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Are Nigeria's correctional centres this vulnerable?

The Nigeria Correctional Service Tuesday, 9th July 2022 recorded another tragic incident following the Abuja Prison break which is presently becoming another critical intellectual issue of discourse. In the aftermath of the Kuje jail break which is situated in the heart of the Federal Capital Territory, security experts, stakeholders including citizens of the country are this time around asking pragmatic and essential questions as to how shaky and perhaps vulnerable are our correctional facilities in the height of the present overwhelming security catastrophe confronting the nation. **BULUS GAMBO**, writes. Turn to pages 10,31

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Nigerians groan as foreign airlines hike fares

- Passengers pay N2m for economy, N5m for business class
- Nigerians now fly to Ghana to connect foreign flights
- We are monitoring the situation -NCAA Turn to page 2





Editorial

Re-emerging fuel scarcity in Nigeria

The challenges bedeviling Nigeria on all fronts today seem to be waxing on unabated, even with the assurances by those in authority that they are on top of the situation. One of such reoccurring challenges is the issue of fuel scarcity which appears to be a reoccurring decimal in our nation, always coming with its attendant consequences on the operations of other sectors and indeed, the economic life of the common Nigerian. Fuel scarcity is no longer news in this part of the world and it is also no longer news that Nigerians are suffering as a result of this phenomenon.

Over the past few weeks and indeed, during the Sallah break, Nigerians woke up to witness the scarcity of fuel again in most filling stations, with the attendant long queues in major cities like Abuja and Jos among others. This has forced many Nigerians to ask this probing question as to whether the Nigerian government is not always speaking from both sides of its mouth when it says that government is on top of the situation, yet without any significant impact being felt by the masses of the people within the time given by the authorities.

Indeed, the Federal Government through the Minister of Information Lai Mohammed, had in a recent interview assured that the government had no plans to remove fuel subsidy because of the catastrophic consequences that may follow, but yet, the supply of the product is epileptic and inadequate to this day for the consumption of Nigerians.

Worthy of note is the fact that even with the subsidy by government, things are not working well. Will it then be available when it is removed, even as the products are not refined in Nigeria? Furthermore, who will be able to buy the product when subsidy is removed and left to be determined by the forces of demand and supply in the free market economy, with the current galloping inflation that is being experienced in the country? Only recently, the Managing Director of NNPC, had assured that the product will be available to Nigerians within one or so weeks. However, to this day, this is appearing to be a repeat of such assurances that hardly see the light of the day.

Indeed, over the years, the controversy of the subsidy regime in Nigeria has been nothing but a fallacy, without tangible results in sight. The racketeering and corruption being exhibited in the name of subsidy is one of the reasons that have brought the nation to this stage of quagmire.

From all indications, it is safe to say that the economic recession in Nigeria is far from being over. The economic indices are not confirming anything that is otherwise. The recession can only be said to be over when the common man on the street can be able to put food on his table with some level of ease. Since the activities of NNPC has multiplier effect on the performance of the entire economy, there is the need on the part of government to always put on the needed eagle eyes on their operations, as corruption is on the increase. If our refineries had been, the economic challenges being experienced in the country would have been reduced.

It may interest those in authority to know that even when these products are supplied to the major marketers, same is being diverted and sold to smaller marketers who dispense them at very exorbitant rates to ordinary Nigerians. In view of this, government must act fast to save Nigerians from experiencing a re-emergence of another scarcity of fuel in the country as our challenges are too many, sending many of the less privileged to their early graves.

NEWS

AIR travellers are presently groaning under the prohibitive fares foreign airlines operating in Nigeria have rolled out for flights between Nigeria and their home countries.

Many of the foreign carriers have even warned of the situation becoming worse and making Nigerian travellers pay even more unless the Federal Government begins to settle the outstanding \$450 million that has been trapped in the country.

Air travel experts said most of the foreign carriers have stopped selling the lower fares inventory in Nigeria, leaving travellers with the expensive fares option described as the highest in the sub-region.

Foreign airlines that have stopped selling low fare tickets include Virgin Atlantic which now charges N2,353,200 for economy and N5,345,700 for business class on the Lagos-London route.

For Turkish airlines, the economy class ticket for the Lagos-Istanbul route has risen to N874,661 while the business class ticket is now N1,980,876 on.

This is the same situation Nigerian travellers are experiencing with other foreign carriers like British Airways, Delta Air Lines, Lufthansa, KLM/Air France, Air Maroc and Ethiopian Airlines.

Before now, economy class ticket on Nigeria-UK route was between N400,000 and N650,000, depending on the booking period while business class was between N800,000 and N1.2 million.

Some of the foreign airlines' officials who spoke on condition of anonymity, because they were not authorised by their home countries to comment on the situation, said one of the factors responsible for the high air fare regime was the failure of the government to release the foreign airlines' trapped funds for them to remit to their head offices.

A source at the British Airways, who said many other factors were responsible for the fare hikes, cited the lack of forex, expensive aviation fuel, trapped funds and high demands for summer travels by Nigerians.

"Demands for foreign air travel have gone up for the first time since COVID as those who could not travel then now want to do so. But

Nigerians groan as foreign airlines hike fares



things are not getting better. In fact, they may soon get worse," the source added.

The president of the National Association of Nigeria Travel Agencies (NANTA), Mrs Suzan Akporiaye, explained how the attitude of the Federal Government towards remitting the foreign carriers' trapped funds and the unavailability of foreign exchange have pushed the travel agencies and travelling public into a tight situation.

Akporiaye said: "The major reason behind the hike in air fares is the inability of the airlines to get their funds and they have to resort to looking outside the official channel, the primary market to get their funds.

While insisting that the hike in fares is a way for the international carriers to protect themselves so that they could manage their level of exposure, the NANTA president added: "That is why it is happening this way and it cuts across the airlines. It is a general concern and it is getting worse. The airlines have also been going to the CBN and nothing is coming from there. Even IATA has also been talking and, interestingly, our government is not saying anything.

"I don't think it is fair to us as Nigerians and to the airlines that you have signed bilateral agreements for them to do business with you only to keep quiet in the face of this challenge that is going on. It is a genuine challenge, actually. We have a serious forex issue, no doubt. We know about that but then again, they have to find a way of balancing the few they have to go round. The airlines are not asking for all the backlogs to be paid at once. If arrangements can be made for 20, 30 percent of the backlogs being paid to the airlines, I think they will be a bit comfortable and relax some of the restrictions they have placed on the Nigerian market."

While confirming that the foreign airlines have since stopped selling tickets in lower inventories in the system, Akporiaye said: "They are

only selling the higher ones and, interestingly, it is only in Nigeria. The lower inventories are available to travel agencies in other parts of the world. For our clients in Nigeria, we have to be buying tickets for them from other countries.

So, there is a great loss for the Nigerian travel agencies. There is loss for the government of Nigeria and a bigger loss for us, travel agents, and also for the travelling public. Remember, the travel agencies are just selling, Nigerians who have to travel for one thing or the other are the ones that are suffering the hike in air fares."

While cautioning the Federal Government to be careful with the way the foreign airlines are presently being treated over the trapped funds, Ojikutu said: "Nigerians will be the ones to suffer for the trapped funds because the airlines must repatriate their funds back. They are doing business and they must make money out of it. So, if the CBN cannot pay them, they must find another source to take their money home."

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), the clearing house representing over 300 airlines across the globe, at the end of its recently concluded Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Doha, United Arab Emirates, regretted how the Nigerian government had failed to remit \$450 million of airlines sales proceeds from Nigeria.

INEC to end voter registration July 31

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday declared that Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) would officially end on July 31, 2022.

The Commission announced the extension after deliberations on some concerns around the exercise, among other things.

INEC's National Commissioner and Chairman Information and Voter Education Committee, Festus Okoye, who disclosed this in a statement in Abuja, also said the Commission was projecting 95 million voters for the 2023 poll.

Okoye said the Commission took the decision following a judgment delivered by the Federal High Court on Wednesday July 13, 2022, which dismissed the suit filed by the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) seeking an extension of the exercise beyond June 2022.

The Commission had previously extended the June 30 deadline but did not stipulate when the exercise would officially end Okoye, however, said the

court has now affirmed that INEC was at liberty to appoint a date of its choice to suspend the CVR, provided it is not later than 90 days before the date fixed for the general election as provided in Section 9(6) of the Electoral Act 2022.

He said that with the judgment of the Federal High Court, all legal encumbrances have been removed.

He said: "In compliance with the interim injunction of the Court pending the determination of the substantive suit, and in order to enable more Nigerians to register, the Commission continued with the CVR beyond June 30, 2022. For this reason, the CVR has already been extended beyond June 30, 2022, for a period of 15 days.

"With the judgment of the Federal High Court, all legal encumbrances have now been removed. Accordingly, the Commission has taken the following decisions:

"The CVR is hereby extended for another two weeks until Sunday, July 31, 2022, thereby bringing the total duration of the extension

to 31 days (1st - 31st July 2022).

"The exercise has also been extended to eight hours daily from 9.00am - 5.00pm instead of the current duration of six hours (9.00am - 3.00pm) daily; and the exercise is also extended to include weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) as against only weekdays."

Okoye maintained that though the timeframe may be tight for many prospective registrants, the Commission was required to do a lot under the electoral legal framework in relation to voter registration and compilation of the register that would require time to accomplish.

He said the commission would undertake clean-up of the register to remove multiple registrants using the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS).

He added that commission would also consolidate the national register of voters and display same on Polling Unit basis for each of the 8,809 Registration Areas (Wards) across the 774 local councils nationwide for public scrutiny.



With
**Katdapba
Y. Gobum
On Sunday**



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"The scenario has become the most lucrative business ever seen in this part; where one wakes up poor, but by evening he is calling everyone he ever knew to come celebrate his stepping up. More Nigerians have been fleeced of their hard-earned resources"

Shehu Garba's Nigeria and its disturbing narrative

If you are living in Nigeria and nothing worries you about some of the sad developments which daily take place in our communities, it means that you appear to be happy why those things are happening. It is an indication that we have reached the state where if things are not turned for the better; our drift towards extermination could be our next destination.

This cannot be pessimism from a frustrated Nigerian; neither can it be said that we are oblivious of the signs staring us in the face. Something tells me that there are many Nigerians who have similar feelings about how the journey has been.

The tales are enormous to imagine what will swallow the Nigerian people. The signs are ominous and each day is degenerating to the point of no return. The situation calls for swift and urgent action: There are issues of corruption that have held us by the jugular as well as a general sense of insecurity.

The insecurity question has defied known solutions. A lot of resources have been expended; and sadly we have lost security men and women, apart from other Nigerians in the course of persecuting the war. Every day, the nation is inundated with new developments of attack and bandits' ferocious adoptions and massacre of defenseless Nigerians; while we are told that, government is on top of the situation.

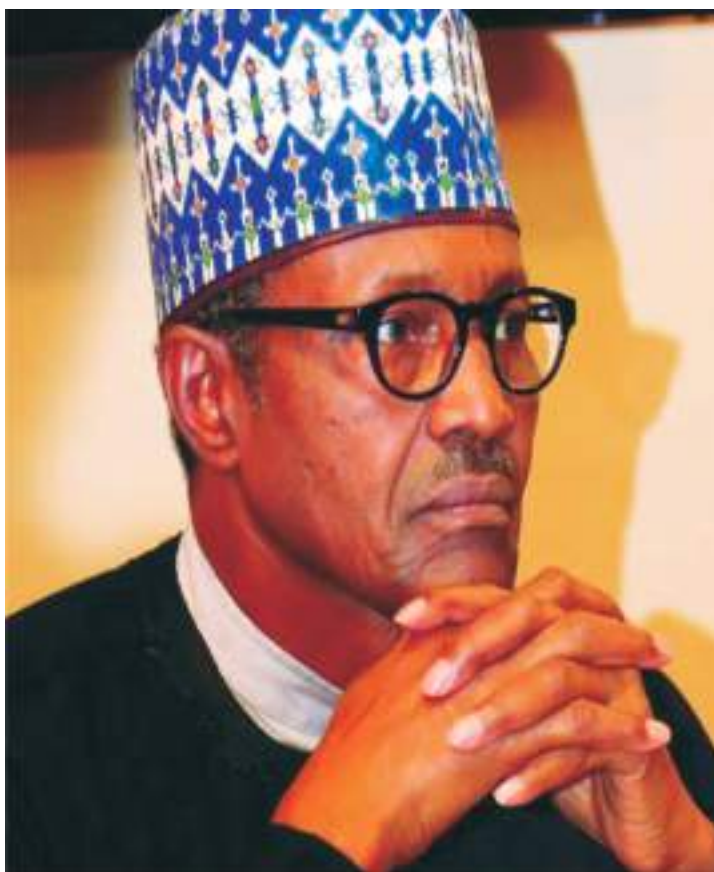
Kaduna State Governor Nasir Ahmed Rufai has repeatedly told the world that his government will never enter into negotiating with terrorists nor kidnappers or bandits for ransom. That means only families whose members have been kidnapped can go into negotiation with the captors of their loved ones.

It has been seen on a number of occasions even as the governor has not hidden his disdain for the elements that have made life hopeless for people. Such stance may have been misconstrued but it is possible to take a look at what has been happening and ascertain if giving ransom is the right thing to do. The situation can be confusing as other states, organizations and individuals may have gotten engaged in making available huge sums of money to them as ransom.

The scenario has become the most lucrative business ever seen in this part; where one wakes up poor, but by evening he is calling everyone he ever knew to come celebrate his stepping up. More Nigerians have been fleeced of their hard-earned resources.

But it is the new song from the Presidency has changed what is believed. Right or wrong, it is a fact that the Presidency has faulted payment of ransom to secure the release of persons kidnapped by bandits and terrorists, saying such payments worsen the insecurity in the country'.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu said this on Monday while featuring on Politics



Buhari

Today, a current affairs programme on Channels Television. When asked if Buhari had been able to solve the problems he promised his regime would solve after getting to power, Shehu said, "He has solved the problems substantially. Look at all of the things that have happened.

"When he came in, the real epicenter of the crisis was the North-East. The North-East is a lot more peaceful today than it was.

"And the South-South where even the mining of oil which is the backbone of the nation's economy had become almost impossible, again, calm has been restored to the South-South. All of these things you have mentioned, we don't deny that there is hardship in the country but so also is there difficulty in all parts of the world."

The presidential spokesman, therefore, urged critics of the regime to have a global view of the developments, saying "there would have been more sympathy for the leaders of this country."

He added, "So, the President has substantially succeeded in all of these elements that you have mentioned including anti-corruption. Even if it is by changing the tone or the moral environment, which is different; now people accept that it is wrong to take bribes when they are offered. Before now, people didn't have this idea in a lot of places. Corruption was seen as being part of life and one had to be part of it.

"On the kidnappers and all of that, the President, even in his Sallah message, the appeal he was making to fellow citizens was 'expose them, tell the security agencies where they are.' Sometimes, you also can sympathise with family members in that highly emotive situation. The first priority for many of them is to

get that family back home. And they are willing to pay (ransoms) and they have been paying."

"These payments, whether anybody likes it or not, will continue to fuel terrorism. We have to learn from the experiences in other lands that when you pay, you are fuelling terrorism; you are fuelling the hijack and kidnap of fellow citizens, and it will go on and on until when people call their bluff."

In a Punch report, sometime on February 25, 2021, it may be recalled that a meeting of the Governors of the 19 Northern States, the Senate President, Ahmed Lawan, Chief of Staff to the President, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, the Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, Director General of the Department of State Service, Yusuf Bichi, as well as the Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, held in Kaduna.

The essence of the meeting was to discuss the troubling security challenges occasioned by banditry and other related crimes as well as the almajiri menace in the northern states.

President Muhammadu Buhari, through his Chief of Staff, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, at the meeting, ruled out the possibility of negotiating with bandits, saying that his administration would continue to deal decisively with insurgents, bandits, kidnappers who had made life hellish for Nigerians.

He noted that his administration would continue to deal decisively with insurgents, bandits, kidnappers, and other criminals who constitute a threat to innocent citizens across the country.

"We are providing critical infrastructure such as roads, railways, airports among which are critical to economic prosperity of

our people as well as opening up economic opportunities for our citizens to pursue legitimate aspirations that grow the economy.

"At the same time, we are confronting the various dimensions of security challenges that continue to slow down the emancipation of our people from poverty and economic deprivation.

"The Government shall continue to deal with insurgents; bandits, kidnappers and other criminals constitute innocent threat citizens across the country.

"I have already tasked the new Service Chiefs to devise new strategies that will end this ugly situation where the lives of our people continue to be threatened by hoodlums and criminals.

"I expect that at this meeting, your Forum will also discuss and devise ways of building stronger collaboration with the security architecture and the people in defeating criminality across the region and the nation at last.

"It is pertinent to note that the increased realization of our security, democracy and development indices are inextricably linked. Democracy and the rule of law promote stability and in turn, reinforces the power to assert freedom and economic progress of our people.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in a Guardian report on December 19, 2020 said revelations trailing the abduction and release of 344 students by bandits have further exposed the All Progressives Congress (APC) as a party in league with bandits, insurgents and terrorists ravaging the country.

The PDP further wondered why the APC is not always forthcoming in condemning acts of terrorism and banditry, seeking to know what the APC and its leaders are gaining from the activities of bandits, terrorists, vandals and kidnappers.

"It is also very worrisome that our government under the APC can no longer battle bandits and insurgent and now has to rely on nascent groups coordinated by APC leaders to negotiate and pay ransom to assailants."

A NAN report on July 21, 2019 quoted President Muhammadu Buhari as condemning the killing of 37 innocent people by bandits in Goronyo Local Government Area of Sokoto State and vowed to respond fiercely against "these brutal and remorseless enemies of humanity".

"These frequent and large scale killings of poor villagers by gangs of mass murderers must be met with the fiercest force the government can mobilise".

"The presidency is consulting with states rocked by this tit-for-tat violent attacks with a view to complementing the security measures being put in place by getting the communities to dialogue with one another.

"Other states in the federation where there are similar security challenges are encouraged to emulate Zamfara in the hope that the solution to the problems will be found".

In another report on May 11, 2022 while appearing on Channels Television programme, Politics Today, Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to the President, Garba Shehu urged Nigerians to be proactive in the ongoing fight against the Boko Haram insurgents and bandits in the country.

"El-Rufai's warning means they are being proactive and all resources will be mobilized in order to eliminate the menace. If every community in the country is also proactive, none of these problems will arise and the country would have moved past that.

"There has been resistance from family members of captives which is expected. People are engaged with negotiations with the terrorists and the Federal Government is trying to secure the release of the captives.

"I can tell you that the Department of State Service (DSS) is involved in the negotiations and they don't publicize their operations. I believe that there is some credibility with the terrorists in order to secure the release of the captives. Therein lies the crux of the matter."

The Punch in an editorial in May 2022 wrote on an amendment the Senate seeks: If this amendment becomes law, Nigerians who pay ransoms to kidnappers risk spending 15 years in jail. We vehemently disagree with the President of the Senate who claimed thus: "This is one piece of legislation that can turn around not only the security issues of Nigeria but even the economy of the country".

"This amendment Bill will be a bad law. It will tie the hands of the relations of victims from helping themselves to free their loved ones in kidnappers' dens after government fails in its constitutional duty of safeguarding the people. It will amount to adding salt to injury. It does not contain any seed of justice.

"While we agree that payment of ransoms helps to fortify criminals and terrorists who abduct people as a means of making money and holding the government to ransom, we insist that it is the primary duty of government to prevent kidnapping through proactive intelligence, policing and law enforcement. It is also its responsibility to manage these incidents when they occur to ensure the safe rescue of the victims.

"But in Nigeria, government has increasingly resorted to abandoning law and order duties altogether. Thousands of kidnapped men, women and children are languishing at the mercy of criminals and terrorists while officials are spending public funds and jostling to buy nomination forms.

"Government cannot abdicate its responsibility and make self-help a crime. We fully hold the government responsible for the protection of citizens and their safe rescue (by whatever means) when kidnapped".



Rape: The untold stories

Right from our early childhood, the victims of rape have been painted black, treated like outcast and in most cases, blamed for their predicament. All of a sudden, she becomes a loner, reserved, her friends avoid her openly. Going to school or church becomes an unbearable torture for her as people point fingers at her and call her names.

Her case was often worst if she didn't have a supportive family. People who would protect her from the public mockery, harsh jokes, insensitive words, and show her tender love and care during the turbulent times.

The victims that used to suffer most were those molested or raped by their father or by their uncle or master. A lady who was a victim of rape under this category said "over night, I became my mother's enemy."

The above lady was repeatedly raped by her dad since age eleven. He had threatened to kill her if she said anything to her mother. She despised her dad for inflicting pain on her and disliked her mother for not seeing her pain or seeing through her perfect husband.

She endured the humiliation for 3 years until the day her brothers caught them red handed. Her father did all he could to play it down, then tried to sweep it under the carpet, but her brothers said they had suspected for some time. However, each time they woke up, they would see their father on his way out from the children's room. Until that day that they pretended to be sleeping. As usual, their father tip toed to their sister's bed, and immediately pulled her pant down, complaining that she should not be sleeping with pant. He was about thrusting his manhood in side her, when his 3 boys pounced on him.

This victim of rape perpetrated by her father said she felt relieved and thought her humiliation was over, but that was the beginning. Her mother tried everything possible to save her marriage by blaming her (daughter) for everything. However, her brothers stood by her, and so did her mother's relatives, female lawyers and activists who fought the case for her.

She had to be relocated to her aunt's house as the case went to court. Her dad was remanded in cell and denied bail. This lady said she was forced to open up and tell everyone what she never told a soul. Everyone was shocked that she had suffered rape in silence since the age of eleven until she was 13. She told them that her father threatened to kill her if she told anyone. Sobbing, she told them that her father had aborted pregnancies for her more than six times or she would have given birth to his children. That was how she forcefully became an orphan.

I once shared with us in Sunday Magazine, that some girls from the

ghetto in Tudun Wada confided in my colleague that their fathers deflowered them. Their explanation was that they could not bear imagining the useless boys in the community having the honour. For some reasons, the girls have kept mum. Is it the case of intimidation or discrimination, humiliation or even self hate?

One has heard of siblings having carnal knowledge of each other but I have not come across that. Apart from the one that has gone viral on the social media where an older sister and her younger brother of about 7 and 5 years were making out. One still wonders how it was recorded. And if so, did the recorder have to allow the kids engage in that evil just to prove a point?

Recall the case of 2 sisters who had to endure rape in the hands of their father? The painful aspect was that every time their father raped them, they would run to their mother for comfort and she would also clean them up.

The last straw on the camel's back was when he attempted raping their younger sister whom he believed had come of age. She threatened him that she would not take what her sisters had been taking. And made so much noise until the outside world heard.

The mother was condemned along with her husband for being monsters. When asked why she did not take action, she said she didn't want to end up out in the cold after enjoying a life of affluence for so long.

That explanation provoked so much condemnation from the public. This mother sacrificed her daughters on the altar of affluence. As long as her husband provides for them richly, he could sleep with his daughters. She was selfish, depraved, evil, manipulative, and worldly. And lacked love for her children and also lacked moral.

One does not know if the law punished the mother too. She deserves capital punishment for allowing her husband to use her daughters as objects, and she equally used them as means to an end.

The secrets so many families are keeping to themselves while they harbour rapists is threatening to explode due to its weight. Thank God for CCTVs, cameras. And thank God for God's promise that there is nothing hidden under the sun. Everything hidden must come to light.

To save our society, religious leaders need to plead with our conscience to expose such criminals whose acts are somehow attached to our reputation and who are in one way or the other related to us.

Let's break the unhealthy silence that surrounds rape and allows perpetrators to go free. We are aiding it. Remember the lives wasted by rape and do your part. The change begins with you!

NEWS

Resuscitate the over 1000 PHCs in the 17 LGAs - Lalong

By PALANG KASMI

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong has commissioned a new office complex of the Plateau State Primary Health Care Board (PSPHCB).

He has also challenged the 17 Local Government Chairmen of the state to resuscitate the Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities in their communities by furnishing and equipping it to perform optimally as expected.

The Governor gave the charge while commissioning the PSPHCB edifice located at No 28, Makurdi Road, Jos on Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

He said the ceremony represents the fulfillment of his administration's promise to the health sector. The Governor urged stakeholders who will occupy the edifice, including donor agencies to use the befitting accommodation to perform optimally.

"This is another milestone in our efforts to develop infrastructure of the health sector and provide our health managers a conducive environment for them to perform their very essential duties to the citizens of the state optimally".

"I call on Local Government Chairmen to do their best to fulfill their mandate in addressing the challenges of the primary healthcare delivery in their domains by ensuring that the health workers are comfortable", the governor stated.

He called on Local Government Chairmen to make all the over 1000 PHC clinics spread across their communities active because according to World Health Organisation (WHO), Primary health care can address most of the health care needs of people throughout their lifetime without ever needing to go to secondary or tertiary health facilities

He said if the over 1000 PHC facilities in the state are enhanced, they will meet the health needs of the teeming population. Therefore, he called on the LGA Chairmen to invest in the PHCs instead of building new clinics that are left un-occupied and unfurnished.

The Governor urged citizens from the private sector to key into the Plateau State Contributory Health Insurance Management Agency (PLASCHEMA) scheme to access affordable health care.

He assured that his government will continue to invest in the primary healthcare system especially in the payment of counterpart funds so that more partners and donors will cut into the health structure of the state to support the government in meeting the health needs of citizens.

Plateau State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Nimkon Lar, said movement of the board

to its permanent site is a development for progress, saying they had prior to the commissioning been managing to run affairs with obsolete equipment and dilapidated structures.

Lar commended the Governor for giving the board a befitting accommodation to enhance the health status of the state. He urged stakeholders who will occupy the office including their partners, World Bank, UNICEF, and others to be more proactive with the new conducive working environment.

Executive Secretary of the PSPHCB, Dr. Linus Miapkwap, in his remarks appreciated the government for the new administrative edifice. He said initially, it was only donor agencies like UNICEF and WHO that were on ground, but coming to the new site has increased the number to more than five partners.

The ES however disclosed that the organisation is

understaffed due to retirement and other circumstances which calls for recruitment to fill in the manpower gaps.

One of the development partners, Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief of Bauchi Field Office, UNICEF commended the Board for coming into the new site, and said evidence has shown that strengthening and scaling up community and primary healthcare platforms could prevent 77percent of preventable maternal, new born and child deaths and still births.

"Partnership with your government has helped in improving health outcomes for women and children, progress to SDG's and universal health coverage, routine immunisation, strengthening delivery of health packages, advocacy, knowledge, attitudes and practices that promote healthy behaviours" said the UNICEF.



Lalong

Liberian military seeks Nigeria Army's support

THE Chief of Staff, Liberian Armed Forces, Maj. Gen. Charles Johnson, has called for more supports in the area of training and cooperation from the Nigeria Army.

Johnson made the call when he visited the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen. Farouk Yahaya on Friday in Abuja.

He said that Liberia had enjoyed great support from Nigerian military given its history in contending with conflicts in the 1990s.

Liberian military chief said that since the formation of the nation's military after years of protracted conflict in 2005, a large number of its officers had continued to receive trainings in Nigeria.

He said the visit was to seek for more support and cooperation from Nigeria Army to enable the Liberian military develop its capacity.

He thanked the Nigerian army for the role it played in bring about peace and stability to Liberia as well as developing its military.

According to him, the 17 years of relative peace in Liberia today is because of the sacrifices from the men and women of the Nigerian military.

"Our visit here is to see how we can cement that relationship, how we can tap from your experience and request for more training of our officers looking at the contemporary threats we have in our region.

Responding, the COAS Yahaya commended the Liberian military chief for the visit and pledged to continue to uphold the ties that had existed between the two armies.

Yahaya said the Nigeria Army would provide support where needed considering the current security threats confronting the West African sub region.

He said pledged to provide more training opportunities for the Liberian military in its training institutions like the Army War College, School of Infantry and Artillery School.

He said that all the serving principal staff officers of Nigeria Army had served in peacekeeping mission in Liberia, adding that doors were open for more collaboration and support.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the delegation also paid similar visit to the Defence and other services headquarters as well as

SUNDAY POLITICS

Senatorial candidate tasks supporters on 2023 elections

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

A Senatorial candidate of the People Democratic Party (PDP) in the Nasarawa South Senatorial zone Hon. Mohammed Ogoshi Onawo has tasked his teeming supporters to remain resolute, firm and committed towards ensuring that he emerges victorious in the forth coming general elections come 2023.

In a Sallah message to his supporters and Nigerians, Hon. Onawo stressed the need for them to continue to uphold their support and confidence towards his candidacy especially that it was geared towards giving them a result-oriented representation in the senate.

Onawo who expressed satisfaction with what he described as the encouraging support and confidence from his teeming supporters from across the Senatorial zone described such development as a sign of victory.

"Infact the encouraging support from my teeming supporters and admirers from across the Senatorial zone is a clear indication of victory during the elections". he asserted.

The Senatorial hopeful who was a former speaker of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly attributed his remarkable feat and acceptance to the powers of God, his track record of performance during his province services, pledged to redouble his efforts in delivering better and responsible services to his people if elected to the red chambers.

Onawo who was also a former member of the House of Representatives and a former Deputy Gubernatorial candidate of the PDP during the 2019 general elections, pledged to bring forth his wealth of experience to bear in giving his people a better representation in the senate that would yield dividends of democracy especially on issues to do with the establishment of various institutions that would at the end creates jobs and wealth for the people.

He particularly assured that efforts would be put in place towards ensuring that youths and women who formed the majority part of the population were adequately taken care of through job creation and other forms of empowerment to make them self reliant, job creators, useful members of the society and good future leaders.

Onawo who expressed the believe that their vote to him and his party the PDP is a clear and surest ticket towards ensuring that they have better fortunes and future urged them not to hesitate in giving him and his party the opportunity through their votes so as to successfully change the narratives from



Onawo

the present state of darkness to light.

"It has indeed become highly imperative for you to make the best use of the great opportunity before you in

voting for me and my party with a view to enable us change the narrative from the present state of misfortune to fortune and prosperity," he stressed.

NYSC DG warns corps members against malpractice

THE Director-General, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brig.-Gen. Muhammad Fadah, has warned corps members on election duties in the Osun gubernatorial election to strictly abide by the electoral laws.

This was made known in a statement by the schemes Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr Eddy Megwa, in Abuja.

According to the statement, Fadah issued the warning in Osogbo while addressing the corps members who have undergone training as ad hoc staff by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

He also stated that anyone found wanting would be



Fadah

Sallah: Wadada distributes clothes, food items to women

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

attributed such to their believe that he is a capable and reliable person that can be trusted with such responsibility.

He further observed that with the growing wave of political awareness, he has confidence that people across all the political parties would vote for him given the

significant roles he played in all of them.

He then advised beneficiaries of the gifts who are women to make the best use of all that they were given and support their husbands.

Meanwhile, some of the beneficiaries interviewed expressed their gratitude to Hon Wadada for the gesture and pledged to make the gesture a reciprocal one.



Wadada

Nigerians urged to embrace national unity

From JIDAUNA YANUNG Abuja

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, a political support group "National Unity Movement for Bola Tinubu has called on Nigerians to embrace National Unity in Diversity, National Integration and Cohesion despite their differences.

Director General of the group Hon. Bamidele Faparusi urged Nigerians to embrace national unity and shun ethnic and religious politics.

The group, which is working together with patriotic citizens across religious and ethnic divides to promote national unity in diversity ahead of next years' general elections, said it is supporting the APC presidential candidate Ahmed Bola Tinubu, because of his detribalized and religious tolerant nature.

This is coming on the heels of reactions that have continued

to trail the Muslim/Muslim ticket adopted by the ruling APC.

But Faparusi while briefing journalists in Abuja said "placing competence and merit above religious and ethnic consideration in choosing leaders that would steer the affairs of the country in the right direction is what Nigerians should consider while voting in 2023".

He also appealed to Nigerians to get their PVCs and vote massively for the APC Presidential candidate in 2023 because he remain the candidate to beat because he understands Nigeria better, its diversity and challenges and the capacity to fix the country to every one's satisfaction."

Meanwhile, a former All Progressive Congress (APC) Presidential Aspirant Mr. Gbenga Olawepo has urged opinion moulders not to allow religion to further split the already divided country.

Olawepo stated this against the backdrop of reactions trailing the Muslim/Muslim Presidential ticket adopted by the APC.

He explained that the Political aspiration of anybody is not worth disruption of the unity and peace of Nigeria,

adding that Nigerians should avoid inciting comments that can further pose a huge challenge to the country's national integration and objectives.

According to him "Let us quickly make our decisions with our votes".



Tinubu

sanctioned accordingly.

The statement added that Fadah also urged them to remain neutral while performing their election duties with diligence as good ambassadors of the NYSC.

"Your colleagues did it successfully in Ekiti and I believe you will also do us proud here in Osun state.

"Avoid sharp practices, avoid taking gratifications, don't take sides, play according to the rules of the game and be security conscious," he said.

According to the statement, Fadah also visited security agencies in the state to seek for security of the corps members on election duties.

It added that at the Army Engineer Construction and

Command (ECC) in Ede, Fadah commended the cordial relationship between NYSC and the military command.

The Commander, Brig.-Gen. Suleman applauded the director-general for finding time to check on the corps members on election duties.

"We will continue to partner with you to ensure the safety of all corps members during and after the election," he said.

Also at the State Police Headquarters in Osogbo, the Coordinating Deputy Inspector-General (DIG) for Osun Election, Mr Johnson Kokumo, assured maximum security for the corps members.

He commended the management of the scheme for mentoring corps members for national assignments.

He said, "Corps members are our children and our priority. We will not relent in our efforts towards ensuring their safety."

Also, the Osun State Director, Department of State Services (DSS), Mr Bankole Alade, while hosting Fadah in his office, assured of a stronger synergy with the NYSC.

He added that the DSS would continue to do the needful to protect corps members during and after the elections including all the corps lodges within the state.

Also, the Deputy Controller General, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Mr Mungadi Danladi, described corps members as invaluable assets in the conduct of free, fair and credible elections in the country.

He promised the readiness of the NSCDC for corps members' safety across the state.

SUNDAY POLITICS

PLHA hopeful pledges to address water challenge

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Jos North/West Constituency candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Hon. Danjuma Azi, has pledged to address the lingering water problem of his constituency where women and children go through hardship to look for it when elected to represent his people come 2023.

He made the pledge in an interview with **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital ahead of the 2023 general elections. Azi said knowing the situation of his people over the years, he would want to address the water problem.

"I was born and brought up in Tudun-Wada Area. What I noticed as one of the commonest problem of my people here is the issue of potable water supply. I live around Kukumu Village in Tudun-Wada and I know the problem of my people which is water.

"During dry season, I normally leave my gate open when I am in Morning Prayer by 5am for people to come to my house to fetch water. The situation has always been that before 8am or thereabout, you will notice that most married women and children are going about holding gallons and head pans looking for where to fetch water.



Hassan

"It is a peculiar challenge within this axis. Although, it is not only a challenge in Tudun-Wada, but the entire constituency and I can see that it is a major problem for now. I know there are other challenges but you know water is life and we cannot do without it. If elected, I will make sure I address that first before looking at some of the challenges", he assured.

Azi, also promised to do everything humanly possible to bring up policies that would help empower youths and women so that, they would be able to fend for themselves because they form the majority population which is left

behind in our society.

Considering how diverse and heterogeneous the constituency is, the PDP candidate promised to work hard and ensure that he unites the different tribes resident in his constituency when elected because the constituency has been one of the constituencies that has faced many crises and attacks.

Azi, therefore, called on his supporters to conduct themselves with dignity and should not be allowed to reduce themselves to using inflammatory words on his account because politics is not a war but interest, hence the need for them to the campaign peacefully.

2023: ASK/KKK mandate group organises workshop for youths

AHEAD of the 2023 general elections a group rooting for the election of Hon. Abdulazeez Sule K Danladi as a member of the House of Representatives for Keffi, Karu and Kokona Federal Constituency under the platform of the Action Alliance (AA) popularly known as ASK/KKK mandate group has organized a one day sensitization workshop for youths from across the constituency.

The one day sensitization workshop which endorsed the lawmaker for election into the green chamber attracted youths from all the three Local Government areas that make up the Keffi Federal Constituency was meant to among other things garner their support, guide them towards engaging in responsible political participation as well as acquiring their voting powers, that is, their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs).

Speaking during the workshop that took place at the Keffi Motel, the Convener Aliyu Bello AKA (Aluta Dragon) stated that the purpose of the workshop is to solicit for the support of particularly the youths whom he believes

would be the major beneficiaries of the Hon Abdulazeez representation when he moves to the green chamber at the National Assembly.

He contended that being a member of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly that has impacted positively on the lives of the youths especially given his position as the Sarkin Samarin Keffi and if he eventually wins the seat of the House of Representatives come 2023 the sky would be their limit.

Bello therefore appealed to the youths especially those supporting Hon. Abdulazeez S.K Danladi to always play politics responsibly without engaging in any form(s) of violence, drug abuse or any indecent conduct that would portray them in bad light.

On the issue of PVCs, the co-coordinator tasked them to endeavor to obtain their PVCs in order to acquire for themselves the power and ability to vote in the forth coming elections saying that without the PVCs their participation would become worthless.

Earlier the Special Assistance to the lawmaker Alhaji Abubakar Adamu thanked the youths in the constituency for

their positive response and urged them to support the project whole heartedly since it was designed to benefit them.

He further assured that the election of Hon Abdulazeez SK Danladi to the House of Representatives under the

Bello warns against overheating Muslim/Muslim ticket politics

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

GOVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi state has warned against overheating the nation's polity on the ground of Muslim/Muslim ticket of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Bello gave the warning while speaking at the 3rd edition of Oladele John Nihi (OJN), Annual Symposium held in Lokoja.

Governor Bello who was represented by his Chief of Staff, Jamiu Abdulraheem Asuku said that consideration and acceptance of candidates of various political parties at the polls should be based on their credibility and capability to deliver good governance.

He said if Muslim/Muslim ticket or Christian/Christian ticket is what can lead the nation to glory, so be it.

Bello therefore, tasked Nigerians on the need to embrace religious tolerance

THE Emir of Keffi Alhaji Shehu Muhammadu Yamusa has admonished his subjects on the need to continue to uphold the virtues of peaceful co-existence, unity, harmony and obedience to constituted authorities.

They have also been tasked to invest and support the education and good moral upbringing of their children as the best legacy they would bequeath unto them.

In his Sallah message to them, the Emir observed that since peace and education are the vital elements that would facilitate meaningful societal development, the people should not hesitates to inculcate such values in their children with all sense of responsibility and seriousness.

"Given the significance of peace and education as a veritable element for enhancing meaningful development of any society the people should endeavour to inculcate them in their younger ones with a view to continue to move forward in a positive way," he stressed.

The Emir further appealed to the people to also give

Emir tasks subjects on peaceful coexistence

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

emphasis to agriculture with a view to guarantee for themselves and the society food security and enhance their socio-economic activities.

On the issue of security, the Emir appealed to the people of the area always be security conscious and report any suspicious movements of people to the appropriate authorities for prompt actions especially that security is everybody's responsibility.



Yamusa

More evidences advanced against guber candidate

from **VICTOR GAI, Jalingo**

HEARING continued at the Federal High Court Jalingo in the case between the Taraba state PDP gubernatorial candidate, Col. Agbu Kefas (rtd) and Professor Jerome Nyameh, a contestant in the primary elections, with witnesses testifying against the defendant.

Professor Nyameh, the plaintiff, is seeking for the disqualification of Agbu, on the grounds that he did not purchase the expression of interest and nomination forms.

Nyameh is also praying the

court to restrain the party's candidate from contesting as a governor on the platform of the party in the 2023 polls.

But Counsel to the defendant, Musa Tende sort for adjournment following the absence of their witness in court.

Lead Counsel to Nyameh, JJ Usman (SAN), while speaking to journalists, gave reasons why Agbu must be disqualified from contesting in the 2023 elections.

"The PDP candidate Col. Kefas is not qualified to contest the PDP primary election of Taraba State because at the time of screening of gubernatorial aspirants, he was sitting as the Chairman of Taraba State PDP and presided over the affairs of gubernatorial aspirants, therefore, he is not qualified.

"What is more, the people that he said nominated him; some of them said they did not nominate him. Some of them said their signatures were forged and therefore if you have submitted forged

documents, you are not qualified to contest and that is the case we have," he stated.

Another Counsel to Nyameh, PD Pius also disclosed that based on exhibit tendered in the court, accreditation did not take place for delegates before voting proceeded during the primary.

"If you look at the exhibits that was brought to the court, you would discover that it was clearly written in the INEC report about the primary election that there was no accreditation before voting and that

INEC officials raised objection with the party and the party did nothing about it," he stated.

Meanwhile, Counsel to Col. Kefas Agbu, Musa Tende, said, "the complainants have all agreed that the primary of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was conducted in accordance with the PDP constitution, the guidelines and then the electoral act".

He added that they would begin their defence on Monday, the next adjourned date.

credible candidates that will give much attention to the

plight of the youths and other citizens"

In his opening remark, the chairman of the occasion, Richard Osaseyi harped on strategies to evolve in ensuring that youthful president, governors and national lawmakers come on board.

He commended the Convener of the forum for putting in place event that will create awareness on the way out to ensure the plight of the future leaders in the nation's political equation.

The Secretary to Kogi State Government, Dr. Mrs Folashade Arike Ayoade who also spoke at the event, stressed the need for proper upbringing and education of children by their parents as part of contributions towards shaping the nation politically, socially and economically. So that the nation will witness

tremendous development and peaceful society.

In a keynote address, a Professor of Political Science from Federal University, Lokoja, Rotimi Ajayi advocated for making the youths more relevant in the political landscape of their immediate society.

"Youths should not allow themselves to be turned as mere supporters of those in the helm of affairs but rather be ready to probe into their activities through accountability and transparency in leadership roles.

The Royal Father of the Day, the Olu Ijumu of Ijumu Kingdom, Oba William Ayeni had lamented the unpleasant conditions faced by 80 percent of the Nigerian youths ranging from unemployment and poverty, describing the development as very unfortunate.

SUNDAY POLITICS

What a Muslim-Muslim ticket says about us

The odds always favoured Bola Tinubu picking someone male and Muslim from the East or West of the North of Nigeria. With the announcement of Kashim Shettima as his running mate of the All-Progressives Congress (APC) presidential ticket in 2023, two political statements have been declared. The first, through the reaction to this decision, is that a ticket with two Muslims is unelectable in 2023, and the second is that a Christian northerner is unelectable at the presidential level. AYISHA OSORI writes.

TINUBU was clear in the statement announcing Shettima that he did not take into consideration sentiments about fairness in religious representation, political culture since 1999 nor the constitutional requirement for diversity representation captured as Federal Character in the 1999 Constitution. Instead, he made the choice because "I believe this is the man who can help me bring the best governance to all Nigerians".

There is disbelief, and not without cause.

Tinubu's famed desire to be running mate to Buhari for the 2015 elections is well documented and at least one reason the Buhari-Tinubu ticket did not fly then was due to fears by APC members that a Muslim-Muslim ticket would be rejected at the polls. Two, for better or for worse, electoral permutations have been analysed ad nauseum in the media and a supposedly strategic move is that Tinubu needs to partner with a northerner who is Muslim in order to improve his chances of winning the votes of northerners – as if the North is not made of people who have voted for people with a religion and culture different from theirs.

Those who support the Shettima decision argue that competency matters more (they have no response to the reality that Nigeria has many competent people to fit every criterion) and point to the fact that in 1993, Nigerians voted the Muslim-Muslim ticket of Moshood Abiola and



Babagana Kingibe. There are at least two things to consider with this argument i.e., that Nigeria today is not the Nigeria of 30 years ago. Social cohesion is frayed along multiple fault lines, even within states and communities, and religious intolerance has increased as evidenced most recently in the murder of Deborah Samuel and the over 10-year onslaught by Boko Haram, a terrorist group reportedly intent on creating an Islamic state in Nigeria.

Another consideration is the context within which the 1993 elections held. General

Ibrahim Babangida had by that time jerked the country around with his almost interminable transition to civil rule plans and Nigerians wanted to be rid of him. Besides, the Abiola-Kingibe Social Democratic Party (SDP) ticket was more exciting to voters than the only other option represented by Bashir Tofa and Sylvester Ugoh of the National Republican Convention (NRC).

If social media is to be believed, people are implacable about the choice of Shettima as APC vice presidential candidate. One would think that the majority

who are aggrieved, APC members or not, would simply look to the 17 other parties with more representative presidential tickets.

Unless...there is a real fear or acceptance that Tinubu will win in 2023, legitimately or in a way that undermines the integrity of our elections. Maybe the fear is a self-imposed mental defeat i.e., that regardless of voters' desires and all we know, Tinubu will win. That, in effect, we are helpless.

If that is the case, i.e., that Tinubu will win without Nigerians, then it does not matter who he picks as his running mate in the first place – electable or not, he can use the tried, tested and well-known ways of winning elections. This raises another question: if this is what many believe of him and his engagement with the electoral process, then would manipulating the elections to engineer a win be more acceptable as long as his ticket is balanced? Are balanced tickets that 'represent' us the reason why we have turned a blind eye to years of compromised elections?

Balanced tickets have not provided us with the accountable governance we need and maybe we are looking, entirely, at the wrong

things. Whose interest does it serve for Nigerians to tear themselves apart, unable to collaborate and organise due to distrust of diversity? What myths are faithfully nurtured and kept alive that feed into our acceptance of how elections are won?

Low voter turnout – due to disgust with the system, withheld Permanent Voters' Cards (PVC) or difficulty registering; violence at the polls; intimidation; ballot snatching; and compromising electoral officials have resulted in elected representatives without a mandate to lead – how do those elected by only a third of eligible voters, sometimes less than 200,000 votes in states, have the credibility, to take the political decisions that need to be made to move Nigeria away from its extractive state?

There are three options for those who are genuinely worried and/or upset about further damage to our social cohesion. One, ignore the APC and its unbalanced presidential ticket. Two, channel all energy into ensuring the 2023 electoral process will be as free and fair as possible in order to protect the integrity of our elections. Three, ensure the largest voter turnout in history.

Culled from BusinessDay

"Those who support the Shettima decision argue that competency matters more (they have no response to the reality that Nigeria has many competent people to fit every criterion) and point to the fact that in 1993, Nigerians voted the Muslim-Muslim ticket of Moshood Abiola and Babagana Kingibe. There are at least two things to consider with this argument i.e., that Nigeria today is not the Nigeria of 30 years ago. Social cohesion is frayed along multiple fault lines, even within states and communities, and religious intolerance has increased as evidenced most recently in the murder of Deborah Samuel and the over 10-year onslaught by Boko Haram, a terrorist group reportedly intent on creating an Islamic state in Nigeria".

SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG, OTHERS WITNESS SIGNING OF PEACE AGREEMENT

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, GOC 3 Armoured Division, Christian and Muslim religious leaders, Plateau Peace Building Agency, Inter-Faith Mediation Centre Kaduna, Plateau State Inter-Religious Council and others witnessed the symbolic signing of the commitment between Irigwe - Fulani Expression to peace agreement at the Prestige Event Centre, Jebbu-Bassa, Bassa LGA



Governor Lalong of Plateau State (right) discussing with his Deputy, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden



Fulani and Irigwe women embracing each other during the symbolic signing of peace agreement



HRH the Braa Ngwe Rigwe (middle) signing the document witnessed by Governor Lalong and the DG Plateau Peace Building Agency, Joseph Lengman (right)



Ardo of Fulani signing the peace document witnessed by Governor Lalong, Co-Chairman, Plateau Inter-Religious Council, Prof. Pandang Yamsat and others



Chairman and Co-Chairman, Imam Nura Ashafa and Rev. James Wuye of Inter-Faith Mediation Centre, Kaduna at the ceremony



Mr. Robert Ashi, President, Irigwe Development Association (left) with Alhaji Adamu Yakubu, Chairman, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, Bassa LGA



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong delivering his speech



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (middle) in a group photograph with stakeholders after the signing ceremony

Photos: DANLADI DUJAK

THE Plateau State House of Assembly Committee on Lands, Survey and Town Planning, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development as well as that of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs recently held a public hearing on two bills put up for consideration. The public hearing afforded stakeholders, interest groups and the general public the opportunity to air their views and contribute to the bills. As is done at public hearings for any proposed law, those making presentations will either endorse, reject or add to the proposal.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the public hearing and Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmang said the exercise was in fulfillment of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which mandates the legislature to make laws. He however, likened laws to living things which can be moved and adjusted. In other words, laws are not static and as such can be changed whenever the need arises. For the Deputy Speaker, it is expected that at the end of the exercise it would have helped in bringing out a workable document that will serve the interest of all.

Thus, the first bill put up for public hearing, which by the way is an executive one is A Bill for a Law to Establish the Plateau State Livestock Transformation Programme and Other Matters Connected, 2020 while the second is A Bill for a Law to Provide for the Remuneration of Appointed Traditional Rulers in Plateau State and for Other Matters Connected, 2020 sponsored by Hon. Wallok Goma representing Kanke constituency, Hon. Amurudu Ussaini, representing Bokkos constituency, Hon. Pirfa Tyem who represents Langtang North North constituency and Hon. Bala Fwanje representing Mangu South constituency.

Interestingly, the bill for the remuneration of appointed traditional rulers in the state has passed the first and second reading stage. Generally, the bill when passed will improve the working conditions of traditional rulers. The traditional rulers are known for playing significant roles

in the maintenance of law and order. They also play important roles in enlightening their subjects on government policies and programmes, hence the need to cater for their welfare.

In his presentation, the Long Goemai of Shendam, His Highness Miskoom Martins Shaldas who spoke on behalf of Plateau State Traditional Council of Chiefs observed the omission of some vital aspects in the categorisation of chiefs. Specifically, details of the third class chiefs were omitted. Also omitted was the salary structure and allowances for the third class chiefs. Another bone of contention noted was whether a vacant traditional stool can be occupied by any person or



As PLHA tripartite committee holds public hearing



Development Habila Gotau emphasized on the need to take a holistic approach at the bill which he described as having the potential to cause friction as seen in other states of the federation.

However, it was unanimously agreed that the programme has the potential of contributing to the economic growth of the state. The permanent secretary again noted that the composition of the board members must consist of professionals in Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry. ALGON, represented by the Chairman of Langtang North Rimven Zulfa made a very valid observation, considering the nature of the programme. He advised that because of the sensitive nature of the proposal law, a legal practitioner be included in the composition of the board.

In addition to that, he suggested that there should be more sensitization and awareness on the proposed law because according to him, people see the bill or programme as a monster that has come to take away their land. For PIDAN, which stands for the Initiative for Development and Advancement of the Natives, the Chairman Prof. Aboi Madaki who spoke on behalf of the association reiterated the economic benefits deriveable therein. To PIDAN, the economic benefits cannot be overemphasized hence their support. However, the following observations were raised. First, was why the bill refers to some local government areas earmarked to run the programme as 'front line', noting that the programme should instead be run in all the local governments in the state.

Another area of concern was why JNI and CAN are being represented in the board's composition. Mr. Madaki also noted that the proposed bill did not capture research institutions. He also wanted to know the fate of IDPs who were affected as a result of the herders/farmers clashes and wondered why they were not captured in the bill, asking if there is a separate bill to that effect. For Miyetti Allah Cattle Rearing Association, Plateau State chapter, the Chairman Mallam Nuhu Abdullahi said even though they were not carried along as expected, he believes that the advantages far outweighs the disadvantages, as he declares the association's full support for the programme.

persons not from the ruling family. In other words, appointment of traditional rulers by the state government was kicked against and was instead advised that it should be between the ruling

class.

On his part, the Acting Ponzi Taroh Chief Nimnan Langnim said as a second class chief, their interest should have been

captured. He added that in other states, all paramount chiefs are members of the state traditional council but in Plateau the case is different. Still on the issue of remunerations, the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Chrisanthus Ahmadu opined that the five percent payable to traditional rulers in each of the Local Government Councils should from henceforth be deducted as first line charge and remitted directly to them. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, outlined the proposed remunerations of the state traditional rulers from the first class chiefs down to that of the village heads.

With the Plateau State government's resolve to domesticate the National Livestock Transformation Programme initiated by the federal government, a bill in that regard was sent to the state assembly last year. The bill which sought to promote ranching business in the state when passed into law has passed the first and second reading stage. In his presentation at the public hearing, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural

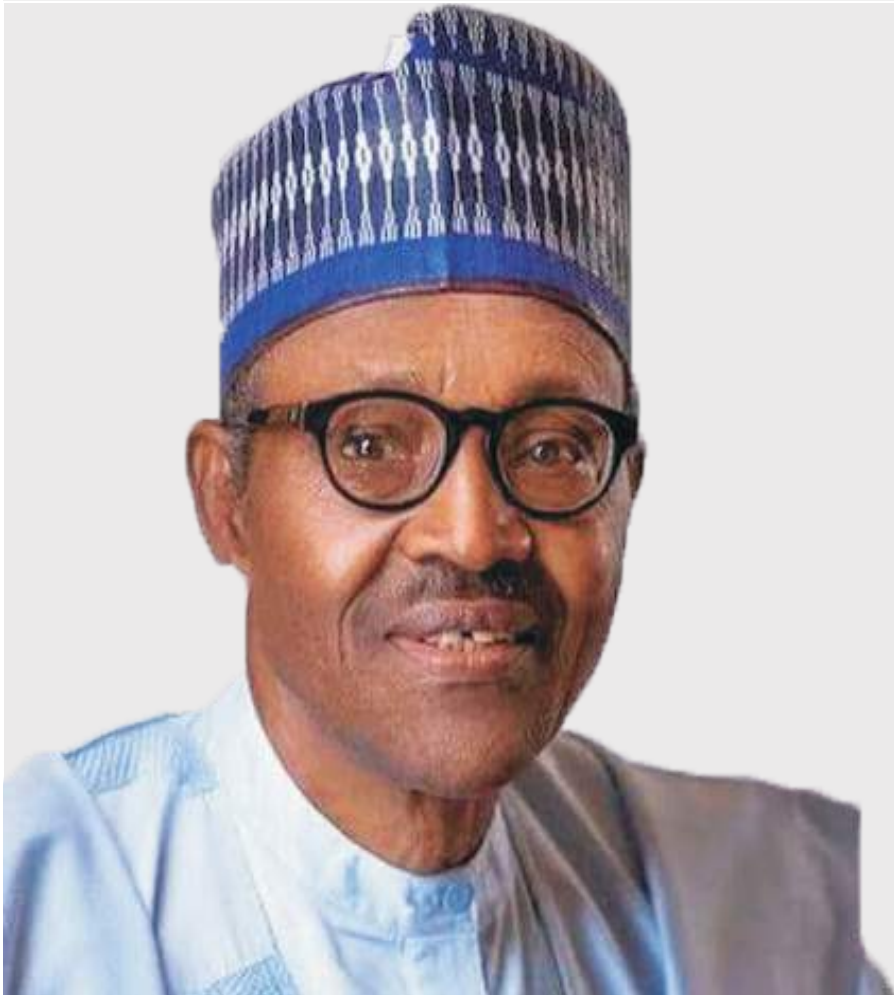


Amurudu



Wallok

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Nababa

Are Nigeria's correctional centers this vulnerable?

The Nigeria Correctional Service Tuesday, 9th July 2022 recorded another tragic incident following the Abuja Prison break which is presently becoming another critical intellectual issue of discourse. In the aftermath of the Kuje jail break which is situated in the heart of the Federal Capital Territory, security experts, stakeholders including citizens of the country are this time around asking pragmatic and essential questions as to how shaky and perhaps vulnerable are our correctional facilities in the height of the present overwhelming security catastrophe confronting the nation. BULUS GAMBO, writes.

THE Kuje prison break took place after unknown gunmen stormed the facility in the night of that fateful morning forcing themselves into the building after detonating explosives which consequently created a huge hole on the wall. Thereafter, the privateers without any stiff resistance the security ultimately found their way into the structure shooting sporadically stunning many people. Investigations subsequently revealed that the usual heavy security personnel keeping an eagle eye over the post was redeployed to another location before the attack eventually took place.

Consequently, a pocket few of security personnel left guarding the facility were caught napping and fell to the superior fire power of the invaders. Thus, within shortest possible time, the prison breakers eventually achieved their goals by setting free about 600 inmates initially lawfully detained in the center.

Providing further details on the jailbreak, Nigeria's Interior Ministry explained that explosions and gunfire were heard at about 10pm in Kuje area when the attackers arrived. The Permanent Secretary of Interior Ministry, Shuaib Belgore said, "very determined rebels attacked the Kuje maximum prison in Abuja on Tuesday night with very high-grade explosives, killing one guard on duty."

Luck however ran out for a few

of the escapees who were re-arrested by security agents. Aside one of them who was arrested in Nassarawa State, two more terrorists that escaped from Kuje Prisons, Abuja during the attack have also been arrested.

The fugitives were arrested both in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT and Niger State. According to reports, operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA arrested one of the wanted terror suspects at Area 1, with hard substances, the other identified as Kazeem Murtala, aged 54 was arrested by Police operatives attached to "A" Division of Suleja around General Hospital, Niger State.

In his explanation, NDLEA's Director, Media and Advocacy, Femi Babafemi in a statement in Abuja disclosed that "The fleeing terror suspect, Suleiman Sidi was arrested in the early hours of Monday, July 11 at Area 1 Motor Park in the Federal Capital Territory while attempting to board a commercial vehicle to Maiduguri, Borno State.

"When he was searched, three wraps of Cannabis Sativa were found on him". He further explained that during preliminary interview, the wanted terror suspect confirmed that he was remanded at the Kuje Prisons for terrorism and robbery charges, adding that he was indeed one of the inmates who escaped from the facility

last Tuesday.

On the Suleja arrest, a statement by the Niger State Police Commands Spokesman, Wasiu Abiodun said, the arrest was made possible by intelligent report from members of the public. According to the statement, "In view of the recent attack on the Kuje Custodial Center and escape of some inmates on 9th July 2022, about 2030hrs, Police operatives attached to 'A' Division Suleja while on patrol around the General Hospital, Suleja down to Bakasi area of Suleja and based on credible intelligence stormed an identified compound and arrested one kazeem Murtala, aged 54 years.

"During interrogation, the inmate confessed that he escaped from Kuje prisons during the attack where he was serving jail term after conviction for an offence he committed and he has been in custody for the past two years."

This most recent attack is coming on the heels of another strike on the convoy of President Mohammedu Buhari who were on their way to Kastina State preparing to facilitate the hosting of the president on Sallah break.

According to a presidential spokesman, the attackers opened fire in a daring blitz on the advance security convoy but were subsequently repelled by the military. Though the mission was quite unsuccessful, many

security experts astonished were left wondering over the motive of the assault.

For the record, though the jihadi rebels and or armed groups have carried out several jailbreaks in the northeast region uncountable times, this was the first time such an ugly incident was occurring in Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. At least, 4,300 inmates have escaped from various prisons since 2017 according to a Lagos based online newspaper. In 2021, more than 2,500 inmates were freed in three jailbreaks.

Another source disclosed that going by 12 cases highlighted about 4, 365 inmates escaped from jailbreak in five years from June 24, 2016 to September 12, 2021 of which around 949 were recaptured or returned voluntarily.

In the past few years, Nigeria has been struggling to overcome the overwhelming insecurity situation in the nation. So far, most citizens have lost hope on the security architecture owing to the fact that strategically, no effective and efficient repelling mechanism has been implemented to tackle the ragging depreciating and epileptic problems on ground.

Added to this is the issue of while the Nigeria Correctional Service is groaning over lack of equipment, the issue of gross security personnel has also become so worrisome.

A source lamented that "the last recruitment the Service did was in 2017/2018 and 5,000 personnel were recruited. Officers keep retiring without new replacement. We need an adequate armed squad. The correctional service should be properly secured because of the caliber of people we deal with. Many of them are hardened criminals.

If we have the resources, there should be 15-20-armed wardens on ground at any point in time. At times, we have only 10 available. It is the same armed squad who guard the prisons that lead inmates to courts. We also need more arms and ammunition as well as other equipment. If we need 10 items for instance, and three is supplied, that is grossly insufficient."

Accordingly, another official disclosed that "arms and ammunition were last supplied to the NCoS sometime in 2019 but were insufficient. "The supply should be consistent. We don't have enough arms and ammunition to repel attacks. When we exhaust the ammunition during an attack, what do we do? We need strong partnership with sister security agencies. If there is reinforcement, we will be able to repel the attack."

But again, the structure has over the years also battled the issue of corruption inherent in

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NEWS

Former NAWOJ Chair, others for UN award

By JIDAUNA DARING

FORMER chairman, Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) Plateau State chapter, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima and 3 others have been nominated for UN Ambassadorial Award.

Others include; Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Nasarawa Gwong Jos, SP Musa Hassan, Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Shuaibu Aljuma (popularly known as Sadeeq Plaza) and Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Plateau State, ACP, Emmanuel Christopher Ado.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Jos Envoy of APRCN, Hon. Amb. Emmanuel Jugul and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, recently.

It revealed that the four prominent personalities who are from Plateau State are nominated for UN Ambassadorial Award by the Advance Peace and Reconciliation Centre of Nigeria in partnership with Security and Forensic Studies, Nigeria.

The event which is tagged



Yarima

the fourth mid-year International Summit for Peace Practitioners General Assembly, with the Theme: The Role of an Ambassador of

Peace in a Developing Nation. The statement explained that the event which was earlier slated for Saturday, July 9th, 2022 is now shifted to September 21, 2022, at

the National Merit Award House Maitama, Abuja.

It also indicated that the motivational speaker at the occasion is Amb Dr. Dickson Akon, National Commandant Peace Corps of Nigeria, Special Guest of Honour, Hon. Sunday Dare, Minister for Youth and Sports Development and His Royal Highness (HRH), Amb. Emere Emperor John Dimkpa Nkpe, Paramount Amr. Aless Elemone of Rivers State.

The chief host and President of APRCN, Amb. Miss Tar M. Jessica appealed to community leaders and stakeholders in the country, not to relent in their efforts in promoting peace and harmony in their respective states so as to improve the security situation in the country.

Speaking through the Jos Envoy of APRCN, Hon. Amb. Emmanuel Jugul, the president explained that the selection was based on those who have made impact on the lives of people by sensitizing and supporting, especially the less privileged. They are carefully selected for the above mentioned award.

NGO sensitises rural communities on breast cancer prevention

AN NGO, Dove-Haven Foundation (DHF) has organised a virtual symposium on Prevention Strategies and Coping Mechanism Against Breast Cancer" targeted at sensitizing and educating the people in rural areas.

In his opening remarks, Dr Ekundayo Samuel, the Executive Director of DHF, described the organisation as a not-for-profit, non-political and non-governmental organisation located at Isanlu, Yagba East L.G.A, Kogi State, Nigeria.

He explained that the organization was established with the aim of promoting the health and wellbeing of the population by reducing cancer threat.

"Our programmes are designed to raise cancer awareness and education in the society; provide easy access to cancer screening, diagnosis, management; and enhance the quality of life of cancer patients," he said

He noted that the symposium was organised as part of the organisation's statutory activities to reduce cancer threat especially in Nigeria.

He stated that breast cancer had taken over as the leading cancer type globally from lung cancer.

