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**T**here were strong indications Monday that university lecturers might get a 100 per cent pay rise. President Muhammadu Buhari has decided to wade into the protracted crisis.

He may meet all those involved in the negotiation before opening talks with the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

The union's position has been strengthened by the massive support it is getting from critical stakeholders.

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) had directed its state councils to mobilise for a protest in support of ASUU next Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Association of Nigeria Aviation Professionals (ANAP)

# 100% pay rise likely for varsity teachers

Monday, threatened to shut down the airports in solidarity with the striking lecturers.

Also, the Coalition of Northern Groups Students Wing (CNG-SW) directed the 19 northern state chapters to mobilise students and parents to join the NLC protest.

The National Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE) said it would join the protest.

National Universities

Commission (NUC) Executive Secretary Prof. Abubakar Rasheed warned against weakening the university system, which he said was critical to economic development.

But, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Andrew Adejo, expressed confidence that the strike would end soon.

The lecturers have been on strike since February 14.

It was learnt that the

Federal Government has shifted its position on the percentage of salary increase.

A committee led by the Pro-Chancellor of the Federal University of Lokoja, Prof. Nimi Briggs, had recommended a 180 per cent pay rise for lecturers.

The Briggs panel has been renegotiating the 2009 pact with ASUU.

But the government was said to have favoured a 100 per cent increase, although options were



still being weighed at Monday's meeting.

A source, who spoke in

confidence with our correspondent, said the Federal Government and ASUU may reach an amicable agreement in a "short time."

The source said: "So far, the government may concede to a 100 per cent salary increase for the striking lecturers. This is a key part of the ongoing review of the 2009 FG-ASUU agreement."

"The payment of all outstanding allowances will be mutually agreed

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## FG keeps mum as marketers hike petrol price

**T**here is confusion in the petrol supply chain. The regulators - Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited - appear to have lost control.

Marketers who have the product to dispense sell at arbitrary prices above the N162/N165 approved for a litre, citing the hike in ex-depot prices.

Those who shut their filling stations to consumers say they would be selling at a loss if they buy a litre from the depot at

between N170/N175 and dispense at the regulated price.

The ex-depot price as fixed by the regulators stood at N148 as at last night.

Only few stations vend petrol at the regulated price. Prices ranged between N170 and N200

per litre in Lagos and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The litre price is higher in the hinterlands.

But the regulators have been silent on the arbitrariness of the market.

It was gathered from a reliable source that the marketers who had been

complaining about high cost of operation were emboldened to raise the pump price rising from a meeting with the NNPC Group Managing Director (GMD), Malam Mele Kyari, last week.

In Lagos, Jos, Abuja and in many other states, the

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Long queue waiting to refuel at a petrol station, Abuja.

## Why Nigeria must diversify from crude oil exports -NEPC Boss

**T**HE Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) has reiterated the need to promote non-oil exports for Nigeria to meet its national and global economic demands.

Dr Ezra Yakusak, Executive Director/CEO of NEPC, said this at a five-day export promotion capacity-building programme which began on Monday in Abuja.

According to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), the programme, designed to train stakeholders in the export sector, was

organised by Fidelity Bank PLC in partnership with the Lagos Business School (LBS) and NEPC.

Represented by Mr Babatunde Falake, Director, International Export Office, NEPC, Yakusak said that emphasis must shift from crude oil export and be laid on export of Nigeria's vast resources.

"Recent developments in our national economy and, indeed, the global economy have made it clear to us that more emphasis should now be laid on export of our vast

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## News

## 100 per cent pay rise likely for striking varsity teachers

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upon by both parties based on the nation's economic situation.

"This is why the government is bringing in some ministries and parastatals to the negotiation table.

"They include the ministries of finance, education, labour and employment, Budget Office of the Federation, Office of the Head of Service of the Federation and National Salaries, Income and Wages Commission."

The source also

confirmed that President Buhari has decided to intervene by meeting with all the parties.

The source said the President will in the next few days receive a brief from the Federal Government negotiating team before having an audience with ASUU.

The source added: "The President has chosen to personally intervene to ensure that universities are reopened in the shortest time possible.

"Once he gets an update on the negotiation, he will meet with ASUU leaders to

Cont'd from Page 1

arbitrary prices are displayed on the metres.

Fueling speculations that the regulators were privy to the price increase was the fact that NMDPRA has refused to post the PMS price template on its website.

A member of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), who pleaded for anonymity, put the landing cost of the Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) at N500 per litre.

The source confirmed that marketers were getting supplies from the depots at N175 per litre as against the approved N148 per litre.

According to the source,

## FG keeps mum as marketers hike petrol price

this could trigger fresh hike in pump price and long queues at the retail outlets.

The IPMAN source said: "The fact is that private depots owners are increasing their prices to N170 per litre. We don't know what is really happening.

"Some have even selling N175 per litre. There is an increase of N27 per litre. But because of Sallah, we cannot understand whether it is the cause of the fresh queues in Abuja.

"There is no circular for increase of pump price from the government. However, I learnt they (some marketers) held a meeting with the GMD.

"He is the one who said they (marketers) should increase it (the pump rate)."

Most of the filling stations in the FCT were shutdown.

Besides, while some sold the product for N185 and N195 per litre, major marketers boldly changed the rate to N175 per on their sign posts.

NMDPRA's General Manager, Corporate Communications Department, Mr. Kimchi

Apollo could not be reached for two days through his phone for confirmation of the official pump price. He did not respond to the call.

He also did not reply to the text messages.

The NNPC spokesman, Mallam Garba Deen Muhammad, did not respond to calls from The Nation.

Checks carried out on the NMDPRA's report titled: "Petroleum products stock-days," showed that as at

July 17, 2022, there was a total petrol stock of 1,786,121,330 litres.

The document noted that land based stock was 645,360,193 litres and marine stock was 1,077,106816 litres.

It added that there was total stock less dead stock of 1.722,467,009 litres and a depot dead stock of 63,654,321 litres.

According to the document, the stock would last for 28.71 days.

## Why Nigeria must diversify from crude oil exports -NEPC Boss

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resources if we must survive as a nation.

"It is unfortunate that Nigeria, having been blessed with resources in agriculture, solid minerals, entertainment industry, creative arts, Information and Communication Technology, fashion and of course manufacturing has continued to rely on export of crude oil as the major source of foreign exchange," Yakusak said.

He said that the council's zero oil plan developed in response to the recession in 2016 following the crash

in crude oil prices, was targeted to prepare Nigeria for a world with less emphasis on export of crude oil.

According to Yakusak, it was a strategy for boosting foreign exchange through the non-oil export policies for 22 major products that could generate up to \$30 billion foreign exchange within a period of five years.

"The 22 products include cotton, petrochemicals, fertilisers, palm oil, rubber, cement, tomatoes, and bananas. Others are oranges, cashew, cassava,

sesame, spices, ginger, shea butter and cowpea," he said.

He expressed NEPC's commitment to continue to support efforts in sensitising Nigerians to embrace non-oil export as a viable option for economic growth and survival.

"The Council recently launched the 'Export 4 Survival' campaign which is aimed at sensitising Nigerians from all walks of life to embrace non-oil export as a viable option for our economic growth and survival.

## 2023: INEC to resume storage of materials with CBN



Mamood

The Independent National Electoral Commission has said it will continue to keep sensitive election materials with the Central Bank of Nigeria ahead of the 2023 general elections.

The National Commissioner for Information and Voter Education, INEC, Festus Okoye, who made this known in an interview with Channels Television on Monday, said the commission would resume engagement with the CBN on how to resolve issues concerning the storage of election materials.

INEC had in June

declared that sensitive election materials would no longer be in the custody of the apex bank, over the criticisms that trailed the affiliation of the Governor of CBN, Godwin Emefiele, with the ruling All Progressives Congress.

Okoye, however, said INEC would face what he described as "a logistics nightmare" if it does not reach a deal with the CBN over its election materials.

"It is going to be a huge logistics nightmare. What we intend to do going forward, since there are issues with keeping our materials with CBN. We have not had enough

opportunity to sit down with the Central Bank to review the entire issue surrounding our moving our materials with the Nigerian Air Force.

"We are definitely going to do that. If at the end of the day, we are not satisfied with the arrangement, then we are going to look for a new logistics pathway for how to manage logistics during the 2023 elections. But no decision has been made", he said.

Okoye insisted that the recently concluded elections in Ekiti and Osun governorship storage measures will not be tenable going into the general elections in 2023.

His words: "You cannot use the Ekiti governorship election and Osun governorship election as a measure of what will happen in 2023.

"This is because, for instance, in the Ekiti governorship election, we had less than a million registered voters. In the Osun governorship election, we were shy of two million registered voters. These are stand-

alone elections.

"For the Ekiti election, we utilised the service of the Nigerian Air force and they flew the materials into Akure airport. We did the same thing with the Osun election, and we moved the materials to our state offices."

## Ghana confirms first cases of deadly Marburg virus

GHANA has confirmed its first two cases of the deadly Marburg virus, a highly infectious disease in the same family as the virus that causes Ebola.

It says both patients died recently in hospital in the southern Ashanti region.

Their samples came back positive earlier this month and have now been verified by a laboratory in Senegal.

Health officials in the West African nation say 98 people are now under quarantine as suspected contact cases, BBC reported.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), which is supporting the country's health

authorities, has praised Ghana's swift response.

"This is good because without immediate and decisive action, Marburg can easily get out of hand," said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's Africa director.

No treatment yet exists for Marburg - but doctors say drinking plenty of water and treating specific symptoms improves a patient's chances of survival.

The virus is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads between humans through the transmission of bodily fluids.

It is a severe, often fatal illness with symptoms including headache, fever,

muscle pains, vomiting blood and bleeding.

Officials are warning people to keep away from caves and to thoroughly cook all meat products before consumption.

This is the second time that Marburg has been identified in West Africa.

There was one confirmed case in Guinea last year, but that outbreak was declared over in September, five weeks after the case was identified.

Elsewhere on the continent, previous outbreaks and sporadic cases have been reported in Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda, the WHO says.



Buhari

Kyeri

## Fresh CVR registration hits 10.1 million

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said fresh registration in the ongoing Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) hit 10.1 million on Monday, July 18.

The commission disclosed this in a weekly update, quarter four, week 13, released on Monday night, on its social media platform.

INEC said 10,139,247 registrants had completed their registrations, out of which 3,357,188 were done through online, while 6,782,059 were done via physical registration.

It said that 5,022,392 of the registrants that completed their

registrations were males; while 5,116,855 were females and 75,422 were Persons With Disabilities.

The age distribution according to INEC's statistics, showed that 7,195,676 of the registrants were youth of age 18 to 34; while middle aged between 35 and 49 were 2,025,258.

The elderly between aged 50 and 69 were 808,021 and the old from 70 and above were 110,292.

INEC said it has also received a total of 26,645,124 applications for voter transfer, requests for replacement of PVCs and update of voter information record, etc.



# Business & Economy



## PPP as driver for infrastructural development

**The building and construction sector is one of the most crucial — mainly for its contribution to the basic human need of shelter — and fastest growing industries in the Nigerian economy. In the last three years, the industry has experienced rapid double digit growth rates, outgrowing all other sectors in the economy. OLUSEUN AWOFISOYE writes.**

DESPITE this recent boom, the construction sector's overall contribution to GDP is still significantly low. Amongst other factors responsible for this slow impact is, shortage of funds for project execution. Infrastructure in Nigeria in particular has suffered some of the major consequences of deferred maintenance and underinvestment in the construction industry. This has constantly led to fatal building collapses, bad roads and loss of lives and property.

Working to solve these problems by creating lasting solutions, the Nigerian government has been leveraging public-private partnership (PPP) as its core strategy in the financing of infrastructure projects. Public-private partnership is a generic term that rightly describes the multitudes of structures put in place to pave the way for private sector involvement in the provision of public services. It helps to ensure optimal use of resources as well as efficiency in service delivery. These added

benefits translate to an increased value for money as a result of utilisation of private sector expertise and technology, leading to superior products and services at a lower cost.

Looking at infrastructure in Nigeria, this particular strategy is borne out of a desire to solve Nigeria's huge infrastructural needs coupled with inadequate funding for such needs. It has the capacity to both meet these needs and generate the requisite funds for the provision and management of these infrastructure. So far, quite a number of projects have been successfully executed over the years. Some very popular examples include the Lekki-Epe Expressway, the Lagos State Blue Line, the domestic Wing of the Murtala Muhammed Airport General Aviation terminal II amongst others.

Recently, also in partnership with private sector players the government established Infra-Co. a trillion naira (\$2.4 billion dollar) company. This company is backed by the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigerian Sovereign

Investment Authority and the Africa Finance Corporation. Infra-Co is expected to grow its capital and assets to 15 trillion naira over time and will fund public Infrastructure projects like housing, road, rail and power. It is also projected to help Nigeria achieve a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth by ten percent over the next ten years.

Interestingly, the public-private partnership strategy has not only helped governments to procure long-term infrastructure services from private providers, but has brought about added benefits for other stakeholders. Private companies for instance have the opportunity to develop knowledge, experience and skills, which can be constructively reapplied into the private sector. They can also be provided with access to reduced risk, secure, long-term investment opportunities that are underwritten by government contracts. It has also drastically reduced construction costs and tax

burdens on citizens, allowing funds to be redirected to other infrastructural projects.

Capitalising on this massive economic potential of private-public partnership is Arkland Group through its construction subsidiary, Arkland Structures. Being the first purely indigenous construction company to build towers in the Eko Atlantic City — land reclaimed from the Atlantic Ocean — the company has set itself apart as not just any construction company, but one with sustainability at its core. Designed in compliance with the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Green Edge Standard, the City is built to be utterly self-sufficient, managing water consumption and energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, waste disposal and more. It is projected to house about 250,000 residents once completed, taking a small but significant amount off the current 17 million housing deficit.

With a total of 10 districts, spread across a land area of approximately 10 square

kilometres, Eko Atlantic is expected to rise as a new breed of property on the continent, catering to financial, commercial, residential and tourist accommodations.

Currently, the total construction project pipeline in Nigeria, as tracked by the Construction Intelligence Centre (CIC), including all mega projects with a value above US\$25 million, stands at N167.4 trillion (\$511.7bn), with private sector involvement in a vast majority of the projects. This shows a promising outlook for Nigeria's construction space.

It is projected that efforts to enhance transport and residential infrastructure will support the growth of the industry over the next few years. Considering the immense benefits provided by private sector participation, one can confidently say that the growth of the construction sector is on a steady, upward trajectory, triggering development at every level.

**Source: Business Day.**



## FG to maintain petrol pricing

- Kyari

THE Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, Mele Kyari, says the Federal Government will still determine the pump price of premium motor spirit (PMS) popularly called petrol, even after the expected unveiling of the new NNPC Limited by President Muhammadu Buhari.

He stated in an interview that the company would be more transparent and ensure continued disclosure of its operational reports.

He said that such would be pleasing to the lending community and the global energy community that will like to see what they are doing.

He noted that once the trust becomes higher and the ability to access capital becomes real and easier, then ultimately, it would give NNPC limited all the advantages that it requires.

The NNPC limited is expected to officially transit to a private entity after being unveiled by President Buhari.

It would then be regulated in line with the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) and the nomenclature of the Group Managing Director (GMD) of NNPC would also change to the Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO), in line with the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021.

President Muhammadu Buhari, on August 16, 2021, signed into law the PIA following its passage by the National Assembly in July 2021.

Section 53(1) of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 requires the minister of petroleum resources to cause for the incorporation of NNPC limited within six months of the enactment of PIA in consultation with the minister of finance on the nominal shares of the company.

With the registration by CAC, NNPC limited was floated with an initial capital of N200 billion and so made history as the company with the highest share capital in Nigeria.

Kyari said: "We will procure the product, we will sell to the stakes and the stakes will sell to the public. There is nothing to suggest that there is any indication at this point in time that there will be a change in the price of petroleum products. It has nothing to do with our operation. For us, those who are doing business for us, we charge them fees so that this company can make money."

NNPC is a partner company. You have to make certain basic disclosures to your shareholders and to the oil community that companies are ordinarily not required to do. It is not just publishing your financial statement.

"There are other disclosure requirements by being a partner company. We believe it is good for our company, we will continue to sustain this. We are the only company that publishes our operational reports such as production,



Kyari

shares and others on a monthly basis. We are not only transparent but we are actually naked.

"And because companies and their partners, particularly the lending community, the global energy community will like to

see what we are doing. Once the trust becomes higher and the ability to access capital becomes real and easier, then ultimately, it gives you all the advantages that you require. So, you lose nothing by being transparent."

## AfCFTA secretariat gets \$11m from African Development Fund

THE African Development Fund (ADF) said that it has approved the sum of a US\$11.02 million support package to help the Permanent Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) run its operations effectively and achieve its set goals.

The amount was approved by the Board of Directors and was a part of the contractual support it promised when the secretariat was created in Accra, Ghana on August 17, 2020. This sum is an added amount to the earlier US\$5 million given.

With the secretariat getting this funding, the continent, which is regarded by the African Development Bank as having the second-largest free trade area with a potential market of 1.2 billion consumers, will try to improve its level of intraregional trade, which currently stands at less than 18 percent. This number is far below that of Latin America, Asia, and Europe which stand at 22 percent, 50 percent, and 70 percent respectively.

The funds from ADF "will help AfCFTA to increase this by up to \$35 billion per year (25 percent) over a decade, lower annual imports by \$10 billion, and boost agriculture and industrial exports by up to \$45 billion (7 percent) and \$21 billion (5 percent), respectively."

The funds will also "encourage sustainable intra-African trade and to increase the share of African countries participating in it. It is also intended to move the African trade integration agenda

forward by enabling the secretariat and the countries of the zone - especially transition countries - to harmonize and integrate national and regional trade policy initiatives". What that means is that the AfCFTA will help member countries develop regional trade policies that will promote free trade of goods and services amongst member countries.

Accordingly, the ADF said that "the support will be structured under three components: institutional strengthening of the AfCFTA Secretariat; private sector support to implement the AfCFTA, and support of climate-resilient regional and continental value chains to boost intra-Africa trade."

"Studies and initiatives will be undertaken to identify new

## 57% electricity consumers on estimated billing - NERC

THE Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) says 57.07 per cent of electricity consumers in the country were still on estimated billing as at September 2021.

NERC made this known in its Third Quarter Report 2021 obtained recently by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos from its website.

The document showed that only Ikeja, Benin, Enugu and Port Harcourt electricity Distribution Companies had metered over 50 per cent of their customers as at the period

The huge metering gap for end-use customers, according to NERC, remains a key challenge in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI).

It added that a total of 288,431 meters were installed in 2021/Q3 as compared to the

THE Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) has emphasized the need to promote non-oil exports in order for Nigeria to meet its national and global economic demands.

Dr Ezra Yakusak, Executive Director/CEO of NEPC, says this at a five-day export promotion capacity-building programme which began in Abuja.

A report by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) revealed that the programme, designed to train stakeholders in the export sector, was organised by Fidelity Bank PLC in partnership with the Lagos Business School (LBS) and NEPC.

Represented by Mr Babatunde Falake, Director, International Export Office, NEPC, Yakusak said that emphasis must shift from crude oil export and be laid on export of Nigeria's vast resources.

"Recent developments in our national economy and indeed the global economy have made it clear to us that more emphasis should now be laid

business and economic opportunities for women, to help develop the AfCFTA Women and Youth in Trade Protocol, and to support capacity building and targeted business skills for women." It added.

Abdu Mukhtar, Director of the Bank's Industrial Development and Trade Department, points out the importance of these ties. "The relationship between the AfCFTA Secretariat and the African Development Bank Group is crucial to achieving greater continental trade and the economic transformation of Africa. Our Board's approval of this grant will enable the Secretariat to further ensure that trade is conducted in a harmonious, predictable, and free manner on the continent."

315,717 meters installed in 2021/Q2.

The data showed that out of the 11,069,200 registered energy customers as at September 2021, only 4,753,027 (42.93 per cent) have been metered compared to 4,404,013 (39.08 per cent) metered as at June 2021 out of 11,058,939 registered Customers.

According to the document, the metering status of the DisCos as at September 2021 is: Benin DisCo, 54.54 per cent; Abuja, 45.10 per cent; Eko, 43.24 per cent; Ikeja, 63.96 per cent and Enugu, 55.49 per cent.

Others are: Port Harcourt, 54.81 per cent; Ibadan, 37.64 per cent; Jos, 29.12 per cent; Kaduna, 21.84 per cent; Kano, 27.64 per cent; and Yola, 17.19 per cent

It said as a safeguard against

## Nigeria must diversify from crude oil exports-NEPC



Sylva

on export of our vast resources if we must survive as a nation.

"It is unfortunate that Nigeria, having been blessed with resources in agriculture, solid minerals, entertainment industry, creative arts, Information and Communication Technology, fashion and of course manufacturing has continued to rely on export of crude oil as the major source of foreign exchange," Yakusak said.

He said that the council's zero oil plan developed in response to the recession in 2016 following the crash in crude oil prices, was targeted to prepare Nigeria for a world with less emphasis on export of crude oil.

According to Yakusak, it was a strategy for boosting foreign exchange through the non-oil export policies for 22 major products that could generate up to \$30 billion foreign exchange within a period of five years.

"The 22 products include cotton, petrochemicals, fertilisers, palm oil, rubber, cement, tomatoes, and bananas. Others are oranges, cashew, cassava, sesame, spices, ginger, shea butter and cowpea," he said.

He expressed NEPC's commitment to continue to support efforts in sensitising Nigerians to embrace non-oil export as a viable option for economic growth and survival.

"The Council recently launched the 'Export 4 Survival' campaign which is aimed at sensitising Nigerians from all walks of life to embrace non-oil export as a viable option for our economic growth and survival."

"The campaign is already making an impact as the council, with its activities, is now more on the limelight nationwide."

"It is expected that this will definitely result in increased revenue from the non-oil sector in the near future."

"What we are doing today through partnership with Fidelity Bank and Lagos Business School is highly commendable."

