

**Lalong
receives
diaspora biker,
Adeyanju**



Nigeria lost N4.2 trillion crude oil in 6 months Page 2

Pam will bring enormous value to ICC -Lalong Page 28

Gunmen attack Osun LP candidate's house Page 11

THE Nigeria Standard



FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

VOL. 13 NO. 742

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022

N200

Email: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

ACF chides Buhari over rising insecurity

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has again, condemned President Muhammadu Buhari, over his inability to curtail rising cases of kidnapping, killing and terrorists' attacks across the country.

The group in a statement issued by its Secretary General, Murtala Aliyu, expressed regret over the level of insecurity,

particularly in the Northern region, saying supporters of President Buhari must tell him the truth about the ugly development in the country, and not only what sweetens his ears.

The statement read: "Over the past few months, the security crisis we face in Nigeria has been deepening and there is a dangerous escalation of violence and bloodshed. Criminal gangs, heavily

armed bandits, armed robbers, secessionist insurgents, along with those that call themselves soldiers of so-called Caliphate, have laid siege to Nigeria. More so in the Northern states.

"The highly coordinated attack on the Kuje Prison in the Federal Capital, Abuja, on the 5th of July, 2022, and the mass escape of hardened criminals, many of whom are Boko Haram

terrorists, have triggered an unprecedented wave of apprehension and panic among the long-suffering people, particularly of the North. Coming around the time the advance convoy of Mr President heading to Daura and long after the deadly attack on the Abuja-Kaduna train on the 28th of March, 2022, in which many people were killed and a lot more kidnapped, the question



Shettima

on the lips of the public, is how and where will these crises, which are unprecedented in severity, leave us?...

"Although we count ourselves amongst his

ardent supporters and have always wished him well, Nigeria's rapid descent into strife, violence and lawlessness is getting to a point at which we can no

Cont'd on Page 2

FG issues new guidelines on telecom masts, towers

THE Federal Government has warned telecommunication companies against mounting towers above 25 meters in height in residential areas.

This was disclosed in the Guideline on Technical Specifications for the Deployment of Infrastructure in the Communication Sector in Nigeria released by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

The regulator said the guideline is to ensure public safety and sound

engineering practices by service providers and operators.

According to the NCC, towers that are unused for three years must be removed by the operator within a 90 day period of notice by the NCC, failure of which would attract a N250,000 penalty.

The robust growth in the country's telecom industry cannot be disassociated from the influx of tower infrastructure. Telecom towers were 40,451 as of June according to the NCC.

IHS Towers NG Limited controls 969 towers; IHS (Nigeria) Limited has 16, 330; INT Towers 16, 330; Trussnet Limited, two and

Cont'd on Page 2



Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari (3rd from left) in a group photograph with President Julius Bio of Sierra Leone (left) President Umaro Sissoco Embaló of Guinea Bissau, President Macky Sall of Senegal, Congo Denis Sassou-Nguesso and the vice President of Cote D'Ivoire after President Buhari received the highest National Honour of the republic of Senegal in Dakar recently. PHOTO: STATE HOUSE PRESS,

Buhari appeals to varsity lecturers

President Muhammadu Buhari has called on the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), to reconsider their position on the prolonged strike, expressing worry that the hiatus will have generational consequences on families, the educational

system and future development of the country.

President Buhari made the appeal on Monday, when he received some governors of the All Progressives Congress (APC), legislators and political leaders at his

residence in Daura, Katsina State.

He said the strike had already taken a toll on the psychology of parents, students and other stakeholders, throwing up many moral issues that already beg for attention. The President noted that

the future of the country rests on the quality of educational institutions and education, while assuring that the government understands their position, and negotiations should continue, with students in lecture halls.

"We hope that ASUU will sympathise with the people on the prolonged strike. Truly, enough is enough for keeping students at home. Don't hurt the next generation for goodness sake", he said.

President Buhari called on

Cont'd on Page 2



Danbata

News

ACF chides Buhari over rising insecurity

Cont'd from Page 1

longer afford to tell him only that which he wants to hear. We do need tell the president what he also needs to hear.

"We simply are unable to find any courteous or less painful words to describe the feeling of utter frustration among the broad masses of Nigeria, especially in the North, arising from the ineffectual management of the security crises by the President.

"The President in his Sallah message promised to deal with the situation before the end of his tenure. However, as long as the crisis remains unabating, Nigerians will justifiably conclude that

the government is ineffective and needs to do more if they will ever be able to quell the crisis.

"Probably because President Buhari is unable or unwilling to hold his appointees responsible for any deterioration of the security situation and some other socioeconomic sectors under their watch, the vast amount of money and other resources being pumped into the security agencies have largely been ineffective.

"The required boost in manpower and equipment, long recognised as the missing link in the current campaign, have remained largely unimplemented to the required level needed to secure the nation.

"In other countries, the Kuje jail attack and similar ones that have happened in parts of Nigeria would have led to massive reshuffle, resignations and possibly prosecutions of officials that are negligent, incompetent or plainly untrustworthy.

"No person other than the president has both the mandate and responsibility to ensure that the government of Nigeria maintains peace, security, order and good governance.

"We demand that President Buhari braces up without further delay and rise to today's occasion. The regime needs to reprioritise its programmes and free more resources needed to end the pervasive insecurity that is bringing the country to its knees."

Cont'd from Page 1
ATC Nigeria 6,907 of the country's mast.

"Communications towers above 25 metres in height would not be permitted within districts delineated as residential.

"Notwithstanding subparagraph (4) of this guideline, where towers in excess of 25 metres in height are permitted, they should be placed at a minimum setback of 10 metres distance to the nearest demised property, excluding the fence. Prior permission must be obtained from the Commission.

"Towers and masts sited in contravention of these Guidelines shall be removed and the owner of the tower shall bear the cost of such removal", the NCC said, adding that the maximum height for a communications tower in

FG issues new guidelines on telecom masts, towers



Danbatta

the country will not exceed 150 metres.

"Notwithstanding subparagraph, a tower, exceeding 150 metres in height, may be approved by the Commission if it is satisfied that the increased height of the tower will not be detrimental to public health, safety or general welfare, will not have a negative effect on the neighbourhood, is in conformity with the plan of the particular area and the general plan of the community.

"A tower that has not been used for a continuous period of three years may be deemed to have been

abandoned. Upon the determination of abandonment, the Commission shall issue a removal notice to the owner, whereupon the owner shall dismantle and remove the tower from the property within 90 days of the receipt of notice from the Commission.

"An abandoned tower that is not removed within the 90 day period may be removed by the Commission and the removal costs as well as a minimum penalty of two hundred and fifty thousand naira shall be paid by the owner to the Commission", the NCC further stated.

Buhari appeals to varsity lecturers

Cont'd from Page 1

all well meaning Nigerians, particularly those close to the leaders and members of the association, to intervene in persuading the lecturers to reconsider their position, and the ripple effect on an entire generation and the nation.

He said students from Nigerian universities will be faced with the challenge of competing with others in a highly connected and technology-driven work space, and keeping them at home only deprives them of time, skill and opportunities to be relevant on the global stage.

"Colonial type education was geared towards producing workers in government. Those jobs are no longer there. Our young people should get education to prepare them for self-employment. Now education is for the sake of education.

"Through technology we are much more efficient. We should encourage our children to get education, not only to look for government jobs", he added.

President Buhari said resources should be channelled more into building infrastructure and operations of the health and educational sector, not to expand the bureaucracy to create job opportunities.

"By this time next year, I will have made the most out of the two terms, and in the remaining months I will do my best", the President noted.

President Buhari urged those in political positions and places of privilege to be mindful in helping the many Nigerians that were looking for opportunities.

"If you are greedy, you won't look around to see what is happening with those who are less endowed", he said.

The President told the

governors and political leaders that he had not been to his house in Daura for close to a year due to the demands of office.

"The observation that I abandoned my base was made by the Emir of Daura, Dr Faruk Umar Faruk, at the eid prayer ground. He held the microphone and told everyone that the last time I was in Daura was during the Eid-el-Kabir of 2021", he added.

The President said he would retire to Daura, not Kaduna, where he had a better house.

"In ten to eleven months time, I will come here. I have a better house in Kaduna, but it is too close to Abuja", he said.

The President explained that the schedule of work was much, saying he recently had to sympathise with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyema, who had to be away most of the time from his family.

President Buhari urged the APC stalwarts to keep working for the good of the people and the country, noting that "We are a lucky people, and we need to reflect more on where we are coming from."

The President said relative to the resources available, and compared to the last administration, the government had done well in many areas, particularly in infrastructure.

"I wish the person who is coming after me the very best", he said.

On security, the President said the North West had posed more challenges, and some success had been recorded in other regions, North East and South South.

President Buhari advised some indigenes in the South South to stop hurting national assets, which also affect their livelihood.

"I am eager to go. I can tell you it has been tough. I am grateful to God that people

appreciate the personal sacrifices we have been making", he added.

In his remarks at the meeting, the Chairman of Progressive Governors' Forum, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, thanked the President for his leadership roles in improving the economy of the nation and the many successes recorded at the APC, which include two conventions to produce the party leadership and the presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

"We will work hard to ensure the success of our party. We have reasons to work very hard", he added.

Bagudu, who is the Governor of Kebbi State, said the favourable seasons supported the vision of ensuring food production and making agriculture a priority, with clear results in rice pyramids in various states.

"In spite of the attacks by the renegades, our country remains self-sufficient in food production. We have seen investments that were not there before you came into power.

"Not less than 20 states now have agriculture process zones. We have rice pyramids in Ekiti, Gombe and Niger, while maize pyramids were revived in Katsina and Kano states", he said. Adding that more than 54 rice meals were commissioned in various states, and 57 fertiliser plants were revived, or built afresh.

"All these were achieved because of your commitment and patriotism", Bagudu said.

Bagudu also appreciated the President for providing ease of access to governors and political leaders, noting that the opening of the National Economic Council for more fluid exchange of ideas greatly helped in improving the economy.

APC Governors at the lunch with the President include: Katsina State Aminu Bello Masari, Kaduna State Malam Nasir el-Rufai, Imo State Hope Uzodinma, Nasarawa State Abdullahi Sule, Niger State Abubakar Sani Bello, Kano State Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, Ekiti State Dr Fayemi Kayode, Plateau State Simon Lalong and Kebbi State Abubakar Atiku Bagudu.

Nigeria lost N4.2 trillion crude oil in 6 months

NIGERIA lost a total of \$10.246 billion (about N4.2 trillion) in crude oil revenue in the first six months of 2022 due to its inability to meet the daily production quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Nigerian Tribune investigation has revealed.

The shortfall, which is about a quarter of the 2022 budget, is more than the N4 trillion allocated for fuel subsidy in the budget.

Nigerian Tribune recalls that the federal government had projected 1.8 million barrels daily crude oil production projection for the 2022 budget.

However, the highest production figure recorded in the first half of the year was 1.4 million barrels, thus exacerbating the government's precarious revenue situation.

According to data sourced from the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), in January, Nigeria produced an average of 1.4 million barrels per day (mbd) totaling 43.4 million barrels per month (bpm) instead of the daily production figure of 1.683 million bpd and 52.2 million bpm allocated to it by OPEC.

Consequently, with the average crude oil price for the month at \$86.5 per barrel, the country only

earned \$3.757 billion as crude oil revenue, instead of \$4.51bn, thus forfeiting \$756 million.

In February, Nigeria had a daily average production of 1.258 million barrels per day, instead of 1.8 million barrels, amounting to 35.22 million barrels for the whole month. Since the average price of crude oil per barrel was \$97.13, the revenue earned from crude oil sale was \$3.42 billion instead of \$4.89 billion.

The shortfall for the month was \$1.74 billion. The total crude oil production for the month of March was 38.39 million barrels based on the daily production of 1.238 million barrels, instead of the allocated 1.71718 million barrels.

As a result, the country earned a revenue of \$4.5 billion instead of \$6.24 billion since the average price of crude oil was \$117.25 per barrel. Consequently, the country had a shortfall of \$1.74 billion.

In April, Nigeria had a daily crude oil production of 1.219 million barrels and total production of 36.57 million barrels as against the daily figure of 1.735 million barrels and monthly figure of 52.05 million barrels allocated to it by OPEC. The average crude oil price for that month was \$104.58.

Consequently, the country earned \$3.82 billion revenue

from crude oil sales instead of \$5.44 billion.

The shortfall for the month was \$1.62 billion.

For May, Nigeria's daily crude oil production was 1.024 million barrels, while the total production for the month was 31.74 million barrels, although the country should have had a daily production figure of 1.753 million barrels and a monthly figure of 53.34 million barrels.

With the crude oil price at \$113.34 per barrel, the country earned \$3.6 billion from crude oil sales instead of the \$6.12 billion it would have earned had it been able to fill its OPEC quota.

In June, Nigeria had a daily crude oil production of 1.158 million barrels and a total of 34.74 million barrels, instead of 1.772 million and 53.15 million respectively.

With the average price of crude oil per barrel at \$116.14, the country had a revenue of \$4.03 billion from crude oil sales rather than the \$6.17 billion it would have made if it had been able to meet its daily allocation.

So, for the six months under review, Nigeria had a total crude oil production of 220.06 million barrels instead of 314.41 million barrels allocated to it by OPEC.

Consequently, the country only earned a total of \$23.124 billion instead of \$33.37 billion and recorded a shortfall of \$10.246 billion.



Building well-planned cities: Nigeria's real estate's role

At the United Nations' Earth Summit held in June 1992, it was decided that if the earth's deterioration was to be stopped, urgent action needed to be taken. It was also decided that every sector needed to join in the fight to save the earth as one sector's success affected the success of another. JIDE OLUMODIMU Writes.



Eko Atlantic City

BASED on this, each sector began looking inward to decide how they could contribute to halting the depreciation of the earth. Years of research brought about the World Cities Report by the United Nations. In 2020, the United Nations' World Cities Report in The Value of Sustainable Urbanization revealed that the best way to save the earth in the real estate industry was to build cities that are well-planned and well-managed. The report showed that such cities had the resilience to combat social and economical ills like unemployment and pandemics. According to the report, these cities can withstand almost anything.

With the solution outlined clearly, one more question needed to be answered – "who will be brave enough to lead the way?" In countries that had experienced a considerable level of development, that question was somewhat easy to answer. In other countries, the answer came a little bit slower.

In Nigeria, that question was answered in 2003 with the building of the first-ever green city- Eko Atlantic City. The city is designed with strict compliance to the International Finance

Corporation's (IFC) Green Edge Standard and as such is being built to conserve water and energy reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and tackle waste disposal, among others.

Every resource the city is built to manage has been highlighted as fundamental to building sustainable economies and halting climate change. The UN-Water Policy Brief, 2019, states that water conservation is crucial to eradicating poverty, transforming green energy and creating a hedge against natural disasters. Effective water management is also key to achieving the United Nations' sustainable development goals.

Energy efficiency has been spotlighted by the International Energy Agency and other relevant international and national bodies as pivotal to bringing climate change to a bare minimum by the end of the decade, as energy production and consumption is the principal contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, the United Nations Development Programme stated that energy efficiency presents the opportunity of merging economic competitiveness with

sustainable development.

As exciting and revolutionary as this project is, not many developers were ready to pitch their tents in building Eko Atlantic City and with good reason. The geographical location that now houses the city was once, popularly, known for numerous disastrous floods that led to the submerging of hundreds of residential and commercial areas; not to include major roadways.

Even with the building of an 8.5 km long sea embankment that now protects the area, developing the area takes the great foresight of pioneers. Thankfully, Nigeria is not without these pioneers who have committed themselves to ensuring Nigeria has sustainable cities.

Already the efforts of these foresighted real estate companies are paying off. Eko Atlantic City has already shown that it can withstand environmental hazards like the floods it was once in danger of, and thanks to the long sea embankment, the city has been protected from the floods that have wrecked other parts of the nation. The risk these pioneering developers have taken in designing and building Eko

Atlantic city is yielding properties by floods.

dividends, not only It goes without saying that environmentally but Investors in this novel green city economically as well. have begun reaping the dividends

From an interview with Ronald of their investment and will reap Chagoury Jr, vice chairman of even more as the city's current Eko Atlantic City, so far population will burgeon in the thousands of jobs have been days to come. One lesson to be created already and the city has learnt here is that pioneering not even been completed yet. comes with great risks, however, Furthermore, the city has saved it comes with even greater Lagos, and Nigeria at large, benefits.

billions of naira through the sea **Olumodimu is group Managing Director of Arkland Group** embankment that has prevented the destruction of Group

Already the efforts of these foresighted real estate companies are paying off. Eko Atlantic City has already shown that it can withstand environmental hazards like the floods it was once in danger of, and thanks to the long sea embankment, the city has been protected from the floods that have wrecked other parts of the nation. The risk these pioneering developers have taken in designing and building Eko Atlantic city is yielding dividends, not only environmentally but economically as well.



Nigeria fails to meet full disclosure rating

– World Bank

THE World Bank has announced that Nigeria has failed to meet full disclosure rating conditions on debt reporting over the past three years.

Also, Debt Management Office (DMO) data showed that the country's total public debt stock stood at N41.60 trillion or \$100.07 billion as at March 31, 2022.

According to Report, the World Bank has in the last three years, been monitoring how transparent Nigeria is in its debt reporting practices and found that it did not meet "full disclosure" policy it set for International Development Association (IDA) countries.

The report in part read, "Global studies indicate that debt transparency directly contributes to higher credit ratings, lower borrowing costs, and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. Hence, the debt management office took the strategic stance to focus on debt transparency efforts and took several actions to improve public debt reporting and disclosure."

The bank accused Nigeria of failure to publish Annual Borrowing Plans (ABP), and insisted that guaranteed and non-guaranteed debts were not reported while information on recently contracted loans was also not provided.



Malpess

These developments, the bank said, meant that Nigeria did not meet the "full disclosure" rating for every single one of the nine categories on the debt transparency Heat Map.

The bank further listed the

debt transparency Heat Map as data accessibility, instrument coverage, sectoral coverage, information on the contracted loans, periodicity, time range, debt management strategy, annual borrowing plan and other debt statistics/contingent liabilities (CLs).

CBN issues guidelines to strengthen digital financial services

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) says it has taken proactive steps to strengthen Nigerian consumers in order to keep up with the fast-paced development of Digital Financial Services in the country.

The Apex bank has issued

new guidelines on operators' responsibility in educating and protecting consumers along the value chain.

According to the Apex bank, this initiative was an effort to deepen financial inclusion while also protecting the consumers and broader

SOME filling stations in Lagos, Abuja, Niger and other states dispensed Premium Motor Spirit at between N200/litre to N250/litre on Sunday, higher than the government-approved retail price of N165/litre, as queues for the product extended to more states.

It was gathered that the worsening queues for petrol in Lagos and neighbouring states, as well as its prolonged persistence in Abuja and environs, were due to the insufficient supply of products by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company.

NNPC is the sole importer of petrol into Nigeria for several years running. It often claims to have enough products to keep the country wet for months. It, however, stayed mute on Sunday when contacted.

Our correspondents gathered that some filling stations in Lagos sold petrol to motorists at N200/litre and still had queues, as black marketers dispensed the product at N300/litre.

In Abuja, Khalif filling station in Kubwa, dispensed the commodity at N250/litre on Sunday but had N165/litre displayed on its pumps. But once a motorist tells the fuel attendant the amount he or she

Fuel hits N250/litre, queues persist

wishes to buy, this would be calculated based on N250/litre.

The queues for petrol in Abuja has never ceased since February this year, but it grew worse in neighbouring states of Nasarawa and Niger on Sunday as motorists search for PMS to move around during the Sallah break.

Oil marketers denied claims of product hoarding or diversion, as they stressed that the insufficient supply of PMS by NNPC and the non-payment of bridging claims for the transportation of petrol were the key reasons for the scarcity.

The President, Petroleum Products Retail Outlets owners Association of Nigeria, Billy Gillis-Harry, told our correspondent that filling stations that had products were dispensing, while those that were shut had no petrol to sell.

"The money used in buying the 45,000 litres of petrol from depots, almost N7m, is borrowed, and time-bound. So every retail outlet owner knows that the wise thing to do in this business is to sell out and try to

turn around that sale as many times as possible.

"So with this scenario in view, there is no retail outlet owner that is hoarding product or diverting it. Yes, we know there may be bad eggs among the good bunch, but the fact that we are not having sufficient products is what has remained the cause of fuel scarcity."

Gillis-Harry added, "In the case of Abuja, it is clear to understand that if the bridging claims are paid to marketers, they will be able to continue their products' purchase cycle. That is just the reality. So payment of bridging claims is an issue and insufficient supply is also another issue.

On what could be the solution to the current crisis in the downstream oil sector, the PETROAN president stated that everything still boiled down to the need to end the current fuel subsidy regime.

He said, "There is a solution and it is simple. The subsidy that is being paid should be stopped. The money should be channeled to other developmental infrastructures such as health, education, etc.

"And since the refineries have not been fixed by the government, they should either give it wholly to private sector practitioners like PETROAN that own the retail outlets to manage."

The NNPC stayed mum when asked to react to claims of insufficient supply of petrol by the national oil company. Its spokesperson, Garba-Deen Mohammad, did not answer calls and had yet to respond to a text message sent to him on the matter.

Further checks show that some filling stations in Lagos and Ogun states sold fuel at N200/litre.

While many stations were under locks and keys despite a promise by the NNPC to keep the country wet, many among the few that had products were seen dispensing above N200/litre.

According to findings, the Federal Government and oil marketers are yet to come to a compromise on how much a litre of petrol should be sold, and marketers are beginning to sell products at prices not approved by the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority.

"The meeting was held with NMDPRA last week, and Mr. Farouk begged marketers not to increase the price. But the long queues you are seeing are due to inadequate supplies. Marketers have also gone ahead to increase prices unofficially due to high operational costs. There was no formal letter to the effect though. It was just a word of mouth agreement to increase price between N175-N180 per litre", our source said.

He advised the government to issue a statement on the marginal increase in the pump price of petrol.

Executive Secretary of the Major Oil Marketers of Nigeria, MOMAN, Clement Isong, declined to comment on the causes of the rising petrol prices.

It had recently been reported that oil marketers were currently pushing for compensation from the Federal Government if petrol would remain at N165 per litre.

Macron reappoints President, France Nigeria Business Council

THE President of France, Emmanuel Macron, has re-appointed Founder and Chairman of BUA Group, Abdul Samad Rabiu, as President of the France Nigeria Business Council.

This was announced at the July 2022 Meeting of the France Nigeria Business Council held in Paris.

The France Nigeria Business Council brings together the top businesses in Nigeria and France with a goal of improving business relations between Nigeria and France whilst ensuring routine cooperation that will bring about immense economic benefits for both countries.

Addressing the council, Abdul Samad Rabiu praised the progress that has been made by the France Nigeria Business Council since its inauguration and the commitment of members despite slow global recovery, in pushing forward with various partnerships which includes plans by some of Nigeria's biggest banks to set up subsidiaries in France, and BUA's partnership with Axens of France to build a 200,000bpd refinery in Akwa Ibom, Nigeria amongst other key projects by members.

He also thanked President Macron for his support and for reappointing him as well as Jean Haas of Relais (France) as President of the Council, and Head of the Secretariat respectively.

French members of the council include the Global Chief Executives of Total Energies, Dassault, Axens, Accor, CMA, amongst others and on the Nigerian side, Dr Mike Adenuga of Globacom & Conoil, Jim Ovia of Zenith Bank, Gilbert Chagoury of Chagoury Group, Aliko Dangote of Dangote Group, Tony Elumelu of UBA, and others were among Nigeria council members.



Emefiele

industry integrity against fraud and data piracy.

CBN revealed this in a statement with the caption 'Digital financial services awareness guidelines'.

The regulator declared this in the guidelines that its meant to take care of identified gaps in consumer knowledge and practices in emerging digital financial services.

As Efina (Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access) noted, "Digital financial services is a strategic opportunity to expand the access and reach of basic financial services to the un(der)banked population in Nigeria through innovative financial technologies and platforms". Interestingly, the apex bank also noted: "DFS have the potential to expand access to financial services for the Nigerian population and spur innovation in the financial services industry".

"The Digital Financial Services guidelines provide for

a set of principles and expectations for financial service providers to integrate with the provision of DFS to ensure consumer understanding, good treatment, and positive outcomes," CBN explained.

Additionally, the Apex bank noted that the provisions of these guidelines shall apply to institutions providing DFS, including deposit money banks; merchant banks; other financial institutions, Payment Service Banks, and Other Payment Service Institutions as licensed by the CBN.

Commenting on the objectives of the guidelines, the regulator explained that these include setting Digital Financial Literacy standards for Digital Financial Services Providers, aligning product development, promotion, and consumer awareness to DFS amongst services providers, and enhancing transparency and proper disclosure of digital financial services.



Rabiu



How to map your supply chain

Supply chain mapping is the visualisation and connectivity of your multi-tier supplier network. From raw material to finished goods, it encompasses every process in your cash-to-cash conversion cycle. ADEBAYO ADELEKE Writes



It is your backbone for driving outcomes, allowing you to detangle the networks within your networks, gain visibility, and push for transparency. It helps you to recognise information gaps, locate high-risk points of failure as well as areas for opportunity and covers areas such as logistical issues, availability of supply, financial, geopolitical complexities, quality, and regulatory compliance. And can help drive initiatives such as sustainability strategies and social responsibility programs. Without supply chain mapping, it will be nearly impossible to have visibility and some level of transparency in a complex geopolitical world that we have of late. It is a basic and mandatory tool that every business must have.

The more buy-in you get from your suppliers, the more you'll be able to achieve. Make sure to include the right people and give them a good view of what it is you, and they have to gain from supply chain mapping

Today, there are many

supply chain mapping solutions available. Which is best suited for your business will be dependent on the complexities of your supply chain, your goals, and your budget. For single-tier domestic supply chains simply looking to increase visibility and highlight vulnerabilities, process-driven methodologies such as Supply-Chain Operations Reference (SCOR) may suffice. For more multi-tier, global supply chains looking for real-time action informing data, there are many cloud-based solutions. And then there are companies like UPS Customer Solutions who offer supply chain mapping services.

Although there is no supply chain mapping rubric that is suitable for every business, or budget, we've listed a few first steps to get you on your way.

First step Establish a list of stakeholders you should include in the project. Remember that your mapping the entire supply chain, from the cradle to the grave, as well as covering different areas of business such as quality and finance.

Educate stakeholders on what supply chain is, what the business has to gain, and the implications for each department. Let them know what would be expected of them, as well as what they have to gain and push for buy-in (and budget allowance!)

Source possible solutions, get an idea of the options you think may be best suited for your business. Questions to ask yourself: How many tiers do you need visibility on? Domestic or global? What would you and your stakeholders like to accomplish?

Gather estimates on cost, resources required, timelines and project scope

Once you establish stakeholder buy-in, hold a whiteboard meeting, and do some information mining. Remember that the goal is to visualise your supply chain, so map, whether on a whiteboard, a pad of paper, or on your laptop.

Here are a few key questions you should be asking:

What supplies are most critical to your continuity of business?

What would you like ongoing, maybe even real-time visibility on?

What are your growth plans, and how will they impact your business? Do you expect to be

shipping to or from a new area? Will volumes increase significantly on a certain raw material? Are you expecting a new customer with new quality or regulatory requirements you haven't handled before?

Where do you foresee your vulnerabilities to be?

Who are your major players, and who are you supporting?

Where do you foresee roadblocks?

What don't you know?

The supply chain mapping process can be a great opportunity for relationship strengthening collaborative efforts, but it's important to establish this from the onset. As the project can take a significant amount of resources, it's imperative you help suppliers see what's in it for them. Which is the same as what's in it for you, visibility and resiliency in their supply chain.

The more buy-in you get from your suppliers, the more you'll be able to achieve. Make sure to include the right people and give them a good view of what it is you, and they have to gain from supply chain mapping. Some of your initiatives may require higher-level management to get involved, as there may be non-disclosure policies or agreements that will need to be discussed. As there may be some reluctance to share information, suppliers should be made aware that they can maintain confidentiality and control who has access to the information they supply.

One of the main benefits to suppliers is that they may access their own risks and vulnerabilities and gain visibility and resiliency themselves. And of course, your wins are always there wins, be clear about the pressures you are facing as well as your goals and how you think supply chain mapping will improve your competitiveness.

As businesses adapt to our ever-changing world, so should our supply chains. Meeting the demands of today's consumers requires the adaptability and flexibility of a master yogi. Those who learn to wield new tools will aim farther, go faster, and reach their targets

"Today, there are many supply chain mapping solutions available. Which is best suited for your business will be dependent on the complexities of your supply chain, your goals, and your budget. For single-tier domestic supply chains simply looking to increase visibility and highlight vulnerabilities, process-driven methodologies such as Supply-Chain Operations Reference (SCOR) may suffice."

Politics

Lawan, Akpabio: INEC remains 'funtus officio'

It may be the end of the road for Ahmad Lawan, president of the senate and Godswill Akpabio, former minister of Niger Delta Affairs in their attempts to return to the Senate after they failed in the bid to be the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

This is as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) said it is right now, 'funtus officio' in the cases involving them.

The latin expression 'funtus officio' simply means "task performed" which in law implies that "a judge is not allowed to hand down any other decision on the same case."

Both Lawan and Akpabio had contested for the APC presidential ticket but while the former lost to Bola Tinubu, the later stepped down for him.

However, the Abdullahi Adamu-led national leadership of the party submitted their names to the INEC as candidates for the Yobe North and Akwa Ibom North-West Senatorial election in 2023, respectively.

BusinessDay earlier reported that INEC documents have shown that Bashir Machina is the duly nominated candidate of APC for Yobe north senatorial district which is being claimed by Lawan.

In a Certified True Copy (CTC) of the report of INEC officials that monitored the primary election and signed by Omale Samuel, dated May 28, 2022, Machina scored 289 votes out of the 300 delegates that participated in the exercise.

For Akwa Ibom north-west, Udom Ekpoudom, a retired deputy inspector general of police had won the ticket before APC leadership substituted him with Akpabio.

INEC had not published particulars of APC senatorial candidates for Yobe North and Akwa Ibom North-West as the space was left blank.

Festus Okoye, INEC national commissioner and chairman of information and voter education committee said the commission stands by the monitoring reports received from its state offices on the primaries for the Akwa Ibom North West and Yobe North senatorial districts.

Okoye in a statement recently said it is for this reason that the commission did not publish the personal particulars of any candidate for the two constituencies at variance with the state reports.

He said: "right now, the commission is funtus officio in the two cases" and "aggrieved parties are at liberty to approach the Federal High Court and seek redress as provided in section 285 of the Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and sections 29(5) and 84(14) of the Electoral Act, 2022."

The INEC chief spokesperson said the clarification becomes necessary due to the allegations intended to impugn the integrity of the



Okoye

commission in respect of the Akwa Ibom North West and Yobe North senatorial districts.

"To set the record straight, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria mandates the Commission to monitor the organisation and operation of political parties, including their finances, conventions, congresses and party primaries.

"In line with its constitutional and legal obligations, the Commission deployed monitors to the various constituencies and received reports of such exercise," he said.

On the issuance of Certified True Copies (CTCs) of documents of candidate for the 2023 general election, Okoye said staff of the commission have been working hard, including weekends, to meet the deluge of requests received and as at Friday, July 8, 2022, it has processed 433 requests.

He said this involved the

certification of 1.662 million pages of documents and many of them are awaiting collection at the INEC Headquarters by some of the same applicants complaining of delay in issuance of the CTCs.

"Section 29 (4) of the Electoral Act provides that any person may apply to the Commission for a copy of nomination form, affidavit, and any other document submitted by a candidate at an election and the Commission shall, upon payment of a prescribed fee, issue such person with a certified copy of document within 14 days. Persons applying for CTC of documents should endeavor to act timely and within the ambit of the law.

"The Commission will continue to uphold the integrity of the electoral process, including the deepening of the deployment of technology to enhance the credibility of elections," Okoye added.

Muslim-Muslim ticket raises concerns over Nigeria's unity

Reactions have continued to trail the decision of Bola Tinubu, the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), to pick Kashim Shettima, another Muslim, as his running mate.

Some observers, who spoke with BusinessDay Monday, described the development as a threat to the fragile unity and peace of Nigeria.

Tinubu, a Muslim from South-West on Sunday, named Shettima, former governor of Borno State, as his vice presidential candidate for the 2023 general election. Reacting to the development, Christian Okeke, a political science lecturer at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, said it was most unfortunate.

Okeke said: "The Christian community feels so strangled, sidelined and wounded. The mood of the people is so low and this cannot help the country move real forward. It is, indeed, a sad day. The flippant point which proponents of Muslim-Muslim ticket in Nigeria have struggled to score is that competence should be placed above religious consideration in politics.

"Nevertheless, that argument is sweet only in the tongue of those whose daily target is to exploit every opportunity to their

advantage. They cheer that argument when they have something to gain. Religion is a delicate issue in Nigeria and expectation is that it should be given due consideration in the scheme of things."

Okeke said efforts were made by the forebears to address the issue of marginalisation in the country.

He said the efforts paved the way for the introduction of certain measures, including federal character principle, for the sake of achieving balance in terms of ethnic and religious consideration in public life.

"The ultimate goal was to midwife a united country. One consequently expects the

Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate for 2023 poll, says he decided to pick Sen. Kashim Shettima as his running mate, because he possessed one of the best credentials for the election.

Tinubu announced Shettima as his running mate in a letter personally signed on Sunday in Daura, when he paid Sallah homage on President Muhammadu Buhari.

"Today I announce the selection of Sen. Kashim Shettima as my partner and running mate in the mission to advance and reclaim the fortunes of this great country and the hopes of its people.

"Shettima's career in politics and beyond shows that he is eminently qualified not only to deliver that all important electoral victory, but, also, step into the shoes of the Vice-President.

"As a man with the talent, maturity, strength of character, and patriotism, he has my implicit confidence and faith.

"I am aware that many will continue to focus on a particular detail, the question of his faith," Tinubu said.

He added: "If we truly understood the challenges upon us a country, we must also see the imperative of placing competence in governance above religious sentiments.

"In 1993, Nigerians embraced Chief MKO Abiola and a fellow Muslim running mate, Baba Gana Kingibe in one of the country's fairest elections ever held.

"The spirit of 1993 is upon us again in 2023, adding that the ticket the APC is presenting, represents a milestone in the country's political history.

"The ticket symbolises the party's determination to be a leading light among political parties in Africa.

"The democratic process and the decorum that characterised our presidential primaries and the selection of our Vice-Presidential candidate exemplifies why we are the party

present political class to respect that effort but this has become elusive as they selfishly pursue their self-preserving glorification. In fact, they have torn apart everything that should have helped to unify the country," he said.

Mark Adebayo, spokesman for the Coalition of United Political Parties, said that Tinubu took the decision because of political expediency, which he thinks would work for him.

He said: "He wants to be pragmatic not considering the opinion of Nigerians. When Nigerian politicians are after power, they would do all they can to get it, not minding who

'Why I picked Shettima'

of the people and of the betterment of their future."

Tinubu said that the choice of Shettima would further brighten the APC chances at the poll.

"With this selection the APC surely shall continue to be the party that shows the way and carries this nation towards its best future.

"I implore you all to join me on this journey to a brighter future, as we enter a moment of renewed hope, we have the chance to move the nation and our collective cause forward as never before.

"We seize the moment so that history may write kindly of us, it is time to focus with utmost devotion and love of country to do all we could to advance the ideals of democratic and progressive good governance in the land," he said.

Tinubu said that APC was focused on tackling the country's numerous challenges. "Together, we must end poverty and bring greater prosperity and more lasting peace, we should be wise of thought yet courageous in action.

"As we embark on a collective enterprise that brings jobs, education, food, medicine, hope and belief in a better life to those who need them.



is affected. Some people think that if he picks a Christian, he would lose. But history would determine if he took the right decision.

"The current President has mismanaged our diversity. He has demonstrated that he does not welcome other religion and ethnic groups in the country; that is why Nigerians find it difficult to trust this arrangement. But Tinubu knows the consequences of his decision."

Daniel Bwala, who resigned his position as the APC national legal adviser after Tinubu announced his running mate, said it had shown the types of decisions Tinubu would be making in office if voted into office.

Bwala, who spoke on Channels Television's Sunrise Daily programme on Monday, said the decision showed that the APC was insensitive to the plight and yearning of Nigerians.

"There is so much division, so much fear and the faultlines are widening. There is yearning for change. It is an insult to Nigerians. Is Tinubu saying that it is only the Muslims that vote in the North? Picking a Christian vice presidential candidate would have meant that they are sensitive to issues of unity,

"I stand ready to begin this journey with you, hopefully, to lead the nation on this needed path as your next president by the grace of God.

"I believe this is a pivotal moment at which the dynamics of history and destiny call us forth to reshape our beloved nation, this is our moment," he said.

"The choice of my Vice-Presidential running mate has remained an open and burning question which gave rise to much speculation and debate.

"What I am, however, is a democrat, and a democrat must listen to, and consult with the people and his advisors so that he may reform and govern wisely and on their behalf.

"This I have done, my political career was not built on blind indifference to the views of others," he said.

Tinubu added: "I appreciate the perspectives of leading members of the party, political allies and key national figures who see Nigeria's future as I do. They gave me their views.

"So that I might add their valuable insights to mine to reach the best decision possible and do so in a manner that strengthens the institutional fabric of our party as well as accelerating the evolution of our political democracy."

peace of this country," he said.

Muazu Magaji, a former member of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, now a member of the PDP, described Tinubu's choice as a dangerous development.

"APC must be in a serious problem right now. The party has caused more division than unity in Nigeria in the last seven years. Nigerians must punish the APC for its monumental failure since 2015," Magaji said.

Solomon Gbenga, deputy national youth leader of the Young Progressives Party, said the ticket is not significant to the unity of the country and religious balancing.

Gbenga said if Tinubu and APC were truly concerned about the unity of the country, a competent northern Christian like Yakubu Dogara, former speaker of the House of Representatives; Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), and Babachir Lawal, a former SGF, would have been picked as his running mate.

"Honestly speaking, Tinubu's Muslim-Muslim ticket is a disadvantage to himself and the democracy we practise in Nigeria. Now, we cannot be saying we want to unite the country and we are dividing it more by religion and ethnicity," he said.



Shettima

Politics

The secret in our politics

Indiscipline is the bane of Nigeria. It is the secret in our politics. However, without good education, we are all doomed. Any politics that neglects this is simply awful, and the choice is ours, because in the end we are simply our politics, KENNETH AMAESHI writes.

ELECTIONS are very revealing, and Nigerians are very predictable. We love our woes – bad leadership, corruption, nepotism, tribalism, poor infrastructure, weak institutions, poverty, et cetera. Social media platforms thrive high on this negative energy. Leaders and politicians get a large chunk of the blame, and the ordinary Nigerian is the victim. This is usually the trend, but how true is this narrative?

It is not in doubt that Nigeria is a country of many conflicting tales. For example, it is said to be one of those countries where one can easily make it big, yet it is tormented by extreme poverty. If luck shines on you, which in this case simply means being in the “right” network with the appropriate social capital, your fortunes can quickly transform from dire poverty to stupendous wealth overnight, irrespective of your educational attainments and work experience. The source of wealth is usually immaterial. What matters is that you have made it and you are made, any other thing beyond that is irrelevant. You are a hero henceforth and expecting to be recognised (if not worshipped) by society is not out of place.

What is rather out of place is the denigration of education. The Nigerian constitution does not expect much education from our politicians and leaders – although they will eventually end up managing the huge resources and assets of the country and her educational system. This says a lot. Ironically, it seems the politicians are keen to outcompete each other in their lack of and disdain for education, by the rising number of those who have either lost their certificates or possess bogus academic qualifications. But who cares about lost educational certificates and dodgy academic qualifications, as long as votes are won and bought, as the case may be?

However, when you dig deep beneath the conflicting tales, it quickly becomes obvious that the leaders and politicians are products of the same society as those who complain about them. Even the leaders and politicians engage in the same blame game. We are the society we create. We all know the problems as well as the solutions. So, why is nothing changing?

The answer is simple: Indiscipline. We all benefit from this indiscipline, at one point or the other, to our collective disadvantage.

Once you have made it, you can then truly enjoy Nigeria by creating your own private laws and living above the laws of the land. Societal rules and regulations are seen as unnecessary encumbrances. This can range from the procurement of public contracts to the simple act of queuing for public services. You can afford to flout traffic rules, for instance, and when you



Ayu

are called to order by the law enforcement agents, you can easily reach out to their bosses and cancel the orders. That's exactly what it means to be free and “big” in Nigeria.

To understand our lack of development is to look at our culture of indiscipline and recklessness. This culture reflects in many things we do. From how our roads are marked and used to how our houses are built and inhabited. Our hospitals, schools, and places of work and worship are also often victims of this lack of attention to details. “Manage it!” seems to be the attitude.

But not everyone is that lucky. The unlucky ones just need to wait for their turn, if it ever comes. Whilst they wait, they gnash their teeth, moan, wallow in powerlessness, curse their lot or escape the country. Many emigration decisions are borne out of the avoidable frustrations of the system. Who wouldn't look for better options – even if it means crossing perilous deserts and seas at the risk of one's life?

Either way, the one thing both groups have in common is their insatiable quest for shortcuts. At the slightest prompt, the average Nigerian (both rich and poor) is keen to explore shortcuts. The culture of shortcuts is at the heart of the many challenges confronting the country today and reflects what we have inadvertently become. Any attempt to resist it is

easily ridiculed and caricatured.

Yet, when Nigerians find themselves in organised climes, they queue and follow laid down rules. Surprisingly, what they often fail to appreciate is that the same rules and regulations they flout in Nigeria are behind the success and progress of the developed economies. The only difference between them and us is that it takes a lot of discipline to create and implement good laws and we are not willing to make such investments and sacrifices. This discipline, in turn, translates to the creation of effective institutions that help societies develop and flourish. Perhaps, this could be the missing link in our developmental trajectory. Instead of investing in systems of discipline, we have cultivated and enhanced systems of indiscipline.

In that regard, to understand our lack of development is to look at our culture of indiscipline and recklessness. This culture reflects in many things we do. From how our roads are marked and used to how our houses are built and inhabited. Our hospitals, schools, and places of work and worship are also often victims of this lack of attention to details. “Manage it!” seems to be the attitude. It is very easy to be labelled as one suffering from the infamous obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) if one insists that simple things, such as emails and text messages, are well formatted. This lack of attention to details, in itself, is a societal burden.

Attention to details is not an easy ask. It literally tasks your



Adamu

whole being. Think of a well-manicured garden, a well-set dining table or the precision required to land an airplane on a well-marked air tarmac. Great scientific and technological innovations are borne out of studiousness anchored on the culture of collective discipline. Imagine what it takes to land a rocket on the moon or what it takes to drill the bottom of oceans for crude oil. The culture of collective discipline distinguishes successful societies from ineffective societies.

Those who know its value take the pains to invest in it, no matter the odds. True education disciplines both the mind and the body in the true spirit of culture building. No wonder areas of specialisation are also described as disciplines. It is in the discipline that these disciplines confer on the mind and body that societies are positively and progressively re-created.

Notwithstanding, attention to details requires a lot of discipline. And in many ways, to act with discipline is basically to swim against nature. It involves a lot of self-restraint and delayed gratification. To excel in indiscipline is to thrive in the chaotic state of nature and lies at the heart of the many ills in societies today. Patience is no longer a virtue. The only thing that works is to be on the fast lane for everything in the name of presumed agility. Things cannot continue this way.

Indiscipline needs to be tamed to create livable societies. This is where education comes in.

Education is not an easy task either. It is a struggle against ignorance. Education is also expensive. Those who know its value take the pains to invest in it, no matter the odds. True education disciplines both the mind and the body in the true spirit of culture building. No wonder areas of specialisation are also described as disciplines. It is in the discipline that these disciplines confer on the mind and body that societies are positively and progressively re-created.

Unfortunately, poor education has continued to bedevil many developing economies. Generations are lost and are difficult to recover. If this trend is not halted and the education system is not fixed, our progress will be very much limited. In my view, this should be the key priority of politicians and leaders.

Unfortunately, too, investments in education are not that glamorous. They hardly meet the demands of the optics of politics. Politics is sadly showbiz. Hence, investments in education are likely to be relegated to the background.

Indiscipline is the bane of Nigeria. It is the secret in our politics. However, without good education, we are all doomed! And any politics that neglects this is simply awful. And the choice is ours, because in the end we are simply our politics!

Culled from BluePrint

IMAGES

BUHARI PRAYS AT KOFAR AREWA EID GROUND

Nigeria’s President, Muhammadu Buhari and other Muslim faithfuls prayed at the Daura, Eid Ground, Katsina State last Saturday



Chief Imam of Daura Central Mosque leading President Buhari and other faithfuls praying during the Eid-el Kabir



Muhammadu Buhari (middle) Emirs and Katsina State Government functionaries listening to preaching by the Chief Imam



President Buhari (middle) being assisted by members of the Aid group slaughtering the Sallah ram after the prayers



Nigeria’s President, Muhammadu Buhari (right) acknowledging cheers from his Daura community after the Eid prayers

PHOTOS: STATE HOUSE PRESS, ABUJA

LONG JAN PRAYS AT NAMU EID GROUND

The Long Jan of Namu Chieftdom, HRH Engr. Safiyanu Sulaiman Magaji III prayed alongside kingsmakers, tittle holders and other muslim faithfuls at the Namu Eid praying ground, Qua’an Pan LGA on Saturday last week



His Royal Highness, Miskoom Engr. Safiyanu Sulaiman Magaji III, Long Jan of Namu Chieftdom in a prayer mood with others



The Long Jan of Namu Chieftdom is seen addressing Muslim faithfuls after the Sallah prayers at the Eid ground



A cross section of other Muslim faithful at the Eid praying ground, Namu



Another cross section of tittle holders and others in a prayer mood during the Eid-el Kabir

Politics

What worsening insecurity means for 2023 election

With the 2023 general election drawing closer, stakeholders have expressed concern about the spate of insecurity across the country and the impact it could have on the smooth conduct of the elections. The escalating security situation in Nigeria has affected the conduct of elections in recent years; there have been increased militarisation of the voting environment due to increased violence often perpetrated by supporters of desperate politicians. EMELIKEOBINNA, IWOKINIOBONG and CHURCHILL OKORO write.



Nigerians casting their votes on election day

IN the last seven years, the spate of insecurity across Nigeria has worsened, the situation is particularly worse in the North-East and North-West, with many lives lost to kidnapping, Boko Haram insurgency and separatist movements.

Nigerians are not sure who would be the next victim, while nowhere is safe for now.

Just some days ago, President Muhammadu Buhari's advance security team was attacked with some officers killed and several vehicles damaged.

In another of such deadly attacks, Boko Haram terrorists the same day launched a ferocious attack on Kuje Correctional Centre, deploying bombs, Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) and General Purpose Machine Guns (GPMG), and freeing no less than 600 inmates, including Boko Haram fighters detained at the facility.

Reports said six inmates and one security personnel were killed during the attack.

Minister of Defence, Bashir Magashi (rtd) said of the 994 inmates at the prison, 600 escaped.

The situation also forced the relocation of other high profile detainees, notably, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Abba Kyari, among others.

Terrorists also invaded three communities in Kaduna and killed twenty people, while 25 women were abducted during the attack.

An eyewitness told newsmen that the bandits numbering

about 30 came on motorcycles to carry out the attack on the villages.

Across Nigeria, attacks and kidnapping for ransom have become daily occurrences in which high profile Nigerians have also been affected.

The concern for many is that if the bandits and terrorists can attack the Nigerian Defence Academy, invade the airport, attack the President's advance security team, invade prison to release over 1,200 inmates without challenge, amid taking communities hostage and hoisting their flags in some settlements, then there is no safety in the country.

For many, the present fear for safety, amid the alarming rate of attacks on lives and property across the country poses a big risk for the success of the 2023 general election.

Just like the way a secured and enabling environment boosts investor confidence in a state, the same way a safe domain is key to the turnout of voters, the deployment of ad-hoc staff, including the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members and, to a large extent, the credibility of the poll.

Discussions about Nigeria's situation have become rife as elections approach; to elect who Nigerians think will transform and redeem the state from the cliff position.



Mahmood

As the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) intensifies preparations for next years' elections, experts say that the situation calls for serious concerns, and that if not checked could undermine the conduct of free and fair elections.

Particular source of concern is the North and South-East, where the terrorists and unknown gunmen are very active.

Similarly, experts say the worsening spate of insecurity was responsible for the increasing voter apathy in the country, while the situation may continue in next year's election.

They noted that increased militarisation of elections in some states in recent years have compounded the situation.

Tunde Ajayi, business intelligence expert, lamented that the security situation had aggravated in recent years partly because, security agencies only respond to security threats that affect government officials, political leaders and the elite rather than what affect an average Nigerian.