According to him, although there is no accurate data, breast cancer is still the leading cancer type in Nigeria and many people die from the disease yearly.

He stated that over 2.3 million people currently are diagnosed with breast cancer and around 700, 000 people have died from it.

The various guest speakers who spoke at the symposium, urged the people to take

every precautionary measure to prevent, detect breast and cervical cancers at early stage.

In his lecture, Dr. Sesan Oluwasola, Consultant/Gynecologist, University College Hospital Ibadan, who spoke on "Research perspective" of the topic, stressed that 'prevention is better than cure' as far as cancer management was concerned.

He explained that breast cancer has highest prevalence in Nigerian women followed by cervical cancer, adding that both cancers if detected early could achieve hundred

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

percent cure.

He added, "but unfortunately, most Nigerian women only report when the disease has gone out of hand".

He noted that breast cancer was very high in developed countries but with low mortality rate, while in developing countries like Nigeria, breast cancer is lower but with high mortality rate.

According to him, when it comes to breast and cervical cancers, being a woman is a risk factor and woman without family history and other high risk can still be infected with breast cancer.

Also speaking, Dr. Foluke

UNICEF to support Plateau on maternal health, sanitation

By PALANG KASMI

PLAKEAU State has been given an assurance of getting support from UNICEF in the areas of reducing its Maternal Health Ratio and addressing the sanitation needs of its citizens.

The assurance was given during a visit by UNICEF Chief of Bauchi Field Office, Dr. Tushar Rane at Government House, Jos.

The UNICEF Boss commended Plateau for being among the first states to embark on Child Rights Law passage and domestication, and for striving to ensure the rights of children is protected.

He described Plateau as a progressive state for being a good example in the North that is setting the pace and implementing child rights policies.

He urged the Governor to keep the momentum going and put in place human resources for health, and encourage the process of addressing record keeping on days of delivery for women. He said, "It is a strategy that will address maternal deaths, and reduce stillbirth

rates".

Rane said UNICEF is glad to partner with Plateau under its health, water, child protection and education programme.

"We look forward to taking the programmes we are doing in Plateau to further levels so that children can recognise their rights" said the UNICEF boss.

Governor Simon Bako Lalong welcomed the UNICEF Chief to Plateau appreciating the laudable interventions

the donor organisation has done for the state.

He said his government is committed to maternal health, girl child, and issues affecting vulnerable groups that is why he ensured the passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law, and facilitated the implementation of other similar policies.

Lalong assured that he will continue to partner and work with UNICEF to tackle child issues and other social challenges in the state with a view to addressing them by creating an enabling environment for the donor agency to operate.

Sarimiye, Co-founder/Executive Director, Patela Care Foundation, who spoke on "Psychological issues and Coping Mechanism", said every cancer has psychological issues associated with it like anxiety and depression.

Sarimiye, who is a consultant in Clinical Oncology and lecturer at University of Ibadan, noted that breast represent a symbol of feminism in women, saying, "it takes a lot of courage, strength, psychotherapy and support especially from spouse for a lady to have a breast cancer surgery.

On his part, Mr Runcie Chidebe, Executive Director, Project Pink Blue, said Nigerians were battling with cancer after undergoing treatment because of inadequate cancer research data in the country.

Chidebe decried that Nigeria only has six Oncological Clinical trials ongoing in the country out of over 100,000 cancer patients yearly.

He stressed that with over 200 million population, if more precaution was not put in place, by the year 2040 the death from cancer patients would be multiplied by 50 per cent.

Another speaker, Mrs. Adedayo Olusayo, a cancer survivor who shared her experience, said she was depressed as a widow because there was no money, but her doctor encouraged her and she was able to get support.

Olusayo said she had her surgery, followed by chemotherapy and then radiation therapy, adding that she was able to go through all these through her family and relatives' support as well as support from her religious institution.



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.

He made the appeal on Monday, when he received some governors of the All Progressive Congress (APC), legislators and political leaders at his residence in Daura, Katsina State.

He said that 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.

Buhari noted that the future of the country rest on the quality of educational institutions and education, while assuring that the government understands their position and negotiations is ongoing.

Lalong receives diaspora biker

Kunle Adeyanju, a popular Nigerian biker in diaspora who rode from London to Nigeria has visited Plateau State.

He was received by the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, together with 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.

Irigwe, Fulani sign peace accord

Irigwe and Fulani ethnic groups in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau have signed a peace pact, as part of efforts to end attacks in the area.

The document was signed by the Chairman, Irigwe/Fulani Peace Committee, Rev. John Pawa, the Co-Chairman, Alhaji Yau' u Idris, and Chairman of Bassa Local Government, Mr Stephen Igmala, at Jebbu Bassa.

Speaking during the event, Director-General of Plateau Peace Building Agency (PPBA), Dr Joseph Lengman, said that the document was produced by a 16-man committee, comprising the two ethnic groups.

He said the groups are from Irigwe chiefdom in Miango district of Bassa council area. He said that the committee held series of consultations, conducted investigations on the causes of the conflicts, did impact assessment and proffered modalities for sustainable peace.

Lengman said that the document stated that humanity should be the fulcrum for sustainable peaceful co-existence, through which disputes would be resolved through dialogue and mutual respect for values, while individual beliefs would be raised above parochial interest.

He commended the ethnic groups for signing the documents, coupled with their resolve to co-exist peacefully, in spite of their differences.

Super Falcons qualify for semi-final

Nigeria has qualified for the semi-final of the ongoing Women's Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.

The Super Falcons saw off Cameroon 1-0 in a keenly contested encounter Thursday night.

Rasheedat Ajibade headed in the only goal of the game in the second half. Nigeria would now take on Morocco for a play in the final.

Morocco, Nigeria and Zambia have all qualified to represent Africa at the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in 2023.

Nigeria's Super Falcons will face hosts Morocco in the Semi Final on Monday July 18, 2022.

Sri Lanka's president resigns

The resignation of Sri Lanka's president has been accepted, the crisis-hit country's parliamentary speaker announced Friday, after he fled the country earlier this week, prompting relief among protesters camped outside his former offices.

The formal declaration makes Gotabaya Rajapaksa, once known as "The Terminator" for his ruthless crushing of the Tamil rebellion, the first Sri Lankan head of state to resign since it adopted an executive presidency in 1978.

He emailed in his notice from Singapore after flying to the city-state from the Maldives, where he initially escaped after demonstrators overran his palace at the weekend.

"The president has officially resigned from his position," speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana told reporters.

Outside the presidential secretariat, at the makeshift headquarters of a months-long protest movement against Rajapaksa.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as acting president — his accession was automatic under Sri Lanka's constitution, but many of the demonstrators see him as complicit in the rule of the Rajapaksas and also want him to go.

Nigeria lost 4.2 trillion 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.

Compiled by HOSEA NYAMLONG

SUNDAY FEATURE

Incessant killings, abductions of Catholic priests, clerics

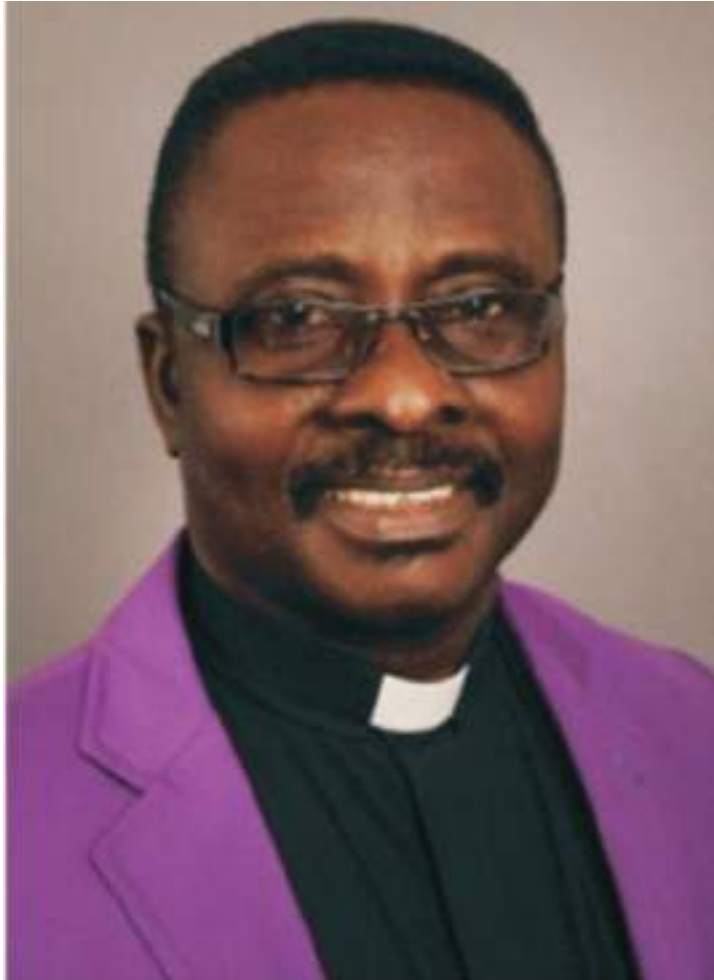
The recent shootings that led to the death of over 40 worshipers in St. Patrick Catholic Church Owo on the 5th of June, in Ondo State and the killing of two catholic priests in Edo state adds to the thousands of others killed and abducted in the nation in the past year alone. It is disturbing the numbers of priest and churches that have been attacked, worshipers abducted, and killed within the first six months of 2022. TIMOTHY JOSEPH writes

RECENT nefarious kidnappings and killings appear to be targeted at Reverend Fathers. For instance in June, Fr. Vitus Borogo, was killed in his farm in Kaduna state while Fr. Osia was abducted in his residence on Sunday morning while preparing for mass in Ikabigbo community, in Etsako west local government of Edo state he was later found Dead. Also on June 19, Armed bandits on motorcycles stormed villages in Kaduna state and attacked St. Moses Catholic Church and Maranatha Baptist Church while people were worshipping, according to local sources " it was some few minutes after 7 in the morning while both Catholic and Baptist church were holding their services when the Gunmen attacked, he added that most of those kidnapped were from the Baptist congregation, while the three people that were killed were from the Catholic congregation.

Just recently again, two Catholic priests have and taken to an unknown destination along Benin Auchi Expressway between Ehor and Iruokpen communities, the priests have been identified as Fr. Peter Udor of St. Patrick Catholic Church Uromi in Esan North East and Rev. Fr. Philemon Oboh of Esan South East local government area of Edo state. The Edo state Police command was informed of the incident by the Divisional Police command, Ugboha, on Sunday July 3rd, 2022. Another Catholic priest, Rev Fr. Emmanuel Silas of St. Charles Catholic Church, Zambina, Kauru local government area of Kaduna state has been kidnapped, the sad development was announced by the Chancellor Catholic Diocese Rev. Emmanuel Okolo, He was abducted from the Parish rectory of the church in the early hours of July 4th when he did not turn up for morning mass. In another recent development Rev. Fr. Peter has been kidnapped in Benue State. According to a statement by the Chancellor Diocesan of Otukpo, Rev. Fr. Idoto, Amodu was kidnapped around 5: pm on Wednesday 6th of July, along Otukpo-Ugbokolo road while on his way to celebrate Mass at Okwun ggagg-ugbokolo in Benue State. On that same day

Gunmen invaded the residence of the pastor in charge of EYN Church, Njaiiri Mubi, Adamawa state Rev. Daniel Umaru, and they killed his two sons and kidnapped his 13 year old daughter. He was shot and left battling for his life at the hospital, while the wife went into coma due to shock.

Recalled that the Prelate of the Methodist church of Nigeria, Dr. Samuel Uche was on May 29th,



Ayokunle

2022 abducted by armed men alongside the Methodist Bishop of Owerri, Rt. Rev. Dennis Mark, along the Enugu Port Harcourt Expressway, in Umunneochi local government area of Abia state. Four days before the abduction of the Prelate and his associates, armed men broke into a Church in Katsina state and kidnapped a Catholic priest and his assistant, Fr. Stephen Ojapa, and Fr. Oliver Okpara, respectively their abductors also took away two boys who were in the church worshipping.

There seems to be a determine conspiracy by Gunmen to gang up against the Christian community in Nigeria, few days before the Owo attack, suspected militants killed 32 Christians in an Evangelical Church wining All (ECWA) Parish in Kajuru, Kaduna after the attack, the Church members could not attend service due to trauma. The attackers reportedly arrived and left on inconspicuous motorcycles. In March, we likewise saw a spate of kidnappings where clerics mostly of the Catholic faith were soft targets. Rev. Fr. Leo Raphael Ozigi, parish priest of St. Mary's Catholic Church, sarkin pawa village, Niger state, was abducted on March 27 and later released, Fr. Felix Zakari Fidson of Zaria Diocese, was also kidnapped on march 24. A Pastor was reportedly killed in Abuja on April 13, while Gunmen had also kidnapped eight members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) in Kaduna on March 26.

alongside his brother on their way back from visiting his mother he was later found with bruises and machet cuts. Also in March 2019 Fr. Clement Ugwu was returning to his Parish when he was attacked by Gunmen close to the Parish house, few days later Ugwu's dead body was found nearby. Fr. Ugwu's killing is not isolated as his diocese has witnessed several attacks and killings of priest, by gunmen. Six months after the killing of Fr. Ugwu, another priest in the Diocese, of Fr. Paul Offu, was attacked and killed by armed men suspected to be herdsman. Between 2018 and 2019, about 10 priest were killed.

Fr. Ferdinand Fanen Ngugban and at least six others were killed by gunmen in an attack on St. Paul Catholic church in Benue State. The Diocese of Katsina-Ala confirmed that on March 30, 2019 Fr. Fanen had just offered mass in his Parish church of St. Paul Ayetwar and was preparing to leave for the holy week Chrism mass when he was shot in the head by gunmen. And in January of 2020, Boko Haram executed Pastor Lawan Andimi, who was abducted and held captive for more than two weeks.

According to open Doors 2021 world watch list, more Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria than in any other country from 1,350 in 2019 to 3,350 in 2020 and at least 4,460 in 2021 with nearly 900 in the first three months of 2022. Another U.K based human rights foundation, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), reported that Kaduna state, where the most recent attack took place, has become "an epicenter of kidnappings and violence by non-state actors, despite being the most garrisoned state in Nigeria. The truth is that Nigeria has never had it this bad not even at the height of Boko Haram invasions in 2014, yet president Buhari, in his interview with Bloomberg News claimed that " the insurgents were no longer in control of any part of the country, unlike when Boko Haram held large chunk of territories in 2015".

Reacting to the recent acts of violence against Christians in Nigeria, five United States Senators Josh Hawley, Marco Rubio, Mike Braun, James m. Inhofe and Tom Cotton had jointly sent a Letter to the US Secretary of state, Anthony Blinken urging him to immediately re-designate Nigeria as a Country of serious concern (CSC) under the US international Religious freedom Act. The US Lawmakers alleged that recent acts of violence targeting Christians had underscored the deteriorating state of religious freedom in the country. Responding to the

allegations in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in London, Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed, put the blame on the attacks of Christians on the ISWAP terrorists group, insisting that Nigeria does not have a policy that denies people their freedom of religion. Amidst the incessant killings in Nigeria, Pope Francis has invited the global community to pray over insecurity in the country. "Today, I would like to pray in particular for the population of the northern region of Nigeria, victims of violence and terrorist attacks".

It is high time for the Federal government to get out of its false Sense of victory and admit that the terrorist and bandits are really on rampage. To say that the present administration has lost touch with the recent realities of the security situation in the country, is being mild in rating. In the face of these worrisome coordinated attacks on Christians and Christian clerics and the Nigerian communities in general, the federal government and its agencies seem so docile to come with the right approaches to curb the ugly menace. The federal government must take urgent steps to reverse the ugly tragedy that threatens the foundation of our collective existence and unity as a nation.

Government and security agents have always claimed to be on top of the situation, yet the killings still persists from all indications, the federal government and the security agents seem overwhelmed or incapable of effectively securing the lives and properties of Nigerians from the terrorist. Which is their primary responsibility.

The Presidency should go beyond issuing out sires of press releases after every preventable death. Instead it should turn the cliché of threats to " deal decisively" with the terrorist, into meaningful action beyond mere rhetoric. Government should muster the political will to apprehend the armed killer herders, bandits, kidnappers and terrorist for immediate prosecution.

The Nigerian government must urgently restructure and strengthen its security and intelligence Architecture and restore public trust by dealing with the underlying widespread discontent in the country through good governance by addressing the economic challenges, that has to do with eradicating poverty, giving employment to the teeming jobless youths, create an enabling environment for entrepreneurs, provide basic education, and other policy that will enhance livelihood and guarantee high standard of living.

SUNDAY FEATURE

Achieving peace through intergenerational story telling

The gap of our differences has widened, this time around not for our common good but leading us to unpalatable and dangerous dimension that have been assumed. We have been torn apart and the peaceful atmosphere that was accommodative, friendly and collective has been tempered with leaving us with lingering memories that only time shall heal the wounds. Should this ugly trend continue? Youth Initiative Against Violence and Human Rights Abuse (YIAVHA) has taken the initiative to foster peace through intergenerational story telling. JENNIFER YARIMA writes.

OUR sentiments and lack of foresight have sharply caused us pains that have brought regrets among younger people who are left asking questions like where did we not get it right or who should be blamed for the mishap we are currently facing today? Was any system working? Were people really living in peace with each other, what was our level of tolerance towards each other that made us appreciate the beauty of our diversity to some extent?

Yours sincerely has found this approach of rewriting our history very profound because it gives room for interaction between the young and the older people in the society who have much of these stories to tell. How were the rich and the poor blending, people from different tribes and beliefs living in a common environment with remarkable testimonies? Individualistic tendencies that focuses more on ethnicity and religiosity speak volume about our striking differences which have resulted to hatred, isolated settlements, endless and merciless killings posited to protect our respective ideologies and identities.

The question is; will this ugly trend ever end? Someone has to take the initiative to close the gap that might soon swallow us up. YIAVHA must be commended for the bold step it has taken in partnership with GIZ-iDove project known as Preventing Violence Extremism- Extra, which aims to promote youth collective action for the defense of pluralism and non violent political participation in communities of Plateau North Senatorial zone in Nigeria.

Intergenerational story telling sounds archaic yet impactful as a vital component of the project where dialogue through story telling is held. Twenty four stories are expected to be told across the project implementation communities. They train interfaith champions across paired communities who would on the other hand collectively plan and implement the story telling across the paired communities. While implementing this component, an older community member interacts with fifteen young people aged 18 to 25 from each of the 24 communities on memories of collaboration in their communities that led to interfaith and interethnic harmony.

It will be an exchange visits session where participants are selected from two communities with a history of rivalry or suspicion. Each of the



HRH the Gom Rwei of Rim, Da Dahoro addressing Berom and Fulani youths during IGST



Interfaith Champions planting commitment tree

communities hosting the session attacked.

is to produce the storyteller. This decision is expected to be collectively decided as it is designed to be a process. In addition, there is an anticipated planting of a commitment tree by the interfaith champions to promote environmental protection and build relationships.

Focal communities: Jos North (Tina, Dutse Uku, Faringada, Sabonlayi, Naraguta and kunga). Jos South, (Dadin Kowa, Akawu, Dashik, Rahwol Kanang, Angwan Doki, Gura Lo Gokyo and Dogon Karfe). Barkin Ladi (Bisichi Kara, Bisichi Rakara, Dorowa, X-Land and Gindin Akwati). Riyom, (Dian, Barchi, Rim, Nyegelgara, Luwa, Shong2).

Story telling serves as an avenue for participants who were separated by crisis to revisit each other in their communities. These communities were carefully selected in a manner that they would have had a history of displacement, social dislocation and violent relationships. This in essence is to establish relationships amongst young people and to clear stereotypes that they must have held as a result of violence. In one of the communities, some of the young people refused to visit others for fear of being

visited for fear of being

They had told those that were attending to rest in peace. When they have heard unpleasant stories that might likely trigger anger and fear among them. They were happy that their relatives returned unhurt. Most of these young people who have actually not visited some of these communities since birth saw it as a death trap when asked to visit such communities. Going to such communities during the Inter-generational story telling has changed their perspective.

Some of these young people are already taking action both online and offline to promote inter religious harmony. On the 16th June 2022, a Muslim youth named Adam Lugman Umar from a pastoralist community of Dian posted on Facebook how he paid a visit to his former teacher, who according to Umar, the teacher defied the common fear that he may be killed if he entered the pastoralist community. He narrated how the Christian male teacher had impacted his life while teaching him.

The post generated accolades on the teacher inspired people to share old memories that would have been silent due to the present reality of violence. Part of the post was to ensure that



A cross section of participants attentively listening to the story teller

people adopt using the pen, rather than the sword. Many of such stories and actions are capable of transforming conflict as they generate discussions and people to a critical reflection on the fluidity of identity solidarity and how it impacts peace. There are other young people that are using the social media for strong advocacy. They have also gone ahead to celebrate peace meals during religious festivities.

Community people are building relationships through tree planting. They have exchanged seedlings with each other. One hundred and twenty pear trees are to be nurtured till they blossom. The growth of the trees shows that they have kept to their promise. So, the tree planters and the trees themselves have become an emblem that shows peace efforts rather than the burnt houses. With this, there are some people and some things that challenge the narratives of the memories of violence.

Some challenges this project faces are inaccessibility of some communities as the terrain had poor access roads. Some of these communities had to be reached on bikes and crossing streams in the rainy season makes it difficult. Security on some of these routes is questionable. These factors have put some level of fear among the team members, but have remained resolute to go to even communities regarded as hard to reach.

Some community members almost did not agree to attend the meetings when mobilized by their people due to existing stereotypes and fear.

Recently, an interesting session was held at Farin Gada between the Christians and Muslim youths of Sabon Layi and Angwan Jarawa where Pastor Geofrey Longji drew the attention of the champions on the need to embrace peace and not to carry

arms against each other because there are people who benefit from such conflicts. People are mostly in conflict over land and religion which many had fought for and are no more. When people fight according to him, the tendency is to acquire arms which make dealers manufacture more and they get richer as richest people in history were involved in arms deal. He advised that they shouldn't allow someone somewhere to control their emotions.

Prevention of sexual and gender based violence in our communities among young people was also highlighted as high rate of moral decadence has infiltrated the once disciplined and sound moral practices are eroding. Infringement on the fundamental human rights of someone could cause disunity. Young persons were charged to be vanguards of change by promptly reporting perpetrators of crimes to appropriate authorities and not to take laws into their hands.

In a chat with the project coordinator, Sheku Chundung Anna, who could not hide her excitement over the commitment of the peace champions in the project implementation said, the zeal which has driven them thus far would no doubt yield fruitful results in creating enabling atmosphere for healthy growth and development among people with diverse interests. She added that remarkable responses have been recorded in all the communities visited. Dorowa in Barkin Ladi LGA is expected to be reached this week.

Nothing can be changed without effective story telling because stories inspire people and catalyze them to act. Stories can create an emotional connection, generate the next big idea and reshape our most vital systems. Stories can obviously change the world. Maya Angelou said, "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you".

TODAY we write a human-interest story. It is in our nature as humans, to misinterpret what we cannot decipher and to misjudge those who we do not understand. These misjudgments abound with us in our daily interactions with each other until we put in the effort to communicate with or study the victim of our misjudgment. It is only then, that we can come to an understanding of him or her. Sometimes it is not a person that we misjudge but a group of people. It is in this vein that my Editor gave me this very curious assignment: Who are bikers, what do bikers do, how do they contribute to the common good of society?

When the Editor gave me this assignment, even though a few close friends of mine ride power bikes or moto bikes, I decided to treat it like a research question and interview as many bikers as I could at the national and club levels. Just when I was going to submit my write-up, the London-Lagos Biker, Mr. Kunle Adeyanju, arrived in Town to pay our Governor, His Excellency, Simon Bako Lalong, a visit. I thought of writing about him first but if I do so, I would leave out a lot of background information that would help us in understanding not only him but the group he belongs to and represents in society. As such, I will commence from the very beginning.

The general impression we get about bikers is that they are wild, delinquents, criminals, a nuisance, evil, occultic and drug dealers and users. Add to that the biker gangs in the western world that we see in American movies and some documentaries, and our minds could be negatively made-up about biking and bikers. Yet again, we can take a look at one or two bikers in the limelight such as Charlie boy and conclude that all bikers are peculiar. However, even the peculiar Charlie Boy is a responsible member of society who was educated abroad and holds a degree in communications. For the communication experts, they know that Charlie boy is a brand who uses his appearance to create a certain type of perception and persona. He is a creative type who creates very artistic pieces for advertisement such as the one he did with GLO. Yes, our GLO. Charlie boy is an activist, singer, actor, advertisement guru. He is a responsible husband and a disciplined responsible father of many well-brought-up children and is on the verge of becoming a great-grand Dad. This is why it is very important for one to go beyond the cover of the book and read the content. Charlie boy is just one biker with a peculiarly particular kind of orientation and lifestyle. Other bikers who are entirely different and have a different perspective on image making abound in the same biker's community.

The Biker community is a microcosm of our society. In the biker's community, just as we have in society in general, there are individuals of different religion, creed, culture, profession, orientation, perception, and social class etc. Former Governor Donald Duke is a biker, Senator Dino Melaye is also a biker. To name a few. We have the rich and the poor, the high and the low in the bikers' community. What binds them together is a certain code that I believe is the answer to peace and unity in Nigeria and the world at large. Their code says, "Leave no brother behind". This covers all genders. Because of the sanctity of this code, the love and unity amongst bikers is beyond words. I cannot describe it.

Let me explain this figuratively. I have travelled two roads with my biker friends. I was in a car with other bikers who chose to drive. One route is Jos-Mangu-Shendam, the other is

Abuja- Jos. On the trip from Mangu to Shendam, one of the Bikers was involved in a crash due to a pothole. All the bikers stopped. They made sure that the biker was safe, and the bike was taken to safety before we proceeded. Due to the safety consciousness and the safety gear, the biker escaped with just a tear in one of his gloves. The second one is from Jos to Mangu. Four bikers were on the road. One of them had a flat tire. All four bikers stopped. They ensured that their brother's tire was fixed before they proceeded to Jos. They arrived in Jos at 10:00pm but were all happy to wait for their brother. Kunle, the Lagos- London

knows that he will always be safe in their company. These group of bikers proceeded to Gombe and then Kano after they were hosted by their brothers in Jos.

Denotatively speaking about the rider's code I will draw some examples yet again. When any biker is ill or in trouble, his brothers and sisters would contribute money to take care of his or her medical bill and pay him visit. I remember a particular instance where one of the female bikers was diagnosed with an auto-immune disease called lupus that made her blind. It was her biker brothers and sisters that stood by her and paid part of her bills until she



Leave no brother behind



Biker told me that he went through thirteen African countries and at each stop, his biker brothers who did not know him from Adam, welcomed him and provided for him at their cost. He told me that when he got to Mali, his Biker brothers from Mali, insisted that he spent five days with them in Bamako. They took care of his feeding and accommodation and gave him a very warm hero's welcome. He added that he had a tire bust in one of the countries far away from the city capital and his biker brothers bought him a tire and sent it to him to ensure that he continued his journey.

The President of SCAN, Mr. Gomez Adebawale, a professional in the Information Technology sector, is the President of the northern arm of the biker group in Nigeria. He told me that he travelled from Lagos to Ghana without knowing his way and knowing anyone in Ghana. He went on an adventure. He told me that even the okada riders are their brothers and it was a Togolese okada driver at the Lome-Accra border who led him and gave him directions. On his arrival in Accra, his biker brothers whom he did not know prior to his visit, took charge of him, accommodated and fed him. They took him into their fold until his departure back to Nigeria. When he arrived in Cotonou on his way back to Nigeria, another okada driver, led him to his brothers in Cotonou where he stayed for a couple of days in their fold before departing to Lagos.

The President of BIN which is the southern bikers body in Nigeria, was with Kunle on his visit to the Governor. So also, was the President of SCAN, the President of Gombe jewel Mr. Hussein Masari, and other bikers. The President of Bin is an ijaw man from south-south who told me that as long as he is with his brothers, he can travel to any part of the north and feels safe because he

regained her health and her sight. The President of the SCAN told me how one of his brother's was critically ill and had to have a surgery. He said that the Doctor looking after him was a biker and as soon as he found out that the patient was related to his biker brother and was also a biker, he went beyond the call of duty to take care of him until he was back on his feet. These are few instances where the code was sacrosanct.

Bikers do not only spread love amongst themselves. I can speak about that from an experiential point of view. A few years ago, I was scheduled for a surgery but then I needed to get blood donations just in case I needed a transfusion. My female biker friend called Madam Utibe-Abasi Nkanga from Akwa Ibom state, put a message on their biker forum about this and told me that about seven bikers with my blood type in Lagos were headed for the hospital to get their blood taken and packaged so that it could be flown to my hospital in Abuja. The only reason why they did not was because eventually the donations in Abuja was enough for the surgery. I do not know them, and they do not know me. This is the generosity and the humanity in the bikers' fold.

Bikers do a lot of charity events that affect our lives. The President of SCAN told me that during the covid-19 pandemic lockdown, bikers in Abuja worked with hospitals in Abuja to deliver critical medication to the homes of people who were on daily essential medication and could not get to the hospital due to the lockdown in collaboration with security and FRSC. With the mileage they cover in little time, they were able to provide these services at no cost. During this same period, they went round distributing masks and hand sanitizers to the general public across states and then food to the less privilege in the villages around

Abuja. This they did as a group. They contributed their own money for these exercises. What amazed me is that they do not ask for media coverage when they do these, and they do them with a sense of all humility and service to humanity.

The bikers' code supersedes all religion, gender, creed, race, culture, ethnicity, language barrier, geographical barrier, political affiliations, class, profession, perception, ideology, philosophy, orientation, social class. Rich or poor, black or white, male or female, all bikers see themselves as one and the same. They are local, state, national, regional, continental, global, male, female, black, white, Muslim, Christian, APC or PDA etc. They are all one. Their passion and love for biking and their brotherly code is what unites them. The

President of BIN, which is the southern arm of bikers in Nigeria, Mr. NengiMoto Hanson from Port Harcourt, who is a Professional in the Event and health sector, told me that they discourage all and any conversation on ethnicity, religion and politics amongst them unless it is to unite them. In his words "we are trying to build not destroy". In the same vein, the President of SCAN is a Yoruba man and also believes that he can go to the extreme ends of the north with his northern brothers without fearing for his safety. Mr. Kunle Adeyanju, the London-Lagos adventurer, said that Nigerians should be more nationalistic and patriotic because we are a people of greatness and should be proud of our heritage as Nigerians. This is what he said he discovered during his journey. That Nigeria is the greatest of all countries he went through in terms of who we are and what we have. He expressed sadness at how some of us speak derogatorily about our country sometime. This is a demonstration of

the spirit of the biker and the biking community.

Like I earlier mentioned, I interviewed some bikers and the first Person I interviewed was the President of SCAN, which is the northern arm of the biker's group. I also interviewed the President of BIN, which is the southern arm and then I interviewed the President of Gombe jewel Bikers club. A female biker, a biker from Syria who grew up in Nigeria and then the London-Lagos Biker. I will zone in on these interviews next week. Before then let us see some element of biking.

CULTURE

I have already spoken about the first element of bikers' culture which is their code. Apart from this, there are other elements of the biker's culture or way of life. Many of us believe that the biker is an occultic person because we see some of them with the bone and skull emblem. I asked the President of SCAN for the meaning of the bone and skull in the biking community, and he told me that it represents for them, the true essence of humanity and brotherhood beyond the biker's race because below the skin and muscles of the human anatomy is the skull and bones. This skull and bones are the same colour for all races. This means that subcutaneously, all humans and all bikers are the same.

He said that the skull and bones remind them of their humanity and oneness. He added that bikers as a group are not cultist or occultists but are bound by brotherhood, humanity, and love and not a deity or something in the supernatural. He pointed out that people within the group have their various religion and inclinations. These is why they have membership that cuts across all religion. However, they are not a religious body or a cult, but a group bound by Love and Brotherhood, which relates in no way to cultism and worship of evil. The President of SCAN added that their religion and culture is oneness, togetherness, unity, love and friendship as enshrined in their code.

STRUCTURE

Contrary to the general believe that bikers are a lawless lot, they have structure. The bikers have club level membership and then the clubs belong to national bodies. The arm of the National body covering the northern part of Nigeria is called SCAN while the one covering the south is called BIN. These two groups work closely as one to manage and coordinate bikers and their activities in Nigeria. Some of These events are charity event, community development events and safety on the road exercises to name a few. We shall expand on them later.

SAFETY

Safety is a key element of the biker's conduct. A lot of road users find bikers to be a nuisance on the road. Contrary to this, bikers hold safety as sacrosanct. From my observations, I have watched my friend dressed up before she gets on her bike many times and she could take up to ten minutes or more to put on her protective gear.

I believe the Spirit of God has inspired this teaching to share with you dear reader because of the prevalent situations and circumstances upon the earth today, and also in our beloved nation Nigeria. It is important for us to understand that we are not helpless; we are not victims to circumstances. Sometimes the impression left is as though there is nothing that can be done about the circumstances of our lives and that we must simply yield to the obvious and be swallowed up or destroyed by whatever is going on.

However, I thank God because the word of God suggests something different to us; especially for the child of God. The bible makes us to understand in the words of Jesus in John 17:11-14 that **we are in this world but we are not of the world.** That means that in spite of what is going on in the world today, our experience can be different.

As a matter of fact, the experience of the believer in this world is a testimony to the glory of God and to the power of God. The testimony of the believer is that no matter what is going on in this world, our God is able to protect us, our God is able to preserve us and our God is able to take care of us.

So we are again sharing from our text Isaiah 12:2 which says, **behold God is my salvation, I will trust and I will not be afraid. For the Lord Jehovah is my strength; he also is my song. He also is become my**

“**Fear itself is not the issue but fear is the door way. Without fear, death cannot operate, without fear, sickness and lack cannot operate. Without fear, Satan is literally stripped off his power to steal, to kill and to destroy. Now we share these scriptures to buttress the fact that fear is gateway, that death or Satan uses has to kill, steal and destroy. Again I say, when you learn to shut down the spirit of fear, you can literally strip Satan of his ability to wreak havoc in your life.**”

salvation. Like we have noted in previous lessons, the word which is your gateway to abundant life, or you are yielding to the spirit of fear. When you yield to the spirit of fear, it opens the door or authorizes the devil to fulfil his ministry of stealing, killing and destroying.

The bible says in the book of Proverbs 18:10; that the **name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.**

trusting God with your life, which is your gateway to abundant life, or you are yielding to the spirit of fear. When you yield to the spirit of fear, it opens the door or authorizes the devil to fulfil his ministry of stealing, killing and destroying.

We are doing a lot of repetitions in our teachings because it is important for us to get certain truths in our hearts.



Fear not, trust God (16)



Jesus and what He has done for us in redemption; what He has made available to us when He came to this earth, died for our sins, broke the power of the devil over our lives, was raised from the dead so that we could be saved and delivered even from the evils of this temporary world.

The Bible makes us understand in Galatians 3, that the Lord Jesus has redeemed us from our sins and delivered us from the evils of this temporary world. Everything that the name Jesus has done for us in his redemptive work, is our defence and safety; our guarantee for God's preservation, protection and provision in this life.

God has a plan for his children in this life. No matter what is happening in the world that has a potential of threatening our lives, livelihood or our existence, through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, God has put in place something to checkmate that. This is the essence of our teaching when we talk about fear not, trust God.

Right away we see again in this passage of scripture: Isaiah 12:2, that there are two principal or primary positions that the believer can take in this life. It is either you are

Many times it is not the volume of truth you know that delivers you but the little you know that takes root in your heart, when you act upon it, you begin to enjoy the liberty that God wants you to enjoy. We are not victims to the circumstances of life no matter how dire or severe they may be. God has made a way out for us in Christ Jesus and He exhorts us that we should refuse to fear and we should choose to trust in him.

Now it is important for us to understand that the spirit of fear is Satan's primary or principal way of stealing, killing and destroying. It is so important for the Christian, the believer or the person of faith to understand this that the moment that the operation of the spirit of fear is shut down in the believer's life, Satan literally has no power.

All of Satan's power is invested in the manifestation or the operation of the spirit of fear. I think it would not be too far away from the truth to say it this way; that if Satan has a field Marshall, if he has a top general, that will be the spirit of fear.

Now we are going to see and substantiate our statements from the word of God. It is

important for us to understand that if Satan puts so much dependency on the spirit of fear, if it is the spirit of fear that leverages Satan's operations, and if we can shut down the spirit of fear, then we can understand that Satan is literally shut down in his ability to steal, kill and destroy in our lives.

Hebrews 2:14-15 which says **Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

"The children" here refers to people who have confessed Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The scripture says that Jesus himself took part of flesh and blood so that through death Jesus destroyed him that had the power of death; that is the devil. The word destroyed in the New Testament is a Greek word KATEJO. Katejo means to deactivate or remove the power of a thing to operate. So the Bible is saying here when Jesus took upon Himself flesh and blood and came to this

world to die for our sins, one of His primary mission was to deactivate or to remove the authority or the power of death to operate.

Through His death, He destroyed him that had the power of death that is the devil and delivered them who through fear of death were all their life time subject to bondage. We see from verse 15 that it is the fear of death that opens the door for the operation of death. Fear is what opens the door for the devil to steal, kill and destroy. When Jesus came, His mission was to render the devil inactive, to remove his power, to deactivate him or to strip him of his power or ability to steal, kill and destroy.

Outside of the operation of the spirit of fear, Satan literally has no power. Furthermore, Psalm 23:1 and 4 says **the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.** Then verse 4 says **Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.** The point I want to bring out from this scripture is that the Bible talks here about the valley of the shadow of death.

Note that if you put a light source on an object, it usually casts a shadow. The shadow is not the object, but it is a representation of the object. In other words, the shadow is not the real. For example, if you have a dog, you cannot say that it is the shadow of the dog that barks or bites. It is actually the dog that barks and bites. So also death has a shadow and the Bible makes us understand that the shadow of death is fear. Death is the actual enemy; Satan's ability to steal, kill and destroy is the actual enemy but that which authorizes it is fear.

Fear itself is not the issue but fear is the door way. Without fear, death cannot operate, without fear, sickness and lack cannot operate. Without fear, Satan is literally stripped off his power to steal, to kill and to destroy. Now we share these scriptures to buttress the fact that fear is gateway, that death or Satan uses has to kill, steal and destroy. Again I say, when you learn to shut down the spirit of fear, you can literally strip Satan of his ability to wreak havoc in your life.



Why fostering female talent is in saweetie's nature



time with *Pretty Bitch Music*. "I do that 'cause I've done a lot of things wrong in the beginning, and I learned my lesson," she says of that careful approach, one that sees singles drop few and far between. Her most recent, the silky duet "Closer," proves yet again that she needn't trade perfectionism for speed.

The seductive, high-flying single marks the first time Saweetie and H.E.R. have worked together, but it sounds as though it won't be the last. "It was actually really exciting," she said of the Vallejo singer-songwriter, with whom she shares Filipino heritage. "She's

IN Los Angeles, and **Saweetie** is busy. It's a story told in Instagram stories and social media asides: photos of names on studio doors welcome artists into *Pretty Bitch Music*, her much-anticipated debut record, stoking speculation from her ever-involved fans. Today, Dreezy is in the house; tomorrow, Swae Lee calls in.

Right now, however, Saweetie is taking a call. A leopard-print Von Dutch cap tops her ice-blue hair, a gold chain bearing her name swings from her neck. "I'm in the middle of recording my album right now, so it's going really great over here," she tells us over Zoom, flanked by the white walls of her multi-room studio. "I'm really grateful," she says of her roster of guests. "The creativity is at an all time high at the studio, so I'm excited!"

Given the grind, you'd hardly pick she's up for two Grammys, including Best Rap Song for hit empowerment anthem *Best Friend*, in less than a week. Saweetie says she's feeling "very excited," but leaves it there. In the studio, in the booth, she pores over tracks, carefully honing them with pop precision.

It's been a long time coming — ever since *Tap In* made an icy splash in 2020 — but **Saweetie** is content taking her

amazing, and she's actually even better in person. So I had so much fun shooting a music video, and I think I could definitely see us collaborating on more songs in the future."

The vibrant music video, directed by Hannah Lux-Davis, sees Saweetie and H.E.R. put their spin on Pan-Am glamour, stopping from Paris to Tokyo to The Philippines. As stylish co-pilots for Icy Airlines, H.E.R. and Saweetie glide from date to date on a high-flying, globe-trotting vacation. "It's our third project together," she says glowingly of Lux-Davis, who recently worked on Saweetie's 'Get It Girl' partnership with Champion, but has otherwise helmed iconic clips like *thank u, next*, *Good Ones*, and *Say So*.

It's hardly surprising that Saweetie is



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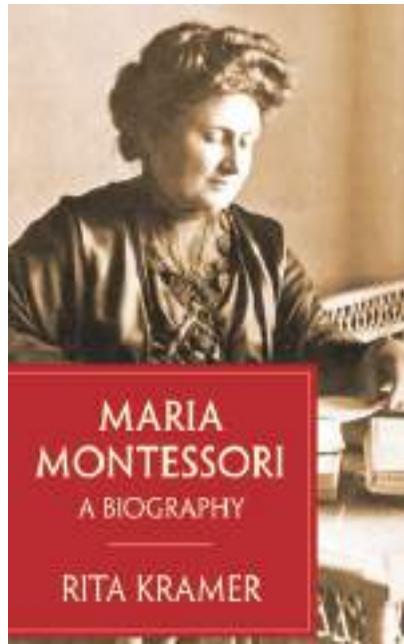
Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

These fascinating biographies deserve a spot on your must-read list.



History is chock-full of women who made incredible contributions to society, yet are overlooked by the public. From pioneers and political dissidents to inventors and astrophysicists, the biographies of these historical female figures deserve a spot on your must-read list.

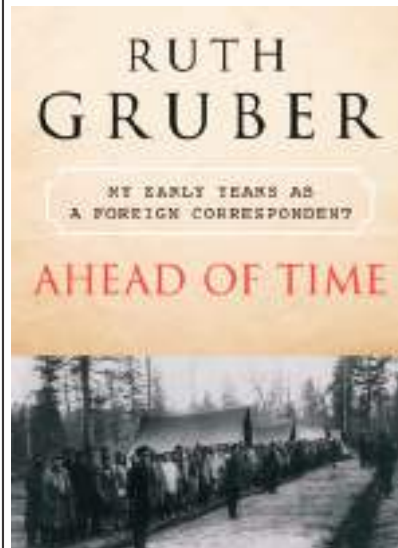
Maria Montessori



You've likely heard of the Montessori method, an educational model for children, but what do you know about the woman behind the philosophy? Italian physician Maria Montessori broke one barrier down after another, beginning with her own education; she was the first woman to graduate from the medical school of the University of Rome in 1896. An expert in pediatric medicine, she took an interest in intellectually disabled children and became an advocate for their right to an education, in addition to her role as an early activist for women's rights.

Maria Montessori went on to create the Montessori method, an educational model that encourages free play and independence, and is now used all over the world in classrooms with children of all abilities. *Publishers Weekly* notes that this book about the groundbreaking woman behind the educational method is "highly recommended for educators, parents, and moderate feminists who seek inspiration from one of the most accomplished women of this or any other age."

Ahead of Time Ruth Gruber



Ruth Gruber's fascinating memoir sheds light on her career as a journalist, humanitarian, and government official during a tumultuous historical era. Born to Russian Jewish immigrants in early 20th-century Brooklyn, Gruber knew early on that she wanted to pursue a career in writing. She enrolled in New York University at just 15 years old and became the youngest person in the world to receive a Ph.D. when she graduated from the University of Cologne at the age of 20.

Gruber was distinguished by her intelligence, adventurous spirit, and her fierce advocacy for refugees. During World War II, she was assigned a secret mission to escort 1,000 Jewish refugees and wounded American soldiers from Italy to the U.S., where she recorded their stories. Her work took her as far as the Soviet Arctic and the Middle East. Before she died in 2016 at the age of 105, Gruber penned this memoir documenting her incredible career.

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INTERNATIONAL

The divisive legacy of Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's exit brings a dramatic end to the clan's rule for more than 20 years, leaving a country in deep political and economic crises. Dilrukshi Handunnetti writes.

Sri Lanka's embattled President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has resigned after fleeing to Singapore via the Maldives, bringing a dramatic end to the rule of the powerful Rajapaksa clan for more than 20 years, leaving behind a country in deep political and economic crises.

Rajapaksa, a 73-year-old retired military officer, was the eighth executive president of Sri Lanka.

He is the younger brother of the family patriarch and former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who ruled Sri Lanka for two terms and also served as prime minister until he was forced to quit earlier this year.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa's nearly three-year rule was criticised as the worst in post-independence Sri Lanka for his failure to contain the worst economic meltdown the island has seen in decades.

The skyrocketing cost of living and enormous shortages of fuel and other essential items triggered unprecedented protests in the country of 22 million people earlier this year, forcing him to flee the country and quit.

Rajapaksa is also faulted for reversing the country's democratic gains by changing the constitution and giving himself sweeping powers after winning the presidency in 2019.

Until recently, Rajapaksa was hailed as a war hero who led a ruthless military offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels demanding a separate state in northern Sri Lanka.

The decades-long civil war ended in 2009, leaving thousands of Tamil rebels, civilians and soldiers dead. The offensive was led by then-President Mahinda Rajapaksa, with Gotabaya serving as his defence secretary.

Following the deadly 2019 Easter Sunday bombings in churches and hotels, Rajapaksa, until then a political novice, was elected as president on the plank of national security as he rode on anti-Muslim sentiment in the Buddhist-majority country.

Akram Ashroff, a 22-year-old IT undergraduate and resident of the eastern district of Batticaloa, said he was a consistent visitor to the anti-government protest venue in the heart of Colombo, dubbed "GotaGoGama".

"He (Rajapaksa) made people feel insecure, especially the ethnic and religious minorities. He divided the communities and was politically arrogant. He will be remembered as the most ineffective president who in a short time drove his country to bankruptcy, an unparalleled legacy," Ashroff told Al Jazeera.

"Besides, he drove religious hatred and targeted Tamils and Muslims from time to time. He was the president of the Sinhala Buddhist majority, in his own words. But these Sinhalese Buddhists have now driven him out of office," he said.

He (Rajapaksa) made people feel insecure, especially the ethnic and religious minorities.

Rajapaksa leaves a country in a state of chaos and without the affection he once received from a large majority of the people.

"His refusal to accept advice and political immaturity contributed to his downfall. He wanted to run the



Rajapaksa

country as a military leader but unlike the military, he lacked both strategy and pragmatism," a close Rajapaksa aide told Al Jazeera on condition of anonymity.

"The constitutional amendment to undo democratic reforms showed his lack of respect for democratic institutions. His populist politics at the end could not contain a popular uprising against him."

Alan Keenan, a senior consultant on Sri Lanka with the International Crisis Group, says Rajapaksa has left behind "a shattered and much poorer country facing an economic collapse that threatens lives and has no easy or quick remedy".

"But his failed leadership has also helped generate a citizenry newly energised and unexpectedly united in their resistance to exploitative and authoritarian rule," he told Al Jazeera.

"The racism and militarism and visions of a return to pre-colonial glories that won Gotabaya - and his brother Mahinda before him - so much support from Sinhala voters have proven unable to rescue the millions now struggling to find fuel and medicine or afford their next meal."

With the Rajapaksas gone, Keenan hoped the Sri Lankans would learn "lasting lessons about the dead-ends of authoritarian nationalism", find "new political vehicles to carry forward the democratisation project begun by the people's struggle" and "hold to account - or push aside - Sri Lanka's established political class".

"History does not offer many grounds for optimism but it does bring surprises, like the implosion of a ruling dynasty that looked invincible less than two years ago," he told Al Jazeera.

Shanthi Jesudasan, 41, from the northern Vavuniya city and a mother of three school-going children, said she joined the protesters for two reasons.

"As a Tamil, I have only witnessed violence and discrimination targeting the community. My relatives living in the north have lost family members and have been looking for the missing since 2009," she told Al Jazeera.

"He is the president who denied us our yesteryears and had no interest in steering this country towards peace. In the past few months, he also robbed the future of the next generation and crippled the entire country," she said.

His (Rajapaksa's) ouster shows resurgence of democratic forces within Sri Lanka and public anger against nepotism, undemocratic practices and political arrogance.

Dharmanath Dissanayake, a retired school teacher from Kurunegala, says he used to swear by the Rajapaksas because the two brothers Mahinda and Gotabaya were able to bring the civil war to an end.

"There was peace finally and people could move about freely without fear. But he had no plan beyond that and that is why Sri Lanka has now been declared bankrupt," he told Al Jazeera.

"He lacked foresight and vision. There are allegations of corruption as well. He has failed the entire country, including the Sinhalese he pledged to serve, and finally it is the Sinhalese who brought his regime to an end," he said.

Post-independence Sri Lanka has been ruled by a handful of families. Gotabaya Rajapaksa is a member of one such family.

Manjula Gajanayake, the executive

director of the Colombo-based Institute for Democratic Reforms and Electoral Studies (IRES), says Gotabaya was not elected to the presidency "due to some unique ability or service rendered" but because it was a "family project".

"The Rajapaksa stranglehold on Sri Lankan politics was also the country's largest nepotism project," Gajanayake told Al Jazeera.

"He rode to office having whipped up communalism and drew support from those who did not believe in democracy or democratic governance. Part of his legacy is the crushing of democratic voices and spaces to improve on his nepotistic project," he said.

"But his ouster shows the resurgence of democratic forces within Sri Lanka and the public anger against nepotism, undemocratic practices and political arrogance."

Rohan Pethiyagoda is a top Sri Lankan scientist, winner of the prestigious Linnean Medal for zoology in 2022, and a public policy advocate.

Summing up Rajapaksa's legacy, he said: "His presidency was defined by ignorance, obstinacy and an inability to communicate effectively with his people. He prohibited modern agriculture, forcing two million farmers into destitution. He printed trillions of rupees while denying a causal link between money supply and inflation. He obstinately refused to yield to expert advice that these 'innovations' would destroy the economy.

"And for 31 months of his presidency, he didn't hold a single press conference, relying instead on delivering poorly scripted speeches to a teleprompter. All this, haunted by the ghosts of journalists murdered on his watch," Pethiyagoda told Al Jazeera.

Between 2005 and 2015, at least 13 journalists were murdered in Sri Lanka, press watchdogs say. Among those was government critic and founding editor of The Sunday Leader, Lasantha Wickrematunge, whose assassination was linked to Gotabaya.

A trial is ongoing in the People's Tribunal at the Hague where incriminating evidence has been given to implicate him.

Bhavani Fonseka, a human rights lawyer and researcher, told Al Jazeera the Sri Lankan leader is facing serious allegations of rights violations both during and after the civil war.

"These are documented widely and some of these cases have been filed both locally and internationally. This indicates he has had an entrenched role in these violations. These cases could not process partly due to his immunity and partly due to the weaknesses in the justice system in Sri Lanka," she said.

Fonseka said the leader will always be linked with serious violations committed against citizens of the country and that he will never be able to escape that legacy.

"He has fled and is expected to resign, but the citizens must remember his role in all these transgressions, demand accountability and explore options both in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. The resignation will result in the loss of immunity and this will make it somewhat easier to hold him accountable," she said.

73-year-old retired military officer, was the eighth executive president of Sri Lanka.

Source: Al Jazeera

INTERNATIONAL

Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa hands in resignation

THE speaker of Sri Lanka's parliament has accepted a resignation letter from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, which the embattled leader sent after fleeing to Singapore.

"From this point, we will move to constitutionally appoint a new president," the speaker, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, said on recently.

He added Parliament would meet to begin the process of picking a new president who would serve out the remainder of Rajapaksa's term ending in 2024. Abeywardena said he expected the process to be done in seven days.

The announcement that a letter had been handed in on Thursday had triggered jubilation in the commercial capital, Colombo, where protesters massed outside the presidential secretariat defying a city-wide curfew.

Crowds set off firecrackers, shouted slogans and danced ecstatically at the Gota Go Gama protest site, named mockingly after Rajapaksa's first name.

"The whole country will celebrate today," Damitha Abeyrathne, an activist, said. "It's a big victory."

"We never thought we would get this country free from them," she added, referring to the Rajapaksa family who dominated the country's politics for 20 years.

Rajapaksa landed in Singapore on Thursday after fleeing mass protests over his country's economic meltdown. He travelled on to Singapore on a Saudia airline flight, according to reports.

Rajapaksa was with his wife Ioma and their two bodyguards. A passenger on the flight, who declined to be named, told Reuters news agency that Rajapaksa was met by a group of security guards and was seen leaving the airport VIP area in a convoy of black vehicles.

Airline staff on the flight told Reuters the president dressed in black and flew business class, describing him as "quiet" and "friendly".

Singapore's foreign ministry confirmed Rajapaksa had been allowed to enter the city-state, but insisted it was for a "private visit". "He has not asked for asylum and neither has he been granted any asylum. Singapore generally does not grant requests for asylum," it said in a statement.

A handful of Sri Lankans were waiting in one of the airport's arrival areas to voice their anger at Rajapaksa and the economic crisis engulfing their homeland.

"I want to scold him with all the words that I know," said a Sri Lankan design engineer working in Singapore, who identified himself only as Max.

"He's responsible for

everything that happened in our country," he told AFP news agency. The city-state is home to a sizeable Sri Lankan diaspora.

But authorities were quick to warn against protests: it is illegal for even one person to stage a demonstration in tightly controlled Singapore without prior official permission.

In a statement issued after Rajapaksa's arrival, police urged people to "abide by our local laws" and said "action will be taken against anyone participating in a public assembly that is illegal".

Rajapaksa's decision on Wednesday to make his ally Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe the acting president triggered more protests, with demonstrators storming parliament and the premier's office demanding that he quit, too.

"We want Ranil to go home," Malik Perera, a 29-year-old rickshaw driver who took part in the parliament protests, said on Thursday. "They have sold the country. We want a good person to take over. Until then, we won't stop."

Protests against the economic crisis have simmered for months and came to a head last weekend when hundreds of thousands of people took over government buildings in Colombo, blaming the powerful Rajapaksa family and allies for runaway inflation, shortages of basic

goods, and corruption.

Inside the president's residence early on Thursday, ordinary Sri Lankans wandered the halls, taking in the building's extensive art collection, luxury cars and swimming pool.

The usual protest sites, however, were calm. Protest organisers handed back the president and prime minister's residences to the government on Thursday evening.

The government imposed a curfew in Colombo from noon (06:30 GMT) on Thursday to early morning on Friday in a bid to prevent further unrest. Local media showed armoured vehicles with soldiers atop patrolling the city's streets.

The military said troops were empowered to use force to protect people and public property.

Police said one person was killed and 84 injured in clashes between riot police and protesters on Wednesday near the parliament and prime minister's office, as people demanded the removal of both Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe.

The army said two soldiers were seriously injured when they were attacked by protesters near parliament on Wednesday evening and that their weapons and magazines were snatched.

Police said the man who died was a 26-year-old protester who succumbed after he was injured near the premier's office.

Ivana Trump, former US president's first wife, dies

FORMER US President Donald Trump's first wife and the mother of his three eldest children, Ivana Trump, has died at age 73, her family and ex-husband said.

"I am very saddened to inform all of those that loved her, of which there are many, that Ivana Trump has passed away at her home in New York



Ivana

City," Donald Trump said in a post on the social media platform Truth Social.

The couple married in 1977 and divorced in 1992. They had three children together: Donald Jr, Ivanka and Eric.

In a separate statement, the family praised Ivana as "an incredible woman - a force in business, a world-

THE Malian foreign ministry has told the United Nations mission in Mali to suspend all flights scheduled to rotate peacekeeping forces days after the West African nation detained 49 soldiers from Ivory Coast who it said had arrived in the country without permission.

"For reasons related to the national security context, the government of Mali has decided to suspend, as of today, all rotations of the military and police contingent of [the UN Mission to Mali], including those already scheduled or announced," the foreign ministry said on Thursday in a letter to the UN mission and seen by The Associated Press.

The ministry said it hoped to meet with UN representatives to find "an optimal plan making it possible to facilitate the coordination and regulation of the rotation of contingents operating within [the UN mission]".

Spokesman for the UN mission Olivier Salgado acknowledged the letter and said his organisation is ready for immediate discussions with Malian authorities.

"The rotation of the mission's contingents is of crucial importance for its operational effectiveness and the morale of its uniformed personnel," Salgado said.

"Everything must be done for its urgent settlement, especially since some of the staff concerned should have been relieved several months ago," he added.

Mali's ruling military government, which seized power in an August 2020

Mali suspends new rotations of UN forces



Mali has decided to suspend all rotations of UN military and police contingents in the country

coup, has repeatedly butted heads with many of its traditional partners following sanctions on Bamako, condemnation over election delays, and Mali's increasing security cooperation with the Russian mercenary Wagner group.

When the UN Security Council renewed UN mission in Mali's mandate last month, Malian authorities pledged to defy UN calls to allow freedom of movement for peacekeepers to investigate human rights abuses.

Tensions have been high between Mali and the UN since Sunday, when 49 soldiers from Ivory Coast, including members of the special forces, were detained by Malian authorities.

Mali said the Ivorian soldiers did not have proper authorisation to come to Mali and accused them of being mercenaries.

Ivory Coast has called for the immediate release of the soldiers, saying that all a g r e e d - u p o n communications were made for their arrival in the country under the UN mission.

On Monday, Malian authorities said they had received "four different versions" as to why the Ivorian troops were in the country.

Ivory Coast said the troops were sent to Mali to provide a supporting role for the UN's peacekeeping mission and should be freed without delay. Malian officials said their case has been referred to judicial investigators.

There has been no further word about the troops since. However, in what may be a move to defuse the showdown, the government on Thursday signalled talks with the UN mission over procedures for force rotations.

came after Donald Trump's highly publicised affair with Marla Maples, whom he later married, was fodder for the New York tabloids.

While Donald Trump took the credit for his early success breaking into the highly competitive Manhattan real estate market, Ivana Trump played an important role in building the family business soon after their marriage, The New York Times reported.

She worked alongside her husband in developing Trump Tower, his signature building on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, and other high-profile projects such as the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the newspaper said.

Ivana Trump was the vice president for interior design for the Trump Organization and managed the historic Plaza Hotel, which Trump acquired in 1988.

Donald Trump and his ex-wife Ivana Trump during the men's final at

the US Open, September 7, 1997 [File: Mike Blake/Reuters]

In recent years, Ivana Trump had been on good terms with her former husband. She wrote in a 2017 book that they spoke about once a week.

Ivana told the New York Post in 2016 that she was both a supporter and adviser to the former president. "I suggest a few things," she told the newspaper. "We speak before and after the appearances and he asks me what I thought." She said she advised him to "be more calm".

"But Donald cannot be calm," she added. "He's very outspoken. He just says it as it is."

In his post on Thursday, Donald Trump praised her as "a wonderful, beautiful, and amazing woman, who led a great and inspirational life".

"Her pride and joy were her three children, Donald Jr, Ivanka, and Eric. She was so proud of them, as we were all so proud of her. Rest In Peace, Ivana!"

THE EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Get rid of persistent body odour

BODY odour is literally one of the worst issues a person has to deal with—irrespective of the gender. You can try to get used to the fact that sometimes, the best of people stink. So, how do we solve that persistent problem? Do we tell you how you stink? Or do we gift you the most expensive bath and cologne range hoping you get the hint? Here's the best solution: take the hint for yourself and take some necessary precautions for the same.

We'll go out on a limb and help you with it, too!

Don't Run Away From Bathing, No Matter What

Most men don't take the term bath as seriously as they should, truth be told. But a bath is to your body what vaccination is to disease. Showering regularly reduces the amount of bacteria on your body which is usually the reason for the odour. Ideally, you should be taking two baths a day; but feel free to do that more than twice.

Choose A Deo Over An Antiperspirant

There is a huge difference between a deodorant and an antiperspirant. A deodorant uses antiseptic action against the bacteria in your body and neutralizes the sweat. An antiperspirant on the other hand, just covers the smell of sweat by blocking and clogging your sweat glands. It's always best to choose a minimally scented deo over one that is doused in artificial fragrances.

Avoid Using Colognes When You're Sweaty

It's the worst thing you can ever do; not just to yourself, but also to others around you. So, word of advice: if you love someone, don't kill them with your sweat-



enhanced cologne, please! A cologne just camouflages your sweat, and thereafter, your body odour for a very short span of time. Once the effects wear off, you're just really stinky and suffocating, all at once.

Wear Loosely-Fitted Clothes For Air Circulation

Yes, some of you have nicely bulked up bodies and like to show off your muscles, more often than required. But, the tighter your clothes, the more likely are you to sweat all over and create an uncomfortable situation for yourself and for others. The last thing you need is to look like you're dripping nervous. Let your body

breathe. Also, try to avoid too much layering. Extra clothes just add on to the sweat and odour and instead of covering it up, only magnify it all the more. Stick to natural fabrics like cotton, as much as you can.

Shave Your Body Hair Regularly

No, not the beard... unless you want to. We mean your body hair. As much as you want to frontline the whole naturally macho campaign, being too hairy can also be one of the reasons why your sweat glands are in overdrive and so is the body odour.

Change Your Diet

Did you know that the food you're eating could be causing

your body to stink? Well, now you do. Food items, like garlic and onions don't just give your mouth a certain unwelcome flavour; they also contribute to bodily odour. This is due to the components of sulphur in these foods that tends to penetrate through the pores. Yes, garlic and onion is good for your health and you should not stop consuming these. But, balance it out. Increase the intake of Zinc and Magnesium. The lack of these supplements from your diet, also causes body odour. The best way to ensure, you're getting the right amount is to take your multivitamins regularly.

Consult A Doctor

If your body odour persists even after you've tried all of the above methods, you should consult a doctor. In case you didn't know, body odour is a very prominent sign of having some sort of disease. Body odour could also be a sign of an advanced liver, or kidney disorder, as well as diabetes. So, get rid of that unwanted BO and live a stink-free life.

How to Get Rid of Body Odour: Quick, Natural Solutions

If you're concerned about your body odour and looking for natural, chemical-free ways to manage it.

1. Wear an anti-odour undershirt
2. Wash with all-natural antibacterial soap
3. Always dry off thoroughly
4. Use probiotic deodorant
5. Update your laundry routine
6. Use apple cider vinegar, lemon juice or witch hazel
7. Watch what you eat.

Wear Breathable Fabrics or An Anti-odour Undershirt

Natural, breathable fabrics like cotton or bamboo can help get rid of body odour. Synthetic materials like polyester and rayon, on the other hand, push moisture and bacteria outward — creating a more noticeable stench plus sweat marks.

Wearing an undershirt is a great way to prevent body odour naturally. Undershirts add an extra layer of absorption to contain moisture and reduce body odour.



EVIE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Parenting

Should parents interfere in their children's friendship?

A child learns to make friends only after he has mastered certain social skills like sharing, empathy, initiating a conversation, and so on. However, while the art of developing friendship comes easily to a child, choosing the right friend requires a certain level of intellectual maturity that children don't possess. As a result, parents, sometimes take it upon themselves to judge whether they should allow their child to remain friends with a particular child or not. And, once parents label their child's relationship with his friend as undesirable, they can't resist the urge to interfere between them.

The problem with this approach is that most children don't take their parents' advice in the right spirit. They begin looking at their parents' counsel as attempts to curb their independence and choice.

To prevent such feelings from arising in your child, let's look at situations in your child's friendships when you should intervene and when you shouldn't do so.

Situations when you should interfere

When your child's friend -

1. Is leading him astray by teaching him bad habits or values (for example, to lie or steal)
2. Is manipulative and self-centered
3. Makes your child take the blame for mistakes that he (the friend) has committed
4. Acts in ways that impact your child's self-esteem
5. Doesn't stand up for your child
6. Has some communicable health problems
7. Has serious behavioral issues
8. Is casting an adverse influence on the relationship between you and your child
9. Is having an unfavorable effect on your child's academic performance
10. Is pressurizing or bullying your child to do things that may endanger his well-being (for example, encouraging him to smoke or try drugs)

Friendship is very important for children, as it helps them grow up into emotionally healthy adults. And, when it comes to their role in their children's friendships, it is important for parents to know their children's peer group. They should never directly involve in their children's decisions in making friends. They can provide timely inputs from their perspective; however, they cannot force their views on their children regarding forming or maintaining friendships. They can play the role of mentors or coaches and help children develop the ability to establish and nurture friendships. They should also make sure their children do not become victims of



peer pressure. Only a cordial and democratic relationship with their children can help parents in playing this role effectively.

- Rachna Sabu, Psychologist and Educator, Mumbai

Situations when you should not interfere

1. When your child has not been treated properly or has been hurt by one of her friends: Do not assume that your child is not at fault and try to take up her case with her friend
2. When there are minor conflicts between your child and her friend/s: Do not step in to set things right
3. When most of your child's friends are from the opposite gender: Do not influence your child to choose friends from her own gender

4. When among a group of friends, your child seems friendlier or favors to hang out, with only a few: Do not dictate who your friend should be close with

5. When your child has a wide circle of friends: Do not attempt to prevent your child from making too many friends

6. When your child wants to go out with some of her friends: Do not insist on including or excluding someone of your choice

7. When your child wants to identify with her peer group by something that she does: Do not forbid her from fitting into her group of peers (for example, by preventing her from wearing a particular type of dress for a specific occasion that she and her friends have planned to wear);

however, a word of caution here - if the 'fitting in' to the group means wrong behavioral choice or bad habits, you must say a firm NO

8. When your child tries to help her friends by doing something for them (for example, sharing her school projects or pocket money with them): Do not discourage your child from doing this as children have strong emotional ties with their friends and love to help them

9. When your child tries to encourage or motivate her friend who is better than her to achieve something: Do not prevent her from assuming that her friend's achievement will overshadow her own; remember, children do not perceive their friend's success as different from their own

10. When your child has broken up with someone: Do not coax her to continue to be friends with that person

An article, '9 Bad Influences on Your Child (or You)' by Jennifer Bleyer in Real Simple quotes Timothy Verduin, Clinical Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine. According to Timothy Verduin, "If you want kids who are resilient, you can't isolate them from social pathogens. Think about the long view, that you're training them to handle less-than-ideal people and solve their own problems."

So, while you encourage your child to make friends, also teach him those skills that would help him make good choices. Not only would this prevent your interference, but would also allow your child to lead an independent social life.

Special tips for parents of teenagers

1. Be your child's best friend.
2. Encourage your teen to confide in you.
3. Evince interest in getting to know your teen's friend. If possible, arrange for your child's friend's family to visit you for dinner occasionally.
4. Learn to appreciate your teen's good friends.
5. Advise your teen on the importance of forming good friendships and let him know that you trust him to choose the right friend.
6. It is good to be a part of your child's online friendship circle. At the same time, understand where to draw the line; allow your teen his personal space.
7. Educate your teen on online safety and discourage him from forging friendships with strangers online.
8. Help your child manage his time well when it comes to engaging in online friendships. Ensure that he doesn't spend too much time on it.

Source: Pairedlife.com





Reality Bites

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Ways to promote healthy mindset

WE are surrounded on a daily basis by happenings that could be positive or negative and as each one comes our way, how we handle or come out of it matters.

Experts however advise that whatever the challenge we are going through, we must take care of our mind so as not to lose it to depression and other negative consequences, whether it is in the event of the loss of a loved one, job, relationship, or being a victim of divorce, disaster, fraud, or any challenge. Having a good mindset that allows one to still see the need for life and the positive sides to issues prevents suicidal thoughts too.

According to Patrick Hannabery on sisuhealthgroup.com, being healthy isn't simply exercising and eating well, mental health also plays a major role in your overall wellbeing, however many of us forget to check-in and make time to practice a healthy mindset. For instance, approximately 1 in 4 Australians experience some form of mental illness, while others may experience intermittent feelings of stress, a lack of confidence or feeling overwhelmed.

He said there is a myriad of different things you can do to promote a healthy mindset, from exercising to meditating. He lists some things you can try to ensure you are promoting a healthy mindset and to support feeling your best.

Eat well:

Research supports a diet of



highly processed foods, with little nutrients, play a significant impact on not only your body but also your mind. Good nutrition allows you to feel good from the inside out.

Surround yourself with positive people:

Take time to make meaningful connections with friends and family and the people around you. By surrounding yourself with positive people you will feel happier and supported. Many of us lead busy schedules, but it is important to make time to socialise and to have fun.

Take time to practice gratitude:

It can be easy to forget to take a minute or so to reflect and to think about the things in your life that you are grateful for. Something as simple as having a cup of tea without technology, or meditating can go a long way in feeling happier and promoting mental clarity.

Avoid self-comparison:

Comparison can take its toll for many people resulting in lowered self-esteem or a lower sense of self-worth. Take comfort in the fact that no one person is the same and remember to make time to disconnect from social media platforms every now and again.

Find a hobby:

A balance between work or study and spending time doing things that make you happy can make a big difference to having a healthy mindset. Try something new or pick up a

class to help you feel fulfilled.

Give back:

Giving back to the community can help build meaningful connections with those around you but can also

be so powerful for your mindset. Volunteer within your community or show small acts of kindness to those around you during the day and you will feel better and happier as a person.

Talk about your feelings:

It's important to share how we are feeling with people close to us. If you don't feel comfortable sharing your feeling with anyone, sometimes a personal journal can help you to express what you're experiencing.

Reflect:

Making time to reflect is a powerful thing. Take time to reflect on the past day or week and reflect on how you resolved problems and how it felt. Reflection is a great way to stay in tune with yourself, learn and maintain a fresh mind.

Exercise:

There are many studies that support the idea that exercise is very powerful in supporting mental health because exercise can improve body image, resilience, quality of life and can even assist in cases of mild to moderate depression.

Use failure to encourage success:

Failure can be the cornerstone to personal growth and development. Remind yourself to pick yourself back up again and try again.

Source: Parentlife.com



EVERY SOW WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

By **ESTHER PANSHAK**

The girl child and national development

E DUCATION is the process through which people obtain required knowledge to realize their potentials and make use of them for self actualisation in order to be useful to the society. It is also a means of preserving, transmitting and improving the culture of the society.

The development and prosperity of a nation is dependent on the level and depth of its educational sector. It is a means of empowering and strengthening the nation. Its also a means of ensuring equality and a vehicle to escaping poverty. The United Nations has made education a fundamental human right because of the important role it plays in growth and development. However, customs, tradition and perhaps some myths have affected the even distribution and impartation of education across gender. The male folk have enjoyed and are still enjoying more educational attention as against the girl child.

It has been found that girl child education is one of the key fulcrums of advancement in developed countries. Education given to a girl child is the same thing as training her mental capacity, character and other potentials. Accordingly, this crucial right should be taken as a serious activity irrespective of age, race, and nationality. We cannot over emphasize the importance of education in the life of a girl child. Aside the academic training, girl child education imparts spiritual and moral excellence in them. It gives light that paves way by uprooting any veil of ignorance. It is just like salt that adds flavour to our existence.

Girl child education is like medicine that heals and like key to the future. In line with a Chinese wise saying, "education is the best legacy to give a child because giving your child a skill is better than giving her thousand pieces of gold." It is worrisome that numerous girls around the world lack access to



proper education. The long traditional belief is that the place of the woman is in her husband's kitchen and her basic role focuses on her home. This philosophical perception has prevented so many girls from receiving the needed education. In most African settings, a girl is often

given out in marriage at a very tender age which tends to rob the girl from her fundamental human right. This often leads to abuse and deprivation of educational skills and knowledge. This eventually leads to lifetime illiteracy, especially when the husband fails to offer her opportunity to go to school.

In several documented studies, giving education to the women gender is crucial for national development.

This goes in line with the long held knowledge that "when you educate a man, you educate one, but when you educate a woman, you educate a nation." This is true given the knowledge that the education of every child begins at the family front and the mother is the first teacher. Educating the girl child would certainly produce reasonable mothers who are well educated and will as well impart their offsprings, take care for their families and make provision for their offsprings. Hence, providing education to the girl child will lead to superior health for the future generations. It will also lead to reduction in child mortality thereby improving development.

As corollary to the above, Girl Child education help in reducing the spread of dangerous diseases such as HIV - Aids, Iasa fever etc. This is because she's well informed, due to the information the girl child has acquired through school, she can give balanced diet and nutrition to her family. This will improve the health of her family and make the children receptive to knowledge and prepare them to be great leaders and builders of the nation. Another way of looking at the role of girl child education is it prepares her to face realities of life. It trains her to be an amiable and virtuous wife and mother.

Anytime a girl is given education, she unlocks and explores full talents and potentials inherent in her. It makes her to unravel whoever and whatever she wants to be. Given the required educational knowledge, the girl child would remove the barrier of ignorance and open that of self awareness and discovery. Girl child education is also key in closing income gaps, inequality and poverty. It has been identified that Illiteracy is one of the biggest causes of poverty. Primary education is a vehicle for changing girls especially from disadvantaged regions to a prosperous life. Therefore, giving

education to the girl is key to national development as it improves her productivity and economic capacity by not becoming a liability to the nation. Another key role of Girl Child education is in increasing competition in the economy. Aside, making the male gender more serious, it makes a nation competitive among league of nations. It can also foster democracy and governance. it promotes democracy and the involvement all and sundry in decision making process as well as in governance. The child's right act should be strengthened and executed in all parts of the world, especially in developing countries. To ensure that the girl child gets proper training for national development, there's need to support every ally and stakeholder, especially the media to do more.

The media should advocate for increased funding and allocation of adequate public resources to the education sector, especially adequate allocation and the release of what has been appropriated. To enable lasting solutions, the girl child should be encouraged to be diligent and rational with her ambition and goals in life and as a strong competitor in every aspect of life. Another key role of Girl Child education is in increasing competition in the economy. Aside, making the male gender more serious, it makes a nation competitive among nations. It can also foster democracy and good governance that promotes democracy and involvement all and sundry in decision making process as well as in governance.

The traditional myths, religious biases and other barriers against the girl child education should be removed through massive awareness campaigns in order to achieve meaningful national development. Aside, making the male gender more serious, it makes a nation competitive among the league of nations. It can also foster democracy and good governance that promotes democracy and involvement of all.

Esther Panshak is from the National Open University Jos Campus on attachment with THE NIGERIA STANDARD.



BUSINESS WORLD

Cards, PoS are good, but not embedded finance

Cash as a mode of payment is inefficient. Most people like it because it is what is available and quite frankly, even the card industry has limitations, and especially in developing economies like Nigeria. How many times did you complete a purchase, hand over your card for payment and it returns that dreaded response; 'Declined'? Not always due to insufficient funds, yet, it happens with a lot more frequency than many people can deal with. OPE ADEOYE writes

IF cards are to be the means of bridging financial inclusion, then it is going to be much worse.

But why does this matter? To perform a PoS transaction in Nigeria today, one would need to at least own a Debit card, but what is equally interesting is that they would also need to have a bank account in the first place to be issued that card. This presupposes they would have been 'financially included', but more than 60 percent of adults (in the rural area) are unbanked, and 44 percent are completely excluded from any form of financial service. These are supposedly those the aggressive push for financial inclusion through things like PoS agents should serve. The odds are better but not fantastic in the urban settings either.

For instance, the use of PoS through 'cash agents' is becoming popular, but really, only because more viable alternatives have not been widely deployed. Yet, what is more interesting is, this strategy is expected to drive financial inclusion in rural areas where formal banking services are absent. And in urban areas too, where not everyone feels comfortable disclosing their card details.

Only one-third of rural adults are banked, compared to two-thirds of adults in urban areas, with rural adults more likely than those in urban areas to continue relying exclusively on informal financial services, as noted in the EFInA Access to Financial Services in Nigeria 2020 survey.

So, how would card-driven transactions meet the needs of millions of unbanked and financially excluded people?

In the first four months of 2022, cashless transactions saw a 44 percent increase (year-on-year) to hit N117.33tn, according to data from the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System. Cashless



transactions, which are captured through the Nigeria Instant Payment System and Point of Sales terminals, showed Electronic channels were used 1.88 trillion times in the first four months of 2022, a 44.26 percent increase from the 1.3 trillion times they were used in the corresponding period of 2021.

Clearly, there is interest to adopt electronic payments and if this is achieved through more efficient systems, such as embedded finance, transaction volumes will likely multiply. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had also said in a document on why it is promoting the Cashless Policy, that there was a need to help Nigerians migrate from a cash-based economy to an electronic-

driven economy.

The e-BillsPay, an electronic bill payment platform that facilitates the payment of Bills, Fees, Levies, Premiums, and Subscriptions etc. by the banking public through electronic payment channels provided and managed by Banks, has continued to see an increase in transactions in recent years.

NIBSS' data, according to media reports, showed a surge in the usage of e-bills pay after the onset of the pandemic. In the first four months of 2019, N189.50 billion was paid through e-BillPay channels; in the first four months of 2020, N363.87 billion was paid through these channels. The data shows sustained growth in the channel of payment as N716.99 billion was paid between January and April of 2021, while N923.24 billion was paid in the corresponding period of 2022.

These e-BillsPay touch points include bank branches, Internet banking, mobile banking, USSD, and agent networks.

What is instructive to note is that, with N923.24 billion already done in e-bills payments in 2022 through existing channels that do not

include the 38.1 million financially excluded Nigerians, the possibilities for more are truly endless. Imagine a world with embedded finance more widely adopted, and people able to spend with more ease, then transactions volumes could easily double or more.

With embedded finance, merchants would not even have to worry about the menace of 'fake alerts'. Embedded finance is one of the ways to deal with this as no user can trick another with carrying out a transaction on the platform. The reconciliation process is such that alerts cannot be generated unless value has actually been transmitted; in this case, money.

And for the umpteenth time, who says you need cash payment in advance for a transaction? Therefore, while the current payments as captured by NIBSS are likely to have been entirely with cash up front, there are millions of individuals who are credit worthy enough to have services or bills paid without providing cash immediately. This would only be possible through embedded finance, and would not only boost transaction volumes but also ensure average users are able to get services when needed without cash being an obstacle.

After all, your purchase history with a dealer should be sufficient to determine your credit worthiness. You buy XY goods frequently and have been paying promptly, so why can't you get a credit line?

If this article were to be published in a newspaper, for instance, they would be in a better position to offer financial services to their vendors, who daily sell at the bus stops and whose activities they are in a better position to understand than whatever bank that vendor may be using. If that newspaper offers an embedded solution through an app for its vendors, it would be empowering them to have access to more financial services, even as they continue doing business and in better control of their finances.

As the vendors prosper, spend and make money easily through this solution, guess who also gains in the end? Yes, the newspaper as well. Not card, or cash would create the win-win situation for all players; from customers to businesses and even the financial inclusion goal in Nigeria. It is embedded finance.

Adeoye, the CEO of OnePipe, writes from Lagos

“Embedded finance is one of the ways to deal with this as no user can trick another with carrying out a transaction on the platform. The reconciliation process is such that alerts cannot be generated unless value has actually been transmitted; in this case, money.”

BUSINESS WORLD

N400bn approved for poverty reduction

THE National Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (NPRGS) says N400 billion has been approved for various poverty reduction schemes in 2022.

Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa spoke with State House correspondents after a meeting of the National Steering Committee of NPRGS on Thursday at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

President Muhammadu Buhari, had in 2021, inaugurated NPRGS to be chaired by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo.

Sule said the meeting was to review the implementation of what was approved in the budget.

"It is a meeting of the steering committee of the Presidential Poverty and Growth Strategy.

"The last meeting we had, the fourth meeting, we were able to set up various working groups that we are going to prepare total budget that was required.

"So, they were able to do that and then we were able to obtain also the president's approval.

"Based on the president's approval and availability in the budget, so this meeting that we had was actually just to go through the implementation of whatever has been approved, both in the budget and by the president."

He said the first highlight of



Osinbajo

the meeting was to commend the technical groups that had been able to put up together their budget request.

The governor listed some of the programmes through which the Federal Government was implementing the NPRGS.

"Looking at what is available in the budget this year, which is roughly N400 billion, the Humanitarian Ministry is going to take N350 billion for the expansion of the various programmes like Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP), Conditional Cash Transfer,

Farmer Money, Market Money and the rest of that.

"There is also another N50 billion that is going to be reserved for the various other programmes like in the Ministry of Agriculture for rural roads, electricity in terms of solar.

"Those are the various areas that we discussed," he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that President Muhammadu Buhari on June 22, 2021 inaugurated the committee tasked with driving the target of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years.

The Debt Management Office (DMO) has described as 'false', the news going round in some media outlets, that Nigeria failed the World Bank Disclosure Rule.

According to a statement by the DMO on Thursday to clarify the situation, there has been no publication by the World Bank accusing Nigeria of failing its disclosure rule.

The statement was a response to recent media reports which indicated that the World Bank accused Nigeria of failure to publish its Annual Borrowing Plans (ABP).

The office said that Nigeria is one country that had imbibed the principle of transparency in public debt.

"The website of the focal agency for this purpose, the DMO, is frequented by diverse individuals and institutions within and outside Nigeria, searching for information on Nigeria's public debt.

"The DMO's website is filled

Nigeria did not fail World Bank disclosure rule-DMO

with detailed information on public debt, including debt by source, instrument, maturity, amongst others. "The website also includes debt management strategy and debt sustainability analysis," it said.

Faulting some specific claims in the report, the DMO said that the country's annual borrowing plans were usually contained in the annual budgets.

"The total borrowings are listed in three categories - new domestic borrowings; new external borrowings and draw down bilateral and multilateral loans.

The public debt stock is published quarterly on the DMO's website. This is supported by periodic physical and virtual media briefing sessions," it said.

It added that guaranteed debt (contingent liabilities) were listed by name and amount in its website. It said that information on recently contracted loans were as at Dec. 31, 2019 and Dec. 31, 2020.

"Instrument coverage is comprehensive as borrowing instruments for external and internal debts are disclosed in the quarterly debt reports and annual reports, both of which are published in the DMO's website," it said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that in Dec. 31, 2021, the DMO announced at a press briefing in Abuja, that the country's total debt stock was N39.6 trillion.

The office also recently announced in its website that the total debt stock had increased to N41.6trillion by March 31, 2022.

Cyber security: Nigeria improving in global ranking -Pantami

NIGERIA has improved on its global ranking in cyber security, the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Pantami, has said.

Pantami made this known on the sideline of the Stakeholder's Consultative Forum on Emerging Technologies organised by Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) and Federal Ministry of

Communications and Digital Economy in Lagos.

The minister said that Nigeria was not doing badly on the global cyber security index which ranked the country 75 out of 175 countries in 2018.

He said: "In 2020, out of 194 countries we were 54, the country increased by almost 19 and if you look at it the country was improving in global ranking.

According to him, the country has so many initiatives to ensure that our Cyber space is protected.

The minister, in his opening remark, also said that regulations was needed due to increased data which would be about 79.4 per cent zetabyte by 2025, adding that regulators should, therefore, be proactive.

Pantami said that Nigeria's ICT regulatory approach since 2019 hinged on the National Digital Economy policy and strategy for a digital Nigeria based strictly on developmental regulation.

He said that the regulatory approach had been flexible and had not in any way restricted the sector but rather supported its development.

Also, Prof. Garba Danbatta, Executive Vice-Chairman, NCC, said that the stakeholders' contribution was critical in keeping abreast with the development in telecommunications industry.

Danbatta, who said that the telecommunications industry was dynamic, urged all stakeholders to come and constructively exchange ideas on the Spectrum and regulatory requirement of Internet of Things (IoT).

According to him, IoT is a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines, objects, animals or people that are provided with unique identifiers and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring any human intervention (human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction).

"This is increasingly becoming important in the scheme of activities across most sectors of the economy



Pantami

which includes Education, Security, Military Reconnaissance Commerce, Governance, Inventory Management, Health etc.

He said that IoT unite assets, advanced analytics and workers by using connected industrial devices to monitor, collect, exchange, and analyze insights to drive faster and better decision making in an industrial setting.

Danbatta said that with the nation would witness advent of 5G technologies another dimension in the IoT Ecosystem as 5G technology is going to enable Massive Machine Type Communication (mMTC).

He said that GSMA Intelligence forecasts that IoT connections would reach almost 25 billion globally by 2025.

Danbatta said that with this pace of growth, it has become imperative to prepare for the Regulation of this important technology.

On 'to Regulate or not to Regulate' issues, the panelists agreed that there should be standard and regulation, adding that while doing so, innovations should not be stifled.

They also called for collaborative regulation for future innovations.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that there was also a public presentation of books authored by the minister of Communications and Digital Economy. (NAN)

CBN loan Banks N595.34bn in two months

THE Central Bank of Nigeria monthly economic report has revealed that banks borrowed N595.34bn from the CBN between January and February.

The report showed that while N333.59bn was borrowed through the Standing Lending Facility in January, the amount reduced to N255.75bn in February.

The apex bank said increased liquidity in the banking system caused a reduction in the amount borrowed by the lending institutions.

The report said, "Subdued activities in the SLF window and the strong patronage at the Standing Deposit Facility confirm increased liquidity in the banking system. Activities at the standing facility window reflected ease in banking system liquidity during the review period.

"The total SDF increased significantly by 60.79 per cent, to N472.38bn, from N293.79bn in January 2022. Conversely, transactions at the SLF decreased by 24.69 per cent, to N255.75bn, from N339.59bn in January 2022."

A former President, Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, Dr Sam Nzekwe, said banks borrow from the CBN as a lender of last resort.

He said, "The banks have to take from the CBN because it is the bank of the last resort. CBN is also keeping part of their money which they cannot lend."

Speaking on liquidity in the

sector during the period after a Monetary Policy Meeting, the CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele, had said members noted that the growth rate of broad money supply (M3) increased to 2.12 per cent in February 2022, compared with 1.74 per cent in January 2022.

This was largely attributed to an increase in the growth rate of Net Domestic Assets to 5.78 per cent in February 2022 from 2.62 per cent in the previous month.

He added, "On the developments in the money market, the Committee observed the movement in money market rates around the asymmetric corridor, reflecting the prevailing liquidity conditions in the banking system.

"Accordingly, the monthly weighted average Open Buyback and Inter-bank Call rates decreased to 5.81 and 9.30 per cent in February 2022 from 6.00 and 16.00 per cent in January 2022, respectively. The decrease in the rates reflected the liquidity conditions in the banking system."

RMB pledges to partner Nigeria on trade facilitation

Rand Merchant Bank has promised that it would continue to partner and support Nigeria's government towards ensuring that the country becomes a hub for trade in the continent.

The Co-Head, Banking Rand Merchant Bank Nigeria, Taiwo Shote, said this as part of his



Emefiele

contribution on a recent panel with the theme, "Implementing a 21st-century trade economy: The challenge of transforming Nigeria into Africa's business hub." The panel was part of the GTR Trade conference, one of the world's leading trade finance events.

Trade facilitation has been highlighted as a key objective in the country's mission to boost economic growth.

Read also: Strengthening women-led organisations in trade facilitation in Africa

To support this, Nigeria's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment had announced a group of policies aimed at



Why fostering female talent is in saweetie's nature

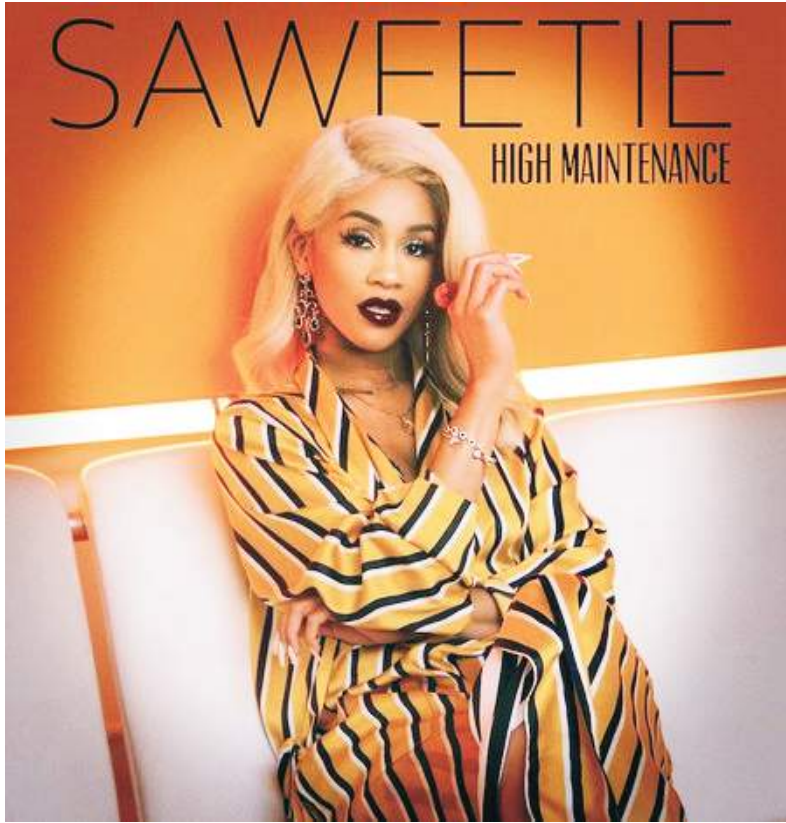
Continued from page 16

quick to hail her "great team," given the love she has for her collaborators and fellow creatives. She recently hosted an International Women's Day Virtual Concert for Cool Accidents, sharing the e-stage with international acts and local artists alike. "I can't wait 'til there's a time where I can actually be there in person, because that's what I like to do," she says excitedly. "I'm a very in-person type of girl."

Online, no distance could keep a dizzying roster of female talent from joining Saweetie, with acts from the world

over tapping in for the show. Beaming in from across the globe were singer-songwriter extraordinaire Tayla Parx, English R&B up-and-comer Griff, LA punk group The Regrettes, searing Atlanta emcee bktherula, Massachusetts talent Raiche, and LA rapper Ncognita. Australia and New Zealand artists joined as well, with Melbourne R&B talent Pania, New Zealand emcee JessB, and Sydney singer-songwriter Liyah Knight performing.

"I think that it's important to show love to all cultures," explains Saweetie of her global ear. "When I hear about other women in other countries, other cities, other locations doing



their thing, especially when they add some sauce to my pot, it makes me happy." It's not hard to see how Pania, whose late-night R&B flaunts that **Icy** flair, fits into Saweetie's own icy vision.

It's a love that's manifested in a string of diverse "Best Friend" remixes, one of which features standout verses from JessB and Australian vocalist OKENYO. Speaking on those two talents, Saweetie explains that it's "when they're glowing when they're being their most authentic form of themselves" that an artist catches her eye.

It's sharp bars that catch her ear, like JessB's "she be quicker online than the FBI," which Saweetie fangirled over on a call with the emcee, setting her up with a "bessie in a tessie" for her efforts. "Getting the girls together across the world, we love to see it," said JessB of the remix; "the song is empowering fire and a damn right bop, I just wanted to join the party," added OKENYO. Their verses are bold, bristling with assurance and bombast, and as Saweetie explains, it's no mistake: "I like to collaborate with other women who are like me."

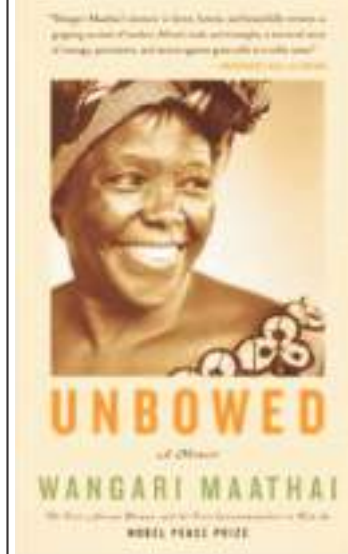
International meet-ups and jetsetting exploits might just be a music video, but as Saweetie speaks on studio sessions and virtual concerts, it's clear she's plotting on her own international adventures. "When it's safe to travel, I would love to go out [to the Philippines] and shoot a music video," she says, mulling over a return to real stages, "especially with these new songs."

"I think that it's an opportunity for me to reconnect with my fans, because performing to green screens is not fun," she says, shifting her gaze to the bright future: "I definitely need all that pretty bitch energy in person!"

Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

Continued from page 16

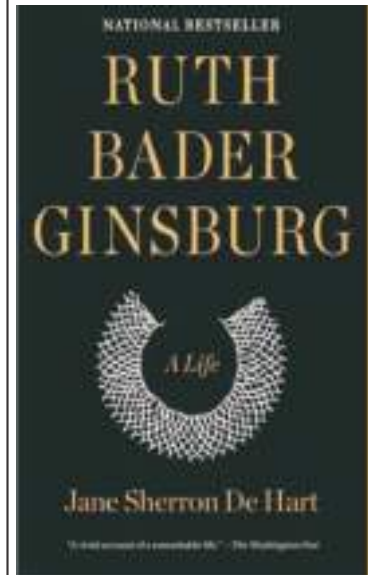
Unbowed



The first African woman to win the Nobel Prize, Wangari Maathai devoted her life to activism. In 1977, she founded the Green Belt Movement, a grassroots organization that aims to improve development in Kenya by focusing on environmentalism, community building, and women's rights. Since the movement was started, over 51 million trees have been planted, and over 31,000 women have been trained in trades that simultaneously help them earn income and preserve the environment.

In this stirring autobiography, Maathai recalls her remarkable life, from being raised in rural Kenya to studying in the U.S. to returning to her homeland armed with knowledge and determination. According to *The Washington Post*, Maathai's story "provides uplifting proof of the power of perseverance—and of the power of principled, passionate people to change their countries and inspire the world."

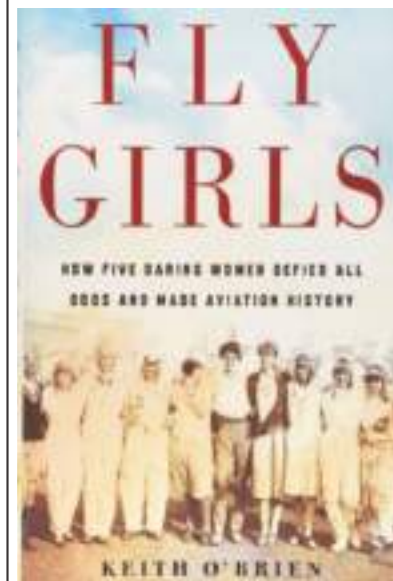
Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A Life



Published in 2018 after more than a decade's worth of interviews and research, *Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A Life* is a comprehensive biography of the second woman appointed to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. Historian Jane Sherron de Hart covers Ginsburg's major life events in depth, from her girlhood in Brooklyn as World War II raged on in the background to her journey to become one of the country's first female law professors and beyond. In the wake of Ginsburg's 2020 death, this national bestseller about the impassioned defender of women's rights is a must-read.

Amelia Earhart (and more)

Fly Girls



During the 1920s and 1930s, aviation was not yet a typical mode of travel. Instead, it was a spectacle, with those who flew the newfangled things becoming icons in their own right. Pilots were praised as heroes—fearless as they stared down death in one of the most dangerous sports. However, not all pilots received the same praise, as is the case of five remarkable aviators. Brave enough to overcome numerous obstacles, they were often ridiculed and faced prejudice based on one common factor: They were all women.

During the early stages of aviation, women showed great determination and willpower as they sought to prove themselves in the skies. O'Brien focuses on five trail-blazing women who impacted the industry: Florence Klingensmith, Ruth Elder, Amelia Earhart, Ruth Nichols, and Louise Thaden. These women accomplished many feats, broke sexist barriers, were innovators in the aviation world, and broke multiple records. A thrilling read until the final page—and newly available in paperback on March 5—*Fly Girls* will leave you in awe.

To be continued

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

How entrepreneurship is shaping the minds of youths

Many have argued that entrepreneurship is both lucrative and dangerous, which seems true and untrue to different individuals around the world. Entrepreneurs find relevance in giving value to systems and the world at large. PRECIOUS OGBONNA writes.

ENTREPRENEUR statistics for 2021 shows that there are about 582 million entrepreneurs in the world, and that 62 percent of all small businesses do not employ any staff, which directly means that a high number of businesses are run individually.

Entrepreneurship has become a more sustainable tool for generating jobs, and reducing the high level of unemployment in Africa. In 2021, the Borgen Project issued a blog post that said that the unemployment rate stood at 6.6 percent in 2020, as the report also stated the number was inflated in reality due to some effects from the situation in the labour force. In 2020 which was defined as the pandemic year, most of the youths were either unemployed, or underemployed, as they were not making up to the living wage in the different regions of Africa.

The report recalls the in 2013 a study was carried out by the Brookings Institution, a think-tank in the United States of America (USA), which discovered that an average African youth between 15 to 24 years constituted about 37 percent of the working age population and also counted for about 60 percent of the unemployed people on the continent of Africa. This was a year where companies around the world reported a decline in productivity. Nigeria and South Africa which have the largest economies in Africa published their labour force statistics in 2021, and it projected a high rise in unemployment such that one in two youths is most likely unemployed.

Faith Institute, a training institution in Nigeria in a report which focused on Entrepreneurship in Nigeria said to create business growth and maximum impact on the economy, more women and youth between 18 and 35 years have started going into entrepreneurship. Most of the entrepreneurs are found to have either started business from their school days or trading with a family relative and friends as the case may be. Nowadays, people now do trading through social media platforms.

Olajide Demola, owner of a telecommunication store located in the popular Computer Village in Ikeja, Lagos State has three different degrees. But he is now fully ventured into entrepreneurship says he has been an entrepreneur since 2014.

He was still a student when his brother who was based abroad sent a phone to him, which he sold, and continued this way until 2018 when he was trusted with about twenty phones. He delivered a revenue of over N1 million to his brother and that was how they became partners. Prior to his journey as an



entrepreneur, he had applied for a sales manager position where he was asked if he had a business idea. He had one at the time and openly informed the interviewer. After a while, he was not offered the job. He later found out that the said company started advertising services based on the idea concepts he discussed during the interview. Demola said it was at that point he decided to own his own business.

Aside selling mobile phones, he also runs the business of currency exchange, which he had knowledge about from one of his degrees-international trade and finance. He also runs a travel agency, which also emanates from one of his college degrees-traveling and logistics.

Ebuka Mic, a standup comedian, comper and entertainment creative also has something to say in his journey as an entrepreneur who sells entertainment content. The information and communication engineering graduate had made a niche for himself with his creative events from his university days, where he would take offers and

privileges to do standup comedy, comper to events held by students in school. He started creating and producing of numerous artistic contents which sells him forward to various clients around the world.

Ebuka who has been hosted by the popular TV show, AMVCA among others, says most of the clients he has been able to serve reached him through referrals, which means he has been delivering value in his entertainment skills and this has empowered him to some extent of growth, establishing a thoughtful vision.

He currently hosts series of comedians and artistes in the seasonal comedy shows which he convenes in different cities, Abuja, the nation's federal capital, and Lagos, West Africa's commercial capital. He is set to hold a paid comedy show in Port Harcourt, Rivers State with other set of young comedians this June.

Myles Munroe, a public speaker, who specialized on the path of leadership while alive made a statement that: "The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but a life without a purpose". Haoma Worgwu, an entrepreneur who focuses on direct impact to both old and young people, also shares her bit. Worgwu, an award-winning social entrepreneur, and TEDx speaker currently holds a degree in economics. Although her skills in public speaking and her drive to cause transformation leading to impact solution right from her university days have created a niche for her. Also, this has led her forth into opportunities to impact people alongside giant public speakers in the nation.

Worgwu founded a non-governmental organisation, Envisage Hub, an innovative career hub which aims to create impacts by

creating social awareness for millennials, exposing them to developmental opportunities in Africa, and globally. Her company fills a gap for young adults, and students by running series of trainings, bootcamps, workshop for Africans and global citizens who are ready to learn, and grow within the confines of career.

The organization also finds for her followers, career opportunities which are intertwined to their mission statement which is to breed global competitive persons. Some of the other services that the organization offers is access to certifications, and courses which aim to improve career paths.

Tiwalola Olanubi, the founder of Dotte Media House, once stated that "The best thing that can happen to any entrepreneurs is to start chasing their dreams as early as possible. He advised that as soon as ideas get into mind, they should start". This is coming from a company founder who is in his youth days.

Another thriving business some youths have taken a stride is the digital bukka business, where good chefs make food available to people who will need them. The service is about making homemade food and selling via social media platforms. This kind of business thrives mostly by digital marketing and referrals. So, the chef must have delivered good products and kept getting referrals from her clients.

Since the lockdown year, some young people now share the value they have with their friends and family, or even colleagues at work, hence the same way it is for a chef who shows forth his food making skills to the public by selling, in a corporate way.

Olamide Bamisile, a food vendor that sells her expertise off the internet is a first-degree holder of

food technology. She is currently earning her master's degree in the same field- food processing and engineering, although, she is held down by the ongoing current ASUU strike. Olamide has not stopped earning income and building her consumer base even as her school is on strike. She believes that she has to let her internet followers know that she is able to save them the stress of going to the market, and the duty of cooking or visiting restaurants by providing sumptuous and wholesome meals on their doorstep.

Olamide also believes her food business is highly profitable even more than so many white-collar jobs, hence as much as she believes she can succeed in both path of business, she also creates business models, which she reviews from time to time. She trusts her understanding and her people management skills as a prerequisite for a profitable business, and also, she believes on the effects technology will bring to the food sector.

Another importance of having and running a business is that it gives you security, although not every one may be an entrepreneur, but entrepreneurs will always be around to grant job opportunities to employees.

Jude, a young entrepreneur is the founder of SOJ Exchange, a cryptocurrency exchange and trading platform. He is currently an undergraduate, but seems to have the need to start running a company. He believes that entrepreneurship will be his path to control time, his money, and what he will be doing all his life. Jude says he has given much time to research before he started his company, he has also had to learn communication, as it is a yielding path for him. He also believes that the advent of new technologies that the world is having are a breathing route of his business.



Change of Name

MRS PATIENCE	NDAM	MICHAEL	LONGS	DOKKIAS	JOSEPH
I, formerly known as MISS MILAHAM PATIENCE SAMSON , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS PATIENCE MILAHAM SHAR-TAPJI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as NDAM MARKUR , now wish to be known and addressed as NDAM MARKUR DUKBONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as GOBIT VICTOR MICHAEL , now wish to be known and addressed as MICHAEL VICTOR . Correct date of birth is 14/1/1994 not 14/1/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as YAKUBU ALICE DACHOLLOM , now wish to be known and addressed as LONGS ALICE EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as DOKKIAS GOLIT , now wish to be known and addressed as DOKKIAS GOLIT EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as JOSEPH TINA , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH CLEMENTINA OMOMEDA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
BABA	MUHAMMED	ADAMU	OKON	IBRAHIM	ISHAKU
I, formerly known as CYNTIAN BABA ZUGWAI , now wish to be known and addressed as BABA CYNTIA JOHN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MUHAMMAD SHEHU , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMED SHEHU . All former documents remain valid. First Bank, all concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM USMAN SALISU , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU USMAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MATTHEW ENO-OBONG EFFIONG , now wish to be known and addressed as OKON ENO-OBONG GOD'STIME . Correct date of birth is 14/10/1999 not 14/10/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM SALMAN , now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM SALMAN BELLO . All former documents remain valid. Access Bank . All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as AFORDIAH ELISHA YOHANNA , now wish to be known and addressed as ISHAKU AFORDIAH PANKUT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
IFEANYI	OLADUNJOYE	SULEIMAN	CHIECHEFU	NYAMUE	MARYAM
I, formerly known as EGBOS, IFEANYI GILBERT , now wish to be known and addressed as IFEANYI GILBERT EGBONUBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as OLANDOJOYE GRACE ANNE , now wish to be known and addressed as OLADUNJOYE GRACE ANNE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as AHMAD SULEIMAN AHMAD , now wish to be known and addressed as SULEIMAN AHMAD AHMAD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ONUMA JUSTINA CHIZO , now wish to be known and addressed as CHIECHEFU CHIZOBA JUSTINA NKEM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NYAMUE FELIX TERYILA , now wish to be known and addressed as NYAMUE TERYILA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MARYAM ADAMU , now wish to be known and addressed as MARYAM ADAMU MUHAMMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
YOHANNA	MANGS	FEYISHOLA	JAMES	PANLE	ADAMS
I, YOHANNA RHODA , Wish to state that my correct date of birth is 01/02/1994 not 01/02/1986. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MANGS DAZKING YARI , now wish to be known and addressed as MANGS DASKYAHAR YARI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, previously known as FEYISHOLA BIDE MI ADENIJI OYENEYE, OYENEYE FEYISHOLA B.A , now wish to be known and addressed as FEYISHOLA BIDE MI ADESOGAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as YAKUBU KEFAS KUJENA , now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES KEFAS CHULLU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BAKRUM POLYCARP DANIIYAK , now wish to be known and addressed as PANLE BAKRUM PETER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DALYOP CHUNDUNG ROSE , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMS, CHUNDUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
EMMANUEL	NANCHAK	CHARITY	AMOS	DA'AN	HANNATU
I, formerly known as EMMANUEL REGINA , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL REGINA PWAJOK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as PONJUL TAKDUL NANCHAK , now wish to be known and addressed as NANCHAK PONJUL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as CHARITY THOMAS DUAKNA'AN , now wish to be known and addressed as CHARITY DAMULAK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as UGWU AMOS , now wish to be known and addressed as AMOS CHIBUIKE UGWU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as NANRIBET ANDREW , now wish to be known and addressed as DA'AN NANRIBET ANDREW . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as HANNATU YARIMA HARUNA , now wish to be known and addressed as HANNATU MAIYARIMA BULAMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
JIKA	AMOS	RAJI	EMMANUEL	JOYCE	DUNG
I, formerly known as JIKA BACHI DALIYAS , now wish to be known and addressed as JIKA BACHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the note.	I, formerly known as AMOS, RPINCE CHARLES IBE, AMOS CHARLES PRINCEIBE , now wish to be known and addressed as AMOS, PRINCE-CHARLES IBE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BELLO KHADIJATU RAJI , now wish to be known and addressed as RAJI KHADIJA BELLO . Correct date of birth is 7/9/1978. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JONAH JULIET ERIMA , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL JULIET ERIMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOYCE TANKO PWASPO , now wish to be known and addressed as JOYCE NANBUT RAMNAP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DUNG THERESA DUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNG THERESA DAZENG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
FRANCIS	PATRICIA	GYANG	UMAR	YOHANNA	ATE
I, formerly known as ABRAHAM AGBATSE FRANCIS , now wish to be known and addressed as FRANCIS, ABRAHAM RUNYIT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS NGUKAS PATRICIA ISHAKU , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS PATRICIA NANDOM JOSHUA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SHUT BARNABAS GYANG , now wish to be known and addressed as GYANG BARNABAS SHUT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as UMARU HAUWA FEDOJEH , now wish to be known and addressed as UMAR HAUWA . All concerned authorities and the former documents remain valid. A general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOHN NANCHIN BLESSING , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA NANCHIN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ATTEH YAKUBU , now wish to be known and addressed as ATE YAKUBU AKUJA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
RYEMSHIK	ADELANI	MAFENG	PATIENCE	MUHAMMAD	VICTORIA
I, formerly known as AUGUSTIN PANDOK , now wish to be known and addressed as RYEMSHIK PANDOK AUGUSTINE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ONYEKWURU, JOY CHIMDI , now wish to be known and addressed as ADELANI JOY CHIMDI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DUSU MARTHA DAVOU, KAMSHAK MATTER ISTYFANUS, KAMSHAK MARTHA MAFENG , now wish to be known and addressed as MAFENG MARTHA KAMSHAK . My correct date of birth is 13/10/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as PATIENT EZEKIEL DUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as PATIENCE EZEKIEL DUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ADAM KADIJA , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD HADIZA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as VICTORIA OMALE , now wish to be known and addressed as VICTORIA ISIYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
DALHATU	EKEH	FEDELIS	DATTI	CHIJIKE	DAKOGOL
I, formerly known as RAYYANU DALHATU (JNR) , now wish to be known and addressed as DALHATU RAYYANU (JNR) . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EKEH CHUKWUEMEKA ALBERT EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as EKEH ALBERT EMMANUEL . My correct date of birth is 4/4/1988 not 3/3/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as FEDELIS GODFREY NANPON , now wish to be known and addressed as FEDELIS NANPON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DATTI YAHAYA , now wish to be known and addressed as DATTI YAHAYA ABUBAKAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as CHIJIKE GABRIEL THOMAS , now wish to be known and addressed as CHIJIKE GABRIEL EZE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DONSUK JENNIFER KAMWAR , now wish to be known and addressed as DAKOGOL JENNIFER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
NIMCHAK	DASHE	ESTHER	SALEH	RITA	MARY
I, formerly known as NIMCHANG NANDANG , now wish to be known and addressed as NIMCHAK NANDAK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DASHE SHALWUN SYLVESTER , now wish to be known and addressed as DASHE SYLVESTER SHAGALWOEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ESTHER DAFOM , now wish to be known and addressed as ELISHA ESTHER YAKUBU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as VICTORY CHRIS DUGUNSHIK , now wish to be known and addressed as SALEH VICTORY CHRIS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BITRUS RITA BOYI , now wish to be known and addressed as RITA IRIMIYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MARY LHOKTUR NAPRE , now wish to be known and addressed as MARY DAVID NAPRE . Correct date of birth is 15/3/1973 not 1/1/1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NEWS

27 die in IDP camp

By SHEHU DANJUMA Katsina

NO fewer than 27 persons have so far lost their lives in an internally displaced persons camp in Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina State.

"The deceased lost their lives within six weeks of the opening of the IPD's camp in the local government headquarter of Jibia LGA as they have been pushed out of Shinfida Village in the area.

Ahmed Mohammad, the Chairman of the Camp Operations, disclosed this in an interview with **SUNDAY STANDARD** on recently in Jibia Town of Katsina State.

Mohammed further disclosed that three children lost their lives two days after arriving in the IDP camp.

He also disclosed that eight adults had also died while staying at the camp within the last six weeks.

"A total of 16 children especially babies have died



Farouq

due to poor health condition, under feeding and malnourishment in the camp"

While contacted for comment, the Jibia LGA Council boss, Alh. Bashir Maitan said that the council and state government had been doing their best to

provide conducive atmosphere for the people in the camp.

Alh. Maitan said that the state Government had been providing food for the people in the camp in order to cushion the hardship they had been experiencing as they had been forced to abandon their homes.

From GYANG PAM, Yola

SECRETARY to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha recently visited the Ekklesiyan Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) in Mubi, Adamawa State to condole with the family of Reverend Daniel Umaru whose two sons were killed by terrorists last week.

Reverend Umaru himself was shot and is struggling to survive at the Federal Medical Centre, Modibbo Adamawa University Teaching.

Not only that, the Reverend's 13 year old daughter was kidnapped. As a consequence, the Reverend's wife is highly traumatized and is on admission in the hospital.

The 13 year old girl has regained freedom and in a world of her own after a huge ransom was paid for her release by the church.

Our Correspondent reports that the two sons meanwhile were buried amidst wailing by relations and sympathizers.

The SGF told the family

SGF condoles Reverend over lost of sons



Mustapha

members that government was eager to end terrorism and violent crimes in the country.

Meanwhile, the SGF, Boss Mustapha has ordered the contractors handling the Yola to Mubi road to either go back to site or have the contract revoked.

The contract according to the SGF was awarded to A.G. Vision at the sum of N22 billion in 2017.

However the sum was reviewed to N29 Billion but the work has progressed at a snail speed which has irked the Federal Government.

"The Federal Government is committed to giving Nigerians good road and other infrastructure" said Metga.

The NNPC according to him will inject funds into

the projects because of its strategic importance as it connects Adamawa and Borno.

In his remark, Minister of Transport, Muazu Sambo Aji told the contractor "your company is exhibiting incompetence".

In his reply, the site Engineer, Francis Musa said work had stopped due to the Sallah break. And it will be completed on schedule as funds were made available.

Mr. Boss Mustapha had a day earlier visited the Lamido Adamawa over the demise of Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo, OPEC Secretary General who died last week.

"We have missed his services especially in the oil and gas industry", he had said.

Bello noted that while the government planned to help the hospital stand on its feet when operations commenced, it was already working out an all-encompassing model which would be used to run the medical facilities, alongside other ultra-modern hospitals in a bid to guarantee their self-sustenance, while they remain affordable for the people of the state.

Some of the remarkable facilities in the hospital, inspected by the governor included Pediatric wards, operation theatres, conference rooms, laboratories, labour rooms, emergency wards, offices, and many more. Experts spoken to reveal that the hospital could attend to any form of medical challenges, adding that the oxygen plant installed in the hospital could provide oxygen for other neighboring hospitals across the country.

Condolence: Lalong visits family of Naomi Jugu

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has visited the family of Late Ngo Naomi Jugu, an elder states woman and politician who died recently.

The Governor who was accompanied by his wife, Regina and other government officials on the visit described the demise of Jugu as a huge loss to Plateau State.

He said "It is with a heavy heart that we lost our mother but we followed her exemplary life and footsteps in politics and we will remember her as a role model who lived a life worthy of emulation".

The Governor told her family members that though their mother is no

more, she will be remembered as a great woman who had concern for other people and one who was always talking about offering help to the needy.

"Her time has come and God has taken her to be with him and we cannot question him but accept it as the will of God," said Lalong.

He said the government of Plateau State will remember her as a great political figure and social activist that has left a good name and great legacies in the state Lalong said that she has contributed to the development of the state in numerous ways through her active participation in many areas.

The Governor prayed for comfort to the family and for the repose her soul.

Responding, her son Dalyop Jugu appreciated the Governor for the visit, honour and the show of love to the family during their moment of grief.

A traditional ruler, the Dagwom Rwei of Heipang Paul Taddy said the Late NGO Jugu who died at the age of 82 had worked tirelessly for Plateau and the Berom nation by carrying everyone along.

He described her as very proactive, and a grassroot mobiliser who has contributed immensely to the development of her community in various ways.

He commended the Government for supporting the family and the late Jugu assuring that as a community, they are making arrangements to give her a befitting burial

Reference Hospital Okene isa model

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

GOVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has said that the newly built Reference Hospital in Okene when inaugurated is capable of attending to all forms of medical challenges in Nigeria.

The Governor also assured the citizens that the soon-to-be-inaugurated Reference Hospital, Okene, will put an end to medical tourism in the country.

The governor added that the ultra-modern medical epicenter was fully equipped with world-class state-of-the-art facilities. He noted that the hospital has medical equipment which could render similar services to world-renowned hospitals that many Nigerians run to for healthcare.

Bello made this known during the inspection of the 300-bed space Reference Hospital, Okene

which stands unique among the several medical facilities initiated by his administration.



Bello

He stated that what inspired the conception of such a befitting, gigantic, and the well-equipped medical facility was the understudy of expenses Nigerians make on seeking medical attention outside the shores of Nigeria as a

result of various medical conditions.

The governor who expressed satisfaction with the level and quality of work done across all the projects inspected, stressed that aside the fact that the Reference Hospital would stop medical tourism, it would also help save the country millions of dollars spent abroad on medical bills.



Jugu

NEWS

Court adjourns case on senatorial dispute

From Mohammed Abdullahi, Keffi

THE Federal High court sitting in Lafia the Nasarawa State Capital has adjourned a case filed by a Senatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the Nasarawa Western Zone Barrister Labaran Shuabu Magaji challenging the outcome of the June 4 2022 Senatorial primary election that produced Shehu Tukur as the winner.

Delivering the ruling the Presiding Judge Nehmizina Idumudia Afolabi explained that the case was adjourned to July 22 as a result of the delay of submission of memorandum of appearance before the court by the defendant.

The Judge however warned both counsels not to take the rule of the court for granted and also avoid ground standing and playing to the gallery in order to meet up with the time frame.



Magaji

The suit marked FHC/LA/11/2022 was filed against APC National Secretariat and 10 others contesting their roles in the primary election which was alleged to be marred by irregularities including the use of fake and illegal delegates.

Speaking with newsmen thereafter the counsel to the APC Oboshi Ogu pleaded with the court to adjourn the matter to allow them have access to some of the documents.

He stated that the plea has become imperative because the case is an intra party affair.

THE National Universities Commission (NUC) has directed all university Vice-Chancellors in the Country to compile a comprehensive list of full Professors in their respective institutions.

The Commission asked the Vice-Chancellors to forward the list which must include the names of the Professors department, year of Professorship and area of specialization.

This was contained in a letter dated June 6th, 2022 and addressed to all the Vice Chancellors by NUC Director, Academic Planning Dr. N. Saliu on behalf of the Commissions executive Secretary Prof. Abubakar Rasheed.

NUC compiles list of varsities professors

From JIDAUNA YANUNG Abuja

This directive is coming on the heels of reports about the epidemic of fake Professors in the Nations Tertiary Institutions.

It would be recalled that NUC in November 2019, said it uncovered about 100 fake Professors in the Universities.

Executive Secretary of the Commission, Professor Abubakar Rasheed who disclosed this during a retreat with Vice Chancellors explained that the Commission had to send their

names to the various Universities, adding the details of the fake Professors had been published in the official website of the Commission.

NUC however, explained in the recent directive that it received a correspondence from the office of the Secretary of the Government of the Federation on the need to check fake Professors in Nigeria Universities.

The letter marked NUC/AP/UNIGENVOL.II/32 was titled: 'Need to check fake Professors in Nigeria Universities.'

Buhari lauds farmers, says agric reforms working

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has lauded the nation's farmers for the record production of rice and other food commodities, expressing satisfaction that the agricultural policies of the administration are working to good effect.

The President said his administration had taken various decisions including the closure of land borders for two years for the benefit of farmers who were the driving force of the rural economy, expressing

happiness that these had worked well for the nation.

Speaking to the elected Local Government Council chairmen from Katsina state on a visit to pay homage to him marking the Sallah, President Buhari said "I have a good understanding of the country and its people. That is why we instituted those agricultural policies. I said we must grow what we eat and eat what we grow.

This is a country that was once dependent on foreign rice. We closed the border to foreign

rice. I said why can't we eat Nigerian rice, and with the policies put in place, Nigerians are eating home grown rice."

President Buhari also played up the successful implementation of the Treasury Single Account, TSA saying money had been saved from unscrupulous government officials.

"I found a tough man (Hamid Ali) for the job at the Customs. One day, he came to me and saying that they had intercepted 20 fuel tankers about to cross the border. I said to him sell the fuel and the tankers and put the money in TSA. Before this time, that money would have found its way to the numerous mysterious 'government' accounts."

On the suggestion by Alhaji Ya'u Umar Gojo-Gojo, the Commissioner of Local Governments and Chieftaincy Affairs, who led the council chairmen that the agricultural policies of the administration be made into law to ensure continuity under the all incoming administrations, President Buhari said such good policies will commend themselves to any government.

Gojo-Gojo commended the President for initiating several measures to transform agriculture in order to increase farmers' income during the last seven years.

He told the President that before this time, Katsina people knew how to eat rice but had no inkling as to grow and process it.

"Today Mr. President," said the Commissioner, "rice is grown in all our communities. There are at least 30 small scale rice processing mills in the state. People have embraced animal husbandry and they are making a lot of money."

The Commissioner also briefed the President about the security situation in the state, saying that the state's amended security law had brought everyone into the mix- state government, local governments, traditional rulers and the ordinary citizens with each one playing their part in helping to reduce the worrisome security threats facing the state.

President Buhari reiterated his earlier statement that the farm in Daura, handed to him by his forefather was the next thing on his mind when he leaves of office next year.

Irigwe, Fulani sign peace agreement

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has expressed hope that the over two decades long crisis between the Irigwes and Fulanis of Bassa Local Government of the state has now come to an end.

He disclosed this while observing the process of signing a peace agreement between the two tribes at the Prestige Event Centre, Jebbu Bassa, Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau state.

The event was witnessed by security agencies, government officials, traditional rulers, donor agencies and Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) mediating the lingering conflict, and representatives of religious and tribal groups.

Lalong said when his administration came on board to inherit various conflicts in 2015, he had immediately set motion policies and strategies through the Plateau Peace Building Agency, Inter-Religious Council, and other structures to work towards resolving the issues.

He said the over two decades of lingering violent conflicts between the Irigwe's and Fulani's had been giving his administration sleepless nights as he recalled the series of meetings he personally held with the two groups, traditional, religious, women, youth and tribal groups to mediate and end the conflict.

"Today's gathering which is at the instance of the leadership of the Irigwe and Fulani is for these two communities to tell the world that they had tested the bitter pills that violent conflicts serves, but are now willing, ready and able to chart a new course for themselves by first forgiving the past in order to reconcile the future".



Lalong

"My personal intervention in the mediation of this conflict was hinged on the ongoing interventions of both the Plateau Peace Building Agency and the State Inter-religious Council who have worked closely with other stakeholders including external actors to bring peace and stability in the communities ravaged by conflict".

The Governor said the foresight of the Paramount Ruler of Irigwe Land, the Bra Irigwe has resulted to setting up of the committee which came up with the peace agreement, and urged the communities to take full ownership of the document and see to its implementation.

He assured that his government had already swung into action to gazetting and support the implementation of the agreement calling on partners and CSO's to support women, youth and other groups by rendering psycho-social support.

He stated that the peace

agreement is purely the outcome of the what the communities agreed and came up with while the government only facilitated the process therefore the two groups should sensitise their respective communities on the importance of respecting all the articles contained there-in.

He however warned that criminals and those who take the Law into their hands to incite violence will be dealt with according to the laws stating further that the peace agreement will serve as a working document to be used by state and non state actors.

In his remarks, the paramount ruler of Miango The Brra Irigwe, Rev. Ronku Aka thanked the Governor for his foresight in setting up the Peace Building Agency, empowering it to work towards resolving conflicts and restoring peace and security among the Irigwe and Fulani in Bassa as well as other parts of the State.

He said the people of Bassa

want to put the ugly events of the past behind them and live in peace and unity with one another to pursue their legitimate means of livelihood without molestation.

Chairman of the Bassa Internal Peace and Security Committee Mr. John Power and the Co-Chairman Alh. Ya'u Idris both stated their resolve for peaceful coexistence and signed the peace agreement on behalf of the Irigwe and Fulani communities.

Those who also signed as witnesses include Chairman Bassa Local Government Area, Chairman Plateau Inter Religious Council Prof. Pandam Yamsat and his Co-Chairman represented by Emir of Kanam M o h a m m a d u M u a z u Babangida, President Irigwe Development Association, Chairman MACBAN, Kaduna Peace Commission, Commander Operation Safe Haven, Police Commissioner, PIDAN, Inter Faith Mediation Centre, United States Institute for Peace among others.

Secretary to the Government of the State Prof. Danladi Atu disclosed that the Governor had directed him, the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice to immediately put in place machinery for Gazetting and working out the policy framework for immediate implementation.

Director General (DG) Plateau State Peace Building Agency Dr. Joseph Lengmang in his remarks said the Government will continue to count on the support of the parties to implement the Peace Agreement to further deepen the Peace in the area by providing critical social infrastructures that would in turn, strengthen social cohesion among the people.

He said the Governor had also directed the Plateau State

Peace Building Agency to work in conjunction with security agencies as well as local and international partners to support the safe return and resettlement of all victims of violent conflict in Miango and environs as well as the provision of psycho-social support and additional trainings to youth groups and women.

Head, United States Institute of Peace, Dr. Chris Kpaja said the Plateau State Government had done well in peace investments by supporting and being present to support the processes and commitments adding that his agency had been spearheading and supporting mediation in cross border conflicts between Plateau and Kaduna States.

Kpaja however said acts of criminality had also taken stage in the Plateau Conflict which needs to be addressed and advised that that if issues and acts of justice and criminality are not addressed, the desired peace will not be achieved.

Various speakers in their goodwill messages commended Governor Lalong for his determination to see the end of crises in Bassa by facilitating several dialogue sessions, capacity building trainings, consultations and Peace advocacy among the leadership of ethnic and religious associations. He also promised to continue its robust partnership with NSCDC and other security agencies to retrieve and stop the flow of weapons into the country. She said that since inception, many communities across the state were provided with rice processing centres with processors, drying slab, solar powered boreholes, construction of market stalls and dry season rice demonstration plots among other achievements.

NEWS

CSOs urge PLSG to set up gender commission

By PALANG KASMI

THE Coalition of Civil Society Organisations in Plateau State has urged the Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong to set up a Gender Commission in the state.

This according to spokesperson and Chairman of the Coalition, Mr. Gad Shamaki will help in the implementation of the recently passed Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) laws which the Governor signed.

Shamaki made the call Thursday, during a meeting with the governor and representatives of the CSO's at the Banquet Hall, Government House Jos.

Shamaki described Lalong as a progressive governor for embarking on human development, passing the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) law, and setting the pace in the country by being the first to establish a Peace Building Agency making other states to follow suit aside recently passing the

VAPP laws for the protection rights of women, children other vulnerable groups.

He also congratulated the governor for bagging an award of recognition by World Bank for establishing the Open Governance Partnership (OGP) structure, and for being among the three states that had put the OGP in place to monitor government transparency and accountability in public finances.

The CSO's spokesperson however called for setting up of a gender commission to enable the easy implementation of the VAPP and GEO Laws before the expiration of his tenure in 2023.

While stating that CSO's have had a cordial relationship with the Lalong led administration, Shamaki said setting up and establishing the Gender Commission is very paramount to the



Lalong

implementation of the VAPP Laws because it is a major requirement for the laws to function and be executed properly.

On politics, Shamaki expressed concern over the plight of ethnic and religious minorities in the country who are losing their pride of place in the political space and future urging the Governor to use his position as Northern Governors Forum Chairman to give them a voice.

Shamaki assured the Governor that as development enthusiasts, they are partners with his government and will continue to put their axes together to work for the development of the people of the state.

A member of the team, Prof. Para Mallam commended the governor for having a heart for peace in Plateau, middle belt and Nigeria and for spearheading the recent peace agreement between Irigwe's Fulani's in Bassa Local Government Area stating further that CSO's must partner with government by not allowing the conflict to reoccur.

Governor Lalong in his remarks said there should be more of such engagements with the CSO's adding that

during his early political career, he had established a CSO desk between year 2000-2006 at the Plateau State House of Assembly during his tenure as the former Speaker of the Plateau House of Assembly which is still functional till date.

He said he had benefited from the constructive criticism that comes from CSO's which has helped in keeping his government on guard especially on social, political and development issues.

The Governor assured that he will continue to spearhead issues of the vulnerable stating that he has enjoyed the support of the CSO's at various times especially when he created the Disability Rights Commission which was the first in the country, making other states and the Federal Government to follow suit

While using the forum to encourage citizens of the state to get their Permanent Voters Cards (PVC's) to enable them participate in the upcoming 2023 general elections, Lalong dedicated his recent OGP World Bank award to the collective efforts of CSO's and other stakeholders promising to work towards setting up the Plateau State gender commission.

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

TERTIARY Institutions in Nigeria have been tasked to re-design their curricular to have a high content of skills acquisition and make it compulsory for all its students instead of certification with a view to produce student that would be self reliant or self employed on graduation.

The District Head of Anjida in Akwange Local Government Area of Nasarawa State Mr. Benjamin S Waziri made the case while speaking with newsmen after holding a security meeting held in the area to discuss issues to do with security and other developmental challenges facing the area in recent times.

He observed that the production of graedaunts with skills acquisition on their hands would among other things reduce the scramble for governments employments, enhance their socio-economic fortunes since they already have the means of becoming self reliant and self employed as well as reduce the current security challenges bedelving the country here and there.

The traditional ruler who expressed his concern over the rate of unemployed youths in the country attributed such negative trend to their lack of skills to make them not only self employed but rather the employers of labour or job creators.

He contended that since the only viable remedy to such situation is the acquisition of skills by the

Institutions tasked on curricular



Adamu

youths, efforts must be directed towards such as giving emphasis on that area would not why make the youths useful and productive but would keep them away from all other forms of miscreant behaviours or indulging in crimes such as banditry, kidnapping and others.

"Curricular of our tertiary institutions must be re-designed in such a way that the students must undergo a compulsory skills acquisition programmes so as to become self reliant on graduation" he emphasized.

The Royal Father who also identified unemployment as one of the root causes of insecurity and social vices, lamented that many graduates with the absence of skills have taken the advantage of their jobless situations that is quite frustrating to indulge in various forms of crimes, a situation that is very unfortunate and could only be remedied through skills acquisition.

He further stated that gone were the days when the government can provide jobs for all its citizens, and such is not even obtained in all parts of the world, the best solution to the current state of unemployment in the country is skills acquisition to make particularly relevant and

major contributors to the country's socio-economic wellbeing's.

Speaking about the forth coming general elections in the country, the traditional ruler tasked the people of Akwanga Local Government Area to endeavor to obtain their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) before the closing date by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) so as to vote for the candidates of their choice during the elections.

The traditional ruler who was full of praises to the Engineer Abdullahi Sule led administration in the State for its efforts in the construction of Nunku-Agyaga road, however stated that just as the Oliver tourist who always ask for more they are appealing for the construction of roads to link Abban, Akkah, Addeh, Anjida through Rinzel in order to reduce the hardships face by especially the rural formers and other users of the roads especially during the rainy season.

The meeting was attended by security agents religious and community leaders and other stakeholders in the community.

Civil servants accused of age falsification

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

THE Head of civil service of the federation Folashade Yemi-Esan has accused

some civil servants of age falsification.

Briefing journalist in Abuja recently, Yemi Esan noted that the salaries of the Civil Servants found wanting had been suspended through the integrated payroll and personnel information system.

The Federal Government back IPPS has so far, exposed and eliminate about 70,00 ghost workers in the Civil Service system, according to the statistics given by the office of the Head of Service.

The Head of Service however stress that "you cannot manipulate your age anymore as a result of

the IPPS. When we opened the portal for verification, so many people were hesitant. They didn't want to expose their false date of birth, we also saw quite a number that didn't have certificates and had been earning salaries for the 10 to 20 years".

"When we did the first clean up on the payroll system, we discovered about 300 persons across the various MDAs who did not upload their details for verifications. We stopped their salaries and by the time we re-opened the portals, we didn't get up to 300 who came back with their certificates."



Esan

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



President Buhari inspecting the Kuje Correctional Center after the jailbreak

Are Nigeria's correctional centers this vulnerable?

Continued from page 10

the system. A further peep into the official history of Nigeria Prison system according to a report by Eno-Abasi Sunday, Lawrence Njoku and John Akubo shows that the progressive incursion of British into the hinterland and the establishment of the British protectorates towards the end of the 19th century necessitated the establishment of the prisons as the last link in the criminal justice system. Beyond this however, many citizens of this country are yet to be convinced that our successive governments have paid adequate attention to these correctional centers in the nation. While we have consistently been groaning under the burden of overwhelming number of inmates, the need to secure our prisons to prevent jailbreaks had not been fully considered by designated authorities in the country.

According to Onah Oliver Onyekaneze, Adeniyi Okechukwu and Eneh Maximus Ikenna in their submission on the Increasing Cases of Prison Break in Nigeria: A Theoretical Explanation re-emphasized that during most of these attacks, the officers of the custodian centers were or are caught unawares.

In their further submission, they opined that "while the Federal Government of Muhammadu Buhari is fighting hard to rid the nation of corruption, it may be unaware that the Nigeria Prison Service is

a den of corruption. Since the advent of the Buhari administration, the Nigeria Prison Service has been rocked with, at least three different jailbreaks as well as riots in different parts of the country.

Beyond this, they further noted that "most incidences of jailbreaks in Nigeria were as a result of poor quality and quantity of prison food, lack of rehabilitation of correction facilities and corruption in the Nigeria Prison Service amongst others.

Debunking these allegations however, the former Nigeria Prisons Public Relations Officer, Mr. Emmanuel Enaobre said, the Nigeria Correctional Center across the country do not encourage inmates to have access to any illegal material while in custody such as phones and drugs, as they have a mechanism that they use to carry out random search on cells to weed out anything illegally found in their cells. He also added that their staff are also checked against any act of compromise to their duties and those found wanting are dealt with in line with the Act establishing the service.

According to him, all over the world, prisoners go through what he called classification which is a process that inmates profiled are classified and separated according to their offenses or status. He stated that it is common practice not to keep someone like a former Governor, or a person of high status who stays in their facility

lasts for days, weeks or months with harden criminals in the likes of armed robbers, kidnapers, murderers among others who may put such a person in danger. In the past few days; the continuous attack on these

“
According to a security expert, Dickson Osajie, the persistent attacks on correctional centers were troubling urging that a state of emergency be declared against the leadership of the facilities. Lamenting that the prison protection system is weak, Osajie advised the authorities to review the architectural design of all correctional facilities in the country and put in place a physical protection system to fortify access to prisons. He started that "Comptroller of prison must be held accountable. There's what is called layers of protection. Criminals need to pass through some stages before they get to the inmates. The prison physical protection system must be fortified with a target hardening mechanism, so that attackers do not break the jail easily within a few minutes without resistance. Criminals don't like delay; they operate with speed and momentum. Those layers of protection are a delay mechanism and it is detrimental to the success of their operations."
 ”

correctional centers have generated much concerns on the polity. Much worrisome is the number of terrorists who have escaped and are on the loose in the country.

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"They also need to look into prison security features such as CCTV and barbed wires in the perimeter fence. There should be CCTVs that they can call for reinforcement. So, the prison leadership must look at crime detection, deterrence, delay,

denial and destruction. Physical, technological and mechanical applications must be administered. If the government adopts this system, then we shall rarely hear of prison break in Nigeria."

In the same vein, the National President of Criminology and Security Practitioners Association of Nigeria, Williams Ekposon said, incessant attacks on prisons demanded that beyond the structural review and equipment of the facilities, the government must engage all relevant stakeholders.

"Prison attacks are characteristics of organized guerrilla warfare. It calls for attention to ask a series of questions. Government should call for dialogue and have a listening ear. They should meet with stakeholders to know the motive of the criminals and how it can be addressed. Some of the attacks have political undertones."

Former Director, Department of State Services, Mike Ejiofor also observed that jailbreaks portend serious dangers adding that some of the inmates were hardened criminals posing threats to national security. He decried the deplorable condition of prison infrastructures noting that some of them were built during the colonial period which require major upgrades.

While the citizens continue to pray for things to get better in Nigeria prisons, many are presently left in anxiety as to how the nation can overcome these hurdles.

METRO-FOCUS

Fashion: Return of beads, chains

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

It appears the old practice of wearing beads and chains is now the reigning fashion in season. What used to be seen as an old African style where women wore beads as fashion has resurfaced in this generation sweeping its way into the heart of the youth.

These days, women especially young girls, love wearing beads around their waists, hands, neck and ankles as fashion or for whatever reason. It was not this common, but it appears the beads and chains' bells are trendy even with some boys who have made wearing of chains 'a must do.

Before now, people's perceptions about girls who wear chains around their ankles was that such a person was a lesbian or prostitute. But it is now an acceptable norm to some extent. It is done in the open without remorse in the name of fashion.

This is commonly seen among girls in the tertiary institutions of learning. Apart from the indecent appearances of these girls in campuses, wearing beads and chains all over parts of their body is now a common thing.

In fact, they spend a lot of money on these beads and chains. Some spend one thousand naira and above depending on the quality of these beads and chains. You see them patronizing cosmetic shops or street hawkers in search of these things.

However, while sampling the opinions of some few who wear chains around their legs, a their ankles to be precise University of Jos student who pleaded anonymity said a friend bought it for her as birthday gift and ever since then, she became used to it. She said, "I have about five of them and I change them everyday.

"Sincerely speaking, I have no clue whether it has any symbol meaning or not. Mine is just fashion and nothing else and I have become used to it especially when I am going out. It has been three years now and I discovered that no day passes me by without wearing this chain. It is just like not wearing ear ring, she boldly said.

On her part, one Miss Doris who refuse to give her surname disclosed that the ankle chain attracts men to girls. "I am a fashion designer and I know how it attracts men to girls. The beauty of a woman is in how clean her legs are and men's attention always goes there.

"I know it sounds funny to you, but that is the fact. Although, there are other reasons attached to it, but mine is to only attract men who might like me and get married to me. Yes, I am aware of girls who belong to other societies and can use it as a charm, but most of the girls wear it as fashion", she disclosed.

One Lilian Abarshi, who is a hairdresser around Kabong, said, "I see those wearing chains



round their ankles as cultists because I have watched several movies that demonstrated how chain is used to acquire some powers from the sea. So, I just concluded that whoever wears it, must belong to any of those groups.

"I do not know that some of these girls wear chains for fashion. I am sure that most of them do not know much about it and decided to copy from their friends. But I still believe that not all of them are that innocent because you cannot predict the human mind. My concern is about how it has suddenly become this rampant in our time", she lamented.

Mama Tunde of Tudun-Wada, disclosed that in the early 60s to early 70s, women wore beads and chains around their waists, necks and legs during festivals and it was cultural, but it has now snowballed into fashion. You see young girls wearing three to four ear rings, chains round their ankles and beads around their waists nowadays.

"I know we are in jet age now and so many things have changed. What baffled me most is how this old practice resurfaced in the younger ones now. It is true that life is a cycle! It is also surprising to note that married women are part of this fashion. If these categories of

people are into it, what would you expect from the younger ones?" she asked.

The most important part of it is for it to be just for fashion and nothing else. Let it be that all

ends with fashion and should not be the other way round. It is also certain that decent dressing also attracts suitors. It is not by wearing beads and chains. Morals and discipline are what parents need to work on.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG COMMISSIONS REMODELED PHCB HEADQUARTERS

The Governor of Plateau State and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Wednesday commissioned the remodeled/renovated Plateau State Primary Healthcare Board Headquarters at Makurdi Road, GRA, Jos



Governor Lalong (middle) being assisted by his Deputy, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda, President, CCA, Justice Blessing Lyop Dalyop (left) Dr. Livinus Miapkwap, Executive Secretary of PHCB, as he Commissioned the building



Governor Lalong unveiling the plaque being assisted by State Government officials and Development Partners



Remodeled/renovated PHCB Headquarters commissioned by the Governor



Rev. Fr. Reuben Chuhwak, Priest in-charge of Holy Trinity Pastoral Area, Old Lamingo road, Jos offering special prayers at the commissioning ceremony of PSPHCB Headquarters, Jos



Chief Judge of the State, Justice David Mann (left) putting heads together with the Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda



A cross section of staff of the Board at the ceremony



L - R: Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner of Information, Mr. Silas Vem, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Governor and Dr. Benjamin Dasha, Personal Physician to the Governor



Governor Lalong (right) with Dr. Livinus Miapkwap, Executive Secretary, PSPHCB

Photos: DANLADI DUK



Road Runner

Michael Agada
 magada122@gmail.com
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SAFER TOGETHER

Check your driving attitudes

USE this questionnaire below to assess your driving attitudes. Try and be as truthful as possible- the more truthful you are, the more accurate the result will be.

If the table shows you have a high crash rate, you need to think seriously about what you can do to change the attitudes that put you at risk.

Attitudes to driving

Listed below are some statements about driving. For each one, show how far you agree or disagree with it by ticking the appropriate number. For example, 1 means that you strongly agree with the statement, 2 means you agree 3 means you are neutral and undecided, 4 means you disagree while 5 means you strongly disagree accordingly etc. (SA-Strongly Agree-1, A-Agree-2, UD-Undecided-3, D-Disagree-4, SD Strongly Disagree-5) When you have finished, you can add up the numbers which you have ticked, if you scored less than 15, you tend to agree with the statements. If you scored between 15 and 21, you are generally neutral on the average. If you scored above 21, you tend to disagree with the statements. Drivers who tend to disagree with these statements turn out to have approximately five times the crash risk of those who agree.

Acknowledge resistance to change

Most drivers would accept that developing a safety conscious attitude is important, but a problem exists when we believe our own attitudes are right and are reluctant to accept evidence to the contrary and embrace the need for change. Attitude to speed is a key area where there is often resistance to

change. To access your own attitude to speed, complete the following questionnaire:

Driving speed

For each question, tick the number corresponding to the answer that applies to you during your normal day to day driving (not during emergency driving). 1-Never or very infrequently, 2. Quite infrequently, 3. Infrequently, 4. Frequently, 5. Always.

When you have finished, you can add up the number which you have ticked. If you scored less than 7, you tend to speed infrequently. If you scored between 7 and 12, you tend to speed a little more frequently. If you scored more than 12, you tend to speed often. Driver who indicate on this survey that they speed often have about three times the crash risk of those who speed infrequently.

If you had scored more than 12 on the second survey, do you agree that you have a greater risk of causing a crash? Or do you think there are mitigating circumstances in your case? If yes, make a list of these and then decide whether they are genuinely mitigating or they spring from your reluctance to accept change.

Discussing this with a colleague could help to make your research - based assessment more objective. Many drivers who are fast, aggressive and inconsiderate are quite happy with the way they drive and do not accept that it is unsafe. They tend to think that their behaviour is more common than it really is, and that it is a function of external pressures than any choice of theirs. These rationalizations create barriers to attitudinal change and need to be challenged from complacency to allow for change.

S/N	Item	1. SA	1. A	2. UD	3. D	4. SD
1	Reducing the speed limit on expressway is a good idea	1	2	3	4	5
2	Even at night time on quiet roads it is important to keep within the speed limits	1	2	3	4	5
3	Drivers who cause crashes by reckless driving should be banned from driving for life	1	2	3	4	5
4	People should driver lower than the speed limit when it is raining	1	2	3	4	5
5	Cars should never overtake by the right lane even if a slow driver is blocking the left lane	1	2	3	4	5
6	Penalties for speed violation should be made more severe	1	2	3	4	5
7	In built-up areas where there are a lot of pedestrians, the speed limit should be 20km/h	1	2	3	4	5
8	Drivers caught driving against a one - way lane should be subjected to psychiatric examination to determine their mental stability	1	2	3	4	5
9	Drivers apprehended for use of phone while driver should have their driver's license suspended for five years	1	2	3	4	5
10	Parents of underage drivers should be jailed for two years without option of fines	1	2	3	4	5

S/N	Item	1. N/VI	2. QI	3. I	4. F	5. A
1	How often do you exceed 90km/h on the highway?	1	2	3	4	5
2	How often do you exceed the speed limit in built - up areas?	1	2	3	4	6
3.	How often do you drive fast?	1	2	3	4	5



NEWS

Gov. Lalong mourns Aren Eggon Bala Angbazo

By PALANG KASMI

THE Plateau State Governor Simon Bako Lalong has mourned the demise of the paramount ruler of the Eggon nation, His Royal Highness (HRH) Bala Angbazo who died at the age of 89.

Lalong in a statement Friday said he is saddened by the death of the royal father who was a great ruler of not only the Eggon people, but a father to many across Nasarawa, Plateau States and beyond.

Lalong in the condolence message said: "The late traditional ruler who spent 41 years on the throne having been installed in 1981, did a lot to promote the good of his people and protect their rights within the then Plateau State and later Nasarawa State when it was created".

"HRH Bala Angbazo was a man of tremendous wisdom and courage who loved people and promoted peace, unity and oneness. He never discriminated against anyone nor promoted hatred or division against people based on ethnic, religious or political considerations. He was a man of peace who did a lot to create harmony among his subjects and across the nation".

"The late monarch will be remembered for his passion for education which saw him



Lalong

encouraging the establishment of schools and making frantic efforts to enroll children from all segments of society particularly those from remote areas". "He was a person that also worked hard to advance the economic prosperity of his people through agriculture and entrepreneurship by leading with good examples

that were emulated by many". While commiserating with the immediate family, the Eggon nation and the entire Government and people of Nasarawa State, the Governor said the late monarch will continue to be remembered for his legacies of patriotism, love and passion for tolerance, peace and progress.

Kaduna: Two Catholic priests kidnaped again

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

TWO Catholic Priests, Rev. Fr. John Mark Cheitnum and Rev. Fr. Donatus Cleopas, in Lere local government area of Kaduna State has been kidnapped by Terrorists on Friday.

This development was confirmed by the Chancellor, Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Uchechukwu Okolo, in a statement made available to journalists in Kaduna.

The Chancellor said "it is with great pain that we announce to you the kidnapping of two of our Priests; Rev. Frs. John Mark Cheitnum and Donatus Cleopas.

"The sad event of their abduction occurred around 5.45pm of July 15, 2022, shortly after the two priests, who were on their way to a function at a different parish



El-Rufai

in Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

"We solicit for an intense prayer for their quick and safe release, we equally wish to call on all and sundry to refrain from taking the laws into their hands.

"We will use every legitimate

means to ensure their quick and safe release.

"May Jesus crucified on the Cross listen to our prayers and hasten the unconditional release of His Priests and all other kidnapped persons."

NCPC boss tasks commission's workers on commitment, selfless service

THE Executive Secretary, Nigerian Christian Pilgrim Commission (NCPC), Rev. Yakubu Pam has enjoined staff members of the commission to rededicate themselves to duty, to add value to the organisation.

Mr Kande Ibrahim, an Information Officer of the commission, in a statement said that the NCPC boss gave the advice at a devotion service with the staff members in Abuja.

Taking his exhortation from Psalm 1:1-5, Pam urged them not to walk, stand or sit in the counsel of the wicked, but find delight in the law of the Lord.

"If you allow the

organisation to pass through you, you will gain a lot and be able to learn in your field and work with people of right counsel," he added.

Pam also charged them to be focused at all times, so as to add value to the system.

"God has not given us the spirit of fear and timidity, but of boldness and sound mind.

"You need to be focused; for you to have the crown you must pass through the cross," the executive secretary said.

Pam thanked staff of the commission for their hard work and sense of duty during the ongoing pilgrimage exercise in Israel and Jordan.

"I must appreciate you all for putting in your best and staying put in your place of duty," he said, urging them to continue to be a shining light of the commission in the supervision of the pilgrims.

He also tasked staff members to be disciplined and put the image of the commission in the right perspective at all times.

The executive secretary asked Directors and management staff of the Commission to encourage discipline amongst workers under them to create a conducive work environment. (NAN

NEWS

Military remains committed to stability in W/Africa-Irabor

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Gen. Lucky Irabor, says the Armed Forces of Nigeria has remained committed to ensuring stability in the West African subregion.

Irabor said this when he received the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of Liberia, Maj.-Gen. Prince Charles Johnson, in Abuja on Friday.

He said that the Nigerian armed forces was proud to have actively participated in the support efforts to restore peace to Liberia during its security challenges.

He assured the Liberian military chief that the Nigerian military would continue to render the needed support to the Liberian armed forces in building its capacity required to undertake the responsibilities of defending and securing its nation.

He said that President Muhammadu Buhari had shown strong support for the Nigerian armed forces engagement in Liberia.

According to him, this is in accordance with Buhari's commitment in ensuring peace and stability in Africa.

Earlier, Johnson commended members of the Nigerian armed forces for playing a vital role in the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia.

He said that Nigeria and



Irabor

Liberia had long standing defence and bilateral relations, adding that Liberia had witnessed 17 years of relative peace and stability because of the sacrifices of men and women of the Nigerian military.

The Liberian military chief pointed out he had his military senior course in Nigeria, at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Jaji, Kaduna State, and that he was glad to attend the graduation of Senior Course 44 of the college on Thursday.

He said that the visit was to seek ways of improving the existing defence ties with a view to tackling

contemporary threats facing the subregion.

He also said that the Liberian armed forces personnel were already gaining from the training arrangement with the armed forces of Nigeria.

He added that the expertise and experience received from their Nigerian counterparts would help in addressing future threats in Liberia and Africa.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Liberian military chief also visited the three services chiefs in their offices at the Armed Forces Complex and solicited continuous support for his nation's military.

AFAN calls for task force on food security

All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) has urged the Federal Government to set up a special task force to tackle insecurity as part of the plans to address food shortages.

Mr Kabir Ibrahim, National President of AFAN, made the call in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), in Abuja on Friday.

He said there was a nexus between insecurity in many parts of the country and food security.

He said addressing the nation's security challenges would go a long way in checking the skyrocketing prices of food items.

Ibrahim advised that the special task force should be made up of various security agencies and organisations in the country.

He said membership of the task force should include National Security Adviser (NSA), the Director-General, National Intelligence Agency (NIA), and the Heads of the army, Air force and Navy.

"The membership should also include Civil Defence Corps, the DSS, police, Miyetti Allah, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, AFAN, Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy.

"Also, to be included in the team should be The National Assembly, Judiciary, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), the Sultan of Sokoto; and youth and women

leaders.

"The President should inaugurate this task force and charge it to come up with tangible results within a timeline of 12 weeks from the date of inauguration," Ibrahim said.

The AFAN president advised that the task force should be under the direct control of the Food Security Council.

According to him, if this is done, insecurity will no longer hinder farmers from seamlessly accessing their farms.

"The issue of banditry and kidnapping should be addressed through non-kinetic means because it is obvious that the kinetic approach is not yielding very good results," he said.

Ibrahim said the last seven years had witnessed the evolution of Agriculture Promotion Policy, the CBN's Anchor Borrower Programme, the National Agricultural Land Development Agency(Integrated farms), and several windows of Credit.

He also said that Social Safety Nets, Medium Term Development Plan 2021-2015, signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) also came on board.

"Interventions by the African Development Bank, Development Partners among others were also witnessed.

"Unfortunately, the food sufficiency and the much desired food security is still a mirage," he said.

Ibrahim said the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of synergy between stakeholders in the agriculture sector, among

The Catholic Church has announced the kidnap of two priests, Donatus Sulaiman and John Chietnum. They were kidnapped in Kaduna State on Friday.

A statement from the counselor, Kafanchan diocese, Emmanuel Okolo, said the priests were kidnapped at the rectory of Christ the King Catholic Church, Yadin Garu in Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State after they arrived there on an assignment, at 5:15 p.m.

Mr Okolo called for intense prayers from Catholic faithful and well meaning Nigerians for the safe release of the

Catholic Priests kidnapped in Kaduna

kidnapped priests. He also called on "all and sundry" to refrain from taking the law into their hands.

Kidnapping for ransom has steadily become a menace in Nigeria with Catholic priests frequently falling prey to the gruesome act, especially in Kaduna and Edo states.

From July 2 to July 4, the Catholic Church confirmed the kidnap of at least four priests, namely, Udo Peter and Philemon Uboh who were both

kidnapped in Edo State on July 2; Luigi Brena, an Italian priest also kidnapped on July 3 in Edo State and Emmanuel Silas, who was kidnapped in Kaduna on July 4.

The priests were later released by their abductors allegedly after the payment of ransom.

In late June, however, two Catholic priests kidnapped in Kaduna and Edo states were both killed by their abductors, PREMIUM TIMES reported.

CP bans use of SPY number plates

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Police Command has directed Area and Tactical commanders, as well as Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) to fully enforce the Inspector General of Police, IGP's ban on SPY number plates.

A statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Mohammed Jalige, dated Friday July 15, 2022 said that citizens in possession of such number plates should submit them to the nearest police headquarters of formation.

"In furtherance to the directive of the Inspector General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba psc(+), NPM, fdc, with regards to the total ban on the use of Police SPY Number Plates by Vehicle owners across the federation.

"The Commissioner of Police Kaduna State Police Command, CP Yekini A Ayoku psc(+), mni has directed the Department of Operations, all Area Commanders, Tactical Commanders and Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) to professionally enforce the ban and ensure that all Police SPY Number Plates currently in use in the state whether authorised or otherwise are confiscated with immediate effect, as all authorisations have been abrogated forthwith," it said.

He further directed that the law abiding citizens who are in possession of such number plates should submit same to the Police headquarters or the nearest Police formation.

The Commissioner of Police directed that, Police officers and officers of other sister security agencies attached to VIPs who use SPY Number Plates in the state should ensure compliance with the IGP's order.

The CP appealed for continuous support and cooperation from all and sundry in this regard as the order is geared towards strengthening security of the State and the nation at large.

He equally tasked enforcement Police officers to shun human rights violation, extortion and other unethical conduct during the operation, as a Taskforce team has been constituted and mandated to go round the 23 LGAs of the state to monitor compliance.

CHANGE OF NAME

AZI	JURBE
I, formerly known as MARTHA AGYER , now wish to be known and addressed as AZI MARTHA AGYER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as CLEMENT MONDAY JATAU , now wish to be known and addressed as JURBE MONDAY JATAU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
DAWAP	PETER
I, formerly known as DANJUMA JOEL DAWAP , now wish to be known and addressed as DAWAP DANJUMA NGUMUESH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as PETER G. GOGWAN , now wish to be known and addressed as PETER GODO GOGWAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
ETIM	GAYUS
I, formerly known as ETIM, JOY , now wish to be known and addressed as ETIM, JOY OKON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as GAIUS UCHAM ELIZABETH , now wish to be known and addressed as GAYUS UCHAM ELIZABETH . Correct date of birth is 1/1/1985 not 25/8/1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
PATRICIA	SCHOLASTICA
I, formerly known as PATRICIA PAM PATRICK , now wish to be known and addressed as PATRICIA LYOP PAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ODO SCHOLASTICA REUBEN , now wish to be known and addressed as ODO SCHOLASTICA CHINASA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
ODO	HANNAH
I, formerly known as UGWU REUBEN ODO , now wish to be known and addressed as ODO REUBEN CHUKWUKAMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as HANNAH PARAH BAKO , now wish to be known and addressed as HANNAH AUSTIN SOLOMON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

SUNDAY SPORTS



Nigerian marathoners in a competition

Abuja International Marathon holds December 17

THE maiden edition of the Abuja International Marathon, AIM, will hold on December 17, 2022 organisers have announced.

The 42km marathon which is a grade a elite race will attract runners from within and outside the country with the winner going home with \$80,000

Speaking at a press conference in Abuja on Tuesday to herald the significant milestone, Project Coordinator of the race, Mr. Femi Abegunde told journalists that the Abuja International Marathon will make its debut in December 17, 2022 with 60 elites runners from all over the world.

Mr. Abegunde stated that the foreign athletes will be joined by the local runners for the \$80,000 prize money in a race that will signpost Nigeria's capital City's major boulevard and ecstatic precinct.

"The 42 kilometer race will begin from the City Gate through the interesting parts of the FCT and end at the Eagles Square, with 60 runners (local and foreign), as the winner will go home with \$80,000.

"The desire to create an Abuja International Marathon is to showcase the City, attract investors, boost tourism and the economy like it is done in other world commercial cities like London and New York. Our desire is to create a Marathon that can compete with the best anywhere in the world.

"Abuja is a beautiful shop, which is closed. This even could have been on since 2021 if not for the Pandemic that ravaged the whole world," he said.

Also speaking during the press conference to usher in the event, Media Head, Mr. Olukayode Thomas said the benefits will surpass it as Nigeria and FCT stands to gain more than the prize money through the visitors that will throng the country.

"The event goes beyond prize money as hotels, restaurants, taxi drivers, retailers of goods and other business owners will benefit a lot," He disclosed that New York Marathon alone attracted more than \$400million into the economy.

He added that the prize money may not be more than \$1million but it brings more than \$400m every year.

He said prizes will be given to the best coverage among the

media, before and during the event in 11 categories.

In attendance at the event were Managing Director of organizing company, Unicentral, Mrs.Ogunfumiloro

Suzana, a representative of the National Assembly, Senator Ayo Akinyelure, representative of the FCT Minister, Mr. Lucas Istifanus, and host of other dignitaries.

Nigeria to present 115 athletes, officials at commonwealth Games



Nigerian contingent

THE Federal Government have stated that a total of 115 athletes and officials cut across nine sporting events will represent Nigeria at the 2022 Commonwealth Games scheduled to hold in Birmingham, England later this month.

Confirming the number that would constitute Team Nigeria at the quadrennial event on Wednesday, the ministry of youth and sports said the contingent will be made up of 94 athletes and 21 officials.

In a release signed by the Director of press ministry of youth and sports Abuja, Manga Mohammed, it noted that the athletes and officials will represent Nigeria in nine sports which include athletics, boxing, para-athletics, weightlifting, para-table tennis, Para-powerlifting, table tennis, judo and wrestling.

Mr Mohammed also noted that the selected athletes have embarked on closed door camping in three states, stressing that they will depart Nigeria for Bermingham, England staggeredly

"The Federal Ministry of Youth

and Sports Development will present 94 athletes and 21 accompany technical personnel that have qualified through several qualification competitions overseas to carry the banner of our Nation to the Games.

"These competitions as well as the open camping which led to the International events have dovetailed into a close camp for Team Nigeria in the 3 cities of:

"Abuja FCT: Athletics, Boxing, Para Athletics and Weightlifting
Lagos Lagos State: Para Table Tennis, Para Powerlifting, Table Tennis and Judo
"Yenagoa, Bayelsa State: Wrestling
The camps will run up until Team Nigeria's staggered departures to the Games in Birmingham beginning from 22nd July, 2022.

The release further noted that the athletes who have begun training in their various locations are "in high spirit and desirous of doing our nation proud at the Games."

"The Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare has urged the athletes to concentrate in their training and preparations, avoid the

WILDER is targeting the winner of the eagerly anticipated rematch between Anthony Joshua and Oleksandr Usyk as he plots an imminent return to the ring, BSNSports.com.ng gathered.

The Bronze Bomber has been out of action since suffering a pair of brutal stoppage defeats to WBC champion Tyson Fury.

The most recent of this was in October last year, with the American now seemingly set to embark on a new title hunt.

The top-end of the heavyweight division is currently in limbo, awaiting the result of the blockbuster rematch between Joshua and Usyk on August 20 in Saudi Arabia.

Wilder will likely significantly drop his level of opposition upon his return, with boxing promoter Frank Warren recently telling talkSPORT that he's heard an October match-up against Robert Helenius is in the works.

The 36-year-old knockout artist would put himself right back in the heavyweight mix with victory, however, and his

Deontay Wilder targets winner of Usyk vs Anthony Joshua II



Deontay

manager Shelly Finkel has outlined their intention to fight the division's elites once more.

Atop the list is a huge showdown against either Joshua or Usyk, though Finkel acknowledges Fury will get the first shot at the winner should he opt to fight again.

"Maybe the winner of Usyk

and Joshua," Finkel told Planet Sport when asked who Wilder could fight. "I don't know what Fury is doing?"

"Maybe if Joshua wins it's a huge fight in the UK (between AJ and Wilder). There are so many intangibles so we're looking to see what happens in that fight (Usyk vs Joshua).

"I don't care what Fury says, we're waiting to see what he really wants to do because if he wants to fight the winner then he's going to get it.

"But after that, where are the top guys?"

"There's only four real top guys in the heavyweights right now - Usyk, Joshua, Fury and Deontay."

Another potential option for Wilder is an all-American showdown against fellow former heavyweight champion Andy Ruiz Jr, who is set to return to the ring on September 4 against Luis Ortiz.

Ruiz Jr told FightHype earlier in July of his desire to fight Wilder as he plots his own path back to a world title shot.

The Mexican-American has fought just twice since defeating Joshua to become unified champion in 2019, being in his rematch loss six months later and an unconvincing points win over Chris Arreola in May last year.

Wilder in May confirmed his plans to continue fighting, stating: "I can't stop right now. I must continue with my journey. Love you guys so much.

use of performance enhancing substances and put up a high level of discipline in order to project a positive image of Nigeria at the Games," the statement concluded.

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will begin on Thursday, 28 July and ends on Monday, 8 August with 72 countries expected to participate.

Int'l cycling union to establish training center in Nigeria

THE International Cycling Union says it would establish cycling training center in Nigeria for the development of the sport in the country.

Mohammed Wazzam, vice president of UCI said this at the on-going African Track Cycling Championship in Abuja.

Wazzam, also the president of Confederation of Africa Cycling (CAC), said that Nigeria was one of the biggest cycling countries in Africa, hence the need for the establishment of UCI training centres.

He said the president of Cycling Federation of Nigeria (CFN), Giandomenico Massari, was doing a good job for the development of cycling in Nigeria.

"I would like to thank the

government of Nigeria, especially the Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare, for his support for cycling in Nigeria.

"Track cycling is one of the Olympic Games and we need to hold Africa championships to get our athletes qualify for the Games.

"The CAC Track African championship is a superb opportunity for talented athletes from different countries to compete and share their experience," he said

"We started in year 2005 with 16 national federations but now we have 54 national federations.

We discussed with the UCI president to establish a training center in Nigeria.

"Nigeria should be

international training centre for West African region, especially as Nigeria has the very best of the velodrome in Africa," he said.

Wazzam said that CAC evolved new strategies for this year's championship, adding that the schedule had seven new events for athletes from East, West, South and Central Africa.

Meanwhile, Massari, urged all the participating teams to compete in the spirit of sportsmanship.

He said the championship would help the cyclists to gain experience for further championship in the future.

"I am happy to see the large numbers of participants which represent about 50 per cent increase over previous championship held in 2019.

SUNDAY SPORTS

NPFL: Eguma reveals how Rivers United will replace departing players

STANLEY Eguma was in Ibadan last Sunday during Rivers United's 3-2 slim loss to Shooting Stars in a game that was played behind closed doors.

NPFL NEWS said that, Lucky Emmanuel, Opeyemi Olufemi, and Moses Omoduemu scored for the Oluyole Warriors, while Chijioke Akuneto netted a brace for Rivers United.

Although Rivers United had nothing to lose, they still gave Shooting Stars a run for their money for the entire 90 minutes of play.

Eguma, one of the longest-serving coaches in the NPFL, had some pleasurable moments after the game as fans hailed him with words like, "Longest Coach and Sabi manager."

After the game, Eguma spoke with PREMIUM TIMES in an exclusive interview on issues related to representing Nigeria in the CAF Champions League next season.

Eguma spoke about the departure of hot-shot Ishaq Kayode and how they are planning for a replacement. He also revealed the progress level of the NPFL's highest goalscorer Chijioke Akuneto and the availability of Sikiru Olatunbosun and Theophilus Afelokhai for the squad ahead of their continental assignment.

Recall that Kayode, who has scored 14 goals this season, is expected to join a club in Europe after his groundbreaking performance in the first leg of the NPFL season.

Eguma said that it's an honour for him as a coach to help with Kayode's development.

"The team made Kayode, so we can as well make other Kayode for the continent next season," Eguma reiterated. "It's our duty as coaches to ensure and get the talent to get them into the team. Kayode is going. It's a good thing and credit to me as a coach that I'm able to develop him to a level that other clubs can appreciate him.

"He is also creating the space for other young talented players to cover. I think it's not a problem for us. We will always look out for those that can fit into the spaces he is going to create and see how we can build them up."

About the NPFL's highest goalscorer, Chijioke Akuneto, Eguma said that an eye for goals helped the midfielder succeed this season. Akuneto has scored 17 goals so far this season to stay ahead of Abdulazeez Yusuf and Victor Mbaoma who have 16 goals each.

"Chijioke Akuneto, before he came to the team, I saw the talent in him as a player who has the eyes for goals. I kept encouraging him. Even when Kayode was scoring, I believed in him he can still score goals. Kayode is doing it, you can do it. You have all it takes to do it. He was working all through till he finally got



Eguma

the goals. And goal-scoring became part of it."

About the futures of Sikiru Olatunbosun and ageless goalkeeper Theophilus Afelokhai, Eguma revealed that Rivers United ties the availability of those players to their contracts.

"They have a contract with the team now and I don't know the terms of that contract. If the contract continues or is renewed, I think they will continue with the team or it depends on what their contract is talking about and what the player's ambition is.

Some of them want to play in Europe. If their contract is over, you can't stop them. But if their contract is still running, you will have them next season."

"Well, you can assess us yourself. This year is a successful season because we

have done so well. We won the league before the end of the season-getting a lot of goals. The goal advantage we have is more than any other team."

Rivers United will represent Nigeria in the CAF Champions League next season and Eguma assured that Rivers United will break the jinx NPFL champions have always been facing in the Continent.

"Yeah, we have been there in the past. We know what it takes. We have also tasted crashing out in the past, so it is on us now to work hard to ensure that the experience we have had in the past will play a big role for us to come against all odds and obstacles.

"Now that the league is ending, there will be more time before the continental assignment starts, so we will go to the drawing board to work towards our success," Eguma concluded.

CAF to decide on Super Eagles' double-header clashes

THE Super Eagles' double-header clashes against Guinea Bissau originally slated for September may be postponed as CAF faces a race against time.

Newsnow said that, the 2022 World Cup in Qatar may be forcing CAF's hands as

nations are calling for more time to prepare for the World Cup and the next AFCON.

Governing body for football on the continent had slated the next AFCON for June 2023 but may have its plans changed to shift the date to January 2024.

Weather conditions had

NIGERIA legend Sunday Oliseh has urged Super Eagles' forward Victor Osimhen to stay at Napoli ahead of the new Serie A campaign.

Goal said that, the former Super Eagles midfielder explains why he is against the 23-year-old leaving the Partenopei for a new challenge this summer.

The 23-year-old Nigeria international is currently dominating the transfer news in Europe with a host of clubs being linked for his services after his impressive form for the Partenopei in the last campaign.

Premier League sides Manchester United, Arsenal, and Newcastle United have been linked with the Super Eagle since the window opened and German giants Bayern Munich are the latest to have entered the fray.

According to 47-year-old Oliseh, who is currently handling German club SV Straelen, Osimhen has the qualities to excel at Napoli.

"He has all the qualities to excel at the club so I think he should stay," Oliseh said as quoted by *Punch*, adding: "I'm happy to see him now finally doing his thing, he can be better than Samuel Eto'o if he keeps up with his scoring form."

Eto'o, who is the current president of the Cameroonian Football Federation, played in Serie A with Inter Milan between 2009 and 2011 where he managed 67 appearances and scored 33 goals.

Osimhen should stay at Napoli, can get better than Eto'o - Oliseh



Oliseh

Oliseh has, however, stated any team that will manage to secure the services of Osimhen, will have solved their striking problems.

"One thing is certain, should any team get [Victor] Osimhen they will move strikingly up to another level," added Oliseh, who played 63 international matches and scored three goals for Nigeria before hanging up his boots.

Oliseh's sentiments have been supported by former Super Eagles player Dosu Joseph, who has warned Osimhen against leaving the Italian outfit.

"Osimhen's one of my favourite Eagles players at the moment," Joseph told the same portal, adding: "He's sacrificed himself a lot during

games. The shift he puts in makes me his huge fan.

Wafcon 2022: Five players to watch

Picking the five players to keep an eye on at the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco

"I'm sure he will be going nowhere. I feel he should stay at Napoli for another season play in the Uefa Champions League and get better."

Last season, Osimhen scored 18 goals in all competitions for Napoli. In the top-flight, he managed 27 appearances overall, accumulated 1,992 minutes of playing time, and was ranked joint eighth in the Serie A goalscoring charts with a total of 14 goals.

USA ready double-header friendlies against Nigeria

THE United States Women's national team (USWNT) has confirmed it will face the Nigerian women's national team in two friendly matches slated for September.

Newsnow said that, the US ladies will first trade tackles with the Super Falcons on



The USWNT will face their Nigerian counterparts in a couple of friendlies scheduled for later in the year

September 3 at the Children's Mercy Park in Kansas City, Kansas.

Three days later (Sept. 6), both teams will face off again at the Audi Field in Washington, D.C.

Head coach of the USWNT, Vlatko Andonovski, confirmed the games, saying: "First, I'm just excited to play two matches against Nigeria. They have some very talented players who will present a lot of different problems for us to solve on both sides of the ball.

"Secondly, of course we're looking forward to bringing the team back to one of the best soccer cities and best soccer stadiums in the United States in Kansas City, as well as getting to play our first game at Audi Field, which I've visited several times for NWSL games and is also a fantastic venue for our team to play in front of our home fans."

Nigeria met with the United States in a similar friendly match last year June, with the

African champions falling to a 2-0 defeat at the Q2 Stadium in Austin, Texas.

The USWNT is the most successful team in international women's football, winning four Women's World Cup titles and four Olympic gold medals. The Stars and Stripes are the current world champions.

Nigeria are no minnows in the women's game, either. The Super Falcons are the most successful team on the African continent, with a record nine Cup of Nations titles.

The reigning continental queens are presently in the hunt for a tenth championship honour at Morocco 2022.

The Falcons meet Cameroon in the quarterfinals of the competition on Thursday.

The US have, however, enjoyed total supremacy over the Nigerians. In six previous meetings between the two, the Super Falcons have not recorded a single positive result, losing all.



Super Eagles

SUNDAY SPORTS



Sterling has scored 10 or more Premier League goals in each of the past five Premier League seasons

Chelsea confirm signing of Sterling

CHelsea have confirmed the signing of England forward Raheem Sterling from Manchester City in a £50m deal.

BBC SPORT said that, Sterling, 27, has signed a five-year contract at Stamford Bridge.

City signed Sterling from Liverpool in a £49m deal in 2015. He went on to score 131 goals in 339 games, winning four Premier League titles.

Capped 77 times by England, Sterling is Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel's first major signing since the Todd Boehly-led takeover.

Meanwhile, Chelsea are set to sign Napoli defender Kalidou Koulibaly and close to a move for Manchester City centre-back Nathan Ake.

"I've obviously achieved a lot in my career so far, but there is still so much more to achieve and I'm really looking forward to doing that in a Chelsea shirt, under Thomas' management," said Sterling.

"London is my home and where it all started for me, and it's amazing I now have the opportunity to play in front of friends and family week in, week out at Stamford Bridge. I'm really looking forward to meeting the fans there soon."

He added: "I can't wait to get going now and continue to do my talking on the pitch."

Sterling's deal is worth up to £50m including add-ons. He had one year left on his contract at City and had attracted interest from major clubs overseas.

He has linked up with the Chelsea squad in Los Angeles for pre-season.

Chairman and co-controlling owner Boehly said: "Raheem Sterling is a serial winner and his signing is an important step in strengthening our squad. We are delighted for Raheem to return to London with Chelsea, and we look forward to seeing his world-class talent on display at Stamford Bridge."

Earlier Sterling posted a goodbye message saying he was leaving City "as a man" adding: "Seven seasons, 11

major trophies, a lifetime of memories."

In a statement, City paid tribute to Sterling calling him "one of the club's greatest modern-day players".

Since Pep Guardiola became City manager in 2016, only Sergio Aguero (124) has scored more goals for City than Sterling (120).

Sterling scored 13 goals in 30 Premier League appearances last season as he won his fourth league title, his 11th major honour in seven seasons with City.

City director of football Txiki Begiristain added: "Raheem has been a wonderful servant for Manchester City, and he leaves our club on the best terms possible having helped us win yet another Premier League title."

"He has played a very important part of the successes we've had in recent seasons and his dignity on and off the field has been an inspiration to many."

"He will be forever part of Manchester City and we wish him well in the next chapter of his career and he departs

knowing he will always be welcomed at this football club."

Sterling's opportunities were restricted by last summer's signing of Jack Grealish, while forwards Erling Haaland and Julian Alvarez have arrived at Etihad Stadium this summer.

Sterling was on the bench for both legs of the Champions League semi-final defeat by Real Madrid and the epic final game of the season against Aston Villa.

However, he did spark that memorable last-day comeback by setting up Ilkay Gundogan's crucial first goal as City came back from 2-0 down to win 3-2 and pip Liverpool to the league title.

Chelsea boss Tuchel was looking to boost his attacking ranks after Romelu Lukaku rejoined Inter Milan on a season-long loan.

The Belgium striker was the Blues' top scorer last season with 15 goals in all competitions, narrowly ahead of Kai Havertz (14) and Mason Mount (13).

SPAIN international Rodri has signed a new five-year contract that will keep him at Manchester City until 2027. The midfielder was one of the players that the Premier



Rodri

League champions wanted to tie down to a longer deal after becoming a key member of Pep Guardiola's squad.

Goal said that, the 26-year-old joined in 2019 from

MANCHESTER United are in advanced discussions with Ajax over defender Lisandro Martinez, and a deal could be concluded as early as Thursday.

BBC SPORT said that, talks to sign the Argentine, 24, have moved forward over the past few days.

It is believed that Martinez, who has also been linked with Arsenal, is eager to make the switch.

Martinez could become the club's second signing under new manager Erik ten Hag, after the arrival of Tyrell Malacia on a four-year deal from Feyenoord.

United are yet to confirm that Christian Eriksen has signed his contract.

The centre-back, who has made seven appearances for Argentina, joined Dutch side Ajax in 2019 and has played 120 times for the club.

Meanwhile, Chelsea are set to sign Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly from Napoli on a four-year deal.

The 31-year-old flew to London on Wednesday to undergo a medical and finalise the move, before he joins Chelsea on their United States tour.

Chelsea are also close to bringing in Manchester City centre-back Nathan Ake.

The pair would bridge the gap left by this summer's departures of Antonio Rudiger and Andreas Christensen to Real Madrid and Barcelona, respectively.

Earlier on Wednesday,

Mbappe has not said no to Real Madrid - Sanchez

THE long-running transfer saga involving Real Madrid and Kylian Mbappe is not over, claims Blancos legend Hugo Sanchez, with a World Cup-winning forward expected to make his way from Paris Saint-Germain to Santiago Bernabeu "one day". It appeared for long periods as though that day would come during the summer of 2022, but a talented France international has signed a new contract in his homeland

which is keeping him out of a free agent pool.

Goal said that, an iconic forward from the Spanish giants glittering past believes a superstar of the present will eventually make his way to Santiago Bernabeu.

The Liga giants are now having to be patient in their pursuit of a long-standing target, but Sanchez believes that - with Mbappe's new deal at Parc des Princes only taking him through to the age of 26 in

2025 - another opportunity will present itself in which to get a deal done.

Former Mexico international Sanchez, who hit 208 goals for Real across 283 appearances between 1985 and 1992, has told *Radio Marca* of a protracted chase in the Spanish capital: "Mbappe has not said a firm no to Madrid, he had to say 'no' due to social, political and family pressure. "But knowing him, I am sure that one day he will play for Real Madrid."

Real made a serious play for Mbappe during the summer of 2021, with **GOAL** learning that a €220 million (£189m/\$260m) offer was tabled.

No deal was done, with PSG adamant throughout that they would eventually thrash out an extension to an expiring contract.

The 23-year-old frontman left them waiting, with Real still hanging around as he edged towards free agency, but fresh terms were confirmed in May.

Mbappe had been contacted by French president Emmanuel Macron as his previous agreement ran down, with everybody in Paris desperate to see a national hero remain in the land of his birth.

Real were left empty-handed as a result, forcing them to explore other attacking options in the current window, but interest will be retained and further discussions regarding a potential switch to Spain can be expected to take place in the future.

Martinez in advanced talks with Manchester United



Lisandro Martinez joined Ajax in 2019 from Argentinian side Defensa for a fee of £6.3m

Chelsea confirmed the signing of England forward Raheem Sterling from Manchester City in a £50m deal.

Koulibaly, who has attracted interest from several Premier League clubs, joined Napoli from Genk in 2014 and has made 317 appearances for the Italian top-flight side.

Chelsea are training at the University of California, Los

Angeles (UCLA), and Koulibaly will join the squad in either LA or Las Vegas.

Sterling could be available to play in the Blues' opening tour match in Las Vegas on Saturday against Club America.

Thomas Tuchel's men then face Charlotte FC in Charlotte on Wednesday, 20 July before taking on Arsenal in Orlando on 23 July.

Atletico Madrid in a £62.8million (\$70m) deal and has played a significant role in back-to-back Premier League title successes.

"Joining City in 2019 is the best decision I have made in my career," Rodri said. "I have loved every second."

"We have been very successful since I came here, which is something that makes me very proud. But to be honest, that success has made me even more hungry for me. Once you start winning big titles, you don't want to stop."

"City, I feel, offers me the best chance of winning trophies and that's why I am so pleased to be staying here for longer."

Understanding the importance of the key role in holding midfield, Pep Guardiola has spoken about Rodri's key role in his team and how he is a big part of the club's future.

Compared to Barcelona's Sergio Busquets when he first joined the club, Rodri has gradually grown into the position and was one of the most important contributors to last season's title success.

An incredible last-minute block denied Liverpool a victory against City at Anfield last season while he scored a number of important goals including a last-minute winner at Arsenal and the equaliser on the final day of the season against Aston Villa.

Rodri was the undoubted first choice for the position last season after battling with Fernandinho for the role previously, and the Brazilian left in the summer on a free transfer.

But he is set to face more competition for his starting role this season following the £42m (\$51m) arrival of England international Kalvin Phillips from Leeds.

SUNDAY SPORTS

P/Utd to play continental matches in Jos

HOSEA NYAMLONG

THE General Manager, Plateau United Football Club of Jos, Pius Henwan has assured that he will do his best to ensure that the team plays its continental matches in the state to enable their teaming supporters watch. He asserted that in an interview to sports journalists during the opening ceremony of Coach Fedelis Ilechukwu's Peace Football Tournament, held at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium on Thursday, stating that the team is fully prepared for the game.



Henwan

"I'm going to do everything humanely possible to ensure we play here on the Plateau. There is no need clinching the ticket and not playing here, but I am assuring you by the grace of God we'll play here. I'm going to talk to the governor so that we can do some repairs at the stadium to enable the people of the state watch games," he said.

The General Manager who is the first to win the NPFL twice with the team stressed that sincerity and hard work is the secret of his success.

"Sincerity, hard work and experience matters a lot if you want to succeed and I will continue to do my best in order to make the people of Plateau happy," he concluded.

Also, Coach Fedelis Ilechukwu of Plateau United and the organizer of the tournament has reaffirmed his commitment in promoting peace and

engaging the youths positively.

He revealed that the aim of the tournament is to promote peace in the state and to engage the youths positively as he has done in all the teams he went to.

"This is not my first time of organizing such tournament, I have done it in Lagos when I was coaching MFM and is being sustained. It is all about giving hope to the youths in order to believe in themselves, those that deserve to play in the lower division will be selected and those that deserve to come to our club will come," he said.

Ilechukwu who is currently the assistant coach of the national under 23 team

maintained that the national assignment will not affect his performance in the club, especially now that they are preparing for the continental competition.

"There are capable coaches in the national team and I think my absence will not affect the team, as you know we have limited time to prepare for the continental and for the fact that I'm giving the opportunity, I really appreciate that," he said.

He further highlighted that the success behind the club is as a result of the support given by the governor, the general manager of the club, the technical director of the technical crew, fans and the entire players.

In their frantic efforts in returning football to the community level, the Plateau State Football Association, led by its Chairman, Sunday Samson Longbap, has commended the Jos North Amateur Football Association for taking the bull by the horn.

The Jos North Amateur Football Association, led by its Chairman, Choji Chung James had earlier on Friday called on all the grassroots clubs in Jos North local government area of Plateau to a meeting on how to reposition football at the grassroots level in the local government area.

In his words, Mr. Choji Chung James, who mounted the seat of leadership after the loss of former Chairman, Alhaji Ali Jarawa to the cold hands of death, said: "My association just discovered that working in the tenet of leadership put on ground by our parent body, which is the PFA, we need put an end to fight over ownership of players by clubs by getting all of them registering all their players at our office, from there we will go ahead and revive the dead and forgotten Jafa league, made for grassroots clubsides in Jos North which had before now been the hub of soccer attraction and produced alot of talents."

It would be recalled that the Plateau State Football Association led by its

Plateau FA pours encomiums on Jafa



Longbap

Chairman, Sunday Longbap, almost four years ago, inaugurated 17 Chairmen to head and run football activities for the 17 local government areas of the State in order to take football development to the nook and crannies of Plateau State blessed with exciting football talents.

The Plateau State FA Chairman live at the gathering, praised but admonished the coaches and owners of grassroots clubs and football academies owners for engaging the youths in profitable venture and hence, protecting them from social vices.

Sunday Longbap continues:

"I believe this huge step taken forward by Jafa, of which we have been hammering on will challenge other local government FAs to do same too. With this, the peace we are currently enjoying on the Plateau will be maintained, because the moment youths are engaged and kept busy, it will be very difficult to have them engage in social vices. Football promotes peace and unity and we will surely maximize this beautiful game's benefits."

Up to 100 grassroots clubsides in Jos North local area are expected to get themselves affiliated with Jafa via the Jafa league that will commence next month.

Nigeria could not afford to be absent in World Cup -Ajibade

WOMAN of the Match, WOTM winner in Nigeria's 1-0 win against Indomitable lionesses of



Ajibade

United who pipped them to the CAF Confederation Cup ticket.

This season, they may end the season in a similar way unless Remo Stars slip in front of their home fans.

Kwara United are the architect of their misfortune if they fail to make it again this season following their abysmal away record where they lost 13 out of the 18 games already played.

They have beaten three or more goals by Rivers United, Remo Stars, Enugu Rangers, Gombe United, Lobi Stars, Enyimba, and Niger Tornadoes who bashed them 4-0. Remo Stars on their part only lost by two goals margin on two occasions throughout the season at home to Kano Pillars (3-1) and Abia Warriors (2-0).

The Harmony Boys' seven away points are far cry from Remo Stars' 15 points. Though they were almost near perfect at home with 16 wins out of 19 games in Ilorin. They drew the other three whereas, Remo Stars were beaten twice at home by Akwa United and Kano Pillars. They also drew twice in Ikenne.

It promises to be fascinating games across match venues on Sunday as Matchday 38 games are negotiated but all eyes on Remo Stars and Kwara United as they chase the third place spot as curtain falls on the 2021/2022 NPFL season.

Speaking after she received her WOTM award, the Atletico Madrid of Spain female striker while dedicating the award to her teammates, said the Falcons want to leave Morocco with their 10th crown in their bag

"I dedicate this trophy to my entire team. These girls are

just fantastic. Without them, I will not be here before you with this reward," Ajibade said at the post-match presentation.

Despite the criticism that came following their opening match loss against South Africa, the Nigerians seemed to have been unperturbed and focused on their goal of becoming African champions once again.

The number 15, instantly recognizable by her blue hair, was proud to have scored the goal that sent the Super Falcons to the World Cup 2023.

"Nigeria could not afford to be absent for this meeting. There's a new generation of Super Falcons, who arrive hungry and deserve for the world to see their talent. We know what we came here for, we want to leave with the cup, our decima," Ajibade says with the trademark Nigerian shakara.

Next, the Super Falcons face the passionate Moroccans and their fanatical home fans at Rabat's Moulay Abdellah cauldron in the semifinals next Monday.

NPFL: Remo Stars, Kwara United in titanic race for third spot

UNLIKE the previous seasons in which the three representatives of the country in the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Inter-Club competitions are known until the final day of the season, this season Rivers United won the league title with three games to spare to pick the automatic CAF Champions League slot as well as set a new record for the point haul by a club in a season.

Plateau United also claimed the second spot with two games

to go after a home win over Lobi Stars on Matchday 36 and they will also compete in the CAF Champions League as Nigeria's second flagbearer.

Nigeria is expected to present two teams in the CAF Confederation Cup with one slot allotted to the third place finisher in the league while the second team will be the winner of the Aiteo Cup.

The race for the third place was earlier a fopsy-turvy affair among four clubs including Remo Stars, Kwara

United, Enugu Rangers and Enyimba but only Remo Stars and Kwara United are now in contention heading into the final game of the season.

Remo Stars, known as the Sky Blue Stars, are currently third with 59 points after a 1-0 away win over Sunshine Stars last weekend in Akure to put themselves in the vantage position to qualify for the CAF inter-club competition for the first time in their history.

The Gbenga Ogunbotetutored side has a home game against Niger Tornadoes who have managed to remain in the topflight after their 2-1 hard-fought win over Heartland FC last Sunday-the result confirmed the latter's relegation to the lower league.

A victory for Remo Stars against the Ikon Allah Boys will see them pick the historic ticket with 62 points irrespective of the result between Heartland and Kwara United in Owerri.

Meanwhile, Kwara United are also in the race to beat Remo Stars to the third spot in the league having already guaranteed to end the season in fourth place with 58 points. They have five points gap between them and the fifth-placed Enugu Rangers.

The Harmony Boys were unlucky again this season after a last-day collapse saw them end last season in the fourth spot behind Rivers



NPFL action



July 17, 2022

Super Falcons will win World Cup for Nigeria

-Buhari

THE President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari has disclosed that the country's senior women football team, the Super Falcons will "one day win the FIFA Women's World Cup for Nigeria," bestchoicesports.com.ng can report.

The President stated this in his congratulatory message to the Super Falcons after they qualified for the next edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup due to hold in New Zealand and Australia next year.

The Super Falcons who have participated in all previous 8 editions of the tournament since 1991 became Africa's 3rd nation to qualify for their global showpiece after Zambia and Morocco.

The Randy Waldrum led ladies on Thursday defeated their rivals, Indomitable lionesses of Cameroon 1-0 in a quarter-final match played at the ongoing 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, WAFCON in Morocco.

The victory also ensured that the nine-time Africa champions reached the semi-final of the WAFCON tournament and on course to defend the crown they won in 2018 in Ghana.

Reacting to the victory, President Buhari in a statement through his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, congratulated the Super Falcons, for qualifying for the Women's World Cup after their emphatic quarter-final victory at the ongoing Women's Africa Cup of Nations, WAFCON

The President commended the spirited performance of the team and prayed that the



Super Falcons celebrating their World Cup qualification

Super Falcons, who have produced some of the greatest African players in the history of the women's game, will surpass their achievement in the last Women's World Cup in 2019, "The President lauds the spirited performance of the team in the tournament and for maintaining its dominant posture as undisputed champions of the round-leather game and most successful international

women's football team in the continent. "Having won the tournament twice in 2016 and 2018, under this administration, the President assures the girls and their handlers that the whole nation is strongly standing with them and will continue to cheer them on until the final whistle in Morocco. "He prays that the Super Falcons, who have produced some of the greatest African

players in the history of the women's game, will surpass their achievement in the last Women's World Cup in 2019, where they advanced to the Round of 16, for the first time in 15 years. "President Buhari also looks forward to the next generation of upcoming stars, who through hard work, discipline, resilience and determination, will one day win the World Cup for Nigeria."

The Super Falcons will take on host Morocco in the semi-final of the Women's AFCON on Monday. The Atlas Lionesses of Morocco have remained unbeaten in the tournament while Nigeria set aside their 2-1 opening Group C match defeat to South Africa to reach the last four. All four semi-finalists, Zambia, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa (who beat Tunisia 1-0 in the last quarter-final match) have

qualified for the 2023 World Cup.

Asisat Oshoala, Gift Monday, Rivers Angels as well as Super Falcons coach, Randy Waldrum are all gunning to receive various awards after Confederation of Africa Football, CAF named them among the final list of the 2022 CAF Women's Awards.

Meanwhile, Oshoala who plays for FC Barcelona Femini will be gunning for a 5th Africa Women's Footballer of the Year, Gift Monday is shortlisted for two awards, Inter-club Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year.

Rivers Angels are shortlisted for the Club of the Year while Randy Waldrum is among 10 candidates for Coach of the Year Award.

The awards will be held on Thursday, 21 July 2022.

The list released by CAF comprises of 10 nominees for both Women's Player of the Year and Women's Interclub Player of the Year.

The Women's Young Player of the Year and Women's Club of the Year has five nominees apiece.

Meanwhile, 10 nominees have been selected for the Coach of the Year category after taking into consideration the group phase matches at the ongoing Women's Africa Cup of Nations Morocco 2022.

The winners of each category will be decided by a voting panel made up of CAF Technical Committee, media representatives, head coaches and captains of Member Associations and clubs involved at the group stage of the Interclub competitions for the 2021/22 season.

Super Falcons Join France, Spain at World Cup

NIGERIA'S Super Falcons on Thursday night became the 15th team to qualify for the 9th FIFA Women's World Cup finals, to be staged in Australia and New Zealand from 20th July - 20th August next year.

Hosts Australia (with five venues) and New Zealand (four venues), as well as China, Korea Republic, Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, France, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, United States of America, Morocco and Zambia are the other teams.

The 5th and 6th -placed teams at the ongoing tournament in Morocco will have another shot at qualifying for the World Cup, as they join eight other teams for a Playoff Tournament early next year.

Nigeria is one of only six teams, among them USA, Germany, Brazil and Japan, to have played in every edition of the FIFA Women's

World Cup finals since the championship was launched in China in 1991.

The nine-time champions have, only played in two knockout stages of the

tournament including a Round of 16 in last edition in France 2019.



WORLD SEARCH Answer the clue and search for the word

Q	A	R	D	L	M	F	E	L	I	X	F	M
O	N	O	M	E	Y	O	D	C	K	D	R	I
C	P	Z	K	T	N	M	U	S	A	E	E	K
S	H	E	R	I	C	K	A	T	M	G	P	A
B	N	I	K	I	U	Z	U	Q	A	G	F	I
O	L	X	B	J	N	H	A	S	R	S	M	L
S	L	O	A	N	E	W	D	P	U	C	K	A
B	K	Y	S	I	G	X	V	A	R	T	V	Q
G	I	A	N	N	I	E	J	G	I	B	H	J
A	J	L	U	H	K	K	I	W	O	B	I	M
M	O	R	R	I	S	I	O	A	F	E	L	N
D	E	V	I	L	S	F	N	C	F	H	P	E

- Red.....(6) Super Eagles name in the 60s
-Usman (6) Nigeria UFC fighter
- Ahmed.....(4) Super Eagles captain
- Bala.....(5) Nasarawa United coach
-,Infantino (6) FIFA President
- Ebi (5) Super Falcons Captain
- Alex.....(5) Nigeria/Eventon striker
-Mihambo (7) Jamaican Long Jumper
-Stephens (6) American WIA players who were super Eagles Jersey
- Jackson (8) Jamaican sprinter
- Sandi.....(6) American Polar raulter
- Allyson.... (5) Most decorated Female Olympian.
- Ice hockey ball (4)

By IBRAHIM T. LOT