigeria-eligible midfielder Michael Folorunsho in the 29-man squad that officially kicks off the club's preseason programme today, Saturday, July 9, 2022.

Osimhen and Folorunsho will join their Azzurri teammates at Val di Sole (the Sole Valley) in Trentino, northern Italy. That is where Napoli will have the first part of the pre-season training camp until July 19th.

Scheduled for 10 am Saturday at the Dimaro Sports Center is the team's first training session.

On Thursday 14 July, Napoli will play the pre-season's first friendly match against Anaune Val di Non also inside the Dimaro Sports Centre at 6 pm.

A second friendly follows three days later (Sunday, July 17) against Perugia.



Participating in Napoli's preseason is not a guarantee that Victor Osimhen will be with Il Partenopei when the Serie A kicks off in August.

The 23-year-old was the club's top goalscorer last season, with 14 goals in the Europa League.

Bayern Munich, Manchester United, and Chelsea are some of the continent's biggest clubs that remain keen on signing the Nigerian striker.

It is expected that an offer above €100 million will be good enough to convince Napoli to part with their

Aribo Joins Southampton after passing medical

SUPER Eagles -medical completed midfielder, Joe Aribo yesterday ahead of has signed his contract permanent deal." as new Southampton "Rangers will receive player after he £6m plus add ons to completed his medical on potential £10m Friday, reports package."

BSNSports.com.ng. Aribo, 25-year-old Players Transfer joined Rangers in 2019 Window Expert and from Charlton Athletics Italian Fabrizio Romano for £300,000.

broke the news on Recall, former Saturday morning on his Manchester City Head of verified Twitter handle. Academy Recruitment

His tweet read: "Joe and Talent Management Aribo has signed his Joe Shields now contract as new Southampton, the new Southampton player. Head of Senior Done deal, official Recruitment, is the man statement to follow soon behind Romeo Lavia and Joe Aribo deal."



July 10, 2022



Super Falcons seek Q'finals ticket against Burundi

AFTER stumbling 2-1 against a very disciplined South Africa in the opening Group C encounter on Monday, the Super Falcons of Nigeria bounced back with a 2-0 win against Botswana on Thursday and would be needing only a win against Burundi on Sunday to book a quarter final berth in the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, WAFCON.

Nigeria and Botswana are both tied on three points on the table but the nine-time African champions are placed second by virtue of a better goals advantage but would however need to win against Burundi on Sunday to ensure qualification for a quarter final place.

The Super Falcons of Nigeria bounced back from their disappointing opening day loss to South Africa to secure a vital 2-0 victory over Botswana in their second game of the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations.

Nigeria's hopes of securing a tenth WAFCON title suffered a dent after they lost 2-1 to South Africa in their opening match.

However, they had the luck of playing minnows Botswana in their second game of the competition.

Super Falcons coach Randy Waldrum handed Francesca Ordega a starting shirt as a replacement for Asisat Oshoala who was injured in the first game.

Nigeria controlled the game from the blast of the whistle, pegging the Mares back and trying to exploit open spaces. They got their breakthrough in the 21st minute as Ifeoma Onumonu latched onto a pass from Ayinde to give Nigeria the lead. The nine-time African champions had a few close shaves but were unable



to take their chances.

Chiamaka Nnadozie was a solid rock in goal as she made some great saves in the first half to deny Botswana. The second half started smoothly for Nigeria, as substitute Christy Ucheibe calmly converted from close range to give the Super Falcons a two-goal lead.

The nine-time African champions took control of the game, besieged Botswana, and poured attack upon attack. Nigeria mesmerised the Mares with scintillating dribbles and beautiful passing.

The Mares failed to reply. They had nothing to offer in the second period, and they made the tie look like the

mismatch it was originally expected to be.

Still, the Super Falcons failed to take their chances. They saw out the 2-0 victory at the Moulay Hassan Stadium. The win ensures that Nigeria climb to second in the group.

Up next is the final group game against Burundi on Sunday, who are yet to pick a point from their two games.

South Africa reached the quarter-finals of the after defeating Burundi 3-1 in Rabat on Thursday.

Banyana Banyana produced a dominant performance to advance from Group C with one game left, thanks to goals by Thembi Kgatlana, Amogelang Motau and Linda Motlhalo.

The result means Banyana Banyana advanced to the last eight with six points after beating titleholders Nigeria in their opening game on Monday.

Burundi will have no chance of advancing to the knock-out stages of the tournament as they have no points after two matches in the tournament in Morocco.

Meanwhile, Super Falcons midfielder Christy Ucheibe has expressed her elation at scoring her first goal for Nigeria in their 2-0 victory against Botswana.

Waldrum introduced Benfica star Ucheibe as a replacement for veteran Rita Chikwelu at halftime. The 21-year-old did not waste time in

registering her presence, as she jumped highest to head in a Toni Payne corner to give Nigeria a 2-0 victory.

After the game, Ucheibe took to social media to share her elation at scoring her first goal for the nine-time African champions.

"I am so proud to have scored my first goal for the Super Falcons and helped the team secure this important victory"

Meanwhile, Waldrum insisted that despite earning only three points from two matches, the Super Falcons are not in any way disoriented and still have the FIFA World Cup ticket and retaining the continental trophy as principal objectives at the

tournament in Morocco.

"We know what the Women Africa Cup means to Nigerians and we remain fully focused despite the opening-day setback. We are determined not only to win a ticket to the FIFA World Cup but also to retain the trophy that Nigeria has won nine times previously."

Meanwhile, Uganda and Burkina Faso women national teams have been sent out of the of the competition as Group A matches were concluded on Friday night, BSNsports.com.ng report

The Atlas Lioness however, defeated Senegal by a lone goal, courtesy a penalty from the team captain, Ghislane Chebbak in the first half.

In the other game, Burkina Faso and Uganda settled for a 2-2 draw but the scoreline was not enough to take any of the two teams into the next round.

Goalkeeping errors aided the two sides to their victories as Burkina Faso needed to respond on two occasions after the East Africans had taken the lead.

Margret Kunihiro put Uganda in the lead and the amazing solo effort from Adama Congo drew her side level before Naomie Kabre's fortuitous effort cancelled out Sandra Nabweteme's goal.

With both sides finishing the group with one point each, they will have no chance of progressing from the entertaining Group A.

Morocco will now play the best third-placed teams from either group B or C in the quarter-final while second-place Senegal will face the winner of Group B.

Winners of the quarter-final matches will secure qualification to the 2023 Fifa Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

WORLD SEARCH Answer the clue and search for the word

Q	A	R	D	L	M	F	E	L	I	X	F	M
O	N	O	M	E	Y	O	D	C	K	D	R	I
C	P	Z	K	T	N	M	U	S	A	E	E	K
S	H	E	R	I	C	K	A	T	M	G	P	A
B	N	I	K	I	U	Z	U	Q	A	G	F	I
O	L	X	B	J	N	H	A	S	R	S	M	L
S	L	O	A	N	E	W	D	P	U	C	K	A
B	K	Y	S	I	G	X	V	A	R	T	V	Q
G	I	A	N	N	I	E	J	G	I	B	H	J
A	J	L	U	H	K	K	I	W	O	B	I	M
M	O	R	R	I	S	I	O	A	F	E	L	N
D	E	V	I	L	S	F	N	C	F	H	P	E

- Red.....(6) Super Eagles name in the 60s
-Usman (6) Nigeria UFC fighter
- Ahmed.....(4) Super Eagles captain
- Bala.....(5) Nasarawa United coach
-,Infantino (6) FIFA President
- Ebi (5) Super Falcons Captain
- Alex.....(5) Nigeria/Eventon striker
-Mihambo (7) Jamaican Long Jumper
-Stephens (6) American WIA players who were super Eagles Jersey
- Jackson (8) Jamaican sprinter
- Sandi.....(6) American Polar raulter
- Allyson.... (5) Most decorated Female Olympian.
- Ice hockey ball (4)

By IBRAHIM T. LOT

Blatter, Platini acquitted by Swiss court in FIFA fraud trial

FORMER FIFA president, Joseph Blatter and former UEFA president Michel Platini have been acquitted by the Swiss Federal Criminal Court in a FIFA fraud trial, BSNsports.com.ng gathered.

The two ex-football officials had been charged by federal prosecutors in Switzerland for defrauding FIFA in connection with a payment of two million Swiss francs (2.07 million dollars) Platini received.

The Frenchman had received the money from FIFA in 2011 for work done as a consultant between 1998 and 2002.

Switzerland's Blatter, 86, presided over the world governing football body from 1998 to 2015.

The Swiss probe started in 2015 after a search at the FIFA headquarters on general corruption suspicion.

Platini was originally only listed as a witness.

The prosecution had wanted a suspended sentence of one year and eight months for

both men.

Platini was also to be fined some 2.2 million Swiss francs, the original payment plus social security taxes FIFA also paid.

Blatter and Platini had protested their innocence, with FIFA not in a financial position at the time to fully pay the Frenchman Platini who for his part spoke of a fabricated case.

Blatter, who had said the two had a verbal agreement for the payment, said shortly ahead of the verdict he expected to be found not guilty.

"I expect nothing else but an acquittal. I am not innocent in my life but I am innocent in this case," he said before entering the Bellinzona court house.

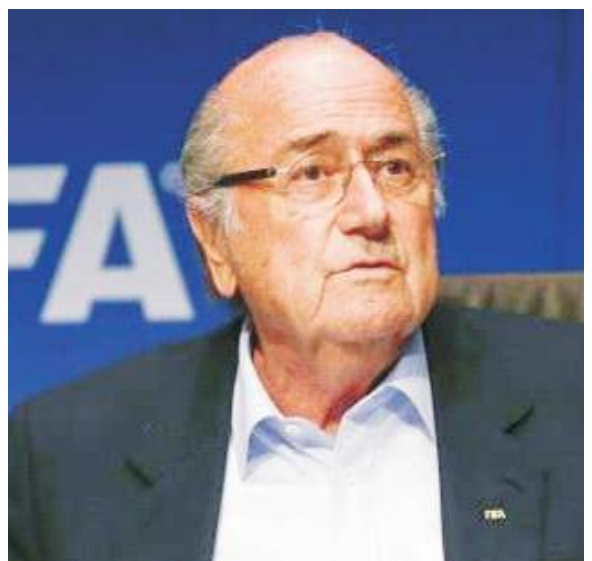
Platini had spoken of a politically-motivated case which ended his ambition to take over from Blatter as FIFA president, a position now held by former UEFA

secretary general Gianni Infantino.

Both men were banned from football by the FIFA ethics committee, and their careers were over even though the Court of Arbitration for Sport

(CAS) later reduced the bans.

Platini, 67, said in a statement distributed by his lawyer that "my fight is a fight against injustice. I have won the first game."



Blatter