Ajayi predicted that the spate of violence in Nigeria would affect voter turnout in next year's general elections, if

there was no effort to check the trend.

He added that violence in Nigeria has been democratised, while non-state actors are involved in it, stressing that it is a different situation now compared to 2019.

According to him, "The high number of Nigerians registering to get their Permanent Voter Card (PVC) would improve voter turnout. Everybody else is less important to the security apparatus, it is focused on the administration in power and the elite," Ajayi said.

Ikechukwu Nwanna, president of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Lagos State, said the current trend called for concern ahead of next year's election that must be urgently checked by the Federal Government.

According to him, "It is a major danger to our general election next year. Our elections in recent years have been marred by violence, but we have not had this level of insecurity before across Nigeria.

"The electorate may fear; they don't want to endanger their lives, and refuse to come out to vote. In some cases it can delay delivery of election materials.

"I call on the security agencies to do their work and stop the current spate of insecurity in Nigeria now."

News

Jos North Chairman prays for peace, forgiveness, at Eid-El-Kabir

Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Shehu Bala Usman has called for prayers, patience, forgiveness and tolerance towards peaceful co-existence and prosperity of the country.

The Chairman who stated this in a congratulatory message to mark this year's Eid-El-Kabir celebration, urged Muslim faithfuls to continue to imbibe the spirit of peace, kindness, love and tolerance so as to ensure the prosperity of citizens.

Usman said, Eid-El-Kabir presents an opportunity for Muslims to reflect on the faith, with which Ibrahim willingly agreed to sacrifice his only son and was set to let go of his prized asset, in obedience to the command of Allah.

The Chairman who conveyed his Eid-El-Kabir message on behalf of his Deputy, Leader and members of the



Usman

legislative and Executive arm called on all adherents to share with the less privileged and to exhibit the spirit of togetherness in line with the in teachings of prophet Muhammad.

He used the opportunity to express the determination of his administration to sustain

harmonious working relationship with the legislative arm of the council noting that together, they will provide the much needed dividends of democracy to the citizenry.

The Chairman wish all the Muslim ummah in Jos North a happy Eid-El-Kabir celebration.

Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Shehu Bala Usman has commended the APC standard bearer in Plateau State Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda for picking Hon. Pam Botmang as his running mate ahead of the 2023 gubernatorial election.

The Chairman who stated this in a statement in Jos, noted that the good people of Jos North Local Government Area were not surprised with the choice of Pam Botmang in view of his sterling qualities and his invaluable contribution to the party.

Usman described Pam Botmang as a fine politician, a

Jos North boss praises Yilwatda for choosing Botmang

By BULUS GAMBO

gentleman, a philanthropist so kindhearted with a good upbringing, noting that such attributes with that of Dr Nentawe Yilwada will propel the APC to victory in next year's general election.

The Jos North Local Government Council Chairman explained that Pam Botmang is a loyal party man.

The Chairman stressed that with Pam Botmang as running

mate, this will add value to the Generation Next campaign ticket and give the youths in the state a sense of belonging.

He commended Dr Nentawe Yilwatda for making wide consultation with all relevant stakeholders before arriving at the choice of the running mate.

He assured Dr. Nentawe and Botmang of the council's total support and cooperation of the inhabitants of the area to ensure victory in the general Election in the state.

Usman assures on leading APC candidates to victory

Hon. Shehu Bala Usman, Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, has promised all candidates seeking elective offices under the platform of the All Progressive Congress (APC) of his determination to lead the party to victory in next year's general election.

The chairman gave the assurance when he received APC Northern zone Senatorial District standard bearer, Ambassador Chris Giwa who was in the council's secretariat on a thank you

visit after clinching the party's ticket.

Represented by the council's secretary, Pastor Samuel Gyang Chollom, the Chairman commended Ambassador Chris Giwa for his philanthropism especially in providing the needy and other vulnerable members of the society and assured him of the support of the good people of Jos North Local Government Area during the Senatorial election.

Ambassador Giwa informed the chairman, party faithful and adhoc delegates who participated in the last primary election that he was in Jos North Local government to appreciate them for entrusting in him the party's ticket though he was not the best among others.

He explained that God

only chose him to carry the party's flag as Senatorial flag bearer and assured the party of his resolve to lead them to victory in the forthcoming general elections.

Chairman of the All Progressive Congress in Jos North Local Government, Alhaji Sani Gangare who earlier welcomed Chris Giwa to Jos North noted that he is the best choice for the people of the Northern zone Senatorial District following his antecedence as a philanthropist and a kindhearted human being who had impacted positively on humanity.

All the Party faithful and adhoc delegates who spoke, pledged to work hard and lead the APC to victory in the forthcoming general election.

Mwadkwon commended for constructing classroom block

ENCOMIUMS have been poured on the member representing Barkin Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency and the PDP Senatorial Candidate for Plateau North, Hon. Simon Mwadkwon over the two blocks of three classrooms each constructed by him at BECO Comprehensive High School Kwi, Riyom LGA which were commissioned.

The commendations came from the Gbong Gwom Jos, His Majesty Da Jacob Gyang Buba (CON), Da Gyang Dudu Dalyop, the President of Berom Educational & Cultural

Organization (BECO) Worldwide and the Wunato Besa Group through Da Engr. Tanko Jang.

His Majesty, while commissioning the three classrooms block executed by the Federal Lawmaker described the project as one that would add value to education and impact lives significantly.

He disclosed that the Lawmaker has demonstrated that he is a worthy ambassador who is committed to transforming the citadel of learning.

Da Gyang Dudu, the BECO President Worldwide while commissioning

another block consisting of three classrooms described the lawmaker as "Mr Talk and do" and appreciated him for fulfilling his earlier promise to the School. He said, the classrooms will provide good environment for the learning of future leaders.

Da Engr. Tanko Jang earlier in his speech during the commissioning of the renovated Laboratory block and electrification executed by the Wunato Berom Group at the school lauded the Federal lawmaker for assisting the "Wunato Besa" Group through the projects they have

embarked upon so far.

He called on other illustrious Berom sons and daughters to emulate the lawmaker to achieve the dream of transforming the school to a higher institution.

Dr. Simon Mwadkwon in his remarks said, the decision to undertake the projects was driven by the desire to address the infrastructural deficit being experienced in the school and provide conducive learning environment for the future leaders.

He said, he will be executing another two block of six classrooms for the school.

"Any serious nation must invest hugely in the education sector if it is to compete favorably with the rest of the world. "I will do more in terms of project execution and human capital development aside my constitutional duties as a lawmaker"

The event was well attended by the Gwom Rwey (District Head) of Riyom, His Highness Da Samuel Jok, His Highness Da Paul Tadi Tok, the Gwom Rwey Heipang, His Highness Da Gyang Balak Gutt, the Gwom Rwey Vwang, His Highness Da Dung Kwon Gwom Kwi, Hon. Edward Pwajok SAN, Da Arch. Pam Dung Gyang, Da Dr. Jonah Madugu, Hon. Timothy Dantong, Berom recognized Organizations, other Berom illustrious sons and daughter.

Wase staff commend council chair

By BULUS GAMBO

Staff of Wase Local Government Council have shower accolades on their Executive Chairman, Hon Dr Ado Abubakar Buba over prompt payment of monthly salaries and emoluments.

The staff declared this during an interactive maiden parley organized by the Director of Personnel Management (DPM), chief Meshak Dikorum Musa at the council's chambers.

Chief Dikorum stressed that workers of Wase Local Government Council should reciprocate the good gesture of the Executive Chairman Hon Dr Ado Buba, despite the security threat within the area.

He advised the staff eschew trauncy and always be at their duty post regularly.

The DPM further buttress that all Directors of the department should come

out with schedule of duties by engaging all staff on routine work.

The DPM explained further that promotion of from one grade to another shall be based on examination.

Earlier, in his welcoming speech, the Staff Officer (SO) of the council, Comrade Ibrahim Shehu Mohammed welcomed the newly posted DPM chief Meshak Dikorum Musa to Wase and told him that the staff of Wase are vibrant.

Comrade Ibrahim Shehu called for a good working relationship between Directors and staff.

In his speech, the Chairman Nigeria Union of Local government Employee (NULGE), Comrade Harisu Zakari acquainted the DPM with the determination of the staff with a promised that they will give him maximum support and cooperation.

He further assured him trauncy will be a thing of the past.



Gbong Gwom Jos Da Jacob Bubu Commissioning the classrooms block

News

Gunmen attack Osun LP candidate's home

FORMER Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Governorship Candidate on the platform of Labour Party (LP) Rt, Hon, Lasun Yussuff, was allegedly attacked by some gunmen in his residence in Ilobu, in Irepodun local government area of Osun State Monday.

The former legislator said the armed men shot randomly at his residence.

Lasun, who is the governorship candidate of the Labour Party (LP), did not say if any person was shot or whether properties were destroyed in the shooting.

However, Osun State Police Command said it had begun investigation into the unfortunate attack on the residence of Lasun Yussuf

The police image-maker SP Opelola Yemisi said that the police have received reports on the matter and visited the scene of the incident and had launched a manhunt for the perpetrators of the dastardly act.

It was further gathered that the security agents attached to the building were able to repel the attack with no one injured.

Lasun, who is a former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, was present at the Governorship Debate organised by Channels Television on Sunday night.

Speaking on Monday, one of the aides to the former deputy speaker said that the alleged hoodlums might have been working for a gubernatorial candidate.

According to him, "this is the second time they would unleash such an attacks on our principal. I don't know what they stand to gain."

Meanwhile, as at the time of filling this report, calmness has been restored to the area as sympathisers were seen, visiting the politician.

Meanwhile, the All



Yussuff

Progressives Congress APC has reacted on the attack on the LP candidate.

The Chief Press Secretary to Governor Gboyega Oyetola, Mr Ismail Omipidan, in press conference addressed in Osogbo, Monday, charged security agencies to properly investigate the attack and bring perpetrators to book

Omipidan, who said the reaction become necessary following the allegations by the candidate accusing APC of the alleged attack said Yussuf is never a threat to Oyetola winning elections in July 16.

According to him, "where were the security details attached to the Lasun Yussuff resident, where were they when attackers invaded his house? Why did they not repelled them. This and many more questions beg for answers."

"Lasun Yussuf is not a threat to APC Candidate, why will they attack him for what? I believe it is an arrangement by the complainant to divert people's attention on his plans to perpetrate fraud during

Saturday governorship poll.

Speaking to journalists few minutes after the incident, the LP candidate, who thanked God for sparing his life and that of his family members, said he has been receiving threats messages from unknown persons.

He explained that gun shots lasted for minutes even though there were security at his premises.

The LP candidate said the attack might not be unconnected with his good outings at the recent governorship debates held in the state where he called the capacity of those in position of authority to question on issues bordering on security and governance.

"Subsequent upon the series of governorship debates we had in Osun where I told those in government that people now see them as those who don't understand the act of governance. Since then, I have been receiving warnings But the last attack was beyond intimidation, it is an attempt on my life," Lasun said.

meet all requirements before bringing their works for censorship and classification.

The Co-ordinator of the NYCN, Oshodi Branch, Monsur Ewetade, lauded the NFVCB for its efforts in sensitizing the youths. He maintained that the youths are veritable vehicle for sensitization on the negative effects of hate speech.

Ewetade said there is need for reorientation for the proper use of the media, noting that the awareness to stop sharing and promoting negative content and news should start from 'our homes'. He also said there was urgent need for sanctions on the use of hate speech. Ewetade mentioned that the NYCN has produced a video clip on hate speech and its effects which will be submitted to the Censors Board for vetting and subsequent use to educate Nigerian youths on the negative effects of hate speech.

Alhaji Adedayo Thomas was named the Patron of the NYCN Oshodi branch, for his tremendous support and contributions to the Nigerian youths.



In support of this awareness

Something is about to happen in the country. A new Nigeria is about to happen. Youthful energy and drive are being galvanized and a silent revolution is surely about to take place. Just two Sundays ago, I went to some part of the Jos city to sympathize with a relation who had been involved in an accident. While returning home, it began to rain. As the heavens opened up, I had thought that those struggling to register for their PVC would scamper for shelter so they are not soaked by the rains. To my utter amazement however, no one left the queue nor made for shelter. All of those on the queue remained where they were determined to get registered.

As I was ruminating over the uncommon patriotic zeal, it became obvious that things were about to happen. Considering the age of those who withstood the elements to get registered, it was obvious that change had come. What for example, was responsible for the sudden change in attitude from a segment that had hitherto been nonchalant and uninterested about elections in our country?

Are our political fault lines beginning to close? Are these young and vibrant sector beginning to realise the need to get involved in the running of their country in view of the massive and unfortunate failure of leadership in our clime? Questions which answers are held in the bowels of time. The silent revolution was echoed by Edo State Governor, Godwin Obaseki when he lamented and cautioned that the political elites need to look again at themselves and the way they play politics. He clearly has seen the handwriting and is cautioning his peers on the need to change gear so that the elites would not be swept away by the political tsunami that is raging on and threatening

to explode.

But the signs are ominous even to the blind. So much is at stake for the politics of the country to be left to those who obviously have run out of ideas. Young and vibrant people need to take over the political space just like in other climes. They need to bring in fresh perspectives. They need to adopt technology in achieving their goals and targets which are the in thing now. You can not succeed in a fast moving economy when you are armed with 18th century tools. This is the era of the digital citizens and the digital aliens need to be retired.

It is obvious that nobody gives up power without a fight. But even in fighting, the political elites seem not to have the tools to prosecute the war. The pace at which change is happening is so breathtaking that they are not capable of keeping pace with. Truth be told my generation and those before me have failed those behind us. We have been so selfish that we are eating the tomorrow of our



But the signs are ominous even to the blind. So much is at stake for the politics of the country to be left to those who obviously have run out of ideas. Young and vibrant people need to take over the political space just like in other climes. They need to bring in fresh perspectives. They need to adopt technology in achieving their goals and targets which are the in thing now. You can not succeed in a fast moving economy when you are armed with 18th century tools. This is the era of the digital citizens and the digital aliens need to be retired.

children. We need to tread with caution and tact. Otherwise we risk being forced into retirement. It has started happening and unless we manage the transition well, we would be the losers.

What we lack, the young generation has garnered. They are skilled. They are world citizens. They are aware of what is happening elsewhere. They have technology at their beck and call. Not only that, they are ambitious and willing to try out new things. There is nothing we can do to hold them back but we can manage the transition if we want. We can deliberately put in place measures which would help open new vistas for them. We can make them a part of the efforts at resolving the problems that are threatening to eat up our society and which we have not been able to solve.

ASUU has been on strike and nothing has been done about it in the last six months. Government and stakeholders have failed to find ways of navigating around the problem. In spite of this, new private universities are daily coming on stream in obvious disregard for the children of the poor. These are the kinds of policies that are exposing the elites and are making them vulnerable, yet they seem so stoned headed that they do not see the ominous signs in the horizon.

We must work together to resolve, restore and grow our society together. The world is changing and our elites can not continue to push citizens to the wall like they are doing. What just happened in Sri Lanka is a signpost for others to tow the path of caution. It is often said that if your neighbours house is on fire, you must take measures to contain the fire so that it does not consume your own property.



NFVCB boss urges youths to tap into Nollywood

THE Executive Director of the National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB), Alhaji Adedayo Thomas, has urged Nigerian youths to tap into the tremendous and massive job opportunities that abound in the Nigeria movie industry "Nollywood".

Adedayo made the call during the Media Literacy and Capacity Building programme jointly organised by the NFVCB and the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Oshodi branch for youths and women on "Hate Speech and the Role of Film" in Lagos.

He said: "No matter your career, your services can still be utilized in the Nigerian film industry which is the largest employer of labour globally."

The Executive Director was full of commendation for the phenomenal growth of Nollywood, which has over the years served as a source of employment for many Nigerians.

He pointed out that part of the board's mandate is to constantly engage and educate the public to

understand the activities of the NFVCB and the proper use of the media through its media literacy and sensitisation programmes across the country.

One of the resource persons, a former NFVCB member/veteran actor, Keppy Ekpeyong, while addressing the youths explained how the media influences peoples' daily lives either positively or negatively. He warned the youths against using social media to spread fake news or hate speech, which has a way of rubbing off on the society negatively.

Actress Sola Kosoko, educated the participants on the need for proper use of the social media, noting that it would be advantageous for them to explore the viral 'nature' of the internet to promote their talents and businesses rather than hate.

The Zonal Coordinator of the South West Zone (SWZ), Uju Emagha harped on the regulatory functions of the NFVCB. She encouraged those who wish to come into production to ensure they

News

Lalong receives diaspora biker, Adeyanju

By PALANG KASMI

IN continuation of his advocacy campaign tour on Polio eradication across the country, Kunle Adeyanju, popular Nigerian Biker in diaspora who rode from London to Nigeria has visited Plateau State.

He was received by the state Governor, Simon Bako Lalong and some government officials at Rayfield Golf course Jos.

The biker who expressed excitement to be in Jos said, he was on a mission round the country to encourage Nigerians to ensure they guard against Polio by accessing vaccine to fight the disease and ensure it does not re-occur in the country.

Adeyanju expressed concern that just last week, Polio disease was recorded in the UK, while countries like Malawi, Cote D'Ivoire and Togo still have incidences of the disease.

"Therefore, it is very important for the country to sustain its efforts to permanently kick polio out of Nigeria so that Polio will never return," said a concerned Adeyanju.

Governor Lalong welcomed Adeyanju to the state and congratulated him for embarking on a successful trip from London to the country. He described him as a hero and worthy ambassador of the



Lalong

nation.

The Governor also appreciated his efforts on Polio sensitization and advocacy which will have a positive impact on citizens of the country.

He said, the disease which had done alot of damage to Nigeria took a very long time to be eradicated. Therefore, it will be unwise to allow loopholes that will bring it back on the population.

Lalong assured him of his government's commitment in the fight against Polio, stating further that as a key stakeholder and a member of the Rotary International, he has been supporting the fight against Polio globally.

"The Government of Plateau State will continue to do its best to not only

address Polio related matters, but also handle other diseases that pose a threat to public health and safety" said Lalong.

Lalong also told Adeyanju that his administration has continued to create the right atmosphere for tourism and sports to thrive thereby making it possible for more people to visit Plateau State for leisure and business.

He also used the opportunity to appeal to Adeyanju to use his platform to sensitise outsiders, and send out correct information about Plateau by saying it is not only peaceful but accommodating and investor-friendly based on sustained peace efforts of his Rescue Administration.

KOGI State Police Command has confirmed the kidnap of a businessman and owner of Always Petroleum, Alhaji Mohammed Idris, in Okene.

The Command's Spokesman, SP William Aya told our correspondent in Lokoja that Idris was whisked away by the kidnappers despite spirited efforts by neighbours to resist the abduction. Aya disclosed that the latest development was the

Police confirm petrol dealer abduction

From AMEDU JOSEPH Lokoja

second in less than two years that the businessman would be kidnapped by gunmen.

He was kidnapped in 2019 and only regained his short-lived freedom before Saturday's incident.

A family source, who craved anonymity had earlier told our correspondent that gunmen

with sophisticated weapons stormed the businessman's residence and whisked him away to an unknown destination.

The family source said, the kidnappers beat and tied Idris before taking him away. Idris is the chairman of the North-Central Table Tennis Association.

Aya said, he had no information as to whether any contact had been made with the family but said that efforts had begun to rescue him.

Gopep emerges NCSU Chairman

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

A new leadership has emerged for the Plateau State Chapter of the Nigeria Civil Service Union (NCSU), with Comrade Timothy Sartu Gopep emerging as its elected state Chairman to be deputised by Comrade Benjamin Samson.

Others included Comrade Jonathan R. Mangai as the union's Assistant Secretary and Comrade John Azi as Treasurer. The positions of Auditor and Trustee went to Comrade Christy Bature and Comrade Ronald N. Didel in that order well.

Earlier there was a mild drama shortly after the declaration of 10th Quadrennial Delegates Conference open by the State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, who was represented by the State Head of Service, Engr. Sunday Hyat. However, it later ended in a consensus since all were serving officials and had performed credibly.

Earlier, the National President who was represented by Vice



Gopep

President Zone "D", Comrade Yusuf Sarkin-Iya, advised NCSU Members in the state to vote wisely devoid of religious and tribal sentiments because sentiments kill union activities in every organisation..

He therefore challenged those elected to man the affairs of the Union to be prudent and accountable to members especially when the union's funds are entrusted in them, calling on government to pay civil servants as at when due for them to give back in full their strength and expertise.

On his part, the state Chairman of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Eugene Manji, who was represented by his Treasurer, Comrade John Shirbe, admonished them to always involve the mother body of unions, the NLC in all that they do. And wished them a successful election.

However, the state Head of Civil Service, Engr. Sunday Hyat, who was also represented by State Director

of Labour, Mr. Michael Lamu, congratulated NCSU members, for witnessing yet another Quadrennial Delegates Conference and assured them of Government's resolve to look into all their demands.

Meanwhile, the newly elected State Chairman of NCSU, Comrade Timothy Sartu Gopep, who staged a second comeback, thanked members for the confidence reposed in them saying, "I think my coming back is to consolidate on all our planned programmes that will have impact on the lives of our members."

"The programmes we have will go into sands of time because we have the intention to develop the Club House to have a shopping mall and entertainment around it. That is a huge project and we have discussed with a Chinese company. We will try to see they kick off immediately. We also have organised a Land Loan Scheme for our members and a lot of people have keyed into it", he highlighted.

Keep hope alive in this difficult time - Inyass

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

AN Abuja based Islamic scholar, Sheik Abubakar Sadique Shunaibu Inyass has called on Nigerians to keep hope alive in tackling the difficult situation in the country.

The Sheikh in his Sallah message said, "It is my great honour and privilege

to salute the Muslim faithful on the occasion of Eid-El-Kabir.

The festival of sacrifice is a celebration of Prophet Ibrahim's (AS) absolute faith in the Almighty Allah, a tradition that the noble Prophet Muhammad (SAW) continued with which is being observed annually by Muslims worldwide as an act of worship".

The clergy man said all those that had unleashed Mayhem on innocent citizens should reflect on their atrocities, knowing that others soiled their own name and their family reputation.

Sheikh Abubakar Inyass called on Nigerians to put the interest of the country above self interest and use religion as a motivation for the love of our common humanity.

"In these difficult times, let us be buoyed by faith and retain the hope that together we can make things better. Let us embrace the lessons of sacrifice and uphold peace and goodwill towards all", he stated.

The clergy emphasized that no religion in this country says one should kill his fellow human being because "we are God's property". He added that there is a heavy penalty for killing at the end.

He used the occasion to call on Muslims to reflect on

the significance of the sacrifice epitomized by Eid.

According to him, we should show love and care to our neighbours and others while celebrating this spiritually important event in our lives.

Kogi Monarch honours DG NPC with chieftaincy title

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Director General, National Productivity Centre, (NPC), Dr Kashim Akor has been conferred with a traditional title, Achema Onu Ojoku.

In an enlarged ceremony held at the palace of Onu Ojoku in Ankpa Local Government Area, recently, the royal father described him as a worthy ambassador not only to his immediate community, but Kogi State at large.

He commended Dr

Kashim Akor for his community services, provision of empowerment, skill development and infrastructure to the people of the area.

The royal father particularly lauded the new Achema Onu Ojoku for his creation of seamless employment opportunities, as well as distinctive representation at the federal level over the years.

He used the opportunity to thank him for his numerous interventions to the community, as he also appealed to him to continue in that stride.

Dr Kashim Akor who was

visibly elated over the honor, promised to continue to attract development to Igala land in particular and Kogi State at large.



Kashim



Inyass

Foreign Commentary

Biden, Israel and the Middle East

He may not be a genius, but unlike his predecessor, he is stable. He has also been a consistent and reliable establishment figure for decades, albeit consistently wrong on Israel and the Middle East, where he is expected this week. Marwan Bishara writes



Benjamin Netanyahu, left, looks on as then-US Vice President Joe Biden signs the guest book. Biden says there is a 'moment of opportunity' for peace between Israelis and Palestinians

Israel is the only "western country" where Biden is less popular than Trump, even though his Middle East policy looks a lot like his predecessor's – "the nuclear deal is out, the Saudis are in, and human rights are down". And Israel is, once again, front and centre. If you thought his trip to Saudi Arabia is about Saudi Arabia or oil, think again. The main aim of his trip is to increase Israel's security and deepen its integration in the region.

True, Biden is not the first president to spoil Israel rotten, but there is something much more bizarre about Biden's relationship with Israel. It is sort of a sado-masochistic relationship – the greater the abuse the bigger the schmooze.

During his first visit to the region in 1973, the 30-year-old junior senator from Delaware expressed his love for Israel and admiration for its then-Prime Minister Golda Meir. Bemused by his passion, ideas and offer to help mediate with Egypt, the Israelis scolded young Joe and brushed him off as an inexperienced political lightweight.

Half a century later, Biden is travelling back to the region older, wiser and president of the United States – the world's foremost superpower – but apparently no less submissive to an ever more abusive Israel, alas. He gushes with adoration and adulation for "democratic Jewish Israel", otherwise known as Apartheid, repeating old myths and mantras about its sacrosanct security, while receiving the same dismissive treatment from his Israeli juniors.

In fact, since he took office last year, Israeli leaders repeatedly rebuffed or ignored President

Biden's demands on major issues, including the freezing of illegal settlement expansion and resuming of peace talks towards a two-state solution. They also snubbed him on the immediate issues, rejecting his appeal to de-escalate last year's Gaza war, obstructing his decision to reopen the US consulate in Jerusalem and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) office in Washington, DC and ignoring his request to allow the funeral of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to proceed peacefully.

Israeli soldiers killed Shireen in the morning of May 11, stormed her home in the afternoon and attacked her funeral procession the next day. And yet the Biden administration chose to whitewash the crime of the Israeli military against a Palestinian-American citizen, no less on Independence Day, and provide the Israeli occupation with impunity to carry on.

This reminds me of a photograph of Biden taken last summer showing him kneeling in front of Israel's then-President Reuven Rivlin and his Chief of Staff Rivka Ravitz at the White House after hearing Ravitz is a mother of 12. He meant to be funny, but the image, eh, not so much.

Israel's former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been particularly sadistic towards Biden, his preferred punching bag, over the years.

This was particularly flagrant when the Netanyahu government announced major illegal settlement expansion on the eve of then-Vice President Biden's arrival in Israel in 2010. Yet, Biden continued to confess his love for Netanyahu, becoming his preferred senior channel to the White House as

relations deteriorated over the Iran nuclear deal.

A decade later, in 2021, when now-President Biden privately asked his friend Bibi to wind down the assault on Gaza, he rejected the timid appeal publicly, and vowed not to stop until Israel is satisfied with the results. And even after leaving office, Netanyahu publicly mocked Biden for "falling asleep" during a White House meeting with his replacement. Despite all this, Biden is reportedly planning to meet the former prime minister on his upcoming trip to Israel.

It is as if this commanded-in-chief needs the public humiliation, as he builds a broad coalition against the "Russian threat" and the Chinese "systematic challenge".

It has been suggested that Biden also scolds his Israeli counterparts, only he does it in private. But there is no evidence of such gutsiness, except randomly reported hearsay, and no tangible results even if this is remotely true. But then again, why should any US president take any abuse from a tiny client state, well, unless he actually enjoys it, or perhaps used to it, thanks to the Israel lobby.

Mind you, Biden's schmooze of the Israeli right goes back decades.

In 1984, Biden gave a speech to the radical Herut Zionists' annual convention in New York, along with then-general Ariel Sharon, the architect of the criminal invasion of Lebanon. He took aim at what he called the "three myths" that "propel US policy in the Middle East", namely, "the belief that Saudi Arabia can be a broker for peace, the belief that [Jordan's] King Hussein is ready to negotiate peace, and the belief that the Palestine Liberation Organization

can deliver a consensus for peace".

Well, less than a decade later, the PLO and King Hussein signed peace accords with Israel, and Saudi Arabia supported and attended the 1991 Madrid International Peace Conference with Israelis and Palestinians.

In 2002, Saudi King Abdullah made public his peace plan that later became the historic Arab Peace Plan, offering Israel full recognition in return for full withdrawal from Arab lands occupied in 1967. But Israel rejected it and the US downplayed it.

Driven by political expediency, Biden had opposed the UN-sanctioned first Gulf war to liberate Kuwait, but later supported the illegal and disastrous second Gulf war; one waged against Iraq on false pretence.

In short, Biden's detractors are not wrong to say that he has gotten every major foreign policy decision wrong, even if these critics have proven worse. Fast forward 20 years of American, Israeli, Saudi and Russian wars and disasters. During his presidential campaign, Biden called Saudi Arabia a "pariah" following the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and has treated it accordingly since. But now, under Israeli pressure and guidance, the president is making Saudi Arabia the focus of his appeal to the Arab world. Israel is nudging Biden to sell Saudi Arabia a new, more sophisticated missile system, which it hopes could become part of a US/Israel-led regional integrated missile system meant to contain and confront expansionist Iran.

Such a move could become the operational core of the much-touted future Middle East-NATO. Such an

alliance may be overly ambitious or even utterly wishful, but it could nonetheless serve as a strategic framework for the US and its regional allies – acting as the strategic arm of the US-led Abraham Accords.

With the US military bases or troops stationed in every Gulf country, especially the Fifth Fleet harboured in Bahrain and the US Central Command (CENTCOM) at Al Udeid base in Qatar, bringing Israel into the equation is mainly political. And foolish.

Make no mistake, Israelis will never fight, let alone die, in defence of Gulf security. Ever.

At any rate, Biden's thankless effort to build on the Abraham Accords and further integrate Israel into the Arab region requires the appearance of a balanced bid for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. This necessitates picking up PLO leader Mahmoud Abbas from the Peace Process bin, dusting him off and polishing him well in preparation for a photo op with the president.

There will be excitement, and maybe a joint statement, even pledges of support, but mark my words, at the end of the day, photo op is all it is, and maybe a quick siesta for the two grandpas, before Biden flies out direct to Saudi Arabia, perhaps with an Israeli official on board.

In this theatre of the absurd, Abbas's best opportunity to redeem himself, his "last stand", may be to skip this useless, fruitless photo op altogether, and head straight to the siesta. You never know – a Palestinian snub may be what is needed to exhilarate Joe.

Source: BBC News

Foreign News

Abe: Japanese mourners pay last respect

THE 67-year-old was shot dead on Friday while speaking at a campaign event in the southern city of Nara.

On Tuesday, a hearse carried Abe's body through the capital and past landmarks to the funeral hall where he was then cremated.

A private funeral had been held earlier at the Zojoji temple.

Across Tokyo, flags flew at half mast and outside the temple, a long line of mourners stretched over two blocks, many carrying bouquets.

The hearse travelled past the headquarters of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) before making its way to the prime minister's residence, where PM Fumio Kishida and other lawmakers received the motorcade.

After that it passed the parliament building, where Abe first entered as a lawmaker in 1993, before arriving at the Kirigaya Funeral Hall.

Shinzo Abe's funeral was supposed to be a private affair, closed to all but family and friends. But Japan's public had decided otherwise.

From early yesterday morning they began lining up outside the giant Zojoji temple in central Tokyo to lay flowers at the small table set out to one side of the main complex.

The weather forecast was heavy thunder showers, but as the funeral service began inside the crowds on the streets outside only grew larger.

By 14:30 (06:30 GMT) there were tens of thousands of people lining the streets all the way from the Zojoji to the Parliament building at Nagatacho.

I was standing in the crowd outside the Prime Minister's office. As the funeral cortege drove towards us, a hush fell across the crowd, and all you could hear was the news helicopters circling above.

People bowed to Mrs Abe, sitting in the front of the hearse, holding her husband's funeral tablet. Behind me people began to sob loudly. Then some shouted out. "Abe-San, thank you so much".

A few seconds later the hearse was gone. A middle-aged woman behind me was dabbing her eyes with a handkerchief.

Shinzo Abe was undoubtedly a divisive and controversial figure. His views on the history of World War Two were often troubling.

But to the crowds of Japanese who turned out to say goodbye to him today, "Abe-San" was just the best prime minister they'd known.

Abe was Japan's longest-serving post-war prime minister and one of its most influential politicians. And his death has sent shockwaves through a nation where incidences of gun violence are extremely rare.

Police said the gunman



Abe

targeted Abe due to grievances he had with a religious group that he believed Abe was a part of. But they are still investigating what the gunman's motives were and whether he acted alone.

The hearse went to the PM's office where politicians paid their respects.

A vigil held on Monday evening drew hundreds of dignitaries as well as thousands of ordinary

Japanese citizens who came to lay flowers.

Abe's death drew an outpouring of shock from prominent world leaders, with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemning the shooting as a "despicable attack".

US President Joe Biden called Prime Minister Kishida to express his "outrage, sadness and deep condolences", and called the assassination "a tragedy for Japan".

World population to hit 8bn on Nov. 15 — UN

THE UN has announced that the world's population is projected to reach eight billion on Nov. 15.

The information is in a statement released on Monday in New York by the UN to mark the 2022 World Population Day (WPD).

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that WPD was established by the Governing Council of the UN Development Programme in 1989. It is an

annual event observed on July 11 to raise awareness on global population issues.

The day has "A World of 8 billion: Towards a Resilient Future for All —Harnessing Opportunities and Ensuring Rights and Choices for All" as its theme for 2022.

In a statement issued by the Media Associate of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in Nigeria, Hajiya Kori Habib to NAN in Abuja on Monday, the

TENS of thousands of Sri Lankan protesters have been occupying the President's House, the presidential secretariat and the prime minister's official residence in growing anger over the island nation's unprecedented economic crisis.

The chaos began on Saturday when angry Sri Lankans stormed the official residence of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a 73-year-old member of the powerful Rajapaksa clan whom protesters blame for the country's worst economic crisis since 1948. expected to officially resign on Wednesday. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has also offered to quit once an interim all-party government being discussed among the political parties to resolve the crisis is formed.

However, protesters have rejected an all-party government and said they will not vacate the government buildings until the president and the prime minister officially resign.

Most protesters do not want the Sri Lanka Podujana Party (SLPP) controlled by the Rajapaksas to be a part of an all-party government.

Melani Gunathilake, 35, said the protest leaders strongly oppose an all-party government, a move in her view for the "Rajapaksa cartel" to control the government from behind the scenes.

An Action Plan released by the protesters on July 5 lays out six key demands, including the formation of a People's Council from the members of "Janatha Aragalya" (People's Struggle) that oversees the political transition in the country.

Establishing a new constitution that endorses people's sovereignty during the term of an interim government is among the key demands of the protest movement.

Mohamed said some representatives of the protest movement are scheduled to meet the political parties and trade

Sri Lanka protesters reject all-party gov't



Wickremesinghe

unions later on Tuesday.

While there is no leadership structure or a single organisation representing the mostly young protesters, the Inter University Student Union, widely regarded as the student wing of the left-wing Frontline Socialist Party, and the Socialist Youth Union affiliated to Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), among others, are playing a leading role in the Janatha Aragalya.

The interim government should make necessary reforms and pave the way for a new generation to take control of their future through a snap general election, Eranga Gunasekara of the Socialist Youth Union.

According to the Sri Lankan constitution, if both the president and the prime minister resign, the parliament's speaker takes over the presidency. Current Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene is a

relative of the Rajapaksas.

Vimukthi Dushyantha, 29, of the Black Cap movement says while there is consensus among protesters on some issues, there is no common set of demands as the protest leaders differ on other issues.

Dushyantha is of the opinion that the interim government should amend the constitution to reform the all-powerful executive presidency and bring immediate measures to ease people's pain caused by the economic crisis.

Since 1978, Sri Lanka has been ruled under an executive presidential system. A reformist government in 2015 stripped the presidency of much of its powers and gave them to the parliament.

In October 2020, less than a year after becoming the president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, with the help of his elder brother, then-Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, moved an amendment in parliament, giving himself sweeping powers.

Dushyantha says it might take longer than expected to appoint a replacement for Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the current system to replace the head of state is "quite complicated".

Echoing the demands of the Action Plan, he also stressed the need for "some sort of a role" for the protest movement within the interim government.

Gunathilake said she does not want to contest the next election but she expects many among the protest movement to be legislators in the next parliament.

The Action Plan also urges the need "to eradicate racism and racial oppression" and to "strengthen the relevant legal foundations that affirm the equality of religion, language, sexuality, and other cultural identity as well as democracy and political freedom".

Gunathilake said the country's rulers were using racism as part of their "divide-and-rule" strategy to divert attention from corruption, rights abuses and mismanagement of the economy.

Sri Lanka for decades saw a bloody civil war with minority Tamils demanding a separate state in the north. The rebellion was brutally crushed in 2009 by then-President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Gotabaya as his defence secretary.

Since then, the Buddhist-majority country has witnessed hate attacks on Muslims who form less than 10 percent of the island's population.

Gunathilake hoped a new generation of Sri Lankans will set an example to the world on people's power in a post-Rajapaksa Sri Lanka.

The settlements, which are fortified, Jewish-only housing complexes, are continuing to expand in the occupied West Bank as well as occupied East Jerusalem. They are seen as a major obstacle to any potential deal with Israel.

UN to extend Syria aid for six months

THE UN Security Council looks set to approve a six-month extension to



Assad

humanitarian aid deliveries across the Turkish border which are seen as crucial to people in northwestern Syria.

The United Nations Security Council looks set to continue crucial cross-border aid to millions of people in northwestern Syria until January, according to diplomats, after days of wrangling with Russia over the huge operation.

The 15-member Security Council is expected to vote on the draft resolution for a six-month extension — put forward by Ireland and Norway and echoing a Russian text — on Tuesday.

The operation to deliver food, medicine and shelter to the opposition-controlled area of Syria began in 2014 but expired on Sunday. It needs council approval to continue because it does not

have the support of the Syrian authorities.

The United States, France and the United Kingdom have argued six months is not long enough for aid groups to plan and operate effectively, but a proposal for a one-year extension, which was supported by 13 council members, was vetoed by Russia on Friday.

Russia says the UN aid operation violates Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity and that more assistance should be delivered from inside the country. It earlier put forward a draft for a six-month extension, which the council rejected.

A resolution needs nine votes and no vetoes by Russia, China, the US, France or the UK in order to pass.

The humanitarian operation was initially

delivered from Iraq, Jordan and two points in Turkey, but Russia and China have gradually whittled that down to the single crossing at Bab al-Hawa on the Turkish-Syria border.

The latest Irish-Norwegian text provides for a renewal in January 2023 for another six months, subject to the adoption of a new resolution. It also requires a briefing every two months on the implementation of the system and calls for a special report on humanitarian needs in the region to the UN secretary-general by December 10.

While a lifeline to people in Idlib, the aid operation has long been a contentious issue, but Crisis Group UN Director Richard Gowan said Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February had "complicated negotiations on Syria this year".

Feature

Census, a panacea for national development

Following the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari for the National Population and Housing Census to conduct another census in 2023, the commission has intensified preparations to give the nation a first digital census. The commission has also trained 13,461 enumerators and supervisors across the 36 states, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja to carry out a census trial in 7,718 selected enumeration areas of 285 Local Government Areas in the federation to test their machinery and procedures in the mini-census trial. The result would ascertain the capacity and readiness of the commission to conduct the census on a full national scale. HOSEA NYAMLONG Writes

CENSUS is an official survey of the population of a country that is carried out in order to find out how many people live and to obtain details of certain people's ages, jobs, houses, firms and other important items in a country at a particular time.

The National Population Commission's (NPC), mandates are many but many citizens think that the commission only conducts population census. The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Section 24 of the third schedule of the 1999 Constitution as amended gives the commission the mandate to undertake the enumeration of the population of Nigeria periodically, through censuses and sample surveys, to establish and maintain machinery for continuous and universal registration of births and deaths throughout the Federation.

Again, the commission's responsibility is to advise the president on population matters, to publish and provide information on data, population for the purpose of facilitating economic and development planning.

They appoint and train enumerators/staff of the commission to conduct a periodic survey such as the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), Nigeria Education Data Survey (NED's), Internal Migration Surveys, Nigeria Malaria Indicator Survey (MICS), Sentinel Survey, Nigeria HIV prevalence etc.

Similarly, it would be recalled that Nigeria conducted the last census in 2006 and between that time and now, the dynamics of population shift has occurred in phenomenal proportions eliciting the demand for another demographic data. Nigeria is desirable to leap into having an accurate, reliable and acceptable census data capturing that would help in further planning in the country.

On this note, the commission is preparing for the best census ever with the aid of modern digital technology developed by the commission to carry out the process of census taking in the country. With a machine called the Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), which would collect data from responders in an electronic form of a questionnaire. Responses to the questions would be imputed electronically and transmitted directly to a central server in real time.

Therefore, the storage of the



Kwarra



Dapoet

data captured digitally would be automatically be saved and this information can be easily retrieved and use at any time.

Recently, the Chairman of the commission, Alh. Nasir Isa Kwarra, in a press briefing to mark the end of a 12 days training workshop organised for ad-hoc staff, enumerators and supervisors for the census trial scheduled to take place in 7,718 enumeration areas of 285 Local Government Areas across the 36 States of the federation, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), added that the commission was marking another milestone in its effort to provide Nigeria with a quality data for national planning and development.

He said that to achieve this success, the recruitment of

quality manpower is very vital to this project. The commission has budgeted for the services of 1.2 million ad-hoc staff for the general census next year 2023.

A total of 13,461 ad-hoc staff were trained to be engaged nationwide for the purpose of the census trial to be conducted in the selected enumeration areas to test the authenticity of their machinery and procedures in preparation to next year 2023 census in April. Kwarra pointed out that all the activities of the enumerators at the field would be closely monitored at the situation room at the Headquarters to ensure that the needful during done in the mini census.

Earlier before the commencement of the census trial training for the ad-hoc staff

that ended recently, the Federal Commissioner, representing Plateau State, Hon. Mrs. Cecilia Dapoet, has embarked on a Town Hall Meeting in the 3 Senatorial zones of the state, to meet with Traditional rulers, Community leaders, Stakeholders, Youth leaders to sensitize and educate them on the forthcoming census trial that would be conducted in their localities and to discuss the way forward towards making the exercise a success.

Out of the 17 Local Government Areas in Plateau State, only 9 Local Government Areas were selected for the census trial to be carried out. The Northern zone comprised of Jengre in Bassa LGA, Jarawan Kogi in Jos East LGA and Gindin Akwati in Barkin-Ladi LGA.

Central zone, Mangun in Mangu LGA, Daffo in Bokkos LGA and Chip in Pankshin LGA while in the Southern zone, are Panwasa in Shendam LGA, Njak in Namu, Qua'an-Pan LGA and Pilgani in Langtang North LGA.

Plateau State commission has trained a total of 104 ad-hoc staff who shall be assigned to the 46 enumeration areas within the 3 Senatorial zones for the exercise which would commence from July 11 to 19, 2022 and the enumeration of persons would commence from July 20 to 24, while the final mop up of enumeration areas would be done between July 25 and 30.

In addition, the enumerators would move within the affected communities to number buildings, list households and to enumerate all persons.

Dapoet maintained that the commission was determined and committed to the success of the 2023 census and this can only be achieved with the support of all the citizens and other critical stakeholders like the media, security agencies, traditional rulers, local government authorities, community leaders, community development associations and vigilante groups etc.

Census is an important matter that the public deserves to have an adequate knowledge and understanding about, because the data would not only be useful to the government, but other research institutions and researchers would need the information for further studies.

It is believed that with the recent success recorded at the last Enumeration Area Demarcation, (EAD) exercise which was conducted in 772 Local Government Areas in the country; it is a litmus test for a credible and reliable census result at the end of the exercise by 2023 God's willing.

To this end, the government can only rely on the data of the NPC to ascertain their development plans for the country and its citizens, because many developed nations have used census data to manage and utilize their resources for the betterment and welfare of the citizenry.

It is very crucial at this point that the census is an important exercise for the nation to generate the data that would be used for policy-making, planning, development for the three tiers of government and the private sector.

It is believed that with the recent success recorded at the last Enumeration Area Demarcation, (EAD) exercise which was conducted in 772 Local Government Areas in the country; it is a litmus test for a credible and reliable census result at the end of the exercise by 2023 God's willing. To this end, the government can only rely on the data of the NPC to ascertain their development plans for the country and its citizens, because many developed nations have used census data to manage and utilize their resources for the betterment and welfare of the citizenry. It is very crucial at this point that the census is an important exercise for the nation to generate the data that would be used for policy-making, planning, development for the three tiers of government and the private sector.

EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Ways to stop decrease in bone density

WHEN you break a bone as a kid, it's no big deal – you get a cast, your friends sign it, and in a few weeks you're all healed up. As you get older, your bones weaken, and your body doesn't bounce back from an injury the way it used to. Instead, a small fall that once resulted in a scraped knee could lead to a broken arm or hip.

Osteoporosis is a serious medical condition when your bones begin to lose density as you age.

Your Risk of Osteoporosis

As you get older, your risk of osteoporosis increases. According to the International Osteoporosis Foundation, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men will experience an osteoporotic fracture after the age of 50.

For women, your risk of developing osteoporosis is significantly higher around the time of menopause. During menopause, your body goes through many changes – including a drop in your estrogen levels.

"In addition to the role estrogen plays in reproduction and the development of sexual characteristics, it also helps to keep your bones strong." "When these levels drop, your bones can become more brittle and make you more at risk for fractures."

Keeping Bones Strong

While osteoporosis is more common in women older than 65, it is still important to keep your bones healthy throughout your lifetime to slow bone loss.

Quit bad habits. Certain lifestyle habits can affect your bone health. Smoking and frequently consuming alcohol can both decrease your bone density. Cutting these habits out of your life is not only good for your bones but is also good for your overall health and well-being.

Try weight-bearing exercises. Staying active is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Include a variety of types of workouts into your routine to



get your whole body into shape. Weight-bearing activities – such as walking, tennis and aerobics – can help maintain bone mass.

Get more nutrients. Calcium and vitamin D are essential for building strong bones. It is recommended that women younger than 50 should get 1,000 mg of calcium and 800 International Units (IU) of vitamin D per day. Women older than 50 need 1,200 mg of calcium and 1,000 IU of vitamin D. Try eating

foods that are good sources of calcium such as milk, cheese, certain kinds of fish and green leafy vegetables. Many breads and cereals are fortified with vitamin D, as well. If you worry your diet isn't providing enough of these nutrients, talk to your doctor about taking a supplement or consulting with a dietitian for a nutrition plan.

Schedule a bone density scan. A bone density scan is a low-dose X-ray of your hips and spine that measures the calcium and other minerals in your bones. While it is recommended to routinely start screening at age 65, your doctor may suggest earlier bone density screenings if you're at high risk because of family history or long-term use of medications that decrease bone density, such as corticosteroids.

Osteoporosis has very serious effects that often aren't spotted unless you have a bone density scan or break a bone.

If you're a woman over 50 who has fractured a bone before, or if you are 65 and haven't broken a bone or had a bone density test before, talk to your doctor about being referred to a bone health clinic. Meeting with a bone health expert can help you identify factors that could increase your risk of osteoporosis. A treatment plan can be put together for you based on your initial bone health evaluation..

Source: **FeelWell**



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Parenting

Learn to discipline children the right way

By **BETH ROYBAL**

HOW can you provide discipline to your child so that they can function well at home and in public? Every parent wants their children to be happy, respectful, respected by others, and able to find their place in the world as well-behaved adults. Nobody wants to be accused of raising a spoiled brat.

Discipline is the process of teaching your child what type of behavior is acceptable and what type is not acceptable. In other words, discipline teaches a child to follow rules. Effective discipline uses many different tools, like positive reinforcement, modeling, and a loving and supportive family. Sometimes, punishments are also an effective tool-but that doesn't mean that good discipline is mostly about punishments.

Parents run up against barriers when trying to teach good behavior.

Your responsibility as a parent is to help your child become self-reliant, respectful, and self-controlled. Relatives, schools, churches, therapists, health care professionals, and others can help. But the primary responsibility for discipline rests with parents.

An authoritative parent has clear expectations and consequences and is affectionate toward their child. The authoritative parent allows for flexibility and collaborative problem solving with the child when dealing with behavioral challenges. This is the most effective form of parenting.

Discipline Techniques

What you choose may depend on the type of inappropriate behavior your child displays, your child's age, your child's temperament, and your parenting style.

Reward good behavior: Acknowledging good behavior is the best way to encourage your child to continue it. In other words, "Catch him being good." Compliment your child when they show the behavior you've been seeking.

Natural consequences: Your



child does something wrong, and you let the child experience the result of that behavior. There's no need for you to "lecture." The child can't blame you for what happened.

Logical consequences: This technique is similar to natural consequences but involves describing to your child what the consequences will be for unacceptable behavior. The consequence is directly linked to the behavior.

Taking away privileges: Sometimes there isn't a logical or natural consequence for a bad

behavior -- or you don't have time to think it through. In this case, the consequence for unacceptable behavior may be taking away a privilege. For example, if a middle schooler doesn't complete their homework on time, you may choose to take away television privileges for the evening. This discipline technique works best if the privilege is:

- Related in some way to the behavior
- Something the child values
- Taken away as soon as possible after the inappropriate behavior (especially for young children)

Time outs: Time outs work if you know exactly what the child did wrong or if you need a break from the child's behavior. Be sure you have a time-out location established ahead of time.

Time outs often work best with younger kids for whom the separation from the parent is truly seen as a deprivation.

Corporal (physical) punishment, such as spanking, isn't recommended.

Tips for Maintaining Discipline

Guide your discipline techniques to fit well with your child's temperament. The key to effective discipline is to understand who your child is, especially their temperamental style, and use your discipline to help them achieve their potential given those talents and tendencies. But your goal should not be to turn them into someone they are not.

Communicate your discipline

plan. Discipline techniques shouldn't come "out of the blue," especially if you're trying something new. To children who are old enough to understand, during a planned discussion (not in the heat of the moment) explain the technique, why you are using it, and what you hope it will accomplish. Older children may be included in choosing which rewards and consequences would be appropriate.

Be respectful of your child. If you show your child respect -- even when disciplining your child -- your child is more likely to respect you, other family members, and other people in their life. If you "lose it" or overreact with disrespect, apologize. Behave the way you want your child to behave.

Be consistent. Any technique will fail if you don't follow through or enforce consequences consistently. If you say, for example, that toys will be off limits for a week, then take them away if the offending behavior continues.

Don't break your discipline rules by giving in during public exhibitions of bad behavior, such as a child throwing a tantrum while shopping. If you give in to the child's demands, the tantrums will continue.

Try to keep your goals and your techniques consistent over time. If more than one adult is responsible for the child's discipline, be sure you agree about the approaches you will use.

When it's done, it's done. After the consequence is over or the time has been served, don't ask for apologies or continue to lecture about the behavior. Help your child return to an appropriate activity.

Look for the "why" behind behaviors. If you notice a pattern of inappropriate behavior, part of the solution is to look for "whys." For example, perhaps your child is upset about something else, such as a friend moving away. Maybe your child had a bad day at school. Perhaps your child feels stressed about family problems. Maybe they are tired or hungry.

These explanations don't excuse the behavior, but trying to understand why it happens can help you and your child find ways to prevent it from happening again and again.

Know When and Where to Go for Help

Give yourself a break. Even if you have the best discipline techniques and parenting style, there are some days when nothing seems to work. Or perhaps you've had a bad day, too. Developing skills for positive discipline takes a lot of practice and a lot of time. If you feel you have made a mistake, be honest. Apologize to your child and explain how you plan to change your response the next time.

There may be times when you don't know what to do to next. Or you may not know how to change from what you're doing now to something that will be more effective.



Editorial

Is Nigeria ripe for a single faith ticket?

NIGERIA nay Nigerians have in recent times experienced some of the most difficult moments in the history of the country. Apart from insurgencies which have ravaged most Northern parts of the country, kidnapping and other forms of insecurity have become the order. As if that is not enough, the living standards of the people has plummeted and is at its lowest and minders of the economy seem to be bereft of ideas to turn things around.

COUPLED with these myriads of problems, the political situation in the country has not helped matters as the political elites have done very little to convince the populace that it has set out to engage and pursue the interest of the larger society. The actions of these political players have caused not only trust issues between them and the rest of the people but it has further widen the divide between them. It is these issues and those of survival that have widen the frontiers of relationships between the disparate groups that make up Nigeria.

SINCE the return to democracy, Nigeria has not had it so bad. The country has defied all development logics and indices because of resort to base sentiments in the conduct of its affairs. Religion seems to define and drive us as a people and these sentiments are carried into the political space affecting policy formulations and thereby dwarfing growth and development. Religious wars became our badge of honour and when it is convenient, we deploy it to achieve our set goals. Churches and other worship centres became targets and we never adhered to the secularity which our constitution upholds.

IT is against this background that the recent selection of the running mate of the APC Presidential flagbearer is viewed. That the country is not ripe for a single faith ticket can be located on the trust issues which have created a wide gap between the various religions. Are we for instance ready to accommodate each other when at the slightest provocation we proclaim a jihad on people of other faiths?

THOUGH the media space has been inundated by claims that the 1993 single faith ticket was a signpost of our maturity. But can we in all sincerity compare 1993 with 2022? In between these years how many religious upheavals have we witnessed? How have our leaders reacted to these upheavals? Have they risen above their parochial interest to point the way for the rest to follow? All we have had since the withdrawal of the military is the religionisation, regionalization and the ethnicisation of everything we do. Even though we cannot deny that there are few and shrill voices that have spoken up, we however, lack the patriotic zeal to stand up when it matters the most. The rumblings from the various segments of our society are indications that all is not well and that something needs to be done fast to bring back hope to a deeply fractured society.

HOWEVER, the onus rest on the voting populace to validate whatever any party standard bearer selects. They have the final say come February 2023 when the elections would hold. It is up to Nigerians to evaluate the choices presented them. If Nigerians feel comfortable with a single faith ticket they can go ahead and validate it, if not they can show their resentment for such an arrangement by voting for an option which happens to be available for the unity and indivisibility of the country.

ACCORDING to data, Nigeria is a country of the young with almost half the entire 180 million strong populations, 46percent, currently under the age of 15.7million babies are born. While a little over one in three of Nigerians population lives below the poverty line, among children, this proportion surges to 75percent.

Nigeria is the eighth most populous country in Africa with over 200million populace, accounts for 20% of all global maternal deaths with a daunting maternal mortality and terrorism.

The Boko Haram humanitarian crisis has led to over 37,500 deaths with 2.4million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Adamawa, Yobe and Gombe predominantly leading to physical and food insecurity. The deleterious effect of conflict on maternal and child health has a broad expanse such as lack of shelter, safe and sanitary facilities, food shortage, lack of health care personnel and reduced access to quality health services. Socio-economic inequalities such as maternal, education, sanitary conditions and family health are non existent in these areas. It is paramount to buttress on the aspect of insecurity as it affects maternal and child health of the population.

There is need for Nigerian government to pay attention to this region in timely manner. Essential health services should be improved in those regions, funding should be allocated in abating conflicts and insecurity in Northern Nigeria.



Insecurity: The challenge of women and children

Some of the insecurity includes bombing, suicide bomb attack, sporadic shootings of unarmed and innocent citizens, burning of police stations, churches, kidnapping of school girls and women etc kidnapping, rape, armed robbery and political crisis, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta Militants, alongside the attacks carried out by Fulani herdsmen on some communities in the North and South have been another major insecurity facing the country.

Nigeria has been included among one of the terrorist countries of the world. Many lives and properties have been lost and a large number of citizens rendered homeless.

Families have lost their love ones. Many women are now widows. Children become orphans with no hope of the future.

The Nigerian military should be empowered with more sophisticated arms to fight this insurgency. Government should beef up security in the eastern and southern parts of the country to curb the menace of insecurity. Crazing grounds and ranches should be built in all states of the country for Fulani herdsmen who rear cattle. All is in a bid to curb the senseless killing and attacks; peace is as veritable tool to embrace.

By AJIJI AJANG JOHN, Jos
Email: ajang.ajiji@yahoo.com

On digging and laying of Airtel cables

THE ongoing laying of Airtel cables in and around Jos metropolis is a thing of great concern as drainages have been filled with sand dug by the labourers.

Now that the rains are in full throte, it will be dangerous because these activities can cause flooding, since drainages which are suppose to serve as channels for free flow of water are ironically blocked.

The labourers should be guided by those in authority so that dropping the dug sand at the surface where the cables are laid should be avoided.

Permit me to also observe that this constant digging side by side the drainage system might weaken the base of the drainages

and might collapse. Therefore, I want to use this opportunity to draw the attention of the government and the management of Airtel to proffer a better alternative to avoid the waste that it might cause because, it would cost government another money to reconstruct these drainages if quick action is not taken to address that.

In as much as this action could be a source of revenue generation to the state, it is also important for government to give condition to whoever comes to lay similar cables in the state. Yes, the essence of laying these cables is to enhance

effective network distribution across the state but the activities should not in turn destroy what government has spent so much on.

To the authority of Airtel, it would be wise to lay their cables as soon as the ground is being dug, it should be covered immediately. This is because, first, it might cause them additional money when rains come. Secondly, it will also reduce the cost of labour to the organization because when they allow it to be covered by rains, definitely, another set of labourers must be needed to dig and lay the cables.

Gohii Tuwan Jos North.

Standard Cartoon



Opinion

By SESUGH AKUME

Decisions have consequences

A week ago on 17 June, the Supreme Court of Nigeria in the matter of Lagos State government v Asiyat AbdulKareem (a minor), a case pursued for up to a decade right from the High Court of Lagos, the Supreme Court in summary allowed schoolchildren in public to wear the hijab as part of their uniform in exercising their rights to freedoms of religion, thought and conscience, freedom from discrimination, etc.

Others thought the judgment was mistaken and/or had other implications and spoke out about it, one of whom was my friend, Malcolm Omirhobo. In his article 2 days later entitled, 'Hijab: Why the Supreme Court Erred', he made the point about the secularity of the Nigerian state and the implications of the appearance making one religion above others, and what it would look like if every religious adherents wanted their religions reflected in their appearances as well, including professional outfits!

On Thursday, he shocked everyone when he appeared at the Supreme Court robed as a lawyer but reflecting his traditional religion. He may be communicating something others may miss.

Years ago, I followed arguments in the US of keeping the monuments of 10 Commandments in court houses, schools, legislative buildings and other such public buildings for reasons the proponents gave. Some even offered to fund the process from their pockets. The evangelical Christian groups insisted that America was founded on Judeo-Christian principles which must reflect in their public life.

One day, I got the shock of my life when members of the Satanist Temple unveiled an image of an idol Baphomet, a rather grotesque humanoid statue, half goat-half

human with wings and horns, and insisted on placing in front of a legislative buildings where the statues the 10 Commandments were.

Their message was simple: what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. If Christians (or Jews) want the 10 Commandments which is a symbol of their religions, they as citizens too deserved to place a symbol of their own religion/belief system, or else leave it neutral to accommodate everybody. And if anybody felt uneasy, uncomfortable with their 'idol', such was their own feeling every single day having symbols of another religion dominating public buildings. The message sank, at least for me.

What Chief Omirhobo did on Thursday has had the same shock effect beyond his writing. Some reports say the Supreme Court justices upon seeing him looked at each other, and quietly took a recess. The shock. The unpredictability.

It was what he warned about. If we all want our religions reflected in our professional appearances where will this end?

It's why I'm now one hundred percent for secularism in public life, and advocate for religion to be personal and private. After all, religion in Nigeria hasn't had the positive effect it should, if we want to be honest

In the US Supreme Court is an image of Prophet Muhammad. An embossed sculpture in the courtroom. His image is among the pantheon of the greatest lawgivers in the history of mankind, his along with Moses, Solomon, Confucious, Hammurabi, Justinian, Menes, Charlemagne, Augustus, Blackstone, and other historical figures, 18 of them.

Six decades after this was completed, a coalition of 15 Muslim groups, the Council of American-Islamic Relations, in 1997 quietly wrote the US Supreme Court to have his image removed. They appreciated the kind gesture and honour of considering the prophet among the leading lawgivers even in the secular world, and so forth but insisted that having his image was against the teachings and practice of Islam, and unappreciated.

The US Supreme Court received their concerns and appreciated their approach but declined removing the image for reasons that they gave. Though some concessions were made. Afterwards, some Islamic leaders thought about it and said it was okay to have the image there, (even if it is unislamic).

One reason was the thought given to it and the reasons adduced at the time, noting that in that era America wasn't as diverse as it is today, or had as many Muslims yet the Court in its wisdom thought it wise to have that image, and it should be seen in that light.

To be sure, I'm unbothered by whether females choose to wear the hijab, or any form of clothing they prefer in their private lives. Even on

their professional lives modest modifications to suit preferences don't bother me. Personally, I don't think it should be an issue. It doesn't affect me in any way. Same applies to the men.

However, in Nigeria once these things start they never end but only keep getting worse. In March this year, the inspector-General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba, attempted go alter the uniform of police women to reflect the hijab in police uniform. To be sure, the Nigeria Police has been ranked the worst in the world. The police are undertrained, underpaid, underequipped, insecurity is on the rise the life of the Nigerian is cheap, and of all these raging issue, the major concern of the Inspector-General of Police is outward appearance of Muslim police women. Why introduce issues religion into the police? On this too Chief Omirhobos in court.

Tomorrow someone else with a loose screw in the head would say the hijab is not a mere head covering but is supposed to be a loose gown covering the hands up to the wrists and ankles length, then would begin another series of

alterations of the uniforms of our military, police and paramilitary service. Where will it stop?

Others have asked what if all religions decided to have their appearance reflected in professional appearances how chaotic would it be? Instead of asking us to imagine, Omirhobo demonstrated on Thursday.

Decisions have consequences and the Supreme Court decision no less. Where the floodgates it might have opened for others to also agitate for their own religions to reflect everywhere else the dominant Christianity and Islam hold sway today leads, would be seen in the coming days, weeks and months.

Personally, I'd rather the status quo were maintained, as we put a pause on this religious thing, and left it to be personal and private, as religion in public life brings us more harm than good. Not clearly separating 'church and state', and keeping the former personal and private is going to be the undoing of us all.

Sesugh Akume, a public policy analyst, wrote from Abuja. He is reached via sesugh.akume@gmail.com.

"However, in Nigeria once these things start they never end but only keep getting worse. In March this year, the inspector-General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba, attempted go alter the uniform of police women to reflect the hijab in police uniform. To be sure, the Nigeria Police has been ranked the worst in the world. The police are undertrained, underpaid, underequipped, insecurity is on the rise the life of the Nigerian is cheap, and of all these raging issue, the major concern of the Inspector-General of Police is outward appearance of Muslim police women. Why introduce issues religion into the police? On this too Chief Omirhobos in court."

By ALIKOR VICTOR

Strike: Why ASUU should share some blame

ongoing strike.

Since 2007 till date, the eminent personalities of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and Professor Yemi Osibanjo, former members of ASUU, have been President and Vice President of Nigeria respectively. Yet, there has been no sustainable solution to the challenges bedevilling the education sector.

Presumably, before their emergence in the country's two most influential positions of authority, they once criticised the government for handling the education sector or probably canvassed for transforming the education sector in their manifestos. They knew the challenges faced by universities more than anyone but failed to address the issues prompting the strike actions. If two academic dons who were former members of ASUU have not been able to address ASUU's demands as President and Vice Presidents, I wonder what could be their excuses?

There have been examples of professors

who were governors and ministers with no clear legacies or blueprint in the education sector. When academic dons become politicians, they become distracted; they sometimes act like politicians rather than real experts with a penchant for a sustainable solution.

From 1960 to date, Nigeria has had 51 ministers of education and ministers of state for education. Interestingly, 23 of these were teachers at different levels before their appointment; 15 read educational courses in the university and colleges of education, while 11 have been seasoned educational administrators or university dons (professors or senior lecturers).

Professors and lecturers are used as returning officers during general elections at the national, state, zonal and local government levels. However, few have been accused and caught indulging in electoral malpractice to favour politicians. ASUU members have aided in enthroning Nigeria's current crop of bad leaders, which is largely responsible for these leaders' inability to honour agreements with ASUU. There has been a growing disdain for the ASUU strike recently. ASUU has lost public support each time they chose to embark on a strike, only to call off the strike after a few billions have been released for their earned academic allowance (EAA). At the same time, others remain a promise for the future that the government may never fulfill.

There have been cases of university lecturers who trade grades for sex. While some award undeserving grades to students in exchange for money, with multiple examples on many campuses in Nigeria. The government, addressing the

genuine funding and welfare needs of university lecturers will not end this ugly trend. Many university vice-chancellors have their children in foreign universities and have failed to give valid accounts for the little sum of money from the government and internally generated revenue. Accusations and counter-accusations of corruption and financial recklessness have come against university administrators who are equal members of ASUU. Several university managements in Nigeria have banned or "killed" student union activities that have the responsibility to protect their students' interests. At the same time, ASUU remains a formidable force that fights to protect the welfare of lecturers in Nigeria.

While all the demands of ASUU in 2009 and the MOU of 2013 are very genuine and essential, there is a need for the union to internally re-evaluate its actions and contribution to Nigeria's education sector's decay. There might be a need for some selected student leaders to be at the negotiation table and observe proceedings and understand the actual position of things. A multi-sourced financing system remains the only sustainable solution to end the incessant ASUU strike and ensure Nigerian universities have access to more funds to become globally competitive. The government must show a high level of sincerity and do all that should be done to get our universities to a world-class standard and ensure students return to school.

Alikor Victor is a development economist & policy analyst at the Nextier Group.

"Presumably, before their emergence in the country's two most influential positions of authority, they once criticised the government for handling the education sector or probably canvassed for transforming the education sector in their manifestos. They knew the challenges faced by universities more than anyone but failed to address the issues prompting the strike actions. If two academic dons who were former members of ASUU have not been able to address ASUU's demands as President and Vice Presidents, I wonder what could be their excuses?"

PROBATE NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column. AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (2) days of from the date hereof.

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Patrick Yitmu Sohotshan late of Plateau State died on the 25th Dec, 2021. At Gen Hospital Shendam LGA, Plateau State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Sohotshan Solomon Patrick of Tongsat Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Kwash Kela late of Plateau State died on the 21st March, 2022. At Na Allah na Kowa, Mangu LGA Plateau State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Altine Ezekiel of Sabon Kasuwa, Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Dennis Roseline late of Plateau State died on the 22nd May, 2022. At Jos Plateau State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Dennis Martins Pam of ECWA Bishara 3 Anguwan Mission Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. |
| NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Soempoet Sylvester Dadoegoel late of Plateau State died on the 11th July, 2021. At JUTH, Plateau State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Sylvester Twagatdagat Theophilus of Bakin Ciyawa Qua'an Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Bulus Tawal Aliyu late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th April, 2022. At Taraba State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Anna Tawal Bulus of ECWA Anguldi Zawan Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Abubakar Yahaya Jafar late of Plateau State died on the 9th May, 2022. At Jos, Plateau State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Yahaya Aliyu of Magama, Toro LGA, Bauchi state. Lawful son of the said deceased. |
| NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Mrs.Faith Buge (Also Known as Faith Blessing Buge). Late of Plateau State died on the 6th Jan, 2020. At Rayfield Medical Centre Jos. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Buge Jatau Samuel No.2 Opposite Rantya Model Secondary School, State Lowcost Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Saraya Hosea late of Plateau State died on the 3rd March, 2015. At Pankshin, LGA Plateau State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Gokum Gaksewe Hosea of Jimin Wokkos, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Midala Dawi late of Plateau State died on the 4th May, 2022. At Bauchi State | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Sunday Dawi of Babale Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. |
| NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Longnan Silas Guwam late of Plateau State died on the 27th June, 2021. At Kwalla, Qua'an Pan LGA, Plateau State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Kefas Suwaran Longnan of COCIN LCC Kwande, Quan'an Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful grand son of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Aishatu Mohammed Adamu late of Lagos State died on the 18th June, 2021. At Lagos State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Hauwa Mohammed of No. 23 Road H. Close House 9 Festac. Lagos State. Lawful Mother of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Idoko Eche Moses late of Benue State died on the 11th March, 2020. At Benue State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Moses John Idoko of No. 6 Bala Nabebe Dakota Kawaji, Kano State. Lawful son of the said deceased. |
| NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Isaac Oyebamiji late of Nasarawa State died on the 13th Feb, 2022. At USA, Minnesota State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Olutoyin Adetoun Oyebamiji of Ewagul Opp. ITF Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State Lawful widow of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Umeaku Amaka Hope late of Abuja FCT. Died on the 10th Jan, 2022. At Abuja, FCT. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Umeaku Emeka Ernest & Umeaku Chibuzor Henry all of Loko Goma Estate Abuja FCT. Lawful sons of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Chundung Davou Pwajok late of Plateau State died on the 14th June, 2019. At Jos, Plateau State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Mase Joseph Davou of COCIN LCC Guralondoh, Bukuru Express Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. |
| NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Insp. Samuel Musa Late of Gombe State Died on the 7th Nov. 2019 at Gombe State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Rashida Mela of 'A' Division Barracks Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Moses Nweke Okoye late of Plateau State died on the 24th Nov. 2014. At Lagos State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Emeka Okoye No.11 Rock Haven Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Maurice Rin Nyam late of Plateau State died on the 4th Dec, 2021. At Jos, Plateau State. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Nyam Jesse Zang of Kabong Jos North LGA, Plateau State Lawful son of the said deceased. |
| NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Dapel Jerry late of Plateau State died on the 22nd Aug, 2021. At PSSH, Jos. | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Jerry Chetman Dapel of Opp. Shinko Junction Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. | <p style="text-align: center;">Signed (LADI A. MADAKI) PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</p> | | | |

Change of Name

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| DAKAT I, formerly known as CORNELIUS SARNANDI ESTHER , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. DAKAT SARNANDI ESTHER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | RUTH I, formerly known as RUTH MATHEW , now wish to be known and addressed as RUTH MATHEW ADAJI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note. | STEPHEN I, formerly known as PATIENCE STEPHEN MARY , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. STEPHEN PATIENCE BENNETH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | JOHN I, formerly known as JOHN JOSHUA , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN JOSHUA MAILAMBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | JOSIAH I, formerly known as NAMAK GOLIT LOKRIT , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSIAH NAMAK . correct date of birth is 2/10/1984 not 2/10/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | ANTHONY I, formerly known as ANTHONY LARABA DAJACK , now wish to be known and addressed as ANTHONY LARABA DAPE . Correct date of birth is 2/12/1994 not 02/12/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. |
| DAYEN I, formerly known as YARIYEM AFORDIA MOSES , now wish to be known and addressed as DAYEN AFORDIA MOSES . . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | AMAECHI I, formerly known as NWOSU FELIX CHIBUIKEM , now wish to be known and addressed as AMAECHI FELIX CHIBUIKEM . . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | GOEWAM I, formerly known as FIDELIS DAWANG NANYEN , now wish to be known and addressed as GOEWAM FIDELIS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | MANKON I, formerly known as MANKOR FELICITY KENENG , now wish to be known and addressed as MANKON FELICITY KANENG . All former documents remain valid. Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, all concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | ANIH I, formerly known as EGBO CHINENYE MIRACLE , now wish to be known and addressed as ANIH CHINENYE GIFT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | RAMMIKAT I, formerly known as MISS RAMMIKAT GWAKZING SIMSING , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS RAMMIKAT BLESSING VENCHAK GABA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. |
| CHIMAObi I, formerly known as ADEOYE OLUWAFEYISHOLA OLUWATOSIN , now wish to be known and addressed as CHIMAObi OLUWAFEYISHOLA OLUWATOSIN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | DAWAR I, formerly known as DAWAR CHRISTOPHER TANKO , now wish to be known and addressed as DAWAR DANLADI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | TITUS I, formerly known as TITUS SARAH , now wish to be known and addressed as TITUS SARAH PRINCESS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | MRS.DANDAM I, formerly known as YILJEP NANKYER LUKA , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. DANDAM NANKYER VYAPDE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | ADEDAYO I, formerly known as OBEYA ELSIE JENNIFER , now wish to be known and addressed as ADEDAYO ELSIE OBEYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | MARY I, formerly known as MARY BULUS MADAKI , now wish to be known and addressed as MARY BULUS SULEIMAN MADAKI . Correct date of birth is 2/6/1964. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. |
| AMEH I, formerly known as LOUIS GABRIEL , now wish to be known and addressed as AMEH LOUIS GABRIEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | SPACE FOR SALE | SPACE FOR SALE | SPACE FOR SALE | SPACE FOR SALE | SPACE FOR SALE |

News

Muslim-Muslim ticket: CAN to mobilise Christians in 2023

From JOHN FWAH Kaduna

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Kaduna State chapter has described as an insult, the excuse forwarded by the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) that the running mate for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Senator Kashim Shetima was selected based on competence.

Chairman, CAN Kaduna State, Reverend John Joseph Hayab expressed this in a statement he personally signed and made available to newsmen on Monday July 11, 2022.

He argued that to remove bias in government against any specific tribe, at least in form, the Nigerian Federal character framework was authoritatively captured in Nigeria's 1999 constitution with this description: "...the government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few states or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that government or in any of agencies."

He explained that the statement is to ensure the principle that all public service institutions fairly reflect the country. The government of the linguistic, religious, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the country.

"Last week, we stated our position in clear terms to establish that the ill decision of a particular political party is not for us a thing of concern, where we clearly illustrated, that when I wish to eat rice and beans and a particular restaurant chooses to cook only white rice that has not given me any reason to worry because simply what I will need to do is to move to the other restaurants that have prepared what I desire to eat."

"The implication of such a decision is that such a candidate has no respect for the unity, peace and progress of Nigeria."

"It also suggests that the candidate is just a candidate that priorities selfishness, greed and personal unhealthy interest over the good of the nation."

"The Federal character principle that we talked of above was the product of Gen Yakubu Gowon administration when after the Civil War, it was believed that a particular group occupied major ministries in the nation," it said.

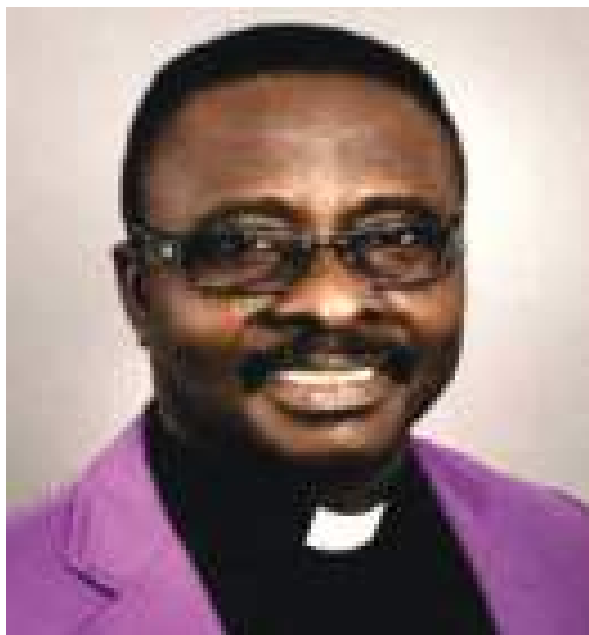
"The statement further said, 'But clearly, we all know many have just course to argue that leadership in Nigeria in the most recent past is with high ethnic nepotism. Well one can rightly say this is another phase of it in religious shade.'

"It is sad that the constitution clearly states that 'The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall not be governed, nor shall any persons or group of persons take control of the Government of Nigeria or any part thereof, except in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution'."

"And that 'The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a State based on the principles of democracy and social justice', with the very divisive challenges of poor security, hunger, a dying economy to mention but these."

"At a time when Nigeria needs a unifying and productive leader, a good candidate cannot consider a one sided. Divisive selection of a running mate despite all genuine agitations against such."

"This shows that should these persons be elected, they



Ayokunle

will not be listening leaders. It shows that these candidates are insensitive to the concerns of the people and do not care heating the

System for selfish gains as they appear disinterested in the unity of the country but their selfish ambition," it said.

"Well as earlier stated, this is not a problem to us as an association serving as the voice of the church. We have performed our role as the voice of the church in the political and social arena,

that is our simple role as far as this and the 2023 elections is concerned."

"But every candidate should know that he is just one option among others in the 18 approved political parties for

the over 84,004,084 of Nigerian voters in the 176,846 polling units to choose from."

"As leaders we will want every political party to know that we will educate, sensitize, and mobilize our ever faithful followers to vote against anything that we judge as a danger against the unity, peace, progress and development of Nigeria."

"We will reiterate that the political party has her right of will to make

decisions that she judges best for her, but they should know too that their decisions only end as an option to the electorate among many other options. Thankfully 2023 is never going to be business as usual."

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

The legal battle that involves leadership tussle that engulfed the national office of the Zaar Development Association (ZDA) has been put to rest following a court verdict which voided the dissolution of the executives and subsequent appointment of caretaker committee by the former trustees of the association.

The national office of the association made this public through a press release signed and made available to journalists in Bauchi by its Secretary General, Mr Numshi Mailafiya on Monday.

According to the release, ZDA is back to its full operations, noting that the ruling on the matter was delivered by Justice B.O Quadri of the Federal High Court, Bauchi on 3rd June, 2022.

The press release said that the decision of the national executives of the association to approach the court for redress followed many misappropriations of powers that beclouded the activities of the association from January 2022.

It recalled that the tussle resulted to the illegal dissolution of a duly elected national executives by the former trustees.

The statement said the former trustees created a faction by inaugurating a caretaker committee.

The national executives headed by its President, Engineer Isuwa Galla said, "rather than take laws into our hands to create an unnecessary squabble, we decided to seek legal interpretations of the rights and privileges of an elected NEC and the Board of Trustees in line with Companies and

Court voids dissolution of National Executives of ZDA

Allied Matters Act (CAMA) of the Corporate Affairs Commission".

The press statement which had a copy of the court ruling attached to it, said that the defendants (former board of trustees) have no right to invite the National President to a meeting. The added that the former BOT have been duly removed and replaced in line with Section 832 of CAMA 2020.

The court also declared that the former BOT have no power to remove, suspend or interfere with the affairs of the NEC.

According to the court ruling, the action of the former trustees amounted to a fundamental breach and a violation of the provisions of Section 839 of CAMA 2020.

It added that the purported

action of the already removed BOT members is therefore null and void, ad of no legal effect.

The court said that the continued parade of the former BOT as members of the Board of Trustees of the ZDA is unlawful and illegal.

It placed an order restraining the defendants, their servants, agents and privies from parading themselves as members of the Board of Trustees of ZDA.

Commenting on the ruling, the national Executives of the association (Plaintiffs) described the verdict as a victory for not only the NEC but a victory to initiate the healing process of Zaar Land.

"Soonest, we shall set up modalities through apt communication and recommendations from our branches and stakeholders", the SG explained.



Ariwoola

Kogi Govt urged to strengthen population policy

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A group under the auspices of Initiative for Grassroot Advancement (IGRA), has urged Kogi State government to strengthen its population policy in such a way that it could be integrated into the state's development plan.

The Group's Executive Director, Hamza Aliyu who spoke to our correspondent in commemoration of this year's World Population Day, said that it has become imperative for states across the country to have strategic policy on population and how it can take advantage of it for development.

According to him, the era of wasteful expenditure on "white elephant" projects and political jamborees must come to a stop to allow scarce resources be put to the best use of the people.

"Agriculture, health, education and infrastructure must be prioritised in public expenditure to harness the potentials from our young population."

"Insecurity is a symptom of poor governance and as such Kogi State government must begin to provide a sense of responsible and inclusive expenditure of resources to show our people, especially the youths that government is responsive to their needs and yearnings."

"As of 2022, Nigeria's population was estimated at around 216.7 million. Between 1965 and 2022, the number of people living in Nigeria increased at an average rate of over two percent. In 2021, the population grew by 2.6 percent compared to the

previous year. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa. By extension, the African continent records the highest growth rate in the world."

"The current population of Nigeria is 216,267,500 as of Tuesday, June 28, 2022, based on Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data. Half of the population is aged under 19 years. People aged up to four years old made up the

largest age group: 8.3 percent of males and eight percent of females were less than four years old. Similarly, children aged 5 to 9 years held the second largest share of population. On the other hand, people aged 60 years and older represented a small part of population, making it the youngest population in the world, which meant that even if we had replacement growth (each couple replacing itself),

our population will still be growing 40-50 years from now

"The metropolitan area of Kano and Lagos are also among the largest urban agglomerations in the world."

"Okene is ranked the city with the highest population in Kogi State with an estimated 439,000 persons. This is followed by Dekina, Okehi, Adavi and Ofu. The assumption would have been that the public development in

the state should focus on these areas to ensure that people living in those areas get a standard of living that is at least minimal for survival," the statement said.

Aliyu said there must be a strategy for arresting the population growth looking at the poor GDP growth and economic outlook of Nigeria and especially in Kogi State.

UNFPA urge societies to invest in people

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has urged societies to invest in people, their rights and choices, saying it is the road to the prosperity and peace that everyone wants and deserves.

The call is in a statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) by the Fund's Media Associate in Nigeria, Hajiya Kori Habib in



Dr. Kanem

Abuja on Monday, on the occasion of the 2022 World Population Day (WPD).

NAN reports that WPD was established by the Governing Council of the UN Development Programme in 1989, an event that is annually observed on July 11 to raise awareness on global population issues.

The 2022 WPD has "A World of 8 billion: Towards a Resilient Future for All - Harnessing Opportunities and Ensuring Rights and Choices for All" as its theme.

Habib also stated that the world body had announced that the world's population would hit eight billion on Nov. 15.

She added that the milestone figure would attract attention and debate, and

likely scaremongering over "too many" people, but that would be a mistake.

She quoted the UNFPA Executive Director, Dr Natalia Kanem, as saying that "focusing only on population numbers and growth rate often lead to coercive and counterproductive measures and the erosion of human rights."

"The population story is far richer and more nuanced than a single number can capture. There may be more people in the world today, but equally important is the unprecedented demographic diversity we see within the global population."

"A growing number of countries face population ageing, and roughly two-thirds of the world's population now live in a country or area with below-replacement fertility, or fewer than 2.1 births per woman."

"Others have youthful and growing populations and more people are on the move, either by choice or driven by crises ranging from conflict to climate change. Understanding these shifts is critical to harnessing opportunities and mitigating potential downsides."

"People are the solution, not the problem. At UNFPA, we

advocate for measuring and anticipating demographic changes."

"Each country should have the information it requires to meet the needs of diverse population groups and ensure that individuals can realise their full potential."

The UNFPA executive director said when people have the power to make informed choices about whether and when to have children, when to exercise their rights and responsibilities, they can navigate risks and become the foundation of more inclusive, adaptable and sustainable societies."

Kanem added that achieving demographic resilience starts with a commitment to counting not just numbers of people, but opportunities for progress and barriers that stand in its way.

She, therefore, called for transformation of discriminatory norms that hold individuals and societies back "and a fair use of resources so that we can mitigate risks and meet the needs of current and future generations."

The mandate of the UNFPA is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

News

Osinbajo tasks academics on healthcare, education

By TERHEMBA DAKA,
Abuja

VICE President Yemi Osinbajo has expressed the need for professors and academics to take keen interest, especially in issues of education and healthcare, exploring options for reform and innovation in human capital development sectors.

This was the highlight of the virtual meeting between Osinbajo and a team of professors drawn from the six geopolitical zones, under the auspices of Progressive Intellectuals Advisory Group (PIAG).

The Vice President, who interacted with the dons on a number of topical national development issues, urged stakeholders, especially members of professional bodies, to make contributions towards addressing them.

Discussing tertiary education, for instance, Osinbajo said: "Given the rate of interest in tertiary education, we cannot cope with the brick-and-mortar approach. We won't be able to cope with the numbers in the near future because there will be millions more who will not be able to get into our schools.

"One of the things I have been thinking about is how to be deliberate about online tertiary education and how to develop it to the point where Nigeria offers the best services in the sector.

"One of the things I want us to think about is how we can develop this idea, and in what ways we can put together a plan, even if it is just an outline, so that we can push the idea further."

Also, the Vice President called on members of the group to support the Federal Government's efforts to reform the healthcare system by contributing to ideas that will make health



Osinbajo

insurance work effectively in the country. He noted that a Health Reform Committee is already in place looking at issues.

Leader of the group and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria, Prof. Shehu Adamu, also spoke about the need for Nigeria to strengthen the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) option to address the issue of access to university education.

In separate remarks, Professors Nasiru Yauri, Philip Okolo, Ernest

Ugbejeh and Yahaya Baba commended Osinbajo's dedication to development of Nigeria and style of leadership, according to a statement made available to newsmen.

The group, which supported Osinbajo's run for the presidential ticket of the All Progressives Congress (APC), described his loss as a missed opportunity, pledging to work for the Vice President in his future aspirations. And promise to maintain the relationship regardless of the outcome of the APC shadow election.

THE Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) has appealed to the federal government to as a matter of urgency resolve the ongoing industrial disputes by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and other unions in the education sector.

The union, in a statement signed by the General Secretary, Comrade Isaiah M. Adetola, said allowing the nation's universities to be shut down for over 8 months is not healthy for the country.

Adetola lamented the situation which he said, "has pushed our children into all kinds of social vices, because an idle mind is devil workshop."

He called on President

JUSUN demands quick resolution to ASUU, other disputes

Muhammadu Buhari to intervene in the matter with a view to bringing the disputes to an end.

"We at JUSUN have been watching with concern the protracted industrial action by the University lecturers under the auspices of Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), and is force to ask why should our universities be allow to be shut down endlessly.

"JUSUN is calling on President Muhammadu Buhari to as a matter of national

security end the ASUU strike. Our children are the receiving end.

"The ASUU is not just fighting for their welfare of their members, but for the settlement of the system," the statement said.

On the autonomy of the Judiciary, Comrade Isaiah said JUSUN was determined to continue the struggle until the executive hands off from the Judiciary.

He called on stakeholders to join the union in the struggle to actualise a free and vibrant justice system.

Labour ministry tasks retired staff on service

PERMANENT Secretary Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment Ms Kachollom S. Daju has enjoined the retired staff of the ministry to keep serving the nation with the experience and expertise accumulated while in service.

Daju spoke in Abuja at the send forth ceremony organised for retired officers of the Skills Development and Certification Department of the Ministry.

In a statement signed by Head Press and Public Relations Olajide Oshundun, the permanent secretary



Ngige

Gunmen assassinate ex-militant leader

Gunmen in military fatigues have shot dead an ex-militant leader, Indukapo Ogede, in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Ogede, reports his demise was Coordinator of Operations, Darlon Oil and Gas Servicing, was reportedly killed Sunday night at a hotel at the Okutukutu suburb of the state capital.

Vanguard learned that the armed men ambushed their target at the hotel where they posed as guests after lodging in.

The deceased was said to have been shot as he made to enter into the hotel premises.

He was confirmed dead at the Gloryland Hospital where he was rushed.

The body has since been deposited at the morgue of the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa.

Spokesman of the state Police Command, SP Asinim Butswat, confirmed the development and called for calm saying the matter is being investigated.

Butswat said: "He was killed on Sunday night, the State CID is investigating."

Meanwhile, the management of Darlon Oil and Gas Limited has regrettably announced the death of its

Head of Operations, Ogede.

He was killed, execution style, by three armed men suspected to be hired assassins in a hotel, off Tamic Road Okutukutu, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Indukapo, who hails from Gada's Compound in Igbomatoru 1 Community in Southern Ijaw LGA, was shot twice by his assailants about 7.45p.m, on Sunday, leaving him to die in a pool of blood.

Darlon Oil and Gas Limited, in a statement by its chairman, Chief Levi Wilson, said: "Our investigation revealed that the killers who dressed in uniforms that

resembled that of the security operatives, entered the hotel in the afternoon of that ill-fated Sunday and paid for three rooms.

"It was further learnt that after they lodged, they went to the bar of the hotel, where they drank beer while waiting for their victim who had gone out for an assignment.

"According to eyewitness testimony, the behaviour of the assailants raised suspicion, and as a result, friends of the deceased decided to put calls through to warn the deceased, but he allegedly didn't take the calls because he was driving at the time.

"Unfortunately, when he arrived the premises of the hotel about 7:45p.m., the gunmen ran towards him, shot him twice, one on the chest and the other on his lower abdomen, leaving him for dead.

"The victim was eventually confirmed dead at the Gloryland Hospital at Opolo, Yenagoa, several minutes later, from where his body was moved to the morgue of the Federal Medical Center.

"We wish to use this medium to appeal to the various law enforcement agencies to investigate the killing and bring the perpetrators of the dastardly act to book in a bid to ensure that such incident do not repeat itself in the nearest future.

"For us, this is one death too many, particularly because the deceased left behind his

said the invaluable experience garnered by the retired officers in the course of serving the nation, could still be ploughed back into the system to keep building the nation.

"You have worked tirelessly to move the Ministry towards achieving its set goals and mandate. In doing this, you have gathered priceless experience from which others have benefitted.

"We therefore implore you to honour our invitations, whenever you are called upon in the near future to serve in areas where your wealth of experience can be tapped to add value to the Department in particular and the Ministry in general," the permanent secretary said.

She congratulated the officers on their retirement and contributions to nation-building, and prayed for strength, wisdom and opportunities for them to use their expertise for the continued service of the nation and humanity.

Earlier, Head Skills Development and Certification Department Dr Tiza Chiila Shaakaa stated that the occasion was to honour and celebrate their colleagues, as they bowed out of service.

He commended the retired officers for their numerous achievements and their contributions to the department and the ministry, as well as their meritorious service to the nation.

INEC dashes hope of Senator Lawan, Akpabio

From JIDAUNA YANUNG,
Abuja

THE independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has again dashed the hope of President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan and the former Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio over their bid to return to the National Assembly next year.

In Yobe North Senatorial ticket both Lawan and Bashir Machina are laying claims to the All Progressive Congress (APC), while Akpabio and DIG Udom Udo, (Rtd) are contesting for Akwa Ibom North ticket.

But the electoral umpire in a statement by its Commissioner, Festus

Okoye said the commission stands by the reports it received from its state offices that monitored the party primaries.

Okoye decried the allegation which he said, were intended to impugn the integrity of the Commission in respect of the Akwa Ibom North West and Yobe North Senatorial districts. To set the record straight, the National Commissioner said the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria mandates the commissioner to monitor the organization and operation of political parties, including their finances, conventions, congresses and party

primaries.

He added that in line with its constitutional and legal obligations, the commission deployed monitors to the various constituencies and received reports of such exercise.

According to Okoye, INEC is Funtus Officio in the two cases. He stated adding that aggrieved parties are at liberty to approach the Federal High Court and seek redress as provided in section 285 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and sections 29 (5) and 84(14) of the Electoral Act, 2022.

He further stated that the Commission had processed



Mahmood

433 out of many requests for Certified True Copies (CTCs) of documents, relating to the conducts of party primaries.

God does not bestow power in Nigeria



By BULUS GAMBO

SINCE inception of Nigeria's democracy in 1999, one of the astonishing catchphrases which our politicians unflinchingly use in their unfruitful wager to justify rightfulness over whimsical elections and fraudulent clutch to power is that power belongs to God. They have also invariably told us that since power belongs to God, He gives such power to whosoever He desires to give and at any point in time.

Since religion is regarded as the opium of the masses, this political mechanism and or conception has been continually used and or proliferated beyond comprehension due to our utopian misconception of this inkling. Due to the naive inclination of many in our society today, our greedy politicians have forged such an ecstasy to perpetrate their selfish intentions which is quite damaging to our existence as a struggling but developing nation. Many of our illiterate population are quick to accepting this delusion owing to the fact that most of us have been sincerely wrong about the applicability of this erroneous concept.

To be blunt, God, who is a supreme being has all power and controls every aspect of human endeavors. As the author and the finisher of our destiny, our Almighty God rules in the affairs

of men thus; He let there be, and such pronouncements come to pass. One therefore cannot question the inexhaustible power and control of God over activities of men.

Sometimes back, I was dragged into a contentious analysis of how things in Nigeria are gradually changing for the worse. During our chitchat on that fateful day, the crux of the matter was; who was responsible for the excruciating pains the citizens of this country are experiencing today? How on earth did we not decipher on time our depreciating status until we had crossed the red lines and are striving to withstand hard times this time around?

Despite our critical differences coupled with our multi-faceted heterogeneous propensity, one point is certainly nonetheless, Nigerians irrespective of our tribe or creed are today grieving beyond intuition. For instance, while the elites who are few amongst us patronize selected shopping malls to purchase eatables and other varieties for their families without any stress, the rest of us are left to soak Garri with groundnuts to survive.

Some months back, an assignment took me to Abuja which gave me an opportunity to reappraise the realities of life in the capital city in comparison with that which is confronting us back home on the Plateau. I was taken to one of these expensive shopping malls in Abuja where we needed to use an electronic chip to gain entry.

As we moved round the complex, I began to notice the price tag of several items displayed on the shelf. Surprisingly, many of the items on display were evidently beyond my reach, though I was longing to buy at least a commodity to show off on my return back home. A peep around the mall gave me a surprise of my life. To my astonishment, most of the customers buying these products were teenagers who by my

estimation were not of working ages.

Some of them so small but fatty were seen buying all the products they can lay their hands on, squandering monies unnecessarily as if their resource were but "toilet paper" in the words of Uganda's dictator, Field Marshal Idi Amin. Most of these kids and or children were certainly not among the working class in the country.

After witnessing all these extravagant spending, I was left with no other option than to ask my friend, how comes these kids are spending such monies without limitations. His response shocked me, "My friend, all the youngsters you see here are children of these our politicians. Each time they come here; they spend money as if tomorrow will not come. The widening gap is clear, while we come for side seeing here, they come and pack almost everything their eyes see here. If one is lucky, some of them pay your bill also."

Later that night, I was left full of calculations. I was left wondering about the widening gap between the rich and the poor in this country. I was left deep in thoughts speculating about the future of my children.

Sadly, in the midst of all these human and natural resources Nigeria is blessed with, only the sons and daughters of our politicians are living in the confine of such a wonderful world. A world full of money and affluence and a kingdom where money is the answer to everything.

Looking back at my experiences at the shopping mall on that day clearly indicates how selfish our politicians have become in this country. It is quite glaring that while our children are languishing in abject poverty, their children are living in a classical realm of their own.

Come to think of it, before democracy was ushered into this country in 1999, we had desired for an incoming democratic government which would use our



collective resources for the benefit of all our citizens. In the words of our current president, Mohammedu Buhari, we had desired for a leadership which would be a father to nobody but a father to everyone and or everybody.

Unfortunately for the citizens of this nation now, the democracy we dreamed of years back has not turned out to be. Basically, though we are blessed with all it will take to better this nation, our selfish leaders through their acts of personal aggrandizement have only but squandered all our chances of becoming one of the most stabilized and thriving nations of the world in recent history.

It is regrettable that since 1999, the monies stolen from our national treasury including a huge chunk of the unaccountable amount recovered from looters have not changed our narratives for the better. Our political leaders have become so visionless to the extent that our citizens have lost confidence on them and their administrative genuinity to navigate us to the promised land.

More discouraging is the way and manner some of our political leaders have found themselves in power and or seat of authority. While we always pray that God in His infinite mercy should give us good leaders who will govern this nation in accordance to His will, I am convinced beyond reasonable doubt that God has no hands in the leaders we have produced in this country thus far.

The conviction of yours sincerely is hinged on the intrigues, vote buying and faulty electoral processes which have continued to engulf our election processes in this country. All

these years, we have sold our birth rights for a plate of porridge, we have endorsed party candidates who have questionable characters and vision-less individuals who have no clear blueprint of salvaging us from our economic doldrums.

Even when our elections produce leaders through fraudulent means, we console ourselves that since power comes from God, He must have endorsed the emergence of these fraudulent winners who emerged through this same faulty and ambiguous means.

Considerably, Nigeria's election procedures have in recent times not witnessed any significant improvement. The system is still left behind in our quest towards creating an enabling environment for credible polls to take place. Indeed, the processes of our party primaries have only but restrained the citizens of this country from selecting good and credible leaders who have the heart to navigate our nation to greatness.

If that which we witnessed during the various national conventions of our political parties are anything to go by, I don't think our God would descend so low to tolerate an open show of money exchanging hands as such; for the sake of choosing their respective candidates. Therefore, following that which some of us have witnessed, Nigeria is still yet to get it right when it comes to electing God fearing leaders who have leadership credentials to administer this nation. The truth of the matter is; God does not give power in Nigeria.



By KENNETH DARENG

THESE are interesting times in Nigeria going by the happenings in its political firmament where religion seems to create so much anxiety and discuss both within the political spectrum which may likely determine the nation's destiny in the coming months.

Religion is now the main issue that has generated debate, tension and criticism as a result of the choice of Presidential candidates and their running

Nigeria's secularity is threatened

mates as announced by the dominant political parties like the ruling All Progressives Congress, [APC], Peoples Democratic Party, [PDP], Labour Party, [LP], including that of the New Nigerian People's Party [NNPP] etc.

However, the emergence of parties' flag bearers at their just concluded conventions brought with it intrigues based on religion, ethnicity and the calculus of which zone has the greater number of votes that can determine the outcome of the 2023 general elections.

Political parties in their desperation to win the 2023 Presidential polls, began the process of power shift as a way of creating a balancing act based on the fact that the incumbent President is from the North, which logically was expected that power will shift to the south at the expiration of President Muhammadu Buhari's tenure in May, 2023.

Perhaps, in the wisdom of the

founders of Nigerian democracy, they had envisioned the need to inculcate the spirit of brotherhood, equity, fairness and justice to all sections and all nationalities in agreement with the same admonition as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria based on the nation's secularity of faith and to apply same in the collective interests of all Nigerians.

Unfortunately, this aspiration of national integration and unity appears to be on paper as the fear of a Muslim-Muslim or Christian -Christian ticket became visible from the projections of the ruling APC whose Presidential Candidate, Asiawaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu, though a Muslim from the South, has resurrected the much-dreaded Muslim -Muslim ticket with the announcement of Senator Kassim Shettima as his substantive running mate for the 2023 Presidential polls.

Even in the main opposition PDP

camp, former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar secured the party's ticket after a religious gimmick following the conspiracy of Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State as the arrow head used to stop River's State Governor, Nyesom Wike from becoming the PDP flag bearer at its just concluded national convention held at the Eagles Square in Abuja.

However, the dangerous trend is that, history is about to repeat itself going back memory lane and to be precise in 1993 when the late Chief Moshood Abiola ran a Muslim- Muslim ticket with Alhaji Babagana Kingibe from the north east region.

What may be a big slap on the face of Christians is that despite their over 87 million population; these two major political parties did not reckon any eligible Christian Presidential nor Vice presidential running mate. This rather confirms how the nation currently is sharply divided in its history along religious and

sectional differences due to nepotistic tendencies of the present leadership and it beats one's imagination that the far north has arrogated to itself the Endorser-in-Chief of all presidents in Nigeria status.

Nigeria is the most populous African country with a population of over 200 million as at 2006 and it is diverse and home to the world's largest Christian and Muslim adherents. According to Wikipedia, Nigeria is divided roughly in half between Muslims, who live mostly in the far north and Christians, who live mostly in the south, while the indigenous religions are found in all the geo-political zones across the country, who constitute ethnic minorities.

For the nation to avoid any chaos and disintegration, it is time for our leaders to see the country as belonging to all not for a section of the country or a particular religion or else, Bosnia could well be a reminder.

By JIDAUNA DARING

IT is a fact that skill acquisition in Nigeria has become more important when one looks at the increasing number or level of unemployment that the young people are facing today in the country.

This has indicated that when people learned and acquired different skills, it provides them opportunities to become self-reliant in life, instead of staying idle. More so, there is an adage that says, "an idle mind is the devil's workshop."

Therefore, the importance of acquiring skill training cannot be overemphasized since it helps to improve the ways of thinking, problem solving and quality of lives of the young people both male and female who have availed themselves to learn the skills.

It is commonly said that, there is no food for a lazy man, and also in this regard, nothing good comes easy. This has further confirmed that as long as people live, it is right for them to key into something that can make them earn something for their living no matter how little it will always come.

However, for any trainee to acquire successful skill training, it is obviously expected that the trainee should have interest and passion while learning the skill from the instructors saddled with the responsibilities of equipping them with needed knowledge.

With this, people should on their part do away with the spirit of proneness and do themselves a favour to learn one skill or the other, irrespective of their positions or educational background.

It is also a clear fact that youth empowerment is purely a means or way of exposing the youths to key into trade or training that can make them to be very productive. This encompasses different ways that they can be genuinely exposed to different trades that may help them to engage in sustainable paid and self-reliant or employed businesses.

Equally too, the purpose of skill acquisition programme as a means of empowerment is to further equip people with nothing but appropriate skills that can stand to be very beneficial to the youth and anyone in future.

In order to encourage youths enrolment in skill acquisition trainings, government should on its part build more vocational centres both in Urban and rural areas with adequate equipment and instructors.

Again, Spirited individuals, groups and organizations are also encouraged to pick-up some children who may be interested to learn skills, but do not have the resources to go into such trainings, this if done would go a long way in changing the lives of the less privilege in the society.

Interestingly, in this regard, Jenny's Glamour Beauty Saloon situated at No.1 Late Plaza Bauchi Ring Road in Jos North Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State, has recently send forth some of its trainees in different skills.

The founder in the spirit of celebrating her birthday as a July baby, thought it wise to offer pro-bono which has less charges to

absorb trainees from June 1st to July 1st and also celebrated them on her birthday which is July 1st every year.

In her remarks during the freedom ceremony, Founder of Jenny's Glamour, Jennifer Sati Joseph expressed delight and thanked God for making the event a huge success for the apprentice that have succeeded in their various trainings and wished them the best in all their future endeavours.

The founder of Jenny's Glamour

business.

She advised young people who are complaining of lack of work or waiting for government work to inculcate the spirit of keying into different skills acquisition training programme so as to enable them get something doing in life rather than continue to wait for white collar job that is not available for them to rely on.

Jennifer also urged the ladies who have gained freedom to make good use of all the skills acquired, so as to enable them

Skill acquisition: Jenny's Glamour celebrates trainees



Jennifer Joseph, Founder, Jenny's Glamour

said that she specialized in bringing out the inner beauty and confidence in women through the expression of her art.

Jennifer noted that what actually necessitated such an occasion was no doubt to show love and celebrate with the apprentice who have availed themselves to acquire skills that can keep them busy and also transform their lives, adding that they can now give back to their respective communities what they have learned during their training.

She stated that she has been in the business for about 4 years and charges #6,000 per client, adding that about 15 people gained their freedom as certified make up and gele artists.

Also speaking on her success story, the founder Jenny's Glamour said that she succeeded in training many young girls who are today operating their own businesses based on skills acquired or obtained.

Jennifer pointed out that the challenges she presently has in her hand include, location, space and training equipment, stressing that her business can only boost when she has enough capital and good structure for the

train others that may be interested to learn and acquire skills from various business centres.

She called on government at all levels to continue sponsoring more young people on skill acquisition programmes, adding that for some of the youths to make ends meet, because lack of job opportunities have resorted to different criminal tendencies which have made life difficult for people in their communities.

Speaking separately, two of the trainees, Barrabas Lounda and Dabagal Marylyn Mialnoen both expressed joy with the training given them in their various areas of specialization, particularly make up for every activity.

According to them, the training would offer them opportunity to become self employed.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that the Jenny's Glamour services include: make up, gele tying, auto gele, nails fixing and face painting training among others.

Jenny is a promising young Plateau girl from Jingre in Bassa LGA of Plateau State, she can be reached through this medium for interested persons that might need her services.



Former trainees displaying their certificates



Jenny's clients after make-up

IMAGES

APOSTLE GAKSU CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

The President of Global Flame Ministry International, Apostle Danjuma Musa Gaksu last week Monday celebrated his birthday in his house and at the Ministry’s International Headquarters, Diye Zarmaganda, Jos South LGA



Apostle Danjuma Musa Gaksu cutting the birthday cake assisted by wife and children



The celebrant, his wife and the Resident Pastor, Longtong Kyetu



The celebrant, Apostle Danjuma Musa Gaksu in a group photograph with elders and advisers



Wife of the celebrant, Pastor Faith Musa Gaksu supporting her husband in prayer



House of Opera put smiles on the faces of members with their performance at the celebration



Elder Nehemiah Gagara (right) flanked by Engr. Pwajok, Pastor John Igwe and Rev. Benjamin Makan of Anglican Church during the prayer service



Apostle Gaksu (middle) wife, Pastor Faith Musa Gaksu, mother-inlaw, Mrs. Monica Gwom (first left) and other wellwishers during the celebration



Administrative Secretary, GFMI, Mrs. Catherine Akinusi (2nd right) and some members of Global Flame Ministry International

PHOTOS: GLOBAL FLAME MEDIA, JOS

Odd World

'My sister-in-law is demanding I pay for her wedding'

A woman has vented her frustration at her husband and his family, after she came under fire for refusing to contribute to her sister-in-law's wedding as she already lives with them rent-free.

Relationships with in-laws can often go one of two ways, they either become an adoptive family who are supportive, kind and an extension of your loved ones.

In worst-case scenarios, they drive a wedge between you and your partner with their interfering, pot-stirring and unreasonable demands.

Unfortunately for one woman, she's experienced the latter with her sister-in-law asking her and her husband to contribute to their wedding – despite living with the couple for free.

The anonymous user, whose username is Intelligent_Rub4510, explained that she and her husband (who she calls Tom) share a home with her sister-in-law and her fiancée after they lost their jobs during the pandemic.

The pair initially promised it would just be for a month, but it's been a year and the couple showed no signs of moving out.

The woman took to Reddit to explain her dilemma, writing: "Tom has gotten a new job that doesn't nearly pay as much as his old one.

"We have tried to convince SIL to get a job or help around the house but she insisted that the stress of Covid as made her unfit to work and Tom agrees and refuses to make her get a job even though his job doesn't let him make

enough for them to get an apartment in the near future.

"Recently SIL and Tom started planning their wedding and had the nerve to ask us to help fund an expensive wedding in a beach in a foreign country. This happened while I was preparing to kick them out.

"This isn't the first time something like this has happened most of my husband's family doesn't have high paying jobs and asking me (the high earner of the family) to pay for stuff has been an ongoing thing."

The woman said she refused to pay for the wedding and told the couple they'd need to pay for the expensive wedding themselves.

Despite her refusal, the woman's husband and Tom tried to convince her to pay for the occasion, while her sister-in-law "stormed out of the house" when she said no.

She continues: "[She] has been complaining about me to anyone who would listen.

"My husband has always been the one insisting on keeping them around every time I bring up kicking them out. But now I feel like he has pushed it too far this time.

"So now the family is divided in half with most of my relatives taking my SIL's side And I am being attacked online my SIL's friends and close family. Me and my husband are giving each other the silent treatment over this."

Source: The Mirror



We must not die as fools

SOME communities in Wase Local Government Area of Plateau State again came under another ferocious attack last week after bandits unleashed mayhem in some areas of the council. During this latest unfortunate attack, local vigilante and hunters rose to the occasion and confronted these merciless marauders killing about nine of them.

Regrettably, three members of the vigilante group were reportedly killed while repelling the attack. Despite these human casualties, the situation perhaps would have been worse had the members of the community not confronted these bandits.

In the aftermath of a similar attack some weeks ago, over one hundred innocent lives were lost both around Wase and Kanam Local Government Areas. After the Wase, Kanam attack, these pirates wrote a letter warning the rural populace to in their own interest vacate their ancestral homes or have themselves to blame.

Though some security agencies did not take this warning seriously, these criminals eventually made good their promise by attacking these vulnerable communities which have suffered great deprivation in recent times. Obviously, in the past decades, various communities on the Plateau have become targets of vicious attacks with impunity. In both the southern and northern Districts for instance; many innocent lives have been wasted for no concrete reasons.

During most of these attacks allegedly carried out by unknown gunmen, the victims of these mayhem are usually overwhelmed by these intruders who kill at will; looting unaccounted properties thereby impoverishing rural residents. Sometimes, victims of these attacks never recover from this trauma which hunts them for life.

All these developments are coming on the heels of a call by many stakeholders in the country for our citizens to carry weapons and defend themselves. This call to arms was first mustered by the Executive Governor of Zamfara State, Bello Matawalle following endless incidences of banditry and kidnapping which were becoming quite worrisome.

To match words with action, the Governor established Community Protection Guards aspired to curtail the menace of insecurity in the state.

Matawalle's steps are considerable options to dealing with the increasing acts of banditry which have caused massive life loss, untold hardship and rupturing inter-communal peace in his state.

Also entrusting his support, the Ondo State Governor, Rotimi Akeredolu agreed that citizens would soon be left with no other option than to defend themselves. It is an obvious fact that the security architecture of policing in the nation has never been commensurate to the security challenges we are facing. Mind you, just recently, a Catholic church in Owo, Governor Akeredolu's hometown was attacked by insurgents which led to the death of close to fifty innocent worshippers.

Though a call for the citizens of this country to defend themselves could be

regard as very extreme, many people in the nation have already been pushed to the wall. Should we remain discouraged in lamentation, we may not have any chance of surviving this traumatizing phenomenon in the nearest future.

It is so unimaginable that the entire security framework of this country is failing us even when we needed it. In most occasions, it has been reported that this consistent failure to nip this ugly situation in the bud could be attributed to lack of contemporary equipment to enable our forces tackle this issue once and for all.

As we continue with our requiems, just last week, ISWAP attacked Kuje Prisons in the heart of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja where about 600 inmates of the facility reportedly escaped from lawful custody. Sources eventually disclosed that the operations took place just some hours after the Nigerian Army were withdrawn from the correctional facility.

But again, it was also reported that the intruders who commenced their operations at about 2:00am in the morning held the facility hostage for several hours without any security personnel's, efforts towards engaging them thus reducing the magnitude of the damage and prevent our nation from this huge international embarrassment.

In the aftermath of the attack, many questions have been asked as to how they got to know the Army had left the facility. In fact, Nigerians deserve to know who on earth gave the order for the military to evacuate the center knowing too well that harden criminals as such can easily invade to cause mayhem. Though this was not the first time such correctional centers were attacked in Nigeria, have our political leaders and stakeholders learnt any lesson from this unabated prison breaks and its devastating implications on the polity?

This most recent affront is coming on the heels of the Shiroro deadly attack where over 31 military personnel were killed with impunity in Niger State. Though President, Muhammadu Buhari has promised that these gruesome acts of inhumanity would not go unpunished, yours sincerely has lost confidence in the ability of the present administration to overcome the present security challenges confronting the nation. I feel our president is either tuning his eyes the other way each time these atrocities are committed or in the real sense of it, he has lost possible result oriented strategies to end this menace.

The bottom-line however is; we as a people cannot continue allowing our loved ones to be killed in such a cruel manner. Certainly, we cannot continue to witness our loved ones slaughtered like chickens only for the government to say that they are on top of the situation.

If the truth must be told, we have not even seen concrete measures taken to punish all those caught and charged to court for penetrating such heinous crimes in the past. Come to think of it, if these correctional centers are becoming quite vulnerable for these terrorists to infiltrate, then we are in serious trouble.

View Point

Jos North chair's impeachment attempt: Has dust settled?

IT is becoming quite obvious that in the past few days, it has not been well with Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State. Last week, the Chairman of the council, Hon. Shehu Bala Usman reportedly sacked two supervisory councilors raising eyebrows on the motives which warranted such a decision in the height of 2023 politicking. This unexpected sacking of the two supervisory councilors has further generated more questions than answers as to the present ongoing impeachment attempt against the chairman of the council. BULUS GAMBO, writes.

FOR some, such developments can occur at any point in time during the tenure of government officers. Therefore; any of such termination of appointment should not generate unnecessary agitations and or anxiety.

In the said letter of termination of the appointments which affected the two supervisory councilors without any concrete and or definite reasons given and signed by the Secretary, Jos North Local Government Council, Pastor Samuel Gyang Chollom issued on 1st July 2022, made available to press men, the chairman noted that "Those whose appointment were terminated are the Supervisory Councilor of Information, Research and Documentation, Silas Ibrahim and his Water Sanitation and Hygiene counterpart, Christopher Nnajofofor".

In the statement "the chairman appreciates them for the services rendered to the council and wish them well in their future endeavors".

The statement further directed them to hand over all government property in their possession to the Council's Director of Personnel Management without any further delay.

Even as citizens of the council were yet to digest the circumstances which led to the termination of these appointments, news started filtering the air that the legislative arm of the council were masterminding the possible impeachment of the chairman. Though the issue of impeachment of public officers is not new in Nigeria, it was a new development in Jos North Local Government Area. Thus, many people were taken aback following this information after knowing too well the infrastructural development which the chairman had continued to facilitate since his assumption of office. No doubt, Hon. Usman has over the years been doing well in the administration of the local government area. Thus far, aside getting involved in peace building efforts, the chairman has in recent



Usman

times also ensured harmonious and peaceful coexistence of citizens of his constituency. This aside, it is also on record that Hon Usman aside helping many religious and voluntary organizations has also been able to ensure confidence building in a fragile and complex cosmopolitan area which had suffered ethno-religious violence in the past decade.

On the contrary however, the legislatures of the local government area decided to allegedly serve an impeachment notice on Hon. Usman after their assessment of his entire leadership performance in most recent times. According to the legislatures, the council chairman had deviated from his anticipated obligations and had gone solo while administering their council.

In a Following of Impeachment

notice signed by the Clerk to the Legislative Arm, Sani Baba dated 1st July 2022 issued the Executive Chairman, Jos North Local Government Council, Hon. Shehu Bala Usman, It stated that " I am directed to forward herewith the above subject matter in respect of the Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council. You are to acknowledge the receipt of same, please."

Yet in another letter titled, Forwarding of Notice of Impeachment against the Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Hon. Shehu Bala Usman addressed to the Commissioner, Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Jos and signed by Leader of the House, Hon. Yakubu Asten Ajiji, explained that " I write on behalf of the Jos North Local

Government Legislative Council to forward herewith the copy of Notice of Impeachment against the Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Hon. Shehu Bala Usman due to gross misconduct and abuse of his Oath of Allegiance and Oath of office through corruption and embezzlement of Public Funds of the Local Government Council as attached. Accept the assurance of our esteemed regards please."

In the forwarding letter of impeachment, it was also alleged that " we the undersigned members of the Jos North Local Government Legislative Council of Plateau State having satisfied the requirements of the law by collecting two thirds signatories wish to serve on the Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Hon. Shehu Bala Usman, this Notice of Impeachment; having found him to have committed Gross Misconduct, abuse of Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office through corruption, embezzlement of Public Funds of the Local Government Council.

The notice further alleged that " The Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council Hon. Shehu Bala Usman severally awarded contacts without due process as provided by law amongst which are: the Jenta Adamu 3km road construction, New Market 1.5 km road construction and the Yan Ganda-Rikkos 1.5 km road project.

Others include, the purchase and Rehabilitation of Pediatric Hospital, Fudawa , supply and installation of Transformers at exorbitant prices and Concrete Pavements and Drainages at Farin Gada Market, these contracts, he did not only awarded them but claimed some of them are completed or almost completed, whereas it is not true, as the projects are located in our Electoral Wards and as such, we have good knowledge of their status."

It further added that " The council chairman over time, connived with some private Money Lenders to secure fictitious Loan Facilities with high interest rates at the detriment of the local government council without any approving authority permitting him to do so. The money runs in millions of Naira."

According to the letter, the chairman aside " sometimes in April 2021 applied for a Facility through the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs of the state to the tune of N280, 000,000.00 only and same was approved and accessed to fund some specific projects mentioned in our Ground No.1 above , only for him to divert the monies to other different things and re-submitting the same projects in the 2022 Budget of the council" adding that " The

Executive Chairman has exhibited questionable character that is unbecoming of a public office holder like him by selling some of the inherited local government assets and diverting the proceeds to projects that are not of any value to the council compared with the values of the disposed assets among which are assets belonging to the state government".

Investigations subsequently revealed that the official impeachment procedures became inconclusive after hoodlums stormed the legislators' sitting and ensured that it did not take place. A visit to the secretariat however saw heavy security personnel guarding the council to ensure no breakdown of law and order happens. As it is; there are also ongoing deliberations towards ensuring that nerves are calmed to create an enabling environment for development in the council. Already, many stakeholders have opined that while investigations should be conducted to verify the nature of public expenditure in the council, any such move to destabilize the system would not mean well for the citizens of the area.

However, experts submit that any local government autonomy granted without a supervisory role by the state government could end up creating room for acts of personal aggrandizement. Therefore, to help checkmate the system, the legislatures of various councils must wake up to their responsibilities of ensuring that they are carried along during critical moments of decision making.

But again, all elected officials at the grassroots level must always be prudent in their expenditure to attract public trust and confidence. In this regard, all designated projects should be supervised by various stakeholders as well as constituted authorities within the hierarchy of these councils.

As leaders, it is incumbent on all chairmen of councils to operate an open door policy where their citizens can peruse and challenge any issue considered either not lucrative and or integral to the quest for inclusiveness. It should not be mistaken that all political office holders in local government councils are grassroots politicians and should always avail themselves to their local populace so as to synergize in concrete consensus all that needs to be done to develop our rural areas.

The question many people are asking in the aftermath of the impeachment attempt in Jos North Local Government Area for now is; has dust settled?

"The notice further alleged that " The Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council Hon. Shehu Bala Usman severally awarded contacts without due process as provided by law amongst which are: the Jenta Adamu 3km road construction, New Market 1.5 km road construction and the Yan Ganda-Rikkos 1.5 km road project. Others include, the purchase and Rehabilitation of Pediatric Hospital, Fudawa , supply and installation of Transformers at exorbitant prices and Concrete Pavements and Drainages at Farin Gada Market, these contracts, he did not only awarded them but claimed some of them are completed or almost completed, whereas it is not true, as the projects are located in our Electoral Wards and as such, we have good knowledge of their status."



The diaspora biker's visit to Jos



Among one of the most remarkable events that happened last week at the seat of power was a visit by a popular Nigerian London-based Biker, Kunle Adeyanju to Jos, and

Plateau State on Saturday July 9, 2022.

Adeyanju had gained his popularity for riding his bike by road from London to Lagos Nigeria and for his social campaigns.

He came to Jos enroute other states of the country, for advocacy and sensitisation mission against the dreaded polio disease that devastates its victims by leaving them

physically challenged.

He was received with a warm reception by Governor Simon Bako Lalong, some government officials and fans at the Rayfield Golf-course. As everyone wanted to have an interaction with the 'famous daring biker'.

Adeyanju simply expressed delight for being in Plateau. "Home of Peace and Tourism" with beautiful landscapes. And used the forum to express his fears about polio disease coming back to the country if all stakeholders do not stand on their feet to give a good fight and make Nigeria maintain a polio-free status.

He gave examples of how the dreaded public health disease had recently been discovered in UK, while countries like Malawi, Cote D'Ivoire and Togo still have it.

Centre of attraction at the forum was how the Governor symbolically joined the polio campaign and rode on one of the bikes across some streets of Jos.

Lalong welcomed him for stopping in Jos as one of his travel destinations and assured him of his administration's commitment to 'kick polio' out. The Governor also reminded the biker that he is Rotary member, so they have something in common as advocates for social change.

The Nigerian okada Rider Kunle Adeyanju is a London-based Nigerian adventure



biker, an entrepreneur, and an author, who made a bike trip from London to Lagos to raise money for charity.

He was born and raised in Nigeria and is the first Nigerian to hoist the Nigerian national flag at Africa's highest mountain peak, "Kilimanjaro."

Being a member of Rotary Club, Adeyanju creates awareness of Polio disease in Africa, has biked to the remote areas and through harsh terrains to create awareness for the "End Polio Now" global campaign raising funds to address community problems.

The biker is also a motivational speaker and has given his speech at several events, authored a book titled "Great Thinkers." His first book was "My Escapades on Kili," published in 2013 and gave a vivid account of his expedition to Africa's highest mountain

"Kilimanjaro." As an adventurous biker, Kunle has always been interested in the natural world and its people. He has experienced the rich culture of Japan, South Korea, and Mexico, along with Qatar, Marrakech, Uganda, Poland, Rome, Jerusalem, he writes a blog named "The Pelicans," where he shares his ideas on things and soft skills.

His trip from London to Lagos on April 19th 2022 for over 25 days was to cover around 12,000 km. He also provided information about his route and how he will pass through 14 countries, starting from London, through France, Spain, Morocco, Senegal, Mali, and Ghana, and reach his final destination being Lagos, Nigeria. Adeyanju said all the funds raised during his trip will be utilized in primary healthcare, Polio plus project, water, and sanitation.

News

Pam will bring enormous value to ICC - Lalong

By PALANG KASMI

Plateau State Governor Simon Bako Lalong has expressed confidence that Ibrahim James Pam, a candidate shortlisted for the post of the Registrar, International Criminal Court (ICC), Hague-Netherlands will add value to the office.

Governor Lalong stated this in a statement Tuesday while congratulating Pam for being the only Nigerian shortlisted among the twelve candidates for the position.

The Governor expressed optimism that he will be successful in the selection process going by the knowledge he brings along with his bulk of experience.

According to Lalong "Pam who has worked for over two decades in the area of International Criminal Justice, investigations and prosecution of the Rome Statutes crimes, internal oversight, administrative and criminal investigations, fraud risk management and fraud prevention among others, will bring enormous value

to the office when appointed".

"Ibrahim Pam has previously worked meritoriously with the International Criminal Court in the Hague; the African Development Bank; and is currently an Executive Director with the Green Climate Fund in South Korea".

Governor Lalong while assuring him of the support and prayers of the people and Government of Plateau State said his candidacy is not only a thing of pride for Plateau State and Nigeria, but of the entire African continent.

He wished him well and urged him to continue to demonstrate the true Plateau spirit of resilience, honesty, diligence and excellence.

The Presidency on Monday revealed that the nation's military made use of United States fighter jets and intelligence provided by the British to eliminate the leader of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in March this year.

In a statement by Garba Shehu, Senior Special Assistant to the President (Media & Publicity) issued as a rebuttal to claims of the administration's failure to deal with the country's various challenges facing the country, it said the cooperation between the world powers and the Nigerian military was an indication of the new-found trust enjoyed from the countries by Nigeria.

The statement affirmed that Nigeria like every other country in the world is undergoing a period of hardship.

According to the Presidency any suggestion that the Buhari administration is not leaving Nigeria in a better place than we found it, especially on the key pillars of the economy, security and corruption, "is pure fantasy."

It added: "The facts speak for themselves. On security, as recently as 2015, Boko Haram

Presidency denies claims of Buhari's failure in office

held territory the size of Belgium in Nigeria. Today they hold no Nigerian territory to speak of. In March, our military eliminated the leader of ISWAP in an airstrike using U.S. jets and British intelligence – a testament to the newfound trust our allies hold in our administration, not enjoyed by previous administrations.

"Moreover, our administration is the only in Nigeria's history to implement a solution to the herder-farmer conflicts through our landmark National Livestock Transformation Plan. Already, where ranches have been established under that initiative, we are seeing a sharp reduction in disputes."

The statement disputed the claim that "nothing has changed, not to talk of getting worse," under President Muhammadu Buhari's administration, noting that things have improved.

On corruption, the statement observed that the administration has seen hundreds of millions in stolen funds returned from abroad and used as social and welfare funds distributed directly to the poorest during the Covid-19 pandemic and the provision of long-delayed infrastructure roads, bridges, rail, and power.

While harping on the achievements of the administration, the statement said: "This is a direct result of Buhari administration's initiatives such as our whistleblowing policy which empowers and emboldens Nigerians to report corruption without fear."

"Moreover, it again demonstrates the newfound trust

our international partners have in Nigeria, thanks to the efforts of our administration. Those same partners refused to return stolen monies to previous administrations for decades, knowing it would simply be stolen again.

"More importantly, what the Buhari administration has done is to place mechanisms to stop corruption from happening that include the strengthening of the office of the Auditor General, enhancing the capabilities of the anti-corruption agencies by signing into law several legislations and Executive Orders; the implementation of the Treasury Single Account, TSA, whistleblower; the implementation of public expenditure management and forensic accounting management systems and several others.

"As for the economy, the unprecedented and vast infrastructure development driven by our administration has set the country on course for sustainable – and crucially, equitable economic growth – while our policies for boosting domestic production of food and energy will be key to us navigating the global cost of living crisis.

"With global supply chains disrupted by the Covid-19 lockdown and the Russia-Ukraine war, skyrocketing freight rates and extreme weather events causing inflation to surge all over the world, leaders are getting the beating and we expect that ours will not also be spared.

"But fairness demands that we should give credit to whom it is due. President Buhari put in place a food policy, to grow what we eat and eat what we grow, which has averted the growing food security threat that is pushing nations into a conundrum.

"The President's programme has given the nation the confidence to ban rice imports, saving a daily amount of USD 5 million in Forex. We have seen rice Pyramids in many states including Kebbi, FCT, Niger, Gombe and amazingly, Ekiti State.

"The country has witnessed the setting up of 54 integrated rice mills, 1,000 small-scale rice mills, and 57 fertilizer plants revived or built anew in a boost to production. Nasarawa State is today competing with Niger in sugar production and Kaduna State is about to commission a steel mill. Only a performing economy can give these.

"In a time of global hardship, we are faced with enough challenges without inventing them where there are none. Moreover, pretending that achievements do not exist where they do helps no one. Rather, let us focus on what we have achieved so that we may build further upon those achievements to tackle the new challenges that continue to arise.

"Finally, it needs to be said that in periods like this, when elections are within view, harsh and unfair criticisms are expected, especially against a leader like President Buhari with an image that is significant, in which the All Progressives



Pam

SPORTS IMAGES

LALONG RECEIVES DIASPORA BIKER IN JOS

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors’ Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong recently received Biker Kunle Adeyanju that travelled on bike from United Kingdom (UK) to Nigeria



Biker Kunle Adeyanju on arrival to meet Governor Lalong



Governor Lalong, Biker Kunle Adeyanju with State Government officials displaying end polio now logo



Governor Lalong receiving the Biker and his team



Plateau State Governor on one of the bikes during the visit



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (right) in a warm handshake with Kunle Adeyanju



The visitor Adeyanju, Governor Lalong in a group photograph with Golfers at the Rayfield Golf Club

Sports

Home-based players will be invited to camp soon-Yusuf

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

COACH Salisu Yusuf of the Super Eagles B, also known as "Home-based Super Eagles", has stated that, players will be called to the camp immediately the Nigeria Professional Football League ends.

He disclosed this to sports journalists in an interview at the Jos International Stadium on Sunday, after his turtored side in the NPFL, Kano Pillars were beating 1-0 by Nasarawa United Football Club of Lafia, in the match week 37 of the NPFL.

Yusuf opined that, the players will be giving two weeks break before resuming to the camp for the championship ahead.

"We want to call the players to the camp at the end of the league, and thereafter have two weeks break before the camp as they have been playing in the league for over nine months, so, they need to rest in order to be fresh in the camp", he said.

While commenting on their game against Nasarawa United, the Technical Adviser lamented that the centre referee didn't officiate as a professional.

"It is so unfortunate



Yusuf (R) with Rohr

that, a single person will decide the outcome of a game, not allowing the floor of the game to decide. Referees must be professionals in order to get it right in the league. It is so, disheartening to work hard for a team and just one man will decide what will happen, it is so unfortunate", he lamented.

Pillars are swimming in relegation waters, but the tactician emphasized that they will continue to work hard to enable them escape relegation.

"We will continue to fight, it is football, anything can happen, we still have one

game to go", he concluded.

Also, Bala Nikyu, Technical Adviser of Nasarawa United Football Club of Lafia, who slightly escaped relegation said that, they know the importance of today's match which was a must win, in order to stay in the league.

"We knew losing this game is dangerous for us and we cannot over look that fact, that's why we played very hard to ensure we win the game and we appreciate, God for the victory", he said.

"The match was so difficult because, both teams needed the game, so temperature had to be high, but we thank God we are out of relegation", he ended.

Falcons vow to beat Cameroun

FRESH from a 4-0 defeat of Burundi in their last group game at the ongoing Africa Women Cup of Nations, Super Falcons have promised to beat Cameroun in Thursday's quarterfinal clash in Casablanca.

Newsnow said that, the Super Falcons arrived in Casablanca, yesterday, to begin preparations for Thursday's clash, which a

win will guarantee the victor qualification for the FIFA Women World Cup.

According to Super Falcons' Media Officer, Oluchi Tobechei, the team is camped at Novotel Hotel, Mohammedia area of Casablanca.

She disclosed that the team had their first training session (light walk out) in the city last night. Looking forward to a successful outing against old

customers, Cameroun, Falcons' two-goal heroine against Burundi, Uchenna Kanu, said the team is primed for success in the quarterfinal clash.

She said the clash would be a repeat of 2016 final in which Nigeria defeated Cameroun 1-0 in Yaoundé to win its eight title.

The Falcons, then led by Florence Omagbemi,

defeated South Africa 2-0 before beating Cameroun with the winning goal coming through Desire Oparanozie.

Although Oparanozie is no longer in the squad, Kanu believes Nigeria has a formidable side that would maintain Falcons' superiority over the Indomitable Lionesses.

Kanu, who scored two goals against Burundi in Nigeria's 4-0 win on Sunday, said: "Judging from our training and previous games, we are improving and ready for any team."

The Mexico-based striker expressed her conviction that the Super Falcons are hitting their heights and would no longer stoop low for Cameroun in Casablanca.

Cameroun have not lost any game in the competition, playing two draws in their first two games before beating Tunisia 2-0 in their last game.

Apart from a semifinal ticket, a bigger pie on offer for any team that makes it to the last four is the ticket to the 2023 World Cup in Australia.

"We know others are improving, as well, but we are ready to match up with any team that comes our way. It's going to be a tough game against Cameroon but we are ready to face them," she said.



Falcons

Nigeria targets Olympic qualification



Nigerian Volleyball players

South-South while the third Round will come up in the South West.

"The tour has given the opportunity to young players to showcase their talents and that is the pride of Nigeria Volleyball Federation."

"I am assuring with what I am seeing at the beach volleyball tour, that we are going back to our rightful position in Africa. Our current

rankings might not be encouraging but I believe that we will return to the summit, particularly our male teams."

Nimrod said, "Nigeria will be attending the African Senior Beach Nations Cup in Morocco by the end of this month and I am assuring you that the boys will give their best; we have to expose our players."

Handball: Nigeria loses match against Tunisia

THE Nigeria Senior Handball Men's Team, on Monday, lost their first match against Tunisia 18-30 in the ongoing 2022 Africa Men Handball Senior Championship in Egypt.

Newsnow said that, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Nigeria team also known as the Golden Arrows fought hard in the first half, but lost with one point difference 13-14.

Nigeria dropped the magic of the first half and made several mistakes and turnovers in the second half which allowed the Tunisians to punish them with an emphatic 30-18 victory.

The Head Coach of the team Rafiu Salami said his team didn't take their chances and allowed incessant turnovers which made the Tunisians to be ahead in large period of the match.

"We had a game plan and they adhered to it and that was why we played well in the first half.

"But in the second half, we were too eager to score which caused the turnovers and then we were too scared to

play because we were playing to concede goals instead of playing to win," Coach Salami said

The coach said the team would do better against Cape Verde as this was the first top side they would play aside the Abuja based clubs.

"All hope is not lost as I believe we will do better against Cape Verde who by the way are a very good side.

"I believe we will come through and do everything possible to win," he said

NAN reports that Nigeria will play Cape Verde on Tuesday and a victory may be good enough for the Golden Arrows to get into the quarter-finals.

Nigeria is classified in group C alongside Tunisia and Cape Verde.

The competition will also serve as an African qualifiers tournament for the 2023 World Men's Handball Championship in Poland and Sweden.

The first five countries will represent the continent in the World Cup.

The Golden Arrows finished in the 10th position in the last edition in Tunisia.



Nigerian Handball players

Sports



Before his run to the Wimbledon final, Nick Kyrgios had never made it past a quarter-final in singles at a Grand Slam

Kyrgios is important for tennis

- McEnroe

John McEnroe says Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios has "got his demons" but tennis needs him "big time".

BBC SPORT said that, Australia's Kyrgios, 27, was beaten by Serbia's top seed Novak Djokovic in Sunday's men's final.

The world number 45's run to his first Grand Slam final saw him fined for several outbursts on court.

McEnroe says he asked Kyrgios on "numerous occasions to come and have a chat" but he always find "an excuse".

"I get a lot of what's going on here more than most people," the American, 63, told BBC Radio 5 Live Breakfast.

"He's a good kid, the players like him, he's well liked in the locker room, he does a lot of charity work.

"But he's got demons you know, in a way - we all have this fear of failure and it's a question of how you best deal with it."

Kyrgios' run to the final came amid more controversy as it was revealed he faces a court hearing in Canberra next month in relation to an allegation of common assault.

Seven-time Grand Slam champion McEnroe said the shots Kyrgios pulls off are "incredible", adding: "It's unbelievable so he moves the needle for us in tennis. We need this big time, but we don't need him to try half the time.

"Who should coach Nick Kyrgios? John McEnroe of course but he's untouchable. Anyway the guy doesn't need the coach, the guy is a genius out there the way he plays. He needs Sigmund Freud to come out of the grave and somehow figure out a way to keep this guy going for a couple of years because we could use him." Speaking to BBC Sport's Laura Scott, McEnroe added: "You know he's sitting there and he's obviously tortured in certain ways. [He's] unbelievably talented, very

smart.

"[He's] a hell of a player when he wants to be and so you want to nurture that in a way as an ex-player, as a father, as a fan, as a commentator, so I can relate a lot."

McEnroe explores mental health, among other topics, in an upcoming documentary about his life and career which is released in cinemas on Friday.

Earlier this year, Kyrgios opened up about his own struggles with depression and self-harming, saying the 2019 Australian Open was one of his "darkest periods".

Kyrgios was fined earlier in the tournament after a fiery match against Stefanos Tsitsipas and admitted spitting in the direction of a fan after his first-round match.

McEnroe had called Kyrgios' behaviour embarrassing and conceded that it could be seen as "the pot calling the kettle black", given the American's own arguments with umpires during his career.

Of his own antics, McEnroe said "there's certain behaviour that I regret",

adding: "I would say I'm proud of most of what I did but there are certainly times where I'm like, 'I didn't need to do that'."

"It only exacerbated the situation and made more people get mad at me or start booing me so it wasn't like it helped me.

"It may be at times you blow off some steam. Obviously, you see Kyrgios doing that all the time."

Much of Kyrgios' on-court frustration was aimed at his own support box and McEnroe lamented that behaviour in particular.

"Most of what he does, I like," the three-time Wimbledon champion said.

He added: "There's plenty of other people who have gone through it in a lot of other sports and maybe worse than me, but it did feel a bit overwhelming."

Deportation: Djokovic needed to 'weather the storm'

NOVAK Djokovic says his fourth consecutive Wimbledon win has more significance after

he needed time to "weather the storm" following his deportation from Australia.

BBC SPORT said that, Djokovic beat Nick Kyrgios 4-6

6-3 6-4 7-6 (7-3) to claim his first Grand Slam title since Wimbledon last year.

The Serb was deported shortly before the start of January's Australian Open after a row over his vaccine status.

"Wimbledon historically has come at important stages of my life," he said.

Djokovic has won seven of his 21 Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon, with only Roger Federer claiming more in the men's competition.

He was unable to compete at the Australian Open - where he is a nine-time winner - because of not being vaccinated for Covid-19 but arrived in the country after being granted a medical exception.

However, a 10-day saga ultimately led to his visa being cancelled on "health and good order" grounds and he was subsequently deported and given a three-year visa ban after spending time in detention.

"This year started the way it has started and it has affected me definitely in the first several months of the year," the 35-year-old said.

"It's really, really cool

on a walking boot," he said in an Instagram post.

"Devastated by the news but I'm thankful for all the blessing in my career so far."

Jepchirchir, 28, won the Olympic title in Tokyo last year in a time of two hours 27 minutes and 20 seconds, beating compatriot Brigid Kosgei and American Molly Seidel to take gold.

The 2016 and 2020 World Half-Marathon Championships winner added: "I am so disappointed but I would rather not aggravate the injury since we still have another world event next year before my Olympic title defence at the 2024 Paris Games."

Jepchirchir won on her Boston Marathon debut in April and was a late addition to Kenya's four-strong team for the women's marathon in Eugene.

Reigning world champion Ruth Chepngetich will race alongside Judith Jeptum and Angela Tanui.

Niyonsaba, meanwhile, said she had "no choice" but to withdraw from the championships on American soil.

"About one month ago, I had a beginning of a stress fracture. Me and my team did everything possible to recover," she added in a post on Instagram.

"I am almost OK now but I couldn't train for all this period, so I'm not in the shape that can allow me to perform the way I wanted."

Niyonsaba, the only Burundian woman to win an Olympic medal, had success over 3,000m at the Doha Diamond League in May.

At last year's Olympics, she finished fifth in the women's 10,000m final with a national record, as she impressively adjusted to her ban from competing between 400m and 1500m because of naturally-high levels of testosterone.

The World Athletics Championships begin on Friday and last until 24 July.



Peres Jepchirchir (left) was among the favourites for the women's marathon after wins in New York and Boston since taking Olympic gold

Woods chasing third Course win- McIlroy

RORY McIlroy says it is "great" Tiger Woods is at the 150th Open Championship even if the American has been joking about his St Andrews superiority.

BBC SPORT said that, Woods has won two of his three Open titles at the Old Course and missed last month's US Open in an effort to be fit to play at the home of golf.

"He's going for a third Claret

Jug at St Andrews and he keeps reminding me of that," laughed McIlroy.

"But a healthy Tiger Woods means a healthy golf. He brings more interest."

Talking to BBC Northern Ireland, the 2014 Open champion added: "There was a chance where we might never have seen him again so the fact he is here says a lot about him, what the game of golf means to

him, and what competing in an Open means to him.

"He's a legend not just in golf but in all of sport and even though we're not going to see him as much as we used to it's great to have him around."

McIlroy played with Woods in Monday's 'Celebration of Champions' exhibition event. The pair were joined by two-time Open winner Lee Trevino and 2018 Women's Open champion Georgia Hall for the four-hole contest, which took in the first, second, 17th and 18th holes and was watched by thousands of fans.

"If you told a 10-year-old Rory I would be doing this I wouldn't have believed you," the 33-year-old four-time major winner said.

"To get my name on the Claret Jug, to be as close as I am to my hero growing up (Woods) and to be doing this, the Champions Dinner in the R&A clubhouse, it's sort of pinch yourself moments.

generally. Mentally, emotionally, I was not at a good place.

"I realised at that point that it's going to take some time, that I have to be patient, and sooner or later I will get myself in the optimal state."

Djokovic has also missed tournaments in the United States because of his unvaccinated status and had his French Open title defence ended by Rafael Nadal in the quarter-finals last month.

However, he has dominated Wimbledon in recent years and has not lost a match there since retiring injured in the quarter-finals in 2017.

"It's not a coincidence that Wimbledon has such relevance in my life and career," he said.

"It's a relief, as well, considering what I've been through this year. It adds more value and more significance and more emotions, of course."

Despite retaining his title, current world number three Djokovic will drop to seven in the world rankings as there were no points available at this year's Wimbledon.

"I was not feeling great



Woods



Quest



writer

MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH

FRAGMENT

"However, it is important that religious leaders really understand the nexus between religion and politics. Now, with the return of democracy, our role is to be vigilant but to focus more on the quality of the democratic outcome given that what we fought for is now here. The temptation for compromise is there when members of our faith, region or ethnic groups take power. The real role of the prophetic leader requires offering directions for the attainment of the Common good of all."

MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH

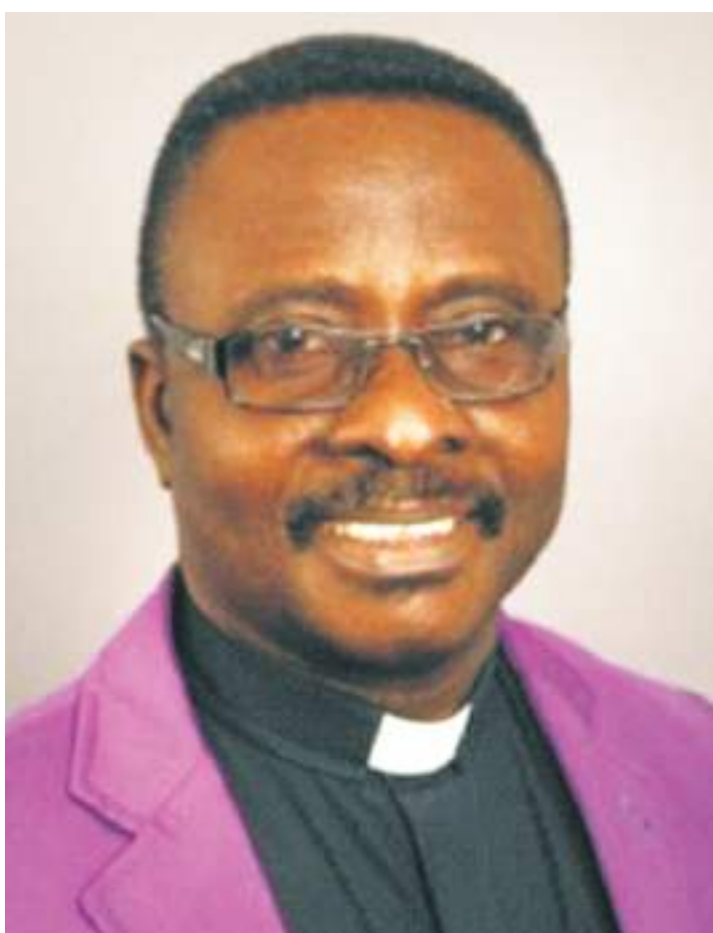
Christian-Muslim relations: Nigerian situation

AFTER his tenure, Rev. Akinola could not win a second term as the leadership of CAN then elected Archbishop Onaiyekan. He too held the position for one term before Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, again defeated him. Sadly, the virus of corruption had already entered the body of Christ as regionalism and ethnicity seemed to now play a role in turning bribery into a major part of CAN elections. The 2010 elections were even worse, again marked by some degree of regionalism.

The Presidency of Pastor Ayo has been controversial because of the adversarial manner he has handled relations with Muslims. He has tended to see politics in everything and has pitched the body of Christ against the Muslim power blocks. The Sultan has been most matured and balanced in the way and manner that he has handled dialogue even in these very difficult situations. What then is the future of Christian Muslim relations in Nigeria? I will conclude by making just three key points.

The Future

First, there is an urgent need for the leadership of both Muslims and Christians to find the best way of freeing religion from the grip of Nigeria's murky politics. The notion that any of these groups can become the praying wing of the party in power is gaining ground. Christians must quickly return to the fine principles of Ecumenism which were the founding ideals of the Organization. It seems that Christians now see CAN at the State and Federal levels as being at the service of those in power. Thus, a culture of Chaplaincies, Pilgrim Boards, and Prayer Warriors has emerged. The difficulties here lie in the fact that in all cases, the contest for positions of Chaplains, Chairmen of Pilgrims' Welfare Boards is taking its toll on the Christian community especially as the body of Christ is presenting itself as being made



Ayokunle, CAN National President

up of contending and competing political associations. The motto of CAN is, *That they may be One*. Sadly, today, the motto looks like, *That we may be one with the Political authorities!*

Secondly, the impression has gained ground over time that both Jama'atu Nasril Islam (Society for the Victory of Islam, JINI) and Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) were set up to fight each other. The dubious notion that both sides see these associations as platforms for defending our members and our faith is dangerous and it is a programme for tension and even violence. It is one of the reasons why the relationship between Christians and Muslims has been so ineffective and the integrity of the bodies open to question. These postures have made the leadership rather vulnerable: posturing and defending my people become an excuse for wanting a piece of the pie.

Thirdly, there is need for us to

nation.

However, it is important that religious leaders really understand the nexus between religion and politics. Now, with the return of democracy, our role is to be vigilant but to focus more on the quality of the democratic outcome given that what we fought for is now here. The temptation for compromise is there when members of our faith, region or ethnic groups take power. The real role of the prophetic leader requires offering directions for the attainment of the **Common good** of all. And here, religious leaders should no longer far from the goal posts of credibility, we still have the best opportunity for building a new and viable nation.

However, it is important that religious leaders really understand the nexus between religion and politics. Now, with the return of democracy, our role is to be vigilant but to focus more on the quality of the democratic outcome given that what we fought for is now here. The temptation for compromise is there when members of our faith, region or ethnic groups take power. The real role of the prophetic leader requires offering directions for the attainment of the Common good of all. And here, religious leaders should no longer

present themselves as defenders of their people, but defenders of the people, God's children as opposed to the adherents of our faith.

There is need for the Catholic Church to reclaim its authority as a founding father of CAN, so as to rescue the Association from sliding further deeply into the morass of politics due to greed and the manipulation of the leadership. Clearly, the last ten years have witnessed some serious challenges for CAN to the point that many in the Catholic Church have continued to wonder whether it is useful for the Catholic Church to remain in the body. The Catholic Church has been at the forefront of creating these kinds of platforms especially in areas of conflict such as the Philippines, Ghana and South Africa.

Our country is ours to build. The Catholic Church must revisit its teachings in such areas as the Common Good as a byproduct of the Social Teachings of the Church as a means of encouraging our politicians to help rebuild our broken society. It is important that both faiths reclaim the moral ground which has become infested with so much corruption. This collaboration is important both for religion and the nation itself.

Concluded

First, there is an urgent need for the leadership of both Muslims and Christians to find the best way of freeing religion from the grip of Nigeria's murky politics. The notion that any of these groups can become the praying wing of the party in power is gaining ground. Christians must quickly return to the fine principles of Ecumenism which were the founding ideals of the Organization. It seems that Christians now see CAN at the State and Federal levels as being at the service of those in power. Thus, a culture of Chaplaincies, Pilgrim Boards, and Prayer Warriors has emerged. The difficulties here lie in the fact that in all cases, the contest for positions of Chaplains, Chairmen of Pilgrims' Welfare Boards is taking its toll on the Christian community especially as the body of Christ is presenting itself as being made up of contending and competing political associations. The motto of CAN is, *That they may be One*. Sadly, today, the motto looks like, *That we may be one with the Political authorities!*