"A look at the various topics for discussion clearly demonstrates our readiness to equip the participants with the required knowledge and skills for successful export business and specially to curtail the rejection of non-oil exports from Nigeria," Yakusak said.

One of the facilitators, Dr Frank Ojadi, faculty member, Lagos Business School, said that building the capacity of Nigerians and providing the needed infrastructure were critical in attracting people into exports.

"One of the challenges of export trade lies more in equipping people, building their capacity in what exporting means and therefore you need to learn the trade, the processes and the procedures."

## overbilling of unmetered customers via estimated billing, the commission had set maximum limits to the amount of energy (in kWh) that may be estimated against an unmetered customer on a feeder.

The report said this depends on the customer category and tariff band with the maximum limits computed based on three months data of actual consumption records of metered customers according to customer category and tariff band.

The document also provided update on the efforts of NERC to close the metering gap in the country through the Meter Asset Provider (MAP) scheme and the National Mass Metering Programme (NMMP).

It said: "The MAP initiative has since its inception metered a total of 591,223 customers."

"Similarly, the NMMP is an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria launched in 2021 to rapidly bridge the metering gap in the NESI."

"This is a policy intervention with support from the Central Bank of Nigeria for the provision of long-term (10-year tenure) single-digit interest loans to DisCos strictly for the provision of meters to customers."

"This policy provides that only local meter manufacturers or assemblers shall participate in the NMMP."

"Customers are metered on DisCo's own account without paying for the meters by customers except through end-user tariffs."

"The NMMP has since its inception metered a total number of 793,978 customers." (NAN)



## Business & Economy

# Accelerating digital literacy in Nigeria's economy

**We live in a technologically dependent world, thus digital literacy is crucial. You may now purchase movie tickets using a smartphone, read the news on a portable tablet, or carry books around with you. Digital literacy is the capacity to use, comprehend, evaluate, and communicate across a range of digital platforms. FOM GYEM writes.**

DIGITAL literacy is demonstrated when you read a book on a Kindle, evaluate the reliability of a news article that is linked in your social media newsfeed, or make and post a YouTube video. Even the technology you're using to access this article falls under the umbrella of digital literacy.

Finding the appropriate tools for information consumption, sharing, and producing content for others are some indications of someone who is digitally literate.

The capacity to search, analyze, and convey information online or in a digital format is known as digital literacy. You may typically divide the idea of "digital literacy" into three key abilities, while the precise definition may differ between businesses, academic institutions, or other organizations:

**Your method of information intake:** This is the capacity to carry out digital duties like reading an online news item, seeing your online banking statements, or utilizing an e-reader in a classroom.

**Everything from developing and editing videos to writing articles to producing and editing PDFs falls under this skill set.**

**Your method of information transfer:** Knowing how to communicate knowledge is necessary after you have it. Writing a tweet, sending an email, exchanging documents online with your



**Pantami**

team, and other forms of communication are all examples of communication. only ones available. Knowing how to distribute documents can keep workflow going, and the ability to determine whether a website is legitimate can save you from headaches. The ability to navigate in our contemporary, digital environment requires a basic understanding of digital literacy.

Digital literacy is essential in many aspects of life, from education to the workforce. It is, however, simply a requirement for anyone who utilizes the internet.

You may need to access and use forms and applications online because they are occasionally the

literacy has beneficial effects on learning skills and competencies because it broadens the scope of potential knowledge.

The importance of digital literacy to the successful implementation of Nigeria's digital economy was underscored by the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Pantami, at the one-day virtual workshop, organized by NGSTQB, themed: "Role of Software Testing in Nigeria's Digital Economy".

Pantami noted that, for Nigeria to achieve its ambitious target of 95 percent digital literacy level by 2030, "we will need to build the literacy of citizens, in order, for them to understand and consume digital services."

Thus, the awareness of what digital literacy is and the reality of its influence on our daily lives will significantly improve its promotion in Nigeria. We can dominate our environment in many ways with digital literacy. We develop into creators of ideas that can arouse wants, lead to the creation of tools that can lessen stress, and effect a

shift from consumers to producers.

Regardless of each employee's function, information and communication technologies (ICT) competencies are becoming more and more crucial for many organizations. The variety of technology tools and resources used to communicate, create, distribute, store, retrieve, and manage information demonstrates the significance of digital literacy.

Each technology has a different potential depending on how it is used. Knowing how to evaluate internet sources for accuracy and reliability of information would be considered to be good digital literacy.

For instance, utilizing a computer requires procedural skills (file management), cognitive skills, and emotional-social abilities. Digital literacy is a mix of these talents (intuitively reading the visual messages in graphic user interfaces). As such, Nigerian educators must constantly adapt the curriculum to integrate the most recent technological developments because the components of computer literacy are changing as a result of technological advancements.

Of course, one cannot overstate the value of fostering a culture of digital literacy in Nigeria. When we can use digital technology safely and responsibly to learn, communicate, and collaborate, every citizen of this nation can become a decent digital literate person.

To support effective and integrated quality learning for all and to make sure that everyone has the necessary digital skills to productively engage in the digital economy, organizations in the public and commercial sectors must collaborate.

As a result, citizens with strong digital literacy will be aware of the legal ramifications of using technology negatively as well as the rights and obligations that come with being online.

**Source: Economic confidential.**

**"Regardless of each employee's function, information and communication technologies (ICT) competencies are becoming more and more crucial for many organizations. The variety of technology tools and resources used to communicate, create, distribute, store, retrieve, and manage information demonstrates the significance of digital literacy. Each technology has a different potential depending on how it is used. Knowing how to evaluate internet sources for accuracy and reliability of information would be considered to be good digital literacy."**

**Politics**

**Buhari, PDP, Atiku hail victorious Adeleke**

AS reactions continue to trail the Osun Governorship results, President Muhammadu Buhari, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Atiku Abubakar — PDP's presidential candidate have congratulated Ademola Adeleke, over his victory in Saturday's gubernatorial election in Osun State.

The PDP candidate won the election with a total of 403,371 votes to defeat the incumbent Governor, Adegboyega Oyetola, who scored 375,027 votes.

President Buhari expressed conviction that the people of Osun have expressed their will through the ballot, adding that "the will of the people must always matter and be respected in a democracy".

President Buhari noted that the successful conduct of the election is a further testimony to the maturity and commitment of all stakeholders, including the electoral body, security agencies, political parties, the media, civil society and the electorate, to further strengthen the integrity of the electoral process in the country.

The President reassured the nation that the commitment of this administration towards having credible elections remains unshaken.

The PDP in a statement, also congratulated Adeleke for emerging victorious in the keenly contested election.

In a statement by the party's National Chairman, Iyorchia Ayu, stated that the convincing win of 403,371 against Gov. Oyetola's 375,027 is ample proof of Osun people's loyalty to the party.

Ayu had recalled how a few days ago, the defeated and outgoing Governor, Adegboyega Oyetola and his party, the APC, did everything to frustrate the party.

"This included denying us the use of any public facility in the state capital for our mega-rally.

"We had to use the party's state secretariat. As it were, we couldn't have access to the stadium, but we had access to the people's hearts, loyalty and votes.

"Twelve years ago, specifically on November, 2010, the PDP lost Osun state — not through the ballot-box — but via a judicial coup (ruling).

"That coup (ruling) terminated the action-packed tenure of Olagunsoye Oyinlola. And since then, Osun has been frozen in executive misrule and underdevelopment.

"Four years ago, the PDP won the governorship, but our Candidate, Sen. Adeleke, was robbed of victory in broad daylight. We went back to the drawing-board, and today, we have reclaimed our victory.

"Today is, therefore, not just a day of double restoration — it's a day of redemption too. It restores



**Adeleke**

PDP to power and redeems the Osun people from the scourge of mediocrity, empty promises and excuses.

"You have kept faith with the PDP. You refused to be intimidated. You refused to be bought over with foodstuffs and 30 silver coins. You said no to thuggery and vote-fraud. You have done well.

"I thank the PDP National Campaign Council for the Osun State Governorship Election, headed by His Excellency Gov. Duoye Diri, for a superlative performance. I thank our Vice Presidential Candidate Governor Arthur Ifeanyi Okowa for tireless work. PDP is proud of all of you.

The party described the election as a referendum on the disastrous APC stewardship, and proves conclusively that Nigerians want PDP back, adding that "indeed, PDP is coming!"

The party also commended the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as well as security agencies for toeing the path of neutrality and ensuring that the votes counted.

"The task before us now is to transit from Opposition to Governance. This we shall do. With OSUN DONE, NEXT VILLA!"

The party's flag bearer in the 2023 Presidential election, Atiku Abubakar, in his congratulatory message, stated that he has always had affection for the people of Osun State for obvious reasons.

"Yes, my wife hails from there, but if you have to walk a difficult path and you need men and women of courage and astute valour, the people of Osun will never be a disappointment.

"At this point in time when our country needs to take a break from the shameful effects of bad governance, it shall be on record that Osun State provided the compass into that brighter future that awaits us at the horizon.

He noted that the referendum on the administration of the APC has commenced with the verdict of the people of Osun State in electing Ademola Adeleke, while we know that the 2023 general election will be a full referendum.

**APC will respond to PDP's victory after studying election result — Oyetola**



**Oyetola**

ADEGBOYEGA Oyetola, Osun State Governor and

governorship candidate of All Progressives Congress (APC), says he has taken cognisance of the results of the governorship election in the state as announced by the Independent National

Electoral Commission (INEC) and will respond appropriately.

The governor, who was defeated by Ademola Adeleke of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the recently concluded governorship election, said he would need time to

GOVERNO Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta and vice-presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), says the victory of Ademola Adeleke in the Osun governorship election is an affirmation of the will of the people.

Okowa stated this in a congratulatory message by his chief press secretary, Olisa Ifeajika, on Sunday in Asaba.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declared Adeleke the winner of the election after scoring 403,371 votes to defeat the incumbent, Governor Adegboyega Oyetola of the All Progressives Congress (APC), who polled 375,027 votes.

According to Okowa, Adeleke's victory is the affirmation of Osun people's will, adding that Nigerians should always stand for good leaders with the interest of the people at heart as Osun people just did.

He said the electorate across the 30 local government areas of the state spoke loudly and very clearly in the

**Adeleke's victory affirmation of the people's will-Okowa**

affirmation of their choice for Adeleke as next governor.

He lauded the former governor of the state, Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Olu Alabi and other party leaders in Osun for working together in the interest of PDP and the people of the state.

Okowa said the election of Adeleke had signposted the reality of PDP's determination to rescue Nigeria, adding that "the mission has just begun.

"Let me congratulate my brother, Ademola Adeleke, on his victory in the July 16 governorship election in Osun.



**Okowa**

**Bauchi NNPP exco condemn suspension of chairman**

**From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Bauchi State Executive of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) has condemned the purported suspension of its state chairman, Alhaji Sani Shehu Sanin Malam, by the North East Zonal Secretary of the party, Babayo Liman.

Legal Adviser of the party in the state, Barrister Mohammed A Mohammed, told journalists in Bauchi that the action of the so called Zonal Secretary of the party was illegal and

therefore not acceptable by the state chapter.

Adding that the Zonal Secretary's interference in the state affairs was unconstitutional, null and void because he and his cohorts didn't follow due process. And he has no constitutional right to suspend any member of the state executive.

Barrister Mohammed said the speed by which it removed the state chairman from office without recourse to the article 17 of the Constitution of the party, violating any section of the constitution makes their action null and void.

He said the section said "If any member of the State Executive Committee of the party is accused of any wrongdoing, a disciplinary

committee must be set up to investigate, give the accused fair hearing by giving him the opportunity to defend himself and submit their recommendations before taking any action. But they didn't do anything like that."

"Since nothing was done to authenticate their action, their action is null and void. We the Executives Network Committee are with our chairman, and we will not allow the unconstitutional action of any member to cause confusion in the party"

Mohammed reaffirmed that Sani Shehu Sanin Malam remains the chairman of NNPP in Bauchi State.

study the results as declared by INEC and consult with some critical stakeholders of the party, before a response.

In a statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Ismail Omipidan, Oyetola called on his supporters to remain calm, and the people of the State to go about their businesses without let or hindrance.

The Governor also called on security operatives to ensure maintenance of law and order. He, has therefore, directed security operatives to take adequate charge so as to prevent break down of law and order.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had announced the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) governorship candidate, Senator Ademola Adeleke as the winner of the July 16 election.



**Alkali**

Politics

# 2023: SSA drums support for Gov. Sule

Stories by MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

AHEAD of the 2023 general elections, the Senior Special Assistants (SSA) to Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State on Urban Development Alhaji Ibrahim Bala Mulki has drummed support for the Governor to enable him renew his mandate and consolidate on the remarkable achievements. By his administration.

Speaking with newsmen in Keffi the SSA contended that since the Governor was able to secure the ticket of the party to enable him re-contest for his position what has become imperative for the people of the state is to support him to enable him do more and break new ground in terms of service delivery to the people of the state.

The SSA who was full of praises for the Governor for the tremendous developmental programmes and project that his administration was able to initiate and execute particularly in Keffi to include the construction of various roads culverts, drainage and bridges across the local government.

He further expressed delight that the construction of Keffi neighbourhood market, schools, Health care facilities among others have been impacting on the lives of the people positively as such a good turn deserves another meaning that the gesture should be a reciprocal one.

"Given the remarkable performances of the governor in terms of the initiation and execution of various developmental programmes and projects that have been impacting positively on the life the people, the governor therefore deserves another mandate to enable him consolidate on his various achievements and even break new grounds in service delivery to the people" he stated.

Mulki who is quite confident that given the good intentions of the Governor to live the state better than he met it, more developmental



Sule

programmes and projects were in the pipeline as such it has become necessary for the people of the state not the to allow such opportunity to slip away from them.

"With the body language of the Governor that indicates that he has good intentions to leave the state better than he met it is another opportunity for the people of the state to rally round him by re-electing him to enable him does more," he stressed.

On the issues of peace and security of the people's lives and property across the state, the SSA further commended the governor for the various measures taken to guarantee the safety of the people's lives

and properties especially by taking the various security strategies in many flash points of the state.

He however appealed to the people of the state to continue to live in peace and harmony with one another and support constituted authorities to enable the authorities serve them better as well as report any suspicious security issues to the appropriate authorities for necessary actions.

The SSA who contended that since security is everybody's business all hands must be on deck to that the security of lives and prosperities were adequately provided through synergy and collaborations.

## Osun victory is turning point for party - Walid

THE Chairman Board of Trustee (BoT) of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Senator Walid Jibrin has described the recent victory recorded by the party in the just concluded Osun Governorship election as a great turning point for the party in the forth coming general elections in the country.

Speaking with THE NIGERIA STANDARD via telephone interview, Senator Jibrin further described the victory recorded by his party as highly encouraging and a ray of hope that has strengthened them to work

harder towards future victories during the upcoming elections in the country.

"In fact the recent Osun victory is a great stimulus that has strengthened us and given us a ray of hope that future elections in the country would produce victory for us", he asserted. "I also want to say that the Osun victory is a litmus test that would continue to inspire us to do more believing that we will be able to change the narrative and restore our lost glory and be back in power," he further asserted.

THE People's Democratic Party (PDP), has insisted that the embattled Taraba governorship candidate of the party, Col. Agbu Kefas (rtd) was screened by a "special committee" of the party.

This was part of a witness statement presented at a Federal High Court sitting in Jalingo on Monday presided over by Justice Simeone Akpa Amobeda, in the ongoing pre-election case between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship candidate, Kefas Agbu and an aggrieved governorship aspirant of the party, Professor Jerome Nyameh.

A witness to the defendant, Jacob Oche Otopa, while testifying on Thursday before the Judge, said Agbu did not only purchase the forms but was as well screened by "a special screening committee" set up by the party.

The witness who came from the National secretariat of the party through its legal department, said a screening committee assigned with the responsibility of screening eligible aspirants who "due to one reason and the other could not participate in the initial screenings was set up by the party, admitting that Agbu fell into such a group.

Otopa, an official of the legal department of the party affirmed that the incumbent governorship candidate of the party for the state "was screened and found fit to participate in the party's governorship

## PDP stands on Kefas as Taraba guber candidate

From, VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

primary in Taraba."

The witness who also doubles as the Secretary of the Taraba state governorship primary election committee, said the National Working Committee of the party, also "issued him (Agbu) a qualification to contest in the primary."

The aggrieved aspirant had at last week closed his case and prayed for the court to restrain Agbu from parading himself as the party's governorship candidate of the state.

He alleged that Agbu did not purchase the party's expression of interest and nomination forms, and that he did not also participate in the

party's governorship screening exercise which took place in Bauchi state.

The party backed up their evidence with various exhibits and also told the court that the plaintiff did not appeal against the outcome of the primary which according to them, was monitored by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Counsel to the plaintiff also objected to most of the exhibits tendered by the defendant before the court.

The Judge then went ahead and directed the counsels involved to go ahead and file for adoption of all their written addresses.

The sitting then adjourned till Thursday 21 July, 2022.



Darius



Jibrin

The BoT Chairman who specially congratulated the

Governor-elect and the PDP family in the state however

tasked them to see their victory as an opportunity to serve the people not to be served.

"You should see the victory as an opportunity to serve because leadership is not a bed of roses but a platform for whoever is in that position to serve those under him justly and fairly," he stated.

Jibrin then tasked the teeming PDP supporters to be firm, resolute and committed towards promoting the ideals of the party which he said is now adequately prepared to regain its lost glory by clinching the seat of power in all the available political positions in the country in 2023.

To the people of Osun state, the BOT chairman thanked them for electing the PDP this time around and assured them that they would never regret their actions because their new Governor-elect Senator Nurudeen Adeleke is a committed and competent person that has the passion, zeal and determination to serve the people diligently.

Jibrin also commended the electoral body, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for what he described as a job well done.

## 'I will be guided by people's wishes, aspirations'

A Nasarawa State House of Assembly candidate under the platform of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) for Keffi West Constituency Hon. Muntassim Ramalan Abbass has re-assured of his determination to be guided by the wishes and aspirations of the people of his constituency if elected in 2023 general elections.

Addressing his teeming supporters in Keffi recently, Abbass stated that unlike what was obtained before from the other legislators he would do his best to change

the narrative by making his representation people based.

"Unlike what it used to be before, my style of representation which was based on services is going to be people driven or people focus in such a way that their wishes and aspirations are going to be my guiding lights" he assured.

Abbass who was a senior civil servant before venturing into politics stated that his burning desire to provide services to his people informed his decision to make himself available for

the contest.

In fact my strong determination to provide meaningful services to my people responsible for my continued outings to contest for the state House of Assembly seat especially that I possess all that is required to make the difference in terms of service delivery," he asserted.

On why he dumped his former party the All Progressive Congress (APC) to SDP he attributed such to injustice, undemocratic tendencies and non-provision of level playing

ground for him to contest as such he has no option than back out and happily he was warmly accepted and provided with the ticket to contest under the present platform.

The Nasarawa State House of Assembly hopeful who expressed delight that his candidature under the auspices of the SDP is recording a significant amount of acceptance and encouraging, thanked his teeming supporters for standing firmly behind him despite all odds.

While describing such

development as a sign of victory, he however appealed to his teeming supporters to remain firm, resolute and committed with a view to make the end justify the means.

He then stressed the need for his supporters to endeavour to obtain their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) to enable them have the power or opportunity to vote during the election saying that the PVC has become a veritable element that would guarantee them their civic responsibilities during the exercise.

# IMAGES

## LALONG AT END OF JUNE PRAYER SERVICE

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Friday attended the end of month prayer and fasting service organised by the Governor through the leadership of Government House Chapel for all government functionaries in the state at the chapel Rayfield, Jos, recently



Governor Simon Bako Lalong delivering his remarks at the service



Commissioner of Works, Hon. Pam Bot Mang (right) flanked by other state government appointees



Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong and wife of PLHA Speaker, Mrs. Nancy Yakubu Sanda in a prayer mood



A cross section of Government House Chapel leadership during the service



Secretary to Government of the State, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (right) flanked by the Chief of Staff Government House, Hon. Noel Dongjur and Head of Civil Service, Engr. Sunday Hyat, mni during the service



Rev. Dr. David Laje, Adviser on Religious Matters (right) flanked by other clergy praying for the nation (Nigeria), Plateau State and the next year's general elections



A cross section of security chiefs representatives at the service



Chapel band rendering songs at the service

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

## Politics

# Meet Adeleke, Osun governor-elect

**Ademola Adeleke, candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has won the Osun election. Adeleke won in 17 Local Government Areas while Governor Gboyega Oyetola of the All Progressives Congress (APC) won in 13 Local Government Areas. ZEBULON AGOMUO and RAZAQ AYINLA writes.**

### PROFILE of Ademola Adeleke

#### Early life

Adeleke was born on March 6, 1960, to the family of Ayoola Adeleke and Esther in Enugu, South East geopolitical zone of Nigeria. Ademola Adeleke is 62 years old.

#### Academic qualifications

Adeleke began his elementary education at Methodist Primary School in Surulere, Lagos State, and later transferred to Nawarudeen Primary School in Ikire. He also attended Ede Muslim Grammar School Ede, completing his secondary education before moving to the US to join his two elder brothers.

He enrolled at Atlanta Metropolitan State College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice in 2021.

#### Working experience

Ademola Adeleke is a successful businessman and administrator who served as Pacific Holdings Limited's group Executive Director from 2001 to 2016.

Pacific Holdings Limited was his brother's company as at then. From 1985 to 1988, Ademola worked as a service contractor for Quicksilver Courier Company in Atlanta, Georgia, the United States.

From 1990 to 1994, he served



**PDP National Chairman with the Osun governor elect**

as vice president of Origin International LLC, a flavour and fragrance manufacturing company in Atlanta, Georgia, US.

#### Personal life

Ademola Adeleke is an affable

man and is fondly called the Dancing Senator, following his dramatic victory dance when he was declared the winner of the Osun West Senatorial District by-election.

Adeleke is an uncle to popular

pop artiste, Davido and the father of another popular singer B-red.

His hobbies include dancing and singing; he even claims to have taught his son and his nephew, Davido, how to sing.

Senator Adeleke, holds the traditional title of Otunba of Oke-Ila Orangun.

#### Adeleke's political career

Until the death of his elder brother, Isiaka Adeleke, the head of Adeleke's empire, who died on April 23, 2017, Ademola was relatively unknown in politics before then.

Osun West Senatorial District and other party powerful men agreed to return the ticket to Adeleke's empire, as such; Demola stepped in to fill Isiaka's vacancy in the Senate since it is required to do so by the constitution.

It was a shock win in the by-election for Adeleke. Nine of the ten local governments in the senatorial district elected him, and he received 97,280 votes in total. He dedicated his victory to his late brother.

On September 22, 2018, Adeleke ran for governorship of Osun State as a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) against APC's Gboyega Oyetola and Iyiola Omisore, candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) ruled the election inconclusive and scheduled a rerun for September 27, 2018. Oyetola, a candidate for the APC, won the run-off election.

Adeleke called the election a "coup" and opposed the outcome. On March 22, 2019, a Tribunal proclaimed Adeleke, winner of the election.

Until June 2019, he served as a senator for Nigeria's Osun-West senatorial district. His family hails from Ede in Ede Local Government Area.

**BusinessDay**

## Does who wins February's presidential election matter?

**Does it matter who wins February's presidential election? Nigeria's economy is already damaged. The front runners in next year's presidential election are stepping up their campaigns, but more and more Nigerians are asking if it would matter who wins the crucial election in 2023, given that the country's economy has already been damaged by seven years of mismanagement under the outgoing government of President Muhammadu Buhari. TITI OMOBUDE writes.**

BUHARI came to power in a blaze of glory in 2015, his global goodwill rose high to the heavens. However, seven years after, the nation's economy is gasping for breath and in the unusually long-lame-duck presidency that Nigeria faces, the odds are that the flagging economy will relapse even further.

Buhari had replaced Goodluck Jonathan who was infamously called clueless by Buhari's propaganda machine, and many western governments had vowed not to do business with the then outgoing administration over mounting cases of corruption. However, today, Buhari's administration is arguably the one better suited to be called clueless.

The president, himself, betrayed his own ignorance of simple economic matters when he failed to identify the magnitude of the burden that a reckless petrol subsidy programme placed on the economy and in the end, he chooses to ignore what is perhaps today the biggest hole in the country's finances.

Senior officials in Buhari's government say privately they are aware of the hopeless state of the economy, especially in the

midst of a devastating cost of living crisis that is not abating.

Why is Nigeria's economy in such a bad state? Buhari came to power with little or no preparation to stem the collapse of the continent's biggest economy, which was already challenged by the fall in oil prices, and instead he superintended over its worsening.

For six months, the president could not appoint his ministers and when he eventually did, Nigerians bemoaned a cabinet that was at best second class and even at that the president failed to give clear mandate to his cabinet to urgently turn around the economy. The president, himself, betrayed his own ignorance of simple economic matters when he failed to identify the magnitude of the burden that a reckless petrol subsidy programme placed on the economy and in the end, he chooses to ignore what is perhaps today the biggest hole in the country's finances.

Buhari embarked on a borrowing binge after the petrol subsidy spending emptied the treasury and Nigeria's debt level rose, an already weakened fiscal position became even more helpless. Nigeria's debt servicing relating only to interest

payments now consume virtually all of the government's revenues and the country's bonds are facing the threat of being declared junk.

Last week, the president called the job of managing Nigeria tough, saying, "I am eager to go." But he has made the job tougher than it should have been and for the people who voted him into power, he is leaving them worse off.

According to Bloomberg, "Buhari's policies such as import curbs have spurred inflation as they limit supplies of some goods, yet manufacturing is still inadequate. The country produces way less power than it needs and imports petrol despite being Africa's biggest oil producer. Debt repayments eat up almost all of government revenue and the naira has plummeted to repeated lows during Buhari's time in office."

It concluded, "Nigeria is home to more extremely poor people than any other country, according to a United Nations' measure, and the unemployment rate has surged to among the world's highest. The outgoing president may be satisfied with his performance but it's unlikely that most Nigerians will agree with him."

Nigeria is poised to lose its frontier market status because of persistent foreign-exchange shortages in Africa's largest economy with MSCI Inc. considering downgrading the MSCI Nigeria indexes to standalone markets status from frontier market because of "a continual and severe deterioration in the ability to repatriate funds from Nigeria."

The loss of frontier market status could cast doubts on perhaps the only bright spot in Nigeria's flagging economy and stir more despair for investors with Africa's biggest crude producer rationing dollars despite a surge in oil prices.

Nigerian bonds have sold off sharply this year, with the spread on the Bloomberg EM Sovereign Nigeria index rising by 327bps year-to-date (ytd) through 17 June versus a 105bps rise in the aggregate index. This has happened largely because of a chronic mismanagement of Nigeria's exchange rate regime that has limited the improvement of Nigeria's current account and weighed severely on its financial account, with gross reserves actually declining to below \$39 billion from \$40.5 billion at the beginning of the year,

## NEWS

## Plateau indigenes in Nasarawa pledge support, cooperation

By  
**POLYCARP ISHAYA**

THE Chief of Plateau State indigenes resident in Nasarawa State, Chief Enoch Bulus Dalang (SP) Rtd has assured the Nasarawa State Government of the continued support, co-operation, commitment and loyalty to the implementation of Policies and Programmes of the State Government under the leadership of Engr. Abdullah Sule, the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State by the Plateau indigenes resident in the state.

He made the assurance in a statement issued and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD Jos**.

According to him, he was in the office of the Commissioner to solicit for the support and cooperation of the Ministry as it's the Ministry that is saddled with the responsibility of Chieftaincy Affairs in the State, which is also the office of the chief of Plateau indigenes resident in the state is under. He pointed that it is only by coming to the office of the Commissioner to introduce himself and also to identify with the laudable achievements of the ministry in the area of chieftaincy disputes, and to carve a niche in the state.

Chief Dalang added that he was also in the office to try to establish a cordial relationship and partnership with the Ministry because as the chief of Plateau indigene in the State he needs to always collaborate with the ministry in order to know its activities from time to time in area of community development.

The statement added that there are advantages the PLATEAU INDIGENES WILL STAND TO BENEFIT AND ACHIEVE IN Nasarawa State but this can only be achieved when his subjects are loyal and committed to Government of the state by doing the needful at all times.

He further said, he has mobilized his people in all Local Government Areas of the state to come out and register in the on-going voters registration and also to make sure they collect their Permanent Voters Card (PVCs), as it is the only way for them to make a choice during election, in the 2023 general election in the state.

He disclosed to the Commissioner for Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Alhaji Turaki that plans are on ground by his palace to go on enlightening campaign and create awareness among the people of Plateau resident in Nasarawa State. This is aimed to help them their franchise. And that is the only way they can be respected and have a fair sharing of the dividends of democracy in the state.

Chief Dalang commended the laudable achievements of Governor Abdullahi Sule in the area of infrastructural development in the state among many others.

Responding the Commissioner for Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Nasarawa State, Alhaji (Hon Yusuf Aliyu Turaki, and although the visit is unscheduled but it is timely. He appreciated Chief Dalang for finding time to come to the ministry for an advocacy visit in other to establish relationship and also to find ways on how they can collaborate and partner together for the growth and development of the state.

He assured Chief Enoch Dalang that the ministry will do



Sule

everything humanly possible to see that the stool of the Chief of Plateau indigenes in the state is highly honoured and given recognition at all times, as Plateau and Nasarawa State are brothers and sisters. He pointed out that as long as Plateau indigenes in Nasarawa State will be supporting the administration of Engr. Abdullahi Sule, the sky will be their limit in achieving whatever they want to achieve in the state, assuring him of a cordial working relationship between the ministry and the palace of the Chief of Plateau indigenes in the state

The commissioner wish him long life and prosperity as he pilots the affairs of the Plateau people resident in Nasarawa State. And advised him to be transparent in dealing with the affairs of the people because they are the major constituency in which he operates within, and he should always ask. God for wisdom and guidance to enable him succeed in the hectic task before him.

Turaki assured him that the ministry's doors are widely open for any consultation that will lead

## Bauchi NUJ holds training workshop for SEC members

From  
**ABBAS GUNGURA,, Bauchi**

THE Bauchi State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) recently conducted a one day training workshop for members of the State Executive Council (SEC).

The training workshop which took place at the Mohammed Abdullahi Conference Hall of the union centered on ethical issues, reporting for peaceful coexistence in the society and how journalists can protect themselves from falling victims to cyber frauds, among others.

Comrade Umar Sa'idu, the state chairman of the union in his opening remarks said the workshop was mainly organized for SEC members and was first of its kind in the history of the union in Bauchi.

The NUJ Chairman reiterated his desire to continue organizing such training and re-training for members in order to update them with the current knowledge of how to contribute towards the development of the society.

The NUJ chairman commended the Bauchi State government for providing befitting office accommodation for the union as well as studio for the NTA Bauchi and for showing commitment towards resuscitating the State owned

to a peaceful co-existence among the people of Plateau State with their host communities in Nasarawa State and the country at large.

The statement also added that Chief Enoch Bulus Dalang was coronated on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (Friday) and he was also issued with a certificate of conferment of chieftaincy title as chief of Plateau indigenes resident in Nasarawa State by his Royal Highness, the Emir of Lafia Nasarawa State, Justice Sidi Bage Mohammed I jsc rtd.

Chief Enoch Dalang served in the Nigeria Police Force and rose to the rank of Supt. of Police (sp) AND HE was also the pay master of the Nigeria Police Force in Lafia, Nasarawa State Command and retired on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

Chief Enoch Dalang hails from Abwor-Dyis village in Lankan district of Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State, Nigeria. He is married with seven children, four boys and three girls. He is a devoted Christian of the COCIN faith.

according to its ethics, especially by ensuring objectivity, fairness, accuracy and balancing in their reportage.

Comrade Umar while commending journalists in Bauchi for their fair and balanced reportage, especially during the last party primaries, warned that the union will not hesitate to sanction any erring member.

He therefore, urged his members to continue with the good efforts to ensure peaceful general elections come 2023.

Comrade Umar urged the participants at the workshop to pay serious attention during the training in order to derive maximum benefit from it which he said will not only benefit the participants but the society in general.

Three resource persons who were invited to train the SEC members by the NUJ include, the immediate past National Secretary of the union, Mr. Shuaibu Usman Leman, former NUJ chairman and lecturer with the Department of Mass Communication, Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic Bauchi, Comrade Mohammed Sani Mohammed and an IT expert in Bauchi, Malam Biliyaminu Jambil.

According to him, there is no society or government that would succeed without press freedom.

The NUJ Chairman however, cautioned his members to always practice the profession

## Kaduna government to recruit teachers online

From **JOHN FWAH Kaduna**

KADUNA State Governor, Malam Nasir El Rufai has approved the work plan of the Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (KAD-SUBEB), for the recruitment of 10,000 teachers through an online process.

A statement issued by the Executive Chairman of KAD-SUBEB, Malam Tijjani Abdullahi, stated that the Board "had commissioned Kaduna State University (KASU) to design and upload a recruitment portal, which will go live on Thursday, July 21st, 2022."

The Executive Chairman further said that "suitably qualified candidates with either a National Certificate of Education (NCE) from an accredited institution, a Bachelor's Degree in Education (B. Ed, B.A Ed, B.Sc, Bd, B. Tech in any discipline from a reputable university) are eligible to apply."

According to him, "the portal will be opened for two weeks from the first day it goes live on July 21st, 2022, to August 5th, 2022 when it will be closed. 'There will be a school-by-school requirement on the portal and applicants are expected to apply to schools closest to their residences,' he said. He also explained that they "

will be screened and successful ones will be invited to sit for a Computer-Based Examination at three centres Kaduna, Zaria and Kafanchan towns." "Only those that scored 75% in the examination, which is the standard that has been set by Kaduna State Government, will be invited for oral interview," he clarified.

Malam Tijjani also said that

"successful applicants are expected to come along with originals and photocopies of their credentials for the interview. The originals will be sighted while photocopies of all certificates will be given to the panel."

The executive chairman promised that KADSUBEB will immediately send all photocopies of credentials to various schools for verification.



el-Rufai

## Taraba to benefit from Covid-19 NG-CARES

By  
**VICTOR GAI, Jalingo**

A total of 22,415 Taraba citizens, 2740 households and 32 markets are to benefit from the Nigeria Covid-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (NG CARES) programme.

This was made known by the Taraba State Governor, Darius Ishaku, during the Nigeria Covid-19 Action Recovery and Economic

Stimulus (NG CARES) programme for result which held in Jalingo, Saturday.

According to Ishaku, who was represented by the Commissioner of Budget and Economic Planning and Chairman, State CARES Steering Committee, Solomon Elisha, Taraba has met all the requirements to participate in the programme as well as intervention in three result areas and six disbursement link indicators.

"With this intervention, Taraba citizens numbering 22,415 are expected to benefit directly from the programme. This is aside the livelihood grants to 2,740 households targeting the economically active youth and women with the upgrading of 32 wet markets to safer functional ones.

"The intervention in the state has four (4) components referred to as Delivery Platforms (DPs) Namely: Community and Social Development Agency (CSDA), FADAMA, Special Grant Transfer (SGT) and Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE).

"I am aware that the implementation of NG-CARES will cost the nation the sum of \$750 million and each state will be accessing the sum of \$20 million through Programme for Result (PFR) to cushion the effect of the pandemic on her citizenry, I am also aware that the sum of \$900 million has been advanced to the State for intervention in three result

areas and six (6) disbursement link indicators," Ishaku stated.

According to him, in order to fast track the implementation of the program, he approved the flag off of the 2022 wet season input distribution and also rendered technical support in terms of capacity building for the officers that will be implementing the programme.

Speaking on the programme, National Coordinator, NG-CARES, Dr. Abdulkarim Obaje, said N-CARES has 4.5 million direct beneficiaries and that they are targeting 20 million direct and indirect beneficiaries after two years of implementation, drawn from the physically challenged, urban poor, the chronically ill and the aged.

He disclosed that Taraba was not doing well in implementation of the programme which was what prompted the capacity building training.

"The governor, Darius Ishaku wants all the delivery platforms to be at the top of their games before the resources are released for them to start implementation. And that is why this this training is deliberately called to enable us give them the required capacity," he said.

He added that fadama has been singled out as a delivery platform because of its special requirement.

Ishaku was very confident that with the resources available, implementation would move fast.

News

# Alkali donates operational vehicle to NIPSS

By **BULUS GAMBO**

INSPECTOR General of Police, IGP Usman Baba Alkali has donated a brand new IVM operational vehicle to the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, (NIPSS) to enable the Police outpost of the institute provide maximum security for course participants and host communities.

Speaking shortly before handing over the Patrol vehicle to the Director General of NIPSS in his office at the National Institute Kuru, Jos recently, the Commissioner of Police Plateau State Command, CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka, who made the delivery on behalf of the Inspector General of Police said that the IGP finds the gesture necessary due to the fact that the institute accommodates prospective policy and strategic leaders from home and abroad.

The CP Onyeka further stated that the donation has described the degree of premium the Police hierarchy places on the National Institute, adding that the security of the institute matters a lot to the IGP.

CP Onyeka who gave out his score card on the onslaught against criminals, told the DG that crime has reduced to the barest minimum since his arrival to Plateau State as

Commissioner of Police and assured that his Command will not rest on its oars in improving security in the state.

The Plateau State Police boss who disclosed that one of his vision is policing with the fear of God, urged the management of the institute to continue to pray to God even as the Police does its part because God is the ultimate protector.

Also speaking, the Director General of National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Prof. Ayo Omotayo who was represented by the Director of Administration of the institute, Brig. Gen. C.F.G Unbaya (rtd) expressed his profound gratitude to the IGP

for the support and the CP for his exploits in the state.

He further assured the IGP that the National Institute would ensure that it makes good use of the operational vehicle to patrol the institute and that its maintenance is also guaranteed.

Brig. Gen. Unbaya who solicited for more policemen to add up to the current strength of Police officers in the institute, said that the National Institute will be very glad to receive the same kind gesture in the future.

The peak of the event witnessed short distance test drive by the Brig. Gen. Unbaya with the Commissioner of Police in the brand new IVM patrol vehicle.



Plateau State Commissioner of Police, Bartholomew Onyeka presenting the key of the vehicle to Representative of DG, NIPSS, Brig. Gen Unbaya (rtd)

# Jos North Chair condemns attack on legislative arm

Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Bala Usman has condemned the attack on Legislative Council by some hoodlums at the Council's secretariat in Jos.

The Chairman who spoke through his Special Adviser, Media and Publicity, Philip Eplong wondered why hoodlums will attack the Councilors who are performing their legitimate duties and disassociated the Executive arm of the council of any complicity in the

impasse.

Usman explained that since assumption of office, neither him nor any member of the executive arm had ever interfered with Legislative functions. And as a democrat who believes in separation of powers and the rule of law, he was not contemplating doing so.

While condemning in strong terms the barbaric act, the Chairman appealed to security agencies to immediately wade into the matter and apprehend the

perpetrators of the dastardly acts to serve as deterrent to others.

He also charged the security agencies to embark on thorough investigation to unravel the sponsors of the dastardly act, stressing that his administration will not fold its arms and watch unscrupulous persons breach the relative peace being enjoyed in the area.

The statement called on residents to remain calm as the local government is on top of the situation as anyone found wanting will face the full wrath of the law.

# ... debunks impeachment

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Bala Usman has condemned in strong terms his purported impeachment on the social media, describing it as the handiwork of his detractors who are bent on destabilizing his administration to plunge the area in a needless crisis.

In a statement signed by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Philip Eplong, the chairman described the purported impeachment as an exercise in futility that will not stand the test of time since there was no record of legislative sitting.

The Chairman noted that to impeach a sitting Chief Executive, proper and constitutional channels; such as the collection of the two third majority of signatures of members to a petition; presentation of the petition to the chairman; the setting of man committee shall be

constituted to hear the alleged offences, and the presentation of the committee's report for deliberation must be followed.

The statement said, all these procedures were not followed and described the alleged impeachment as a social media exercise and an abuse of the Legislative integrity, adding that what was reported is unconstitutional, null and void.

The Chairman disclosed that since assumption of office in October last year, he has been carrying all along, including the Legislative Council and he was at a loss as to where the said impeachment came from.

He added that from all intents and purposes, the said exercise was aimed at rubbing his modest achievements since assumption of office.

The Jos North Council boss wondered why the Legislative Council will attempt to impeach him without giving him any notice or the

opportunity of fair hearing through service and defence of allegations against him, if any, as enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Shehu Bala Usman therefore used the medium to appeal to security agencies to apprehend those behind the infamous move as their action had the capacity to cause the breach of the hard-earned peace currently being enjoyed in the state.

He urged his supporters to remain calm and be law abiding, noting that efforts were on to unravel the identity of these agents of destabilization whom he said, were out to achieve their selfish interests.

The Chairman called on the people of the locality to go about their legitimate businesses as authorities of the council were on top of the situation.



# Deploying technology for development

TECHNOLOGY is the new kid on the block.

The easiest way to get a lot done within a short period using very little energy. It has helped provide solutions in dealing with so many complex problems. Anyone who ignores technology does so at his or her own risk. The recent elections conducted by Nigeria's Independent Electoral Commission attest to the fact that technology can be deployed to reduce the stress of conducting elections and removing a whole load of human errors thereby strengthening the process.

In the past, a lot of things were done manually and that gave room for undue manipulation and interference. But deploying technology has removed some of these bottlenecks and has fastened the process. Only recently, massive frauds were the norm in the conduct of the electoral process in our clime but gradually things are changing for the better and lazy politicians are beginning to realize that if they do not work, the room for

them to manipulate the system is becoming increasingly absent.

In the recent Osun election, BIVAS were deployed and it brought a lot of sanity into the process. What is left is for the process to be perfected to take care of our local peculiarities so that it can be further strengthened. The new electoral law which permitted INEC to use electronic means to transmit results must also be commended. It has shown that with the political will, a lot can be achieved. And, indeed, Nigerians need to commend the present crop of persons manning the electoral agency and encourage them to do even more to clean up the system and make the process better and less cumbersome.

What has happened in the electoral space is a confirmation that we can get a lot done in a very short while in other spheres of life. For example, we can deploy technology to reduce wastages in the fuel distribution system that has become the elephant threatening to kill the country. It is on record that the amorphous subsidy on fuel has not been clearly explained by anyone in government and even those who had previously promised to deal with it when elected into political positions turn round to claim that it does exist.

No one has, however been able to come up with an acceptable explanation that would convince Nigerians on its authenticity. Instead, confusing epistles and statistics are on daily basis churned out to further enrich the political and business class at the expense of the general public. In the past, fuel was pumped through the pipes laid and maintained by the NNPC to the various depots across the country. But with time and as a result of the

inherently corrupt nature of the Nigerian, the pipelines were destroyed and fuel carried through tankers causing a lot of inconveniences on our roads.

Not only have road users been forced to compete with these huge automobiles on the roads but the lifespan of these roads have been greatly reduced. If technology were to be adequately deployed in this sector, a lot of the attendant costs would have been removed and time would have been saved. It is, therefore, our recommendation that we insist that technology is designed to deal with the peculiarities in that sector to reduce the cost of doing business there and clean up the system.

As a matter of fact, our educational institutions must speed up the deployment of technology to help reduce some of the bottlenecks inherent in the system. It will help reduce the man hours invested in acquiring academic certification. Besides, students could study at their pace and money for infrastructural development would be saved. Contacts between lecturers and students would be greatly reduced and corrupt practices and abuse of the system would be greatly curbed.

Technology is therefore the way to go and it is the easiest way out of a lot of the present problems our country is immersed in. If we choose to flow with the tide, then we have no option but key into the present reality and grow or remain backwards and consigned to underdevelopment and continue to be ravaged by challenges technology can solve quite easily.

“  
***In the past, a lot of things were done manually and that gave room for undue manipulation and interference. But deploying technology has removed some of these bottlenecks and has fastened the process. Only recently, massive frauds were the norm in the conduct of the electoral process in our clime but gradually things are changing for the better and lazy politicians are beginning to realize that if they do not work, the room for them to manipulate the system is becoming increasingly absent.***  
 ”

## News



N-SIP recruited staff on training

# FG trains independent monitors, distribute tablets

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD), said it had employed and trained 7,452 Independent Monitors to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the integrated National Social Investment Programmes (N-SIP) across the country.

The Minister, FMHADMSD, Sadiya Umar-Farouq, disclosed this at inauguration of the training and onboarding of 3000 Stream 2 Independent Monitors of the N-SIP in Lokoja at the weekend. The Minister, who was represented by her Special Assistant on Monitoring and Evaluation, Mrs Bilikisu Dauda-Damisa, said the training and onboarding of Stream 2 Independent Monitors was flagged off June 9, 2022, in Abuja.

She noted that the Stream I, had 4,452 Independent Monitors trained and enrolled in February and March 2021, while Stream II had 3000, totaling 7,452 Independent monitors across the country.

Umar-Farouq added that the Ministry had provided working tools in the form of Tablets for them to carry out their monitoring activities on the field.

She said the NSIP was created by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 with the mandate of lifting citizens out of poverty through a number of Social Interventions. According to her, the NSIP include: Job Creation - NPOWER, National Home-Grown School Feeding (NHGSFP), Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), and the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP).

She said that since NSIP commenced in 2016, over one million youths had been employed under NPower, two million beneficiaries under CCT, 10 million pupils under HGSFP and 230,000 under the GEEP intervention programmes. She said the Independent Monitors are responsible for monitoring the NSIPs in their

various communities in schools, households, and market clusters with the focus of ensuring that its primary objectives were achieved.

She urged the independent monitors to work hand in hand with the state NSIP team, and cautioned them against intimidation or harassment of beneficiaries.

"Any Independent Monitor found intimidating or harassing a beneficiary will be taken off the programme.

"Be informed that we have officials of the EFCC and DSS working with us on this programme, and those found culpable will be handed over to relevant authorities," she said.

Earlier, the state's Focal Person of N-SIP, Mr Suleiman Onyekehi, said the social intervention programmes had achieved a tremendous success in alleviating poverty in the state.

He disclosed that the State Government had recently disengaged over 100 cooks who defaulted in one way or the other against the national rules and guidelines.

On his part, the state Coordinator of the Independent Monitors, Adam Imam, commended the federal government for the initiative in using independent monitors for N-SIP activities which he said, had ensured

A United States-based billion dollar company, SIVAD group, has hinted Governor Yahaya Bello on its plans to establish a world class pharmaceutical, agricultural and other allied industries in the confluence state.

The arrangement which has reached advanced stage is to commence operation in couple of weeks.

The group's President/Chief Executive Officer, Mr Lenzie Davis gave the hint when he paid a courtesy visit on Governor Yahaya Bello at the Government House, Lokoja over the weekend.

He told Governor Bello that the incorporation of Kogi State into the company's investment plan was as a result of its strategic location, security architecture and other factors.

He noted that the company was in Africa some 30 years back and expressed optimism that this period would be different because of the energy, relationship and what he has been told about the governor's leadership acumen.

He said: "We are here to understudy how we could really help Kogi State and by extension Nigeria develop its health,

## US-based pharmaceutical company to be established in kogi

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja



Bello

agriculture, technology sectors. And as far as with developing vaccines, other type of medicine."

Mr Davis added that the company also has a sickle cell rapid test which he believed would be able to help monitor some of the sickle cell patients, help save lives, offer more education on how to prevent the disease.

He added that aside from its plan in the

pharmaceutical industry, SIVAD in the areas of agriculture would help develop new technologies for growing food, which could make Nigeria the leader in shipping food and other products throughout Africa.

"The goal is to work closely with some of the key people here, so as to put together a solid plan of execution based on some of our findings and which of our plans to prioritize," he added.

The governor in his remarks noted that Kogi state was on the part of development as it continued to witness business interests from outside the shores of the nation stressing that his administration met the state in shambles and had made conspicuous effort to reverse the trend.

He pointed out that Nigeria remained the trigger point for Africa and Kogi state sits confidently in the centre of the nation's geography hence the state was where things must happen before reflecting in other part of the country.

The governor noted that the State was opened to any investor while he admonished them to feel at home as many of the state officials were on ground to guide them on modes of operation. He added that the government would ensure that their personnel, investments and every other thing were adequately secured.

He promised to give them the necessary cooperation, to ensure that they invested safely in a bid to further encourage other investors into the state. He added that his government was doing its best in the health, education, agriculture by putting in place the needed

## Nigeria Standard reporter's son missing

From LAWAL UMAR ABUBAKAR Bauchi

ONE of the sons of THE NIGERIA STANDARD representative in Bauchi, Lawal Umar Abubakar, Usman Lawal, got missing few minutes after he returned home from school for Eid-el- Kabir Sallah break.

Usman Lawal, a student of former Teachers College Toro, now Government Secondary School in Toro, the headquarters of the local government area, according to the parents returned in good-mood to celebrate the Sallah festival with his parents.

According to the report, Usman returned home at about 12:45pm Friday July 8, 2022, wearing school compound uniform. His mother served him food and after eating the food, he was about to take his bath and go to Jumma'a Mosques and pray, when his senior brother received a call from an unknown person through Usman's phone, asking him where is Usman. He handed the phone to Usman who went outside the house to hear the caller very well. But

unfortunately, that was the last time he was seen.

The report added that earlier on he was consistently telling his sisters that during the Sallah occasion, he would visit his friend in Bauchi who invited him to come and spend the Sallah holiday in his house in Bauchi city, adding that all efforts made by his parents to know his whereabouts proved abortive. However, the security agents have been informed about the incident.

However, the parents are appealing to members of

the general public to help with any information about his where about if it

will help. This should be reported to the nearest police station and the



Alkali

## Police ban Spy vehicle number plates

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE Bauchi State Police Command has banned the use of Police SPY vehicles Number plates by vehicle owners and has directed for strict compliance on enforcement of the order.

This was contained in a press release and made available to newsmen in Bauchi by the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, SP Ahmed Wakili.

"The use of Police SPY Vehicle Number Plates by vehicle owners across

the states of the federation without exceptions, irrespective of whether it has been authorized or unauthorized. All authorizations are hereby revoked indefinitely with immediate effect" the statement said.

The State Commissioner of Police, Umar Sanda while charging the Commander

to ensure the order is professionally enforced to the letter, cautioned motorists in the state to desist from using SPY Number Plates.

The state Police boss warned all Police officers and officers of other security agencies attached to VIPs in the state against the use of the SPY number plates, stressing that they should ensure prompt compliance with these directives.

## Foreign Commentary

# Biden, a builder, as Democrats yearn for fighters

**US President Joe Biden gestures as he delivers remarks after the the US Supreme Court ruled in the *Dobbs v Women's Health Organization* abortion case, overturning the landmark *Roe v Wade* abortion decision, at the White House in Washington, US, June 24, CHRISTOPHER RHODES writes.**

IN 2020, Joe Biden appealed to voters by being many things that Donald Trump was not: a relatable everyman with blue-collar roots; an empathetic avuncular figure; a seasoned statesman and a qualified adult.

His "Build Back Better" slogan was a boring but informative declaration that he was going to restore the things that had been wrecked under Trump. This included the economy of course, but also the political stability and respect for institutions that had been eroded during the Trump presidency – and would be attacked directly once Trump refused to acknowledge his loss.

But many Democrats looking at their candidate as the anti-Trump also hoped that Biden would match Trump's aggressive energy and governance style, but for the goal of progress instead of regressive conservatism. And Biden seemed up for the fight. On the campaign trail, Joe Biden would taunt Donald Trump, saying that he'd love to "take him behind the gym" for a high school-style rumble. And while the prospect of the two septuagenarians battling was rather ridiculous, Biden's rhetoric symbolised the type of "tough guy" politics that many Democrats longed for as a counterweight to Trump.

While Biden has lived up to his reputation for empathy and his record of competence, Democrats in Washington and voters across the country are growing increasingly frustrated by the lack of fight. Despite controlling two of the three branches of government, Democrats seem to still be at the mercy of a Republican Party determined to roll back rights for women and racial and sexual minorities and entrench an arch-conservative, anti-democratic political order.

Democrats are feeling disappointed, if not deceived, that they have only gotten part of the Biden they were promised: the builder but not the brawler. What Biden's supporters – and perhaps Biden himself before sitting in the Oval Office – failed to realise was that the roles of restorer and fighter would come into conflict, and that Biden would reflexively choose the former over the latter nearly every time.

As president, Trump disregarded political norms and decorum to push through his agenda, with a unified Republican Party marching in lockstep. He stacked the courts, funnelled billions of dollars towards a racially motivated border wall, banned Muslims from travelling to the US, and frequently violated governmental norms and actual laws to personally profit from his role as president. When it became clear that Biden was the clear favourite to win the 2020 election, many Democrats looked forward to their turn to govern with the same aggressiveness and singularity of purpose, bipartisanship be damned.

In the weeks leading up to the 2020 election, there were heightened expectations that Biden would have an overwhelming electoral victory and Democrats could gain decisive majorities in Congress, allowing them to expand the Supreme Court into a liberal



**Biden**

majority, pass legislation like voting protections, gun control and some version of the Green New Deal, and maybe even enact statehood for highly Democratic Washington, DC and Puerto Rico, granting a congressional and electoral college advantage.

Instead, the presidential election ended up being closer than expected – though still decisive, despite Trump's dangerous fantasies to the contrary – and control of the Senate manifested as a razor-thin majority. This meant that simply returning to the pre-Trump status quo became a series of fights against a recalcitrant and obstructionist GOP who have used the Senate filibuster, conservative Supreme Court supermajority, and unified Republican control of nearly half of state governments to expand a conservative agenda to restrict voting rights, repeal or limit abortion, scale back LGBTQ protections, and more.

With the Republicans seeming to accomplish as much now as they did when they were formally in power, fingers are increasingly pointing towards Biden and his seeming unwillingness to put up a fight.

While the frustration is understandable given the string of conservative victories against rights – except for gun rights, of course – we shouldn't be surprised by Biden's actions, or inactions.

For better or worse, Biden is exactly who Democrats elected. The scrappiness of the campaign has not so much disappeared as it has been limited to the confines of the existing political structure and alignments.

Biden believes in the institutions of American democracy and the US political system. Of course, he does. In contrast to Donald Trump – who never before held an elected political office and who has consistently acted with little regard

to the limits of political office or the sanctity of elections – Biden has been in Washington for nearly 50 years and naturally believes in the system to which he's dedicated his life.

Biden believes that preserving the rules of the Senate, such as the filibuster, or refraining from the partisan expansion of the Supreme Court are important norms for constraining and maintaining the larger political apparatus of the government.

If he pushes harder to eliminate the filibuster in the US Senate or expand the court or uses executive authority to bypass the spirit of the court's ruling on abortion rights, Republicans will be able to use these same tactics when they are in power. And perhaps even more importantly, Biden sees using these tactics would undermine the legitimacy of these institutions, which will cause long-term damage that he fears would be more devastating than the specific rights reversals that are being enacted by the GOP.

For Biden's increasingly frustrated supporters, however, this restraint begs a question: if the current assaults on Americans' rights and on American democracy itself are not enough to risk some damage to the system, what is?

What good are institutions if the rights they're meant to uphold have been systematically eroded to the point of oblivion? If pressed, Biden would argue that a Republican government could do a lot more damage than it does now if it could pass any national legislation with a simple majority that the Democrats couldn't block and if it could restructure the courts at will to uphold any interpretation of the Constitution that fit the GOP agenda.

But the GOP is becoming increasingly radicalised and unconcerned with institutional continuity and political legitimacy.

Most of the party publicly espouses the Big Lie about a stolen election, the ultimate challenge to the legitimacy of our political system, while downplaying the insurrection that physically attacked the most fundamental institutions of American democracy. Even if Democrats preserve the filibuster, maintain the current size of the Supreme Court or show restraint in their use of executive power, there's little reason to expect that Republicans will follow suit.

Remember that Mitch McConnell has already used every trick in his arsenal to manipulate the composition of the Supreme Court. It was McConnell and Senate Republicans who created a non-existent "election year" norm to block President Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland; implemented a filibuster exception for Supreme Court nominees to push through Trump's nominees, and violated the election year rule they had created in order to rush through Amy Coney Barrett's nomination and confirmation.

At the state level, Republicans are changing election laws to not only make it harder for Democrats – especially Black ones – to vote, but creating laws and procedures that would allow partisan political appointees to throw out election results they oppose – essentially, creating a legal framework for the type of antidemocratic election-rigging that Trump attempted after the 2020 vote.

Still, Biden would probably argue, if pressed, Republicans could go much farther than they have already, and Democratic moves to "rig" the system could give them the cover they need to do even more damage.

It was Democrats, for instance, who initially created a filibuster exception for non-Supreme Court judicial nominees, allowing McConnell to justify extending this exception to the confirmation

process for justices.

While this is true, it may not be relevant. It's not immediately obvious that Republicans are constrained by norms or Democratic example. If the current GOP finds itself in a position where it could enact a major piece of its agenda by expanding the Supreme Court or creating a new filibuster exception, I have little doubt that a large core within the GOP would take these moves without hesitation and a larger contingent of Republican policymakers would remain afraid to challenge their radically conservative colleagues.

In this light, Biden's refusal to fight for voting rights or use additional tools to expand reproductive options resembles unilateral disarmament. And failing to use all the weapons available to Democrats right now endangers the very system that Biden wants to protect. Republicans have demonstrated an unwillingness to protect anything except their own agenda, even at the cost of American institutions or democracy itself. If Biden finally comes to see the Republican agenda as the existential threat to American democracy that it is, there is yet hope that he will put up more of a fight to defend the political system to which he has devoted most of his life.

Biden has proven as a candidate and president that he is not an ideologue, but that he is adaptable. Even as a candidate, he notably shifted left on a variety of issues as public opinion shifted and more progressive policies that were once seen as subversive became compatible with the existing system. As president, Biden has continued to change his positions in practical but progressive ways.

In light of the recent Supreme Court decision to end abortion rights, Biden has become more willing to use executive power to mitigate the court's decision, issuing an executive order to protect access to medical abortion drugs and limit the possibility that patient and consumer records from being used to prosecute individuals.

At a time when only a quarter of Americans have confidence in the Supreme Court, Biden has also become less concerned with protecting the legitimacy of the court; he now accuses the conservative justices of playing "fast and loose with the facts" in making their anti- *Roe v Wade* ruling

For many, these legal and rhetorical moves are much too little and far too late, but they do indicate that Biden may be amenable to stepping up his fight. If Biden eventually embraces the idea of an America under fundamental attack from within, he may finally reconcile the two sides of his appeal, the builder and the fighter, acknowledging that both are necessary for defending Americans' rights and American democracy.

**The views expressed in this article are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance.**

## Foreign News

### Erdogan holds talks with Iranian leaders before summit

TURKEY's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has held talks with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi on improving bilateral relations in Tehran, in advance of the arrival of Russian President Vladimir Putin for a trilateral summit.

The Turkish president arrived in the Iranian capital late Monday at the head of a large delegation that included several ministers from his cabinet.

He received an official welcome from Raisi on Tuesday at the Saadabad Palace, where meetings with heads of state take place.

Erdogan and Raisi were then received by Khamenei for further discussions.

Putin is expected to arrive later on Tuesday for the trilateral summit with the two presidents in the "Astana format", with Syria on the agenda.

The fallout from the war in Ukraine and food security is also expected to be discussed in the meetings between the leaders.

A Russian plane landed at the



**Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei meets with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran, Iran**

Mehrabad Airport in Tehran late on Monday but it did not carry Putin.

Iran has been eyeing a long-term cooperation agreement with neighbouring Turkey for some time. The document was initially supposed to be signed during a planned Erdogan visit to Tehran in November 2021, but it did not materialise.

The two countries have been major trade partners for years, but bilateral trade has taken a serious hit in recent years due to United States sanctions on Iran and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The total volume of bilateral trade peaked at \$21bn in 2012,

but dropped to a low of \$1bn in 2020. It had rebounded to \$5.5bn by the end of 2021, and the Raisi administration – which has focused on a regional diplomacy initiative – wants to significantly boost it despite US sanctions.

Turkey has been trying to develop closer ties with Iran's arch foe Israel, and last month hosted now-caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid.

Turkey also said last month that it had foiled an alleged Iranian plot to kill Israeli citizens in Istanbul, a charge Iran denied.

Source: Al Jazeera

FRANCE has secured promises of new energy supplies from the United Arab Emirates after talks between President Emmanuel Macron and UAE leader Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan in Paris.

The UAE has emerged as a key partner for Western countries as they scramble for energy deals worldwide to replace imports from sanctions-hit Russia.

Sheikh Mohamed, also known as MBZ, was on his first overseas state visit since taking office in May following the death of his half-brother Sheikh Khalifa.

After lunch between the two heads of state on Monday, a deal between French energy giant TotalEnergies and UAE state oil company ADNOC was signed "for cooperation in the area of energy supplies".

Macron's aides had said before the meeting that France was eager to secure diesel from the strategic Middle Eastern nation.

"The UAE is keen to support energy security in the world in general and in France in particular," Sheikh Mohamed told Macron,

### France secure energy deal with UAE



**Macron and Sheikh Mohamed speak as UAE industry minister Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber and TotalEnergies group CEO Patrick Pouyanne sign documents at the Grand Trianon of Versailles palace near Paris**

according to Emirati state news agency WAM.

Macron welcomes Sheikh Mohamed at the Elysee Palace in Paris [File: Benoit Tessier/Reuters]

Before the trip, his diplomatic adviser Anwar Gargash had stressed how the UAE was looking to reorient its supplies towards Europe.

"We have sold our oil to the far east for 40 years and now we are directing it toward Europe in this time of crisis," he told reporters.

The UAE president's visit to France came after US President Joe Biden's first Middle East tour as president, which included a visit to Saudi Arabia for energy talks.

Macron and Biden were overheard talking about energy supplies from the Middle East at a G7 summit at the end of June in Germany.

Macron told Biden that he had spoken to Sheikh Mohamed who had said he was at his "maximum" in

terms of oil production, but that the Saudis had some spare capacity.

Macron, Sheikh Mohamed and French first lady Brigitte Macron arrive at a state dinner, at the Grand Trianon in Versailles [File: Thomas Padilla/Pool via Reuters]

Human Rights Watch said Macron's "search for alternative supplies seems likely to reinforce France and the UAE's already close ties".

But the welcome in Paris "should not include giving the crown prince a pass on the UAE's atrocious human rights record", it said in a statement on its website.

The New York-based group pointed to the repression of political opposition, discrimination against the LGBTQ community, and the abuse of domestic workers.

Western sanctions against the Russian energy sector following President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine mean many countries face shortfalls.

Analysts warn about possible shortages later this year, particularly if Russia further reduces its gas exports to Europe.

### Heatwave: Ferocious European heat heads north

IN France and the UK extreme heat warnings were issued while northern Spain recorded temperatures of 43C (109F).

Deadly wildfires in France, Portugal, Spain and Greece have forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

The UK is expected to see its hottest day on record and experts say parts of France face a "heat apocalypse".

Two people were killed by forest fires in Spain's north-western Zamora region and trains in the area were halted because of fire near the tracks. An elderly couple died while trying to escape fires in northern Portugal.

Several parts of France saw their hottest-ever days with the western city of Nantes recording 42C, the national weather office said.

Wildfires in recent days forced more than 30,000 people to flee, with emergency shelters set up for evacuees. A zoo with 1,000 animals was among the areas evacuated.

Gironde, a popular tourist region in the south-west, has been hit particularly badly, with firefighters from across France battling to control two blazes that have destroyed 19,300 hectares (47,700 acres) of land in the past week. The city of Bordeaux was blanketed by smoke early on Tuesday as the wind changed direction.

"The idea that comes into my head is, it's a monster," said Jean-Luc Gleyze, Gironde's regional president.

"It's a monster like an octopus, and it's growing and growing in the front, in the back, on both sides. Because of the temperature, because of the wind, because of the lack of water in the air... it's a

monster and it's very difficult to fight against it."

Temperatures that hovered around 40C on Monday are predicted to drop on Tuesday - but that may not bring immediate relief, as long as dry conditions and changeable winds persist, the BBC's Lucy Williamson reports from Gironde.

The hottest temperatures have now moved to the north and east. Hundreds of people have had to leave their homes in the far north-west of Brittany, and fire has destroyed 1,400 hectares of vegetation.

The UK had one of its

hottest days on record on Monday, with a high of 38.1C recorded in Suffolk, in eastern England. Forecasters say Tuesday could see temperatures top 40C, with extreme heat warnings covering central, northern and south-east England.

There were severe travel disruptions with trains cancelled and flights at London's Luton Airport suspended when part of the runway buckled under the searing heat.

On Monday, the Netherlands recorded its hottest day of the year so far

at 33.6C and temperatures were expected to top 39C on Tuesday in some areas.

Forecasters say the heatwave is heading north, with the mercury expected to hit 40C in the far south of Belgium as well as western and southwestern Germany. Germany's DWD weather service recorded a national record temperature of 41.2C in the city of Duisburg in July 2019 and spokesman Andreas Friedrich said similar highs were possible on Tuesday in similar areas along the River Rhine.

### US lawmakers denounce blacklisting of Palestinian NGOs

A group of United States legislators has urged the Biden administration to publicly reject Israel's labelling of six Palestinian human rights organisations as "terrorist" groups, in the latest international push against the Israeli decision.

In a letter addressed to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines 21 members of Congress – all Democrats – decried the absence of available evidence backing the Israeli allegations against the Palestinian organisations.

"Furthermore, repressive tactics such as criminalizing organizations must not be used to suppress or deny the right to freedom of association, or to quash political dissent, or limit the peaceful activities of civil society."

Israel blacklisted the six leading Palestinian human rights and civil society organisations in October 2021 over alleged links to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) political faction.

The order by the Israeli

defence ministry practically outlawed Al-Haq, Defence for Children International-Palestine, the Bisan Center for Research and Development, the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees and Addameer.

"These groups work directly with Palestinian women and girls, children, low-income families, prisoners, and civil society activists, providing direct services and monitoring human rights abuses by both Israeli and Palestinian authorities," the US legislators said on Monday.

The letter requested a briefing from Biden administration officials with the signatories to discuss the designation and the purported evidence that Israel said it provided to Washington to justify the blacklisting of the groups.

"Evidence justifying this designation has not been provided publicly or to all Members of Congress, despite multiple requests," it said. "We urge you to publicly reject this decision, call on the Israeli government to



**Ayanna**

reverse course, confirm a date for an inter-agency briefing with the below signatories, and provide a report to Congress on your efforts within 30 days."

Over the past months, numerous international bodies and foreign governments have denounced the Israeli move, but Washington has yet to articulate a clear position on whether it believes the blacklisting was justified.

Last month, a State Department spokesperson told Al Jazeera in an email that "the

US government has not designated any of the organisations in question, nor have we provided funding to any of these groups".

The spokesperson added that the US made clear to Israel and the Palestinian Authority that "independent civil society organisations in the West Bank and in Israel must be able to continue their important work".

Monday's letter comes shortly after President Joe Biden returned from his first trip to the Middle East, in which

he visited Israel and promised to bolster US-Israeli ties.

Since coming into office in January 2021, Biden and his top aides generally have shied away from openly criticising Israel. But Washington's European allies have been more explicit in rejecting the Israeli decision concerning the Palestinian NGOs.

Earlier this month, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden issued a statement rejecting the blacklisting of the groups. It said Israel did not provide "substantial information" to back its allegations, stressing that a "free and strong civil society is indispensable for promoting democratic values and for the two-state solution".

The European Commission also recently resumed funding for the organisations after a months-long suspension.

The UN Human Rights Council had denounced the Israeli decision, as well, while Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International called the move "appalling and unjust" in a joint statement last year.

## Feature

# APC Christian must take a stand

**It is no longer news that the All Progressives Congress, (APC) Presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu has decided to seek for the office of the President of Nigeria during the forthcoming polls in 2023 through the Muslim – Muslim ticket. This verdict came to fruition after he ratified former Executive Governor of Borno State, Kashim Shettima, a Muslim from the north east region to be his running mate for the elections. BULUS GAMBO, writes.**

LET us not forget that before Shettima's most recent designation, there were quite a variety of eligible outstanding and high ranking Christian politicians both from the North East and North Central regions who were initially considered for the slot. These people were by every standard reputable and thoughtful individuals who had served or are still serving this nation with virtue and respectability in all their fields of intellectual endeavors.

All these Christian leaders were not eventually considered to be worthy by the APC caucus or by the former Lagos State Governor, Ahmed Bola Tinubu himself.

By Tinubu's calculations inherently, it was subsequently born out of this usual fallacious hypothesis that since democracy and elections are all about numerical strength and advantage; it was quite pertinent for him to against all odds test-try this shunned option to achieve his set objective. The analogy is that, Tinubu believes that picking a Muslim running mate would afford him secure more votes particularly from the north east than doing otherwise. Already misguided by these selfish core northern elements, the former Lagos State Governor equally believes that no Christian running mate can pull an outstanding numerical figure to help thicken his endeavor of getting the number one job in the country. In any case, since his wife is a Deaconess in her Church, the Christian faithful in the country should be persuaded that their interest would also be insulated.

After all, Tinubu just as his other southern peers who hinged their calculations on the notion that the north is predominantly Muslim dominated while the south is predominantly Christian think that such a political calculation is one of the best applicable in most recent times.

Interestingly, the adherents of this same dogma from the kernel of the northern region have convinced and also stood by him that indeed, Christians in the north are insignificant and may not undermine his venture. They have brainwashed him into believing that contemporary political maneuvering have no moral considerations, a spirit of integration and that of deliberate inclusion. Their positional standing on this issue of political segregation has been and still is, when it comes to politicking, such sacrifices are obviously too hard to consider and or make as far as the caliphate's resounding unpalatable intrigues are concern.

These past few days, we have continued to witness religious fanatics and bigots justifying this sinister and divisive sentiment endorsed by Tinubu and his cohorts. They have unrepentantly continued to display various placards defending their fallaciously perceived notion that Christians are insignificant and should be treated with outmost disrespect in the region and by extension in Nigeria at large. This gesture is indeed not only highly provocative, dangerous and or demeaning but in its entirety very subjugatory and unacceptable by all and every standard. It is an insult on Christians for any politician in Nigeria to openly declare that no Christian anywhere in this nation is competent to hold any kind of office.

The other day, I also heard one of these misled clerics struggling to convince his brothers that "how can Christians who are confined to marrying one wife compare their population with the Muslim Ummah



Tinubu

who are at liberty to marry four wives and have many children?". Before I go further digesting this myopic approach to substantiating his claims, I must sincerely note with all sense of integrity and respect that I have quite a few honest Muslim friends who would never descend so low in their thoughts and or degrade their intellectual capacity in an attempt to score cheap publicity as such. In fact, I have a few others who against their integrity will never buy the idea of fronting a Muslim-Muslim ticket during the forthcoming presidential polls in 2023 after knowing too well how it's outcome would be.

On the contrary however, there are many of such dogmatized clerics who can go extra length to ensuring that Tinubu wins elections on this ticket at all cost. Even amongst some Christian brothers of ours, a few of them are still convinced that placarding such a divisive and dangerous ticket is nothing to be worried about. For most of them who hail from the southern part of this country and have little knowledge of the dilemma Christian minorities up north are facing, any of such protest of political

exclusiveness is regarded as counterproductive in its entirety.

To be blunt, all will agree with yours sincerely that this was not the first time a Muslim-Muslim ticket is coming to play in the annals of our nation's history.

In 1993, when Chief MKO Abiola employed same gimmick which eventually saw him and Alhaji Babagana Kingibe contesting on the platform of the SDP against Alhaji Bashir Tofa and his Christian running mate of the NRC, Sylvester Ugoh,

not many knew the resultant pressure mounted on him before he succumbed to such a political ideology. But again, at that time, Nigeria was not as polarized to the extend of what we are experiencing today. Not long after coming out of decades of oppressive military misrule then, most citizens were only thinking of a more enabling ground for sustainable democratization caring less about other pending issues.

Today, the entire process of primary elections has become so complex and intriguing. Unlike that which was obtainable in the past; Nigerians also ask more question if they are not comfortable with any political arrangements.

Unlike that which was obtainable in the past, candidates are not forcefully pushed down the throats of electorates without resistance.

Base on these calculations, Tinubu must have been living in the past and would not have imagined that such an era was gone with the wind. But Tinubu alone must not be totally blamed over the quagmire APC has found itself in right now.

Those who have followed with keen interest this unfolding development ought to have decoded the fact that the party was periodically changing its antics and inculcating exclusive ideologies and embarking on lopsided appointments which were quite detrimental to the corporate existence of the nation. Just imagine when it became so obvious that Christians were removed from key and strategic positions and replaced by Muslims by this incumbent administration. While our Christian brothers and sisters were left at bay, and Muslims given juicy appointments, Buhari was quick to defend his lopsided appointment saying that his choice was based on competence and those he could trust. Consequently, at a point, the first in the annals of this nation's history, all security heads was of a single faith. Then, we began to notice that other strategic and key offices in the hierarchy of government were isolated for a particular set and or class of people.

This was the same game plan which was activated but not quite comprehended by our Christian politicians in the country. To further re-emphasize that northern Christians are no longer relevant in the scheme of things, Bola Ahmed Tinubu finally let the cat out of the bag by saying that "there was no Christian who is competent to occupy the seat of the vice president in the entire northern region of the country. For the fact that the leader of the party, President Mohammadu Buhari, Senate President, Ahmed Lawal, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila all Muslims and other stakeholders within the party hierarchy saw nothing wrong with this combination, then there is certainly more to it than meet the eye. Not surprising, many of the stakeholders in the APC after digesting this uncharitable remarks by Tinubu have picked up courage to do the needful. Some of them have already described the APC Presidential candidate's remarks as a huge embarrassment to the entire body of Christ and left the party as a sign of protest.

Though it may not be logical for all Christians to abandon the party in protest, a few of these Christian APC stalwarts who are still justifying Tinubu's unfortunate comments are really a disappointment to us all. In fact, we are presently tempted to ask how Christian are some of these brothers of ours in the APC? I have also heard some people proffering an option that since there are other parties available, Christians should stay mute and only express themselves through the ballot box which is an element of fact. However, I still believe that it will not be out of place if our Christian politicians and corporate bodies take a stand on this issue. Yours sincerely is vehemently of the opinion that our Christian brothers in APC must also take a stand on this matter for posterity sake even if they desire to stay back in their party.

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**Though it may not be logical for all Christians to abandon the party in protest, a few of these Christian APC stalwarts who are still justifying Tinubu's unfortunate comments are really a disappointment to us all. In fact, we are presently tempted to ask how Christian are some of these brothers of ours in the APC? I have also heard some people proffering an option that since there are other parties available, Christians should stay mute and only express themselves through the ballot box which is an element of fact. However, I still believe that it will not be out of place if our Christian politicians and corporate bodies take a stand on this issue.**  
 ”

# THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Parenting

By **DAN BRENNAN**

# Depression in children

### CAN Children Really Have Depression?

Yes. Childhood depression is different from the normal "blues" and everyday emotions that children go through as they develop. Just because a child seems sad doesn't necessarily mean they have significant depression. But if the sadness becomes persistent or interferes with normal social activities, interests, schoolwork, or family life, it may mean they have a depressive illness. Keep in mind that while depression is a serious illness, it's also a treatable one.

### How Can I Tell if My Child Is Depressed?

The symptoms of depression in children vary. The condition is often undiagnosed and untreated because symptoms are passed off as normal emotional and psychological changes. Early medical studies focused on "masked" depression, where a child's depressed mood was evidenced by acting out or angry behavior. While this does happen, particularly in younger children, many children display sadness or low mood similar to adults who are depressed. The primary symptoms of depression revolve around sadness, a feeling of hopelessness, and mood changes.

Signs and symptoms of depression in children include:

- Crankiness or anger
- Continuous feelings of sadness and hopelessness
- Social withdrawal
- Being more sensitive to rejection
- Changes in appetite, either increased or decreased
- Changes in sleep (sleeplessness or excessive sleep)
- Vocal outbursts or crying
- Trouble concentrating
- Fatigue and low energy
- Physical complaints (such as stomachaches and headaches) that don't respond to treatment
- Trouble during events and activities at home or with friends, in school, during extracurricular activities, and with other hobbies or interests
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- Impaired thinking or concentration
- Thoughts of death or suicide



Not all children have all of these symptoms. In fact, most will show different symptoms at different times and in different settings. Although some children may continue to do reasonably well in structured environments, most kids with significant depression will have a noticeable change in social activities, loss of interest in school,

poor academic performance, or a change in appearance. Children may also begin using drugs or alcohol, especially if they are over age 12.

Although relatively rare in youths under 12, young children do attempt suicide -- and may do so impulsively when they are upset or angry. Girls are more likely to attempt suicide, but boys are more likely to actually kill themselves when they make an attempt. Children with a family history of violence, alcohol abuse, or physical or sexual abuse are at greater risk for suicide, as are those with depressive symptoms.

### What Causes Depression in Children?

As in adults, depression in children can be caused by any combination of things that relate to physical health, life events, family history, environment, genetic vulnerability, and biochemical disturbance. Depression is not a passing mood, nor is it a condition that will go away without proper treatment.

### Can Depression in Children Be Prevented?

Children with a family history of depression are also at higher risk of depression. Children who have parents with depression tend to have their first episode of depression earlier than children whose parents don't have the condition. Children from chaotic or conflicted families, or children and teens who abuse substances like alcohol and drugs, are also at greater risk of depression.

### How Is Depression Diagnosed in Children?

If the symptoms of depression in your child have lasted for at least 2

weeks, schedule a visit with their doctor to make sure there are no physical reasons for the symptoms and to make sure that your child gets proper treatment. A consultation with a mental health care professional who specializes in children is also recommended. Keep in mind that the pediatrician may ask to speak with your child alone.

A mental health evaluation should include interviews with you (the parent or primary caregiver) and your child, and any other psychological testing that is needed. Information from teachers, friends, and classmates can be useful for showing that these symptoms are consistent during your child's various activities and are a marked change from previous behavior.

There are no specific medical or psychological tests that can clearly show depression, but tools such as questionnaires (for both the child and parents), combined with personal information, can be very useful in helping diagnose depression in children. Sometimes those therapy sessions and questionnaires can uncover other concerns that contribute to depression such as ADHD, conduct disorder, and OCD.

Some pediatricians start using mental health screens at a child's 11th-year well visit and each year after.

The United States Preventive Service Task Force recommends screening for anxiety in children and adolescents ages 8 to 18 years and screening for major depressive disorder (MDD) in adolescents ages 12 to 18 years.

### What Are the Treatment Options?

Treatment options for children with depression are similar to those for adults, including psychotherapy (counseling) and medication.

Most medications used to treat depression in children have a black box warning about the possibility of increasing suicidal thoughts. It is important to start and monitor these medications under the care of a trained professional and talk with them about the potential risks and benefits for your child.

### Long-Term Outlook

Studies have found that first-time depression in children is happening at younger ages than previously. As in adults, depression may come back later in life. Depression often appears at the same time as other physical illnesses. And because studies have shown that depression may precede more serious mental illness later in life, diagnosis, early treatment, and close monitoring are crucial.

As a parent, it is sometimes easier to deny that your child has depression. You may put off seeking help because of the social stigmas associated with mental illness. It is very important for you -- as the parent -- to understand depression and realize the importance of treatment so that your child may continue to grow physically and emotionally in a healthy way. It is also important to seek education about the future effects depression may have on your child throughout adolescence and adulthood.

Source



# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

# Recognize and handle manipulation in relationships

By SYLVIA SMITH

Have you ever been in a relationship that had you thinking that your partner had put a "spell" on you?

And not the good kind of spell, like one that allows you to have superpowers, but a spell that seemed to make you do things that you weren't fully convinced were in line with who you viewed yourself to be?

Could it be that you were being manipulated in your relationship?

Manipulation in relationships is subtle, and because of this, it is difficult to see when it is happening.

**What is manipulation in relationships**

Manipulation refers to controlling or influencing someone to do something they do not want or not do something they want.

**Common manipulation tactics**

Have you often asked yourself, "Am I being manipulated?" but are not sure?

Manipulators use different manipulation tactics in relationships to manipulate the other person and influence their decisions. These can be the following manipulation techniques in relationships:

- abusive
- deceptive
- underhanded

Manipulative behavior in relationships is part of an emotionally abusive pattern. The manipulator uses unhealthy relationship manipulation tactics to control their partner.

It is hard for the person being manipulated to see or confront because it is not an overt abuse, visible to the outside world like physical violence. They only know that something is not quite right with how they are being treated.

Not sure how manipulation works? Let's look at some of the signs of manipulation in marriage or relationships.

**Your partner is controlling**

The need for total control is a blaring red flag and the number



one sign of a manipulative relationship.

Does your partner often dictate when and where they will see you? Do you need to conform to their schedule, and when you suggest an alternative, do they pout, get upset, or freeze you out with the silent treatment?

**Making you feel guilty**

Inducing guilt into someone can cause a lot of distress. Guilt is known to influence our conscious and unconscious minds.

The manipulative partner uses guilt-tripping to make you do certain things that you might not be comfortable doing.

In a normal healthy relationship, decisions are discussed and considered by the two of you. You spend time going over the pros and cons of any big life decision; In a manipulative relationship, the manipulator makes the decision unilaterally.

If you voice any disagreement, they will try to guilt you into agreeing with their decision.

**Using emotional blackmail to get you to stay in the relationship**

Let's say you have recognized the unhealthy nature of your relationship. You've decided to end it. But when you broach the subject of splitting up, your partner tells you that they will kill themselves if you leave.

Using the threat of suicide is, sadly, another typical behavior in a manipulative relationship. It combines a heavy hit of control, fear, and guilt to get you to remain.

While it may be difficult for you, you must not be tricked by this threat.

**4. Gaslighting**

Gaslighting is a verb used to describe someone manipulating someone psychologically to the point of questioning their own

sanity. This is a terrible thing to do to someone you claim to love. It can make them feel disoriented, crazy, and emotionally unstable.

Signs of gaslighting include:

- Telling blatant lies
- Not living up to their word
- Verbally or physically attacking things you love (such as your children)
- Using positive reinforcement after being verbally belittling as a method of confusion
- Projecting their faults onto you (for example, they are secretly having an affair but will project this guilt by constantly accusing you of being unfaithful)
- Denying the truth, even when proof is presented
- Turning friends or family against you
- Telling others that you are a liar

Research shows that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience intimate abuse that results in fearfulness, post-traumatic stress disorder, and the use of a victim service such as a hotline. Gaslighting is a form of abuse that is commonly used to manipulate and control a spouse. **Isolation from friends and family**

Abusers and manipulators will often use the method of isolation as a means to control you.

*They will cut you off from close friends, refuse to let you go out with them, and may even try to move you far away from where your family lives.*

When you don't have the support of friends and family, it

makes it more difficult to leave an abusive relationship. You don't have the constant reassurance from loved ones that your partner is not treating you well.

The farther your spouse can get you from friends and family, the easier it will be for them to control you.

**Using love as a weapon**

The oxytocin released from physical intimacy, be it holding hands, making love or just cuddling together on the couch, has been shown to promote bonding and making partners more trusting of one another.

These are beneficial qualities to spouses in a healthy relationship, but for those in a toxic one, these can actually do more harm than good. Trusting a partner who doesn't have your best interest at heart and having an emotional attachment to them can make you stay in a toxic relationship longer than you should.

Having these strong bonded emotions can also make it easier for your partner to use your love for them against you. Phrases like "If you loved me you would..." and "You said you would do anything for me" become a twisted form of control.

**Playing the victim**

*Emotional or physical blackmail is another common form of manipulation in relationships.*

You may think that most people do not have devastating secrets to be used as blackmail, but the truth is that technology has given partners plenty of ammunition to coerce their spouses.

**To be continued.**



**Editorial**

**Osun State election: Lessons learnt**

**THE outcome of the just concluded Osun State governorship election has been described as a testimony to the fact that votes do count especially in the era of electronic voting.**

**ADEMOLA Adeleke of the main opposition party PDP, from Osun West Senatorial District emerged as winner, defeating the incumbent governor, Gboyega Oyetola of the ruling party, APC. This win is also symbolic because the baton of leadership had often been exchanged between 2 main senatorial districts: Osun Central and Osun East.**

**ADELEKE polled 403,371 votes as against Governor Oyetola's 375,027 votes to break the norm of marginalization that Osun West Senatorial District had suffered in the past. This has also given hope to marginalized sections in Nigeria.**

**APC's defeat is a monumental blow for the ruling party and the incumbent. It is also a bitter pill to swallow for the Presidential flag bearer of the party, Asiwaju Tinubu who hails from Osun State.**

**RECALL that Adeleke contested in 2018 but was denied his mandate even when all indicators were in his favour. The people of Osun may have seen his second outing as a payback time and decided to pitch their tent with him.**

**ADELEKE flew a Christian/Christian ticket in a Muslim dominated area and still swept the votes. It is undeniable that the people of Osun have spoken loudly through their votes. The power of incumbency did not sway them or influenced their votes.**

**WE commend INEC for a job well done. It was reported that their officials were punctual, effective and efficient. The physically challenged were also given the latitude to vote with ease.**

**SECURITY operatives did their utmost best to keep peace and order. IGP Usman Baba Alkali deployed about 21,000 police operatives, apart from Army, Navy, NDLEA, FRSC, Civil Defence, DSS, Fire Service, Customs, Immigration. To their credit, the election was hitch free, orderly and peaceful.**

**OSUN residents deserve a pat on their backs for the huge voter turnout and for maintaining peace and order.**

**NEVERTHELESS, the election was said to have been characterized by massive vote buying. Some voters disclosed that they collected the money offered by either of the 2 main parties- APC and PDP but still voted candidates of their choice. This is a plus for the Nigerian electorate who are beginning to know their rights.**

**CONTRARY to voters' claims, a former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the PDP, Mr Diran Odeyemi said some voters requested money from political parties before casting their votes for them. He warned that the trend, if not checked could affect the country's democratic process.**

**THREE people were arrested by EFCC for vote buying in Osun. They were seen with bags of cash in the process of inducing voters during election. The act of vote buying portends great danger for our democratic journey. If not curbed, we will always end up with the highest bidder not the best hand.**

**WE also commend Federal Government for investing much to ensure a free, fair, rancor-free, peaceful election. It was an opportunity to test run every technology at their disposal and improve on those with challenges against 2023.**

**WE join other Nigerians to congratulate Mr. Adeleke. However, the governor elect should know that to whom much is given, much is expected. All eyes are on him.**

BUILDING on the conception of Thomas Hobbes, the life of a common man in Nigeria is absolutely brutish, nasty, solitary, poor and short. Nigeria is an entity that exist in perception, our nation at present is enveloped with phantom of none existing realities, characterize of torments, evil, hatred, selfishness, greed, premonitory misfortune among many other diabolic factors. Nigeria has repeatedly violated the social country theory as a result of tyrannic crop of leaders full of insatiable ambitions and greed.

The nature and character of our democratic ideals eventually conceived and delivered from multiple misfortunes in our country. This is a country without going into war unlike Zimbabwe, Kenya, South African countries who went into war to express their demand for independence.

Today, series of systematic killings and attacks on innocent citizens across the country has taken a new dimension and a voice of silence has enveloped justice due to centrifugal forces cum diabolical factors. Brutality of voiceless citizens has become the order of the day. Senseless attacks on the innocent souls have increased exponentially.

Most painful, these existential crime and nasty occurrences we have in Nigeria as a people prove somewhat difficult to circumvent. The cumulative influence of obsequiousness and observable obscenities have dampened the peace and security of our country, Nigeria. Worst still, a common man in Nigeria is not only a prisoner but a shadow of his own living as a slave without a responsible government. An average Nigerian now live a solitude life or better still a lonely wolf.

The word poverty on the one hand has become a daily slogan on the lips of



**The present Nigeria**

Nigerians despite the abundance of human and natural resources in Nigeria. Today, some political leaders deliberately prefer to store food in different ware houses just to fuel the high cost of food in the country. Many Nigerian citizens as we speak are out there purely surviving on water and expecting the very day God will take their lives. The very same people who are subjected to untold hardship are at the same time expected to sing glorious songs when the so called elites class manipulate and rig elections. Our leaders seriously need forgiveness from God not from the masses and must judiciously utilize their positions to deliver dividends of democracy at any level of leadership.

As quoted by a famous scholar, Aristotle, state exist for the sake of

people and continue to exist for the sake of good life, that man outside the state is a beast. Paradoxically, the nature and character of our contemporary society is a paradox of Aristotle's perception of an ideal state, today, the Machiavellian political ideology has overshadowed our democracy and the ideology of leadership sustainability and maintenance of status quo has become a prima facie.

Life in Nigeria has become a life of class struggle between the rich and the poor. The elite class are conservatively minded and the poor masses are revolutionary conscious. At the height of it all, the poor man is at the lose side, hence has nothing to wage war with..

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**Of elections and right to choose**

IT is a fact that democracy is simply defined as government for the people by the people and of the people. This is no doubt a system that gives citizens rights to participate fully in politics when it comes to election time for the people to elect leaders that would represent them at different levels or offices.

It was in view of this system of government that the people of Osun State in the South West of Nigeria on July 16, 2022 came out to exercise their civic rights by electing a democratic leader that would govern the state for the next four years as a governor as provided by the Nigerian Constitution.

The peaceful conduct of this election that has come and gone, indeed confirmed that the electorate have begun to think inside not outside the box, particularly when it comes to issues that are capable of sparking up violence either before, during or after election.

The Osun polls should as a matter of fact serve as an eye opener for Nigerian electorate now that the 2023 general elections is fast approaching for people to go out and make choices of the leaders

that are going to represent them through the ballot papers.

Certainly, the peaceful conduct of the Osun election did not witness any voter apathy because the people were ready or out to massively vote the candidate of their choice. As reported, despite some cases of the so called vote buying by some candidates, the people were said to have received money from the candidates who insisted on vote buying and perhaps voted against such politicians.

With this kind of pace set from Osun recently conducted gubernatorial election, it therefore, behooves on all and sundry in the country to shun politicians who belief in money bag syndrome in politics

It may interest you to know that the people of Osun have really spoken through their votes by voting out the incumbent governor who is from the ruling party, APC and elect the candidate of the PDP. Senator Adeleke was the People's choice to unseat the incumbent.

It is equally believed that the new governor elect, was elected based on credibility not because of candidate's platform or party. Nigerian electorate, should from now henceforth see election beyond financial inducement and party so that credible leaders will always be elected into various offices.

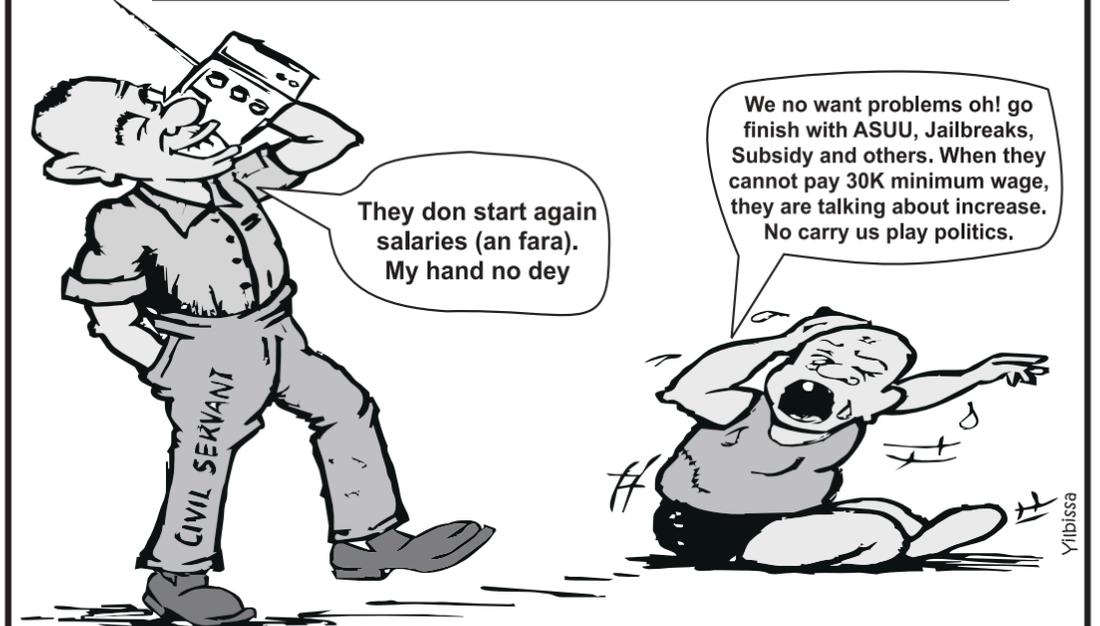
In fact, the success story of the just concluded Osun election cannot be complete without saying a job well done to the INEC for conducting a free and fair polls. Nigerians should commend INEC for making election very interesting, particularly with the improve technology through the use of BVAS which election would no longer be rigged. This is because any vote cast is transmitted direct into INEC sever, therefore, if it is maintained the era of rigging is now gone.

Our security agencies should also be applauded for playing significant role before, during and after the election, especially for maintaining law and order. This was achieved with the support and cooperation of the Osun people.

By **JIDAUNA DARING.**

**Standard Cartoon**

**FED. GOVT. PLAN TO INCREASE SALARY**



## Opinion

# Human augmentation, anticipation initiative and African youths

By LEO IGWE

HUMAN Augmentation projects the capacitation of human beings beyond their natural abilities and limitations. It is a basic aspiration of human beings and has been going on since the emergence of humans. Human enhancement is both physical and cognitive and promises to cure and overcome diseases and disabilities that encumber and debilitate human existence. Interestingly, human augmentation is one of the themes of this year's University of Cape and Geneva Science Diplomacy Accelerator (GESDA) Youth Anticipation Initiative.

This initiative aims to use the science of the future to shape the present. More importantly, it tries to mainstream African youth participation, making sure that the voice of African youths is heard in this important conversation. The Youth Anticipation Initiative is a thoughtful and commendable program given the fact that the future belongs to the youths.

To situate the link between human augmentation and African youths, I would like to recount a recent incident.

It happened in my community in southern Nigeria. On Monday, July 11, 2022, I got a call that people in my village woke up early in the morning to discover that someone had poured some white sand across the major footpaths. It was a strange sight that evoked fear and panic among the population. Community leaders quickly

summoned an emergency meeting to unravel what happened. Their inquiry traced the incident to a young man in his late 30s who was visiting. This gentleman lives in a city about 110 kilometres from his hometown. He works as a school teacher and also a part-time pastor at a popular Pentecostal church in Port Harcourt.

According to family sources, some weeks ago the mother informed him that the aging father, over 80 years, was ill. Some years ago, two of his brothers took ill and died under what some within the family deemed "mysterious circumstances". Before traveling to see the father, this young man went and consulted, not a medical doctor, but a senior pastor in his church.

The pastor told him to go and conduct a liberation prayer with some white sand and olive oil so that his aging and ailing father would recover. The ritual would supposedly neutralize any other malicious forces linked to the father's sickness and other misfortunes in the family and community. On Sunday night while the villagers were asleep, he went and poured some white sand and olive oil across the footpaths in the community as part of this prayer of liberation, and obviously, efforts to get his father healed.

The community leaders were angry and sanctioned him for conducting this ritual without their consent and permission. They asked him to pay some penalty, to give the community some kola nuts, a goat, a jar of palm wine, and five thousand naira to appease the gods of the land. But the young man objected to paying the penalty, and later went back to the city. This young man indulged in this ritual exercise to increase the father's and by extension other community members' health and lifespan.

It was an exercise to tackle existential challenges. While this incident is not representative of what all Nigerian or African youths do or would do when confronted with illness and aging, it is indicative of a potent and pervasive mindset in the region. In the absence of technoscientific goods, African people deploy mythical formations and rituals in their efforts to cure diseases, defy death, and augment life.

They resort to using traditional, Christian and Islamic charms and accessories. Unfortunately, the mythical habit hampers the ability of Africans to use the science of the future to build the present, and increase health and lifespan. It stymies the possibilities of human augmentation and the potential of Africans to leverage other new science and technology advances. But the situation is much more complicated.

Existing techno-politics has orchestrated a gap between Africa and the rest of the world. This gap has made technologies inaccessible and unaffordable for many people. If urgent measures are not taken to rectify the technological disconnect of Africa from the rest of the world, the gap would persist in the anticipated augmented future. If Africa does not witness some radical shifts in policy, orientation, and mindset associated injustices and inequities would even worsen. Although human augmentation and other emerging technological schemes point to much better, healthier and happier futures, risks and dangers abound.

While Africans must be optimistic about the prospects of human augmentation and other emerging technological programs, there is a need to exercise caution, and temper optimism with realism. The technological differential has created a situation whereby these goods and benefits have largely been elusive, unharnessed, and underutilized.

African countries have become a dumping ground of outdated and sometimes harmful technologies. Africans have been unable to access or optimally deployed existing technologies to tackle their everyday needs and challenges. Many Africans travel to Europe, America, India and the Middle East to access medical care at exorbitant costs. And this trend

is not changing for now. If these gaps are not narrowed or closed, Africa could be left further behind in the race for human augmentation and other futurist schemes.

In addition, existing technologies have yielded a situation where African countries are described as developing, less developed, or underdeveloped. If the gap is not rectified, augmentation could become an identity political issue. Augmentation could become a way of defining and identifying humans. Africans might end up being designated as a continent of unaugmented, under-augmented, or less augmented humans as opposed to augmented humans in the west and the rest of the world.

Human augmentation is a welcome development. Highlighting the risks and dangers associated with human augmentation should not be misinterpreted. It should not be seen as an exercise in despair, or an attempt to stop or oppose the process of human capacitation. Rather, noting these concerns is a way to ensure that necessary measures are taken to mitigate envisaged risks; that promises and possibilities of this exciting project are harnessed as anticipated for Africa and the rest of the world.

**Leo Igwe is the author of a paper titled 'Transhumanism and Emerging Technologies: Exploring Ethics and Human Enhancement in Africa'**

THERE is an urgent need for wide and active participation of the population to meet daily blood transfusion requirements. Additionally, population engagement in regular voluntary blood donation would cater to urgent requirements following emergencies or disasters, as recently experienced in Owo and Kaduna, when a rapidly escalating surge in blood demand overwhelms the normal operations of entire state blood services.

On Sunday, June 4, Nigeria was shaken by the news of a horrendous attack on a Christian Catholic Church in Owo, Ondo State, South-West Nigeria, in which over thirty people – men, women, and children – were killed, and hundreds critically injured. Barely two months earlier, a violent attack on an Abuja-Kaduna train left several passengers killed, and numerous others either taken hostage, or left terribly injured.

In Ondo, as it had occurred earlier in Kaduna, almost immediately, the state was hit by a massive blood shortage, and desperate calls were made to the public to donate blood and save those whose lives were hanging in the balance. Social media was awash with tweets and posts stressing the urgent need for blood, and people responded in large numbers, with young people trooping to Federal Medical Centre, Owo to donate blood for people they knew, and even more people donated for those who they didn't know.

Over the past decade and a half, numerous disasters on a national scale have led to this kind of widespread call for blood donations. Building collapses; oil tanker explosions; and bomb blasts at the United Nations office in Abuja, bus terminals, markets, and the capital's Eagle Square, are examples of the events that have threatened lives, and strained national blood supplies. But the truth is, as horrific as these headline-grabbing incidents have been, they represent a small portion of the incidents that lead people to need lifesaving blood donations.

For instance, road traffic accidents and complications from childbirth are also major contributors to the loss of hundreds of lives daily. Every minute in Nigeria, approximately six women die from pregnancy and childbirth-related causes, especially from blood loss; and every day up to 104 people lose their lives on the country's roads and highways. Many families are therefore left bereft of their loved

## Recurrent poor culture of blood donation in Nigeria

By ADAEZE OREH

ones in situations that should have been joyous – pregnancy, childbirth, and even journeys home.

Currently, 49 per cent of Nigeria's population is female, and 51 per cent of that demography are in their reproductive years (15-49 years), which is a staggering nearly 50 million women who stand the risk of dying either during pregnancy or delivery. In addition to this gruesome statistic, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), approximately three-quarters of all road traffic deaths occur among young males below 25 years of age, and road traffic injuries are reportedly the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 5-29 years. A significant cause of these deaths in both cases is the lack of prompt access to blood in such scenarios. For low- and middle-income countries, for whom a large proportion of the population are within these age categories, the unavailability of safe blood has implications not only for health, but also the economy.

...to ensure that there is enough safe blood available for disease conditions and following terror attacks, such as those that have occurred in Owo, Kaduna, and around the country, regular voluntary blood donations by enough healthy donors are needed. This is how we can ensure there is sufficient safe blood available to be transfused whenever and wherever it is required.

As a family physician often at the frontlines of medical care, I have seen that the demand for blood for transfusion in Nigeria is driven not only due to bleeding in pregnancy and childbirth, or road traffic accidents, but also by the world's heaviest burden of malaria and sickle cell disease, in addition to other disease conditions such as cancer.

Country studies in the African region have revealed that as low as 4.6 blood donations are collected per 1000 people, compared to 33.1 in higher income countries. Thus, in addition to the steady need for blood and the gaps in safe blood supplies, the demand for blood on our continent is further constrained by the storage shelf-life of blood, which can no longer be transfused on expiration. In countries like Nigeria, up to 65 per cent of blood transfusions

are given to children under five years of age; whereas in high-income countries, patients aged above 65 years are the most frequently transfused. This further underlines the fact that in our environment, younger populations are hardest hit by the lack of safe blood supplies.

Therefore, to ensure that there is enough safe blood available for disease conditions and following terror attacks, such as those that have occurred in Owo, Kaduna, and around the country, regular voluntary blood donations by enough healthy donors are needed. This is how we can ensure there is sufficient safe blood available to be transfused whenever and wherever it is required. Unfortunately, over 80 per cent of Nigeria's blood supply right now remains reliant on family members and paid blood donors, and that needs to change.

The World Health Organisation recommends that a country of Nigeria's size should have a minimum of two million voluntary blood donations annually to assure blood safety and availability for transfusion. Instead, only about half a million voluntary donations are made across all the country's hospitals and blood establishments each year, leaving a shortfall of over 1.5 million blood units. Several studies reveal the reasons why Nigerians are hesitant to donate blood voluntarily and regularly. These hindrances include fears of infections, side effects such as weight loss, sudden death, sexual problems, high blood pressure, and convulsions, and additionally, various religious beliefs are frequently cited as reasons not to donate blood.

Developed countries with optimally structured health systems and robust blood transfusion services that are based on voluntary blood donation can meet their population demands for blood and blood products. Despite periodic or seasonal shortages, their patients are largely assured of access to safe blood when needed. Therefore, for developing countries like Nigeria, which are plagued by incessant incidents of shortages in safe, quality blood and blood products, harnessing the power of our youthful population is a key to tackling the unavailability of safe blood.

...it is specifically at times like these that are fraught with polarity, fear and uncertainty that

call for unity. The act of voluntary blood donation in our communities can thus contribute to rebuilding our social ties with equanimity and building a united society, regardless of differences in our tribes and our tongues – for our collective survival.

According to Nigeria's National Blood Policy, the acceptable age range for voluntary blood donation is 18-65 years, and the average age of the Nigerian citizen is 18.4 years. With a population of over 210 million people, 54 per cent of whom are aged between 15 and 64 years (110 million people), the country has a huge untapped population of potential voluntary blood donors. Voluntary blood donors, particularly regular donors, are the first line of defence in preventing the transmission of HIV, hepatitis viruses and other bloodborne infections, while saving lives through transfusion.

Both males and females can donate blood voluntarily, and male donors can donate up to four times a year, while females can donate three times a year. Besides donating blood personally, one can also encourage their colleagues, friends, and family to become regular blood donors. Furthermore, individuals can volunteer to reach out to members of their communities, thereby providing support for blood services nationally. As a volunteer, one can help to provide care to donors, and assist with arrangements during blood donation drives. These can be done through different organisations, community groups, and higher institutions collaborating with state and regional blood transfusion services.

Without a substantial pool of regular, voluntary unpaid blood donors, blood banks will continue to be empty when there is need for safe blood and blood products, and population access to safe blood supplies will remain unattainable in Nigeria. Therefore, there is an urgent need for wide and active participation of the population to meet daily blood transfusion requirements. Additionally, population engagement in regular voluntary blood donation would cater to urgent requirements following emergencies or disasters, as recently experienced in Owo and Kaduna, when a rapidly escalating surge in blood demand overwhelms the normal operations of entire state blood services.

## Change of Name

<b>ALBERT</b>	<b>AYUBA</b>	<b>NITNI</b>	<b>ABUBAKAR</b>	<b>BATURE</b>	<b>ADAMU</b>
I, formerly known as <b>ALBERT MORI EPHRAIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ALBERT EPHRAIM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>UMAR MAR AYUBA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AYUBA UMAR UMAR</b> . Correct date of birth is 22/10/2004 not 22/06/2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NITNI MICHAEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NITNI MARY OBONYIRO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ABUBUBAKAR HAUWAW ABDULL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABUBAKAR HAUWA'U ABDULLAHI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, <b>BATURE ISAAC DAUDA</b> , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 06/02/1999 and not 06/02/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GWOM ABDULLAHI ADAMU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAMU ABDULLAHI GAMBO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>BABA</b>	<b>ADEYEMO</b>	<b>LAWAL</b>	<b>DORCAS</b>	<b>YUNUSA</b>	<b>ODALIGBO</b>
I, formerly known as <b>CYNTHIAN BABA ZUGWAI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BABA CYNTHIA JOHN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AYODELE VERONICA OMOWUMI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADEYEMO VERONICA OMOWUMI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>LAWAL YAWALE NAVOM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LAWAL GARBA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DUNG DORCAS TEYEI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DORCAS EZEKIEL TEYEI</b> . All former documents remain valid. Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, all concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>IDRIS SADIK YUNUSA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YUNUSA SADIQ IDRIS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ALAO COMFORT ADIYA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ODALIGBO COMFORT ADIYA</b> . Correct date of birth is 02/12/2002. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>IBRAHIM</b>	<b>BOYI</b>	<b>RITA</b>	<b>GORIP</b>	<b>AGARA</b>	<b>NZOWU</b>
I, formerly known as <b>ZULIAH IBRAHIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM ZULIAH SHITU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YAKUBU JULCIT PRAISE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BOYI JULCIT PRAISE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ASAKU ABUS RITA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RITA ABUS AJIK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AMOS VICTORIA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GORIP, VICTORIA AMOS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AGARA, KI EMMANUEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AGARA, EMMANUEL KI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NZOKU UCHE MICHEAL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NZOWU UCHE MICHEAL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>UCHOLA</b>	<b>MUAZU</b>	<b>FATIMA</b>	<b>HATA</b>	<b>HEZEKIAH</b>	<b>PESDING</b>
I, formerly known as <b>UCHOLA VICTOR OJOCHÉ</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UCHOLA OJOCHÉ AKWU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ABDULLAHI MAZU MAZU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUAZU ABDULLAHI</b> . Correct date of birth is 10/03/1965. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>FATIMA NADABO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>FATIMA NADABO DANLAMI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MENSHINE DONGNAAN SOPHIA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HATA DONGNAAN SOPHIA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MONDAY JANET OKON</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HEZEKIAH JANET ESSIEN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY SANMANG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PESDING SANMANG SUNDAY</b> . Correct date of birth is 01/01/1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>YAKUBU</b>	<b>NAANKWAT</b>	<b>OKWA</b>	<b>IKPO</b>	<b>TIMZING</b>	<b>NANDOM</b>
I, formerly known as <b>ISHAKU HALIDU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YAKUBU HALIDU ISHAKU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>STEPHANIE NAANKWAT MUNALONG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NAANKWAT KWAPYEN MUANLONG</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ANI MARY ONYINYEDIKACHI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OKWA MARY ONYINYEDIKACHI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CHIKEZIE IZUNNA CHIEMEKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IKPO IZUNNA CHIEMEKA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TIMZING NIMMAK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TIMZING VENCHAK</b> . Correct date of birth is 10/09/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NANDOM JOK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANDOM DINDAM JOR</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>MAXWELL</b>	<b>IBRAHIM</b>	<b>BADIDI</b>	<b>JAMILU</b>	<b>GUKWAT</b>	<b>MUHAMMAD</b>
I, formerly known as <b>YILKAP MAXWELL JONAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MAXWELL VONGNAP JONAH</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>IBRAHIM GOMBIJI KAMSHIWE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM SITJI KAMSHIWE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AYUBA BENKEN BADIDI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BADIDI BENKEN SAWUCHINYE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JAMILU GRADAM MAHAMMADU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JAMILU SAIDU</b> . Correct date of birth is 23/03/2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SAMUEL SUNDAY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GUKWAT SAMUEL SUNDAY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SANI SAUDI KOLI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD BABANGIDA SANI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>AJIJI</b>	<b>SATI</b>	<b>SILAS</b>	<b>OTTACHE</b>	<b>MUHAMMAD</b>	<b>AYUKU</b>
I, formerly known as <b>AZI MATHEW</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AJIJI MATHEW AZI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DATONG DANJUMA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SATI DATONG DANJUMA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SILAS DAVID MADAKIYA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SILAS MADAKIYA DAVID</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>OTTACHE JESSE JESSE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OTTACHE JESSE OYIJEWU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MOHAMMED ALHAJI LAWAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD LAWAN MUHAMMAD</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>UGO GABRIEL DAUDA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AYUKU GABRIEL DAUDA</b> . Correct date of birth is 10/11/1997 not 21/11/1991. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>NAANMAN</b>	<b>ANTHONY</b>	<b>GYANG</b>	<b>CHINOYE</b>	<b>AJAK</b>	<b>KUSA</b>
I, formerly known as <b>NAANMAN DAKOGOL JOHN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NAANMAN EZEKIEL DABWAAT</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ANTHONY MERCY CHIDINMA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANTHONY CHIDINMA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BANG NYAM GYANG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GYANG BANG NYAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>OKONKWO CHINONYE MARY L.</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHINONYE MARY UDEZE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ALI MAFULUL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AJAK, ALI MAFULUL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BALA NAOMI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KUSA NAOMI BALA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>JWANSHAK</b>	<b>NANBAK</b>	<b>MOHAMMAD</b>	<b>BAMAIYI</b>	<b>MUHAMMED</b>	<b>CHARITY</b>
I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY DARING</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JWANSHAK SUNDAY DARING</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GEOFFREY MICHAEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANBAK SILAS LUKA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MOHAMMED YAHAYA ANAS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MOHAMMAD ANAS YAHAYA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BAMAIYI JOHNSON GARBA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BAMAIYI JOHNSON BUTKUNAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>WAZIRI MUHAMMED SAMBO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMED NASIRU SAMBO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CHARITY JOHNSON ZIPYA PAKKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHARITY JOHNSON PAKKA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>JIBOH</b>	<b>ABDULRASHEED</b>	<b>GODWIN</b>	<b>IDRIS</b>	<b>UYAH</b>	<b>YOHANNA</b>
I, formerly known as <b>JIBOH JIKIRITMWA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JIBOH JIKIRITMWA CLARA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YUSUF MUIBAT MOHAMMED</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABDULRASHEED MUIBAT MOHAMMED</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GWONG GODWIN GYWA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GODWIN GYWA GWONG</b> . Correct date of birth is 01/01/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>IDRIS UBAILLULLAH ABUBAKAR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IDRIS UBaidu ABUBAKAR</b> . Correct date of birth is 15/12/1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DAMARIS INTO UYAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UYAH PATIENCE K. SHEPLAT</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YOHANNA JOSEPHINE MATURU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YOHANNA JOSEPHINE MATURU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

## News

# Fwangje committed to infrastructural devt of college

From  
**POLYCARP ISHAYA, Pankshin**

THE Provost of Plateau State College of Health Technology Pankshin, Dr. (Prince) Francis Isah Fwangje has re-iterated his administration, determination, commitment and dedication to the infrastructural development of the college. He also promises that his administration will not leave any stone unturned in his desire to turn the fortune of the institution for good in the area of developmental strive and academic performance in the College.

He stated this during the official commissioning of the newly constructed security post and uniforms, the renovated college main gate, administrative block of the provost office, the Bursary Department, the Audit Department, the two classroom blocks, the board room, the new student seats, the introduced tailoring unit for the proper dressing code of students, the new college block industry and other projects to be commissioned by the commissioner for Higher Education, Mr. Dan-Philip Hirkop in the college promise.

Dr. Fwangje said the achievements of mile store of his administration have not been hitch-free judging by the fact that the college has been confronted with numerous challenges, despite the financial constraints. He however added the management, staff opted for possibilities of utilization of the limited resources by prioritizing the college's need. He added that this administration since inception decided to priorities physical infrastructure and environment to create a conducive environment for research and learning to be able to produce creditable health workers that are worthy both in character and knowledge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Other achievement recorded by the management staff of the institution include: the fencing of the college premises, a new clinic laboratory for the college demonstrative clinic, the constructions of drainage system in the front view of Senator Joshua Dariye hall, the purchased of an official vehicle for the Provost.

The list also includes the renovation of female hostels, old suck away repaired and new one constructed, the purchase of relevant textbooks to equip the college library for re-accreditation: (the also initiated the formation of alumni association of the old students which yielded fruit as the association built a block of toilets for both male and female students. They have also put in effort for a bill to change the name of the college from College of Health Technology to College of Health Science and Technology, Pankshin that is from Monotechnic to polytechnic to assess TETFund



Fwangje

intervention and for more courses of studies in the college.

Payment of pension and gratitude of fifteen (15) retirees out of the twenty-five (25) retirees' staff of the college and ten (10) are to be paid in instalments in order to settle all the retiree's staff of the college. The introduction of HND course in Health Information Management and Biostatistics and also the introduction of two new courses, the is i.e. National Diploma in Epidemiology and Communicable Disease and National Diploma in Public Health, in addition to the employment of casual security men, installation of solar system lights holders in strategic locations for monitoring movement of people in the college.

Dr. Fwangje further added that funding the college is mainly by the state government including the internally generated revenue, which won the college Plateau State revenue league award 2021 amounting to the sum of N437, 184.00 and this was awarded by the Plateau State Monitoring and Evaluation Policy.

He said the challenges of the college include: lack of standard modern laboratory, poor electricity supply and need for the maintenance of the college generating plant. Other include insufficient office accommodation water

## NMA eulogises Osinbajo for medical treatment locally

THE Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Kogi State chapter, has eulogised Nigeria Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbanjo, for undergoing medical treatment locally. They described him as "a true leader".

The Vice President had on Saturday underwent a successful surgery for a leg fracture at Duchess International Hospital in Ikeja, Lagos State.

A statement jointly signed by NMA Chairman, Dr Abubakar Alhassan; and its Secretary, Dr Chimezie Odebuani, on Sunday in Lokoja, commended Osinbanjo for his great

shortage in the college, hostel accommodation for students, no official vehicles for principal officers and pending cases of accreditation of courses in the college.

The Provost Dr. Fwangje appreciated the Executive Governor of Plateau State and the Chairman Northern Governor Forum, the honorable Commissioner for Higher Education and the entire staff of the ministry, the Governing Council Chairman, Hon, Nandang Bako and his members, staff and students for their support, cooperation and understanding with the management staff at all times.

Delivering his address at the occasion, the honorable commissioner for Higher Education, Mr. Dan-Philip Hirkop commended the Governing Council members and the management staff of the college for embarking on the fencing of the college premises and construction and renovation of projects. Adding that this initiative is in line with the directive both at the state and federal level that all educational institutions must be fenced to address incessant theft and incursion into campuses.

He added that government is determined to re-engineer all tertiary institutions for global competitiveness by addressing accreditation and manpower requirements of all state tertiary institutions.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

leadership, saying he deserves an award.

"The attention of the Kogi State Chapter of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), has been drawn to the successful treatment of the Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbanjo, by a team of Nigerian doctors in a Nigerian hospital following an injury he sustained while playing squash.

"NMA Kogi commends this great leadership of the Vice President, and is deserving of award. The Vice President has acted like the late Mandela.

"The highly cerebral Vice

MASTER Bakers and Carterers Association of Nigeria has threatened two weeks withdrawal of services to the public if government fails to intervene on the operational challenges of its members.

The national body of the association has resolved to begin the down tool as from today.

The Chairman of Kogi State chapter of the association, Chief Gabriel Bamidele Adeniyi who gave the hint while briefing journalists in Lokoja on Monday, said that members of the state branch are ready to join the strike if the national body gives the go ahead.

The chairman explained that the proposed strike followed series of challenges confronting the bakery and catering industry in Nigeria which remained unattended to by government of the day.

He noted that all efforts made by the Association towards remedying them, were bluffed by the government and its agencies.

Chief Adeniyi enumerated reasons for the proposed industrial action to include; shortage of raw materials, increasing cost of materials, over taxation and levies.

"Since the ban on importation of flour into the country, no serious effort has been made for home grown wheat as promised by the government and it's relevant agency, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

"The Master Bakers have

## Kogi trains 100 Audit staff on ICT

THE Kogi State Audit Service Board on Monday began a two week training for 100 of its staff on Computer Application to keep them abreast on the modern techniques in performing their official functions.

The Kogi State Auditor-General, Yakubu Okala while declaring the in-house training open at the Conference Hall of the State Secretariat, Lokoja, said that the effort is aimed at ensuring that the Audit Staff migrate from the analogue ways of writing reports to the digital age.

The Auditor-General reiterated the commitment of

## Bakers association threatens withdrawal of services nationwide

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

requested for Palliative in form of soft loans or subsidy to bakers to enable them produce quality and affordable quantity bread for mass consumption, which was promised but not fulfilled.

"These challenges facing the association are threatening production of affordable and quality bread in the country. "The commodity will therefore be off the street, markets, shops and dining table to drive home the points raised for necessary action by government.

"Constant increase in the

prices of baking materials especially flour, sugar and other ingredients have led to souring costs, poor quality and great loss of customers and consumers, consequently threatening closing down the industry.

"If that is allowed thousands of bakers, millions of their employees will be jobless and marketers will also be affected, while millions of thousands of naira extracted from the industry will be lost to smugglers and foreign bakers of bread, the Chairman further explained.



Abubakar

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

the present administration in Kogi State to install accountability and transparency in all its financial transactions hence the desire to embark on the in-house ICT training for all the Audit staff in the state civil service.

"We as government, want to carry all staff along in exposing their knowledge and potentials to meet up with modern technology in their operations so as to enhance efficiency and productivity in the system.

"We advice the beneficiaries of this training to see the

opportunity as a rare privilege and should endeavour to take it very serious.

"Let me use this opportunity to warn that any staff of the Board found in sharp practices in the discharge of his or her duties will not only be shown the way out of the service but be made to face the full wrath of the law, Okala warns.

He also admonished them that as civil servants, they should deviate from involving themselves in partisan politics and remain 100 percent loyal to the government of the day.

Europe or America for medical tourism.

"The VP chose to seek medical attention within the country even with the avalanche of resources at his disposal which would have enabled him to seek attention outside the shores of Nigeria.

"NMA Kogi sees this display by the Vice President as great patriotism and should be applauded," NMA said.

The association also noted that the former Governor of Kogi State, Idris Wada, similarly chose to seek medical attention at home following his involvement in a ghastly

road traffic accident as a governor.

The association, therefore used the medium to call on Nigeria's leaders to take a cue from the Vice President and believe in the nation's health institutions and her professionals who were among the best trained in the world.

NMA Kogi also calls on government to fund medicare development in Nigeria better and also develop our hospitals to standards for healthcare delivery of the highest standards,' the association said.



Osinbajo

President didn't resort to flying out of the country to Berlin, Paris, or any of the advanced countries of

# News

## Provost CHST pours accolades on Governor Sule

**From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

THE Provost Nasarawa State College of Health Science and Technology, Keffi in Nasarawa State, Dr. Suleiman Muhammed has expressed his gratitude to the Governor of Nasarawa State, Engineer Abdullahi Sule for his passion in the provision of basic learning infrastructure to the college most especially with the construction of classrooms, laboratories halls and administrative offices at the permanent site of the college to make teaching, learning, and administrative duties convenient.

The Provost make the commendation during the week at the college premises while conducting entrance examination to applicants seeking admission in to the college programmes at the permanent site located along Keffi- Abuja express way.

He recalled that the college which was operating at the temporary site in Keffi town was relocated to its permanent site through the efforts of the education friendly Governor Sule who approved and released funds for the relocation of the college after granting it the current status from a School Health to College of Health.

"Let me first appreciate what the Governor of Nasarawa State, Engineer Abdullahi A. Sule is doing to the state particularly this college as the governor has a passion for this college because he was the one who actually kick started the process of upgrading the college after which he directed us to go and seek for National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) collaboration. NBTE came and assisted us with good



Adamu

advises which we channeled them to the governor and without wasting time he implemented them for us," the Provost stated.

The Provost who reiterated the determination of his administration to turn around the fortunes of the college, however commended the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) for accrediting three courses for the college where the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) will be conducting admissions.

He stated that the entrance examination is an annual event that afford them the opportunity to give admissions, adding that about one thousand candidates will be admitted this year through computer based test (CBT) and the

applicants are responding well, adding that only 10 percent of the said number will be allocated to prospective students outside the state

only 10 percent of the said number will be allocated to prospective students outside the state

On his part, the College Academic Planning Officer, Mr. Emmanuel Timshana stated that the orientation done for the applicants afford them the opportunity to give password and also enable them upload the results of the entrance examination as soon as the exercise is over.

He assured that the admission which is given to applicants on quarter basis will issue admission strictly on merit as the graduates are expected to handle human lives and cannot be toiled with.

THE Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Education, Andrew David Adejo says it has become pertinent in the light of attacks on the nations educational institutions, kidnapping of innocent children, wards and even parents and guardians to discuss and find ways to keep them safe as they have become a global concern.

Adejo was speaking Monday on the occasion of a collaboration of his ministry and the Adamawa State Ministry of Education on the theme of this years 81<sup>st</sup> meeting "Strengthening security and Safety in Nigerian Schools for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda.

The four days deliberation will discuss all problems associated with these problems.

According to the Permanent Secretary, it is for this reason that current on-going work on the transforming Education summit, was convened by the United Nations Secretary General and has the first thematic action track focusing on inclusive, equitable, safe and healthy schools.

This says Adejo was a means to improve learning outcomes, use, putting an eye on the kind of

## FG set to ensure safety of students

**From GYANG PAM, Yola**

prevent discriminatory attitudes and behaviours, address the health and well being of all learners, build an inclusive society and ensure the right education for all.

The Federal Permanent Secretary noted that the nation was yet to come to terms with the consequences of the covid 19 pandemic on the schools system as it presented the greatest safety risk for education in the last century.

"Within this context that we need to ensure the existence of a peaceful, secure and severe environment for effective teaching and learning", he says.

The challenge today he told the delegates from the 36 states including the Federal capital is how to make some that solutions are proffered to making our schools remain safe for staff and students and indeed the communities in which they are situated.

Adejo observed that there was need to address issues of drug use, putting an eye on the kind of

books they read and film they watch, appropriate mentoring of our wards and "every child belongs to the community", that is responsible for making majority of us here, who we are today.

children and reviving the age old African culture of "every child belongs to the community", that is responsible for making majority of us here, who we are today.

He proffered some safety measure as abolishing of boarding schools in rural areas for the meantime.

Teachers and students should be drilled on emergency security measures, creating a special security unit for schools among several others.

In his speech Adamawa State Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri described as apt the theme of the 81<sup>st</sup> conference of the joint consultative committee on education (JCCE) which is "strengthening of security and safety in Nigerian schools for the achievement of education 2030 agenda".



### BASSA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL PLATEAU STATE

#### NOTICE FOR SALE

With reference to publication of July 3, 2022 in respect of the above subject matter.

The Management of Bassa Local Government Council, wish to invite the general public to bid for the sales of the following properties.

a) Two (2) main flat (Bungalow) and two (2) blocks of adjoining boys quarters located at Utan area Jos North LGA, built on about five and half plots of land.

Any interested persons, organisation or institution wishing to purchase the said properties, should contact the management of Bassa LGC from now and Monday, July 25, 2022.

For further information and inquiry contact the **Director, Budget and Planning, Bassa LGC. 08062615693**

**Signed:**  
**Director Budget and Planning,**  
**Bassa LGC.**

## Change of Name

JOSHUA	ZUHUMBEN	MANKAM	ZALIKHA	COMFORT	CHUNDUNG
I, formerly known as <b>GORO JOSHUA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOSHUA GORO ADAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ZUHUMBEN GUMANAMAH KEIVIN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ZUHUMBEN GUMANAMAH KEVIN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>FAVOUR FRIDAY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MANKAM SHAGAYA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ZALIKA TIJJANI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ZALIKHA AHMAD MOHAMMED</b> . Correct date of birth is 15/01/2003 not 15/01/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MISS. COMFORT PAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. COMFORT ZAM PAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MARK JESSICA CHUNDUNG DAVOU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARK JESSICA CHUNDUNG</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
RITA	BLESSING	PATE	GUSAN	<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>	<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>
I, formerly known as <b>RITA KACHOLLOM ABA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RITA KACHOLLOM PAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BLESSING NANSHEP</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BLESSING DORBIT</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ISMA'ILL ISAH IBRAHIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PATE ISMA'ILA ISAH</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MOSES MANJI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GUSAN MOSES MANJI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.		
AJIGO	YAHAYA	HANNATU	YILKOPBA	<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>	<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>
I, formerly known as <b>ADIJA PATIENCE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AJIGO PATIENCE ADIJA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YAHAYA ZUBAIRU HARUNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YAHAYA ZUBAIRU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>HANNAH PARAH BAKO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HANNATU AUSTIN SOLOMON</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DEWAN DANJUM YOHANNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YILKOPBA DANJUMA YOHANNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.		



By LOIS DADUUT

Gospel music has over the years helped in no small measure towards edifying the body of Christ. Even in most difficult situations, when a troubled heart listens to a gospel song, there is always a significant relief that overwhelms the spirit, soul and body. It is an entertaining way to spread the word or message of God. It is another way to be gainfully employed especially for those that have zoomed into the production of gospel music.

Thus importance of gospel music in our society today cannot be over emphasized since it expresses a message of good news, joy, hope, emotions, suffering and also helps people to see things, particularly from a different point of view.

Though there are different types of music in our contemporary society, the way and manner, gospel music reshapes our minds, and impact our wellbeing for the better has continued to positively draw many to the Kingdom of God. During gospel musical concerts, wounds have been healed, broken hearts restored and the poor enriched. Even those who have lost hope of a better tomorrow have been significantly gingered to pick up their pieces and propel themselves to greatness through the mercy of God.

Inherently, Christian music being that it is highly anointed by Almighty God himself means that this kind of music can literally change the spiritual level or atmosphere that people live. It can restore hope to the hopeless in our society.

What this also means for Christians is that; the music would go a long way in impacting them deeper and better than any other music because it has a completely different effect on the people's mind and emotions than any other secular music.

It is also a fact that, gospel music equally helps encourage people that have gone through a very rough life and are feeling a bit down or under a lot of mental and emotional stress. It has a calming effect and upliftment of the spirit.

Certainly, the unfortunate side of it, is the fact that some of these gospel artistes venture into the music industry to make money rather than to spread the word of God which should be discouraged, particularly those who have ventured into the industry with such notion or contrary spirit.

It is also true that some of these artistes that have keyed into music industry with a different attitude, instead of being creative in composing their own songs based on happenings in the society, some of them have chosen to go into "piracy" which is totally against the practice of the profession, be it gospel or secular.

Since this practice is unprofessional, our artistes should on their part ensure that serious sanctions are meted on anyone who is caught in doing any music production that has to do with piracy which is wrong as far as the act is concerned.

To continue promoting gospel music on the Plateau from a positive perspective however, the Total Woman Foundation, (TOWOF) has launched its second album; "The New complete In Him", with the theme: 'power Of Praise.' The event took place at the Sarau Event Centre, Secretariat Link Road, Hwolshe, Jos, recently.

The TOWOF vision is to teach, train and equip women to fulfill

ministering inspirational songs which are life touching as part of their efforts to propagating the gospel of Christ.

Rev. Pam while dedicating the album to the glory of God encouraged the group to sustain the spirit of working for Christ who remains the Alpha and Omega of all Christian faithful.

He called on Christians to continue praying about the insecurity situation presently

## TOWOF: Propagating gospel through music



Mrs. Felicia Gyang, TOWOF President



their God-given mandate as wives, mothers, and home builders, members of the church of Jesus Christ and agents of change in the society. Its mission is presenting every woman complete in Christ (Col 1:28).

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** reports that the epoch making event started with opening prayer, praise and worship, musical concert, sharing the TOWOF vision and special numbers.

Chairman on the occasion, Rev. Dr. Yakubu Pam who is the Executive Secretary, Christian Pilgrims Welfare Commission, commended TOWOF for the good works they are doing in

facing Nigeria, adding that, prayers remain the only solution to whatever problem we are facing as a people.

In her welcome remarks, TOWOF, President, Mrs. Felicia Gyang expressed happiness and gratitude to God for making the event a huge success. She said that TOWOF was out to spread the gospel of Christ, so as to win more souls for Christ at all times.

She added that most of the songs that they sing are inspired through life experiences so that they can build more women in Christ-through singing and preaching the gospel.

Mrs. Gyang said that the launched album was a well

composed and packaged one that can be used by all Christians as far as the content of the album is concern.

She disclosed that, TOWOF is a non-denominational group with members drawn from different churches who came together to work for one vision and mission to sing to the glory of God as well as to preach the gospel of Christ.

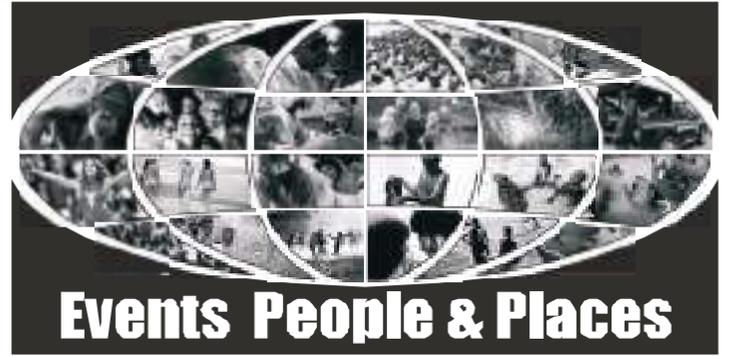
Mrs. Gyang assured that TOWOF would not relent in its effort in championing the course of promoting the gospel music in the state. Gyang appreciated all those who graced the occasion.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** also reports that some of the invited guests who spoke during

the occasion showered praises on the TOWOF President, Mrs. Felicia Gyang for the good works she was doing, particularly molding women in the society.

They equally challenged other people to emulate such wonderful initiatives, adding that TOWOF had transformed many Christian families through its programmes and different songs being ministered.

Our correspondent reports that the event featured different songs ministrations from TOWOF, COCIN Women Fellowship Jeyep, Living Faith Church Matan Yabo and ECWA Women Fellowship among others.



# IMAGES

## INEC REGISTRATION EXERCISE 2022

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



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



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



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



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



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



Potential voters waiting patiently to register or collect their PVCs



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



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

Photos: DANLADI DUK

## Odd World

### Island where remote tribe kills outsiders

THERE are very few places in the world that are untouched by the sprawl of modern civilisation. Whether it be roads or oil rigs or 4G networks, it is nearly impossible to be entirely unconnected.

This makes the most isolated tribe in the world, who live on North Sentinel Island in the Bay of Bengal, all the more fascinating and remarkable.

However, as the saying goes, curiosity kills the cat, and anyone who has come close to the island - whether that be on purpose or accidentally - has been attacked using spears and arrows.

Reports of the natives rejecting outsiders date as far back as 1867 when British explorers were forced to fend off attacks after being shipwrecked off the island's coast and awaiting rescue.

In 2006, two fishermen were killed by the Sentinelese after coming too close.

In the 1970s, a National Geographic director working on the documentary about the Andamans archipelago was wounded by a spear while filming.

Most recently, 26-year-old John Allen Chau, a Christian missionary, was the most recent person to be killed after trying to make contact with the tribe in 2018.

After meticulously planning his excursion to the island, aware of the dangers, the tribe made no exceptions for his holy intentions and local fishermen watched from afar as his body was buried the following morning.

Despite multiple attempts by Indian authorities, adventurers, fishermen and filmmakers the island's population has entirely rejected contact from the outside world.

As a result, very little is known about the island and its people.

The island, which belongs to India, is about half the size of London, but its population remains a mystery.

Having been isolated for thousands of years, the population is vulnerable to the diseases and viruses that outsiders carry and have long become immune to.

Therefore, international warnings against travelling to this area are not only to protect tourists from their violence but also to protect the island population from illness.

In the run up to his death, John kept detailed diary entries about his plans to convert the islanders to Christianity and his first attempts to make contact.

While he seems to be full of hope when arriving on a neighbouring island, the magnitude of the task inevitably dawns on him after his gifts fail to buy favour with the natives.

Arriving in Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, he stayed in a "safe house" and discussed his plans with local fishermen who shared his faith and agreed to support him.

He explained in a diary entry from November 14, 2018: "The benefit of that is that I was essentially in quarantine. I met last night with the fishermen who are all believers and who agreed to drop me off."

He added: "From there we make progressive contact with fish as gifts over the next few days, then send me off."

"Depending on the darkness, I might land briefly and bury and cache a pelican case for

later. We might even send the kayak laden with gifts towards shore."

His next entry was when the boat had arrived at the island but before he had tried to make contact with the remote tribe.

John described in stunning detail "all along the way, our boat was highlighted by bioluminescent plankton - and as fish jumped nearby, we could see them like darting mermaids shimmering along."

He added: "The Milky Way was above and God Himself was shielding us from the coastguard and navy patrols."

It was then that he had his first glimpse at one of the houses on the island, lit by firelight.

By 8.30am John was ready to make contact, piling fish into the kayak and waving at the islanders he had seen the night before.

However, it all turned sour when, 400 yards away, he saw some movement on shore and spotted "two armed Sentinelese rushing out yelling at me".

John added: "They had two arrows each, unstrung, until they got closer. I hollered 'my name is John. I love you and Jesus loves you. Jesus Christ gave me authority to come to you. Here is some fish'."

The young missionary then admitted he "started to panic as I saw them string arrows in their bows".

Desperate he threw the fish towards them in a gesture of welcome but "they kept coming".

His journal says: "I slid the barracuda off. It started to sink but my thoughts were directed toward the fact I was almost in arrow range."

"I backpaddled. When they got the fish, I turned and paddled like I never have in my life, back to the boat."

"I felt some fear but mostly was disappointed they didn't accept me right away. I can now say I've been nearly shot by the Sentinelese and I've walked and cached gear on their island."

Despite this close call, John planned to continue to leave gifts on the shore in a bid to eventually win their favour.

On the next attempt, John loaded two fish onto his kayak alongside his multitools, pencils, a first aid kit in case he was shot, picture cards, vitamins and his passport.

He also took his waterproof Bible, along with other gifts for the islanders, including tweezers, safety pins, fishing line, hooks, cordage, rubber tubing and a towel.

However, this time, natives entered the water and headed straight towards him. While some dropped their bows and arrows to take the gifts, others attacked John.

He wrote: "I paddled after them and exchanged more yells. Here's where this nice meet and greet went south."

"A child and a young woman came behind the two gift receivers with bows drawn. I kept waving my hands to say 'no bows' but they didn't get the memo, I guess."

"By this time the waves had picked up and the kayak was getting near some shallow coral. The islanders saw that and blocked my exit."

"Then the little kid with bow and arrow came down the middle. I figured that this was it, so I preached a bit to them, starting in Genesis and disembarked my kayak to show them that I too have two legs."

Source: *The Mirror*.



## My modest prayer to God

ADORABLE God, I woke up this morning with a hefty heart and very apprehensive about the crises confronting me and our once optimistic and beloved nation. Our precious Father and God, Nigeria, our dearest nation is endlessly nose-diving into obliviousness. This nation which is in a reverse gear has also been dragged into chaos and anarchy by our wicked and self-centered leaders who have lost touch with human feelings. Such leaders of ours have distanced themselves from You and swapped their souls with the devil and his affiliates, that is the more reason why they are impulsive and careless about us and the future of our children who are no longer going to school. Though all university lecturers in the country are on strike; our leaders are momentarily unflappable about it. After all, their children are uninterruptedly studying in the best universities abroad with our tax payers' money. Regrettably, what is occupying their wicked minds at the moment is to loot and share our economic resources among themselves with impunity.

Despite the fact that the earth is Yours and all its fullest thereof, many have increased who have continued to trouble us, many more have risen up against us. Have mercy on us and consider our troubles perpetrated by those who have continued to hate us. They think that God's people can be conquered by horses and chariots and our days are numbered here on earth.

Before I allow the challenges of this country overwhelm my sense of reasoning, may I humbly thank you Lord for the gift of life and the good health I am enjoying at the moment. We must thank you also our dear Father for the goodness and mercy which You have graciously offered us.

Many had wished to be alive today but they are no longer with us. The enemy has terminated their lives prematurely leaving the relations of these victims in total agony and excruciating miseries. Our Lord, it is awful that Nigeria has turned out this way and not according to our wishes and aspirations. Each time our children ask us for answers over these unabated killings, we remain speechless and mute with no convincing explanations to offer them.

Merciful Father, where have we as a people gone wrong to deserve this inhuman treatment and brutality meted us today? What have we done that You have turned Your back against us in the middle of the red sea? As it is; Heavily Father, I cannot count and or come to terms with the number of innocent citizens of this country who have been unjustifiably killed including many others who have been chased away from their ancestral homes. Today, we cannot fathom, this situation where a tenant is chasing his landlord from his abode and the system is approving such a complicated drama in our contemporary society.

Life has become so valueless and cheap in our society. Consequently, to take human life has become trendy as marauders, armed robbers and kidnapers continue to torment innocent citizens in their homes, on roads and at

work places without any remorse.

My God, for the sake of the Lord I serve, deliver us from the sword of the bulls of Bashan. Save us from the lion's mouth and the horns of the wild oxen.

As I come before You with sackcloth in total lamentation, my Father, you mention in the Scriptures that in these last days, men will be lovers of money and themselves only, this prophecy openly came to pass during the last political party primaries where our delegates betrayed our trust based on their numerous acts of personal aggrandizement. For the sake of millions they received from their pay masters, they decided to throw away our future in the midst of the calamity we have found ourselves in today.

These delegates have abandoned us in the lion's den like Daniel to be consumed by our enemy. Oh my God, let not our enemies' triumph over us. Indeed, let not us who wait upon Your grace and salvation be put to shame and or be consumed by our enemies.

Our Lord and Savior, though all those who trust in You shall never be put to shame, let these delegates who dealt with us treacherously be belittled. Deal with all those who compromised to let the gates of hell prevail against the Christendom mercilessly and grant them no rest until they repent and come upright before Your throne of grace. Let all these evildoers henceforth be cut-off, but those who wait on the Lord inherit the earth.

My Father in heaven, let death seize all and very delegates who compromised and let them go down alive into hell, for wickedness is still in their dwellings and among them.

Our God who has continued to lead us besides still waters, many are hungry in the land and several others don't know where to turn to for remedy. For the few who stood their ground in the midst of intimidation during the immediate past party primaries, continue to bless them and keep them from falling. No doubt, our elites in Nigeria have impoverished this nation, corruption, wickedness and deceit have become their gimmicks and unending game plan.

Our Redeemer who has continued to be with us throughout all generations, provide our daily bread the way You have been good to Israel. I beg for the sake of the righteous few amongst us, prove Yourself strong in the midst of our circumstances. Do not allow the men of this world ask us where our God is or whether He is asleep and cannot deliver us. If there is anytime we need You in this country to prove a point; it is now, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We pray for the peace of the land. We pray for equal rights and justice, we pray for understanding and for our political leaders who unrepentantly have continued to betray our collective trust.

Only You God can change what no man can change and only You can do what no man can do Jehovah, therefore, we know that You who started a good work in us will bring it to an expected end.

This is my humble prayer in the Mighty name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## View Point

**Bogoro, Tafawa Balewa indigenes: Get your senses back**By **BULUS GAMBO**

**S**OMETIMES back in 2015, the former Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund, (TETFund), Professor Suleiman Bogoro invited me to Little Angels Suites, Rayfield in Jos, the Plateau State capital to see him as he was in town. This happened during his first tenure of office which was the first time of seeing him after his appointment.

I was later informed that after he came into town on that fateful Saturday, my thoughts crossed his mind, so he decided to call to know my where-about but my line was not going through. For the fact that I was far away in a village in Jos East Local Government Area where there was limited network, Prof. Bogoro subsequently decided to send a text to me.

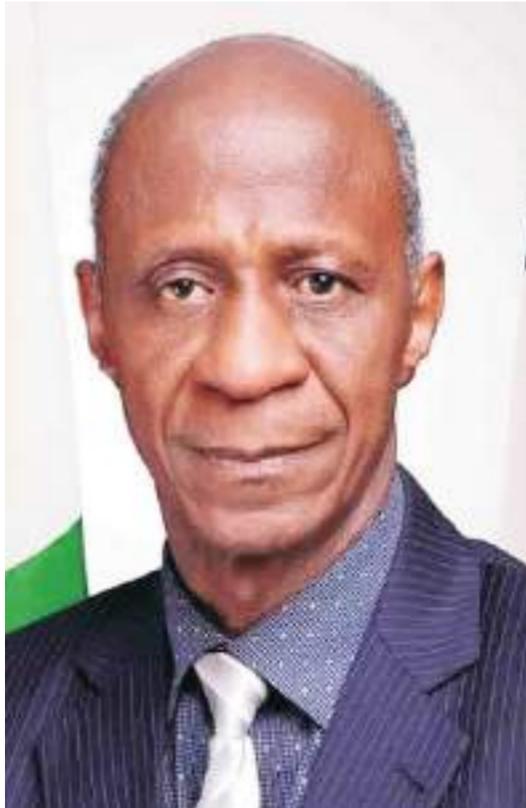
After I came back from my social engagements, I was so exhausted and had no enthusiasm to check messages on my phone so I slept off. Early the following day which was a Sunday morning after I read his invitational text, I immediately left for the hotel where I luckily met him. After some minutes waiting; I was eventually ushered into his hotel room and to my astonishment, I saw the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara seated. Before then, Dogara and I had never met in life, though Prof. Bogoro and I had come a long way.

After Bogoro offered me a seat which I immediately obliged, he introduced me to his guest. For the fact that it was the first time I was meeting Prof. Bogoro in his official capacity as the helmsman in TETFund, I was naive about the powers and magnitude of the position he was occupying by the special grace of God.

After some few minutes, Prof. Bogoro in his usual delightful manner said, "Gambo, do you know this our brother and my dear brother. Have you met before?" After taking a look at him for sometime, I responded, "Sir, I don't think I know him, you know that I had severally informed you that I did not grow up back in the village. Therefore, I don't know him and I equally don't think we have met at any time before."

Immediately after I responded, Bogoro explained, "This is our humble brother Barrister Yakubu Dogara, a humble and nice man. By the way, I must also tell you that we are related." Of course, at that point in time, Dogara had not emerged as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, but after what Prof. Bogoro said about him, I began to have a remarkable and tremendous respect for him. Since we were all minorities from the same abode, all we were praying at every point in time was for God to grant us an open door to display the level of our competency in service to humanity.

I can still recall with great nostalgia that after a fruitful discussion that day, Prof. Bogoro



Bogoro



Yakubu

instructed me to give Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara my phone number, but mistakenly, I somehow was overwhelmed and did not receive his. Some months later, Dogara won his elections into the House of Representatives and by God's grace eventually emerged the Speaker of the House. Since I did not receive his number and had no idea where I could get it, I only jubilated and in my usual character kept on praying for his successful tenure.

Sincerely speaking, with Prof. Suleiman Bogoro at TETFund and Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, my joy was without limit even though I did not get the opportunity to get close to Dogara throughout his tenure till date. I remained so grateful that God in His infinite mercy provided an opportunity for these two great personalities in our own time prove a point that we have the best capable hands who can serve this country with integrity. In fact, Prof. Bogoro has proved this beyond imagination including Dogara as well.

Sad enough, after all these tremendous achievements, the devil decided to months back test try their strength and outstanding relationship where a lot of issues eventually came to play. For me, I have heard several theories as to why this friction emerged between these two individuals by the sidelines.

In some quarters, I heard that Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara was not comfortable with the influence of Prof. Suleiman and therefore intended to clip his wings. I also heard that Barrister Dogara who had desired to be a running mate to any presidential candidate of the APC would not get it if and when Prof. Bogoro remains the TETFund Executive Secretary. According to such claims, the

best solution was to deliberately do away with him.

I have also heard that the former Executive Secretary was allegedly eying the seat of the Gung Zaar that was the more reason why he should be stopped before his dreams come to pass. On several occasions, Bogoro had however vehemently denied these allegations. Come to think of it, would it have been logical for Bogoro to abandon his responsibilities at TETFund and come back home to contest for such a seat? Is Bogoro by his antecedents a man hungry for power to such an extent?

In some quarters, I have equally heard that what contributed to the friction was a long unresolved family issues which I am yet to confirm as a journalist. But I equally know that as matured individuals of high repute, any of such issues would have privately been resolved. All these postulations were therefore based on *dem say dem say* theories.

In fairness, I have not had the opportunity to confirm these allusions from both personalities but I know too clear that it has not been that rosy between these two prominent sons of Bogoro Local Government Area in most recent times. This unhealthy relationship has also continued to have rippling effects both on the people, the socio-economic

and political landscape of these local government areas and Bauchi State at large. While the indigenous people have become so divided for the first time in the annals of the area's history, the majority political class in the state are gaining more entry to further polarize the people so as to enable them achieve their selfish agenda. Some individuals within the two local government councils have also been consistently fueling the crisis to butter their bread. For those who care to comprehend, the people of both Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa Local Government Areas have for long been fighting a battle of their lives. For long, the caliphate since pre-colonial era has mutilated all the chances and ideologies which Bauchi non-Muslim minorities stood and still stands for. In all honesty, the emirate system has not dealt with us fairly. Through the gimmicks and intrigues of the caliphate, the area had been isolated, incarcerated and suppressed not until the emergence of these two great sons of the area. It is also on record that the struggles of the late sage, Baba Peter Gonto including other prominent natives of the area can never be forgotten.

Though some cunning, deceitful politicians and sycophants may vehemently disagree with yours sincerely over the visible logical

backwardness recorded in the area, the glaring and fundamental available evidences have indicated that the cruel policies of successive Bauchi State governments have not be fair to the people of the area. For instance, to dehumanize the entire people of the area at a point, former Bauchi State Governor, Isa Yuguda decided to move the headquarters of Tafawa Balewa to a remote village of Bununu just to demean the indigenes of the area. Yuguda, my senior by far in St. Murumba's College, Jos did not only goof but had consistently voiced his intentions to suffocate the indigenous natives and the future of our unborn generation. Take for instance the lingering non-official recognition of the status of the Gung Zaar which had continued to baffle many of us. The powers that be have deceitfully continued to form various endless committees which they always say are intended to amicably resolve discrepancies and other pertinent issues which is a blatant fallacy of the highest order.

But for the uplifting of both Prof. Bogoro and Rt. Hon. Dogara to their respective positions of authority, no tangible impact would have been recorded in the area in recent past. In fact, if the proponents of the caliphate intrigues would have had their way, both Bogoro and Dogara would not have occupied the positions they got through the mercy of God. We must therefore thank God for breaking the grounds and allowing these two to represent us well the way and manner they excellently did.

Therefore, it's high time both Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa indigenes get their senses back before the adherents of the ideology of this core northern oligarchy clip our wings of progress. We must sheath our swords and give peace a chance in order to shame the devil. Since we all have our share of blame for not doing the needful towards resolving the issue much earlier than now, we must ensure that our stakeholders begin to intervene on this issue to put everything to rest. If there is any time that we must sincerely deal with our problems for the sake of our future generations; it is basically now.

**"Therefore, it's high time both Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa indigenes get their senses back before the adherents of the ideology of this core northern oligarchy clip our wings of progress. We must sheath our swords and give peace a chance in order to shame the devil. Since we all have our share of blame for not doing the needful towards resolving the issue much earlier than now, we must ensure that our stakeholders begin to intervene on this issue to put everything to rest. If there is any time that we must sincerely deal with our problems for the sake of our future generations; it is basically now."**



## The Irigwe and Fulani peace agreement

Out of the series of activities of government last week, one of the most historic was the symbolic signing ceremony of the expression of commitment to peace between the Irigwe and Fulani of Bassa LGA on Wednesday July 13, 2022 at Prestige Hall, Bassa Local Government Area.

Key officials from the government circles including Plateau Governor Simon Bako Lalong, Speaker Plateau House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Yakubu Sanda, Chief Judge, Justice David Mann, and many others witnessed the signing process of the peace agreement by both parties to end the over two decades long conflict.



As the various parties signed the document which government promised to gazette and use as a lasting document, speakers including traditional rulers, tribal, religious leaders, youth groups, security agencies, Civil Society Organisations and others prayed for the parties to adhere and sustain the agreement.

They all commended the Governor for his commitment to peace through his peace strides and policies and for personally mediating.

As a representative of one group and the other came forward to sign, the Gov. observed the process and signing process of the agreement, urging them to remember to use it as a tool to fish out criminals and bad eggs among them who will want to thwart the resolutions.

He called for one-minute silence to be observed in honour of those who lost their lives in the conflict.

Lalong commended the Bra Irigwe, Rev. Ronku Aka setting up a 16-man intertribal

and interreligious committee in Bassa Local Government that came up with the laudable peace agreement, and the Plateau Peace Building Agency (PPBA) for mediating the process.

As he called the names of the 16 members of the committee to come out and be recognized publicly for doing good, Lalong like the other speakers also made a confession concerning his desire for the conflict to end.

He disclosed that while coming out to attend the event, he had butterflies and personal conflict within him on whether it will really come to fruition or not but expressed gladness that his fears had been put to rest with the successful signing.

He urged the parties to adhere to the agreement, recalling that when he came on board, he had spearheaded a similar peace process with the Beroms and Fulanis and today, their challenges have been greatly reduced.

"I pray that the whole process will succeed and be sustained. I pray that God will keep the Bra Irigwe for his foresight in setting the peace committee and spearheading the peace process" Lalong said, urging all the stakeholders and people in the communities to fish out and denounce the criminals among them whether they are their brothers and sisters if they try to bring the success story recorded back to its dark days.

The Governor also recalled that when his administration came in 2015, he inherited numerous security challenges and it was so pronounced that some places was termed 'no-go areas' because of the serious nature of the conflict, while in some areas, there was no construction and government interventions because the people in that community did not vote the ruling party. But he said he has worked hard to change the narrative to the present peaceful scenario being experienced in most parts of the state.

While urging the media to desist from sensational reporting that inflames conflict, Lalong urged all stakeholders and communities who were a part of the peace agreement to be committed to its execution so as to set the pace and be an example to Nigerians.



## News

### ASUU Gadau chapter dissolved

THE Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Bauchi State University, Gadau chapter have been dissolved.

Their dissolution has come as a result of their refusal to step down after the expiration of their two-year tenure.

The National Industrial Court, sitting in Gombe made the dissolution after a lecturer in the university, Dr Ibrahim Danjuma had instituted the suit, marked NICN/Bau/05/2022, challenging the respondents for meddling in the electoral process of BASUG chapter of the union as officials, leaders as well as jettisoning of their mandate to conduct an

**From  
LAWAL UMAR ABUBAKAR  
Bauchi,**

election for the chapter as assigned in congress.

The respondents in the suit are the ASUU National President, Professor Emanuel Osodeke; Bauchi Zonal Coordinator of ASUU, Professor Lawan Abubakar; the chairman, Bauchi State University chapter of the association; Dr Yusuf Musa Yahaya; BASU ASUU excos and the chapter's electoral committee.

In its judgment, delivered on Thursday, 16th June, 2022, the court ordered the Dr Yahaya-led executive council to leave office on or before 16th

August, 2022.

The trial judge, Justice Mustapha Tijjani further directed the electoral committee to continue with the process of electing a new set of leaders for the union.

Justice Tijjani also restrained the National President of the Union, Professor Osodeke and Bauchi Zone Coordinator of ASUU, Professor Abubakar from further recognising Dr Yahaya and other executive council members as official leaders of ASUU, Bauchi State University, Gadau, chapter.

The judge then warned the national leadership of ASUU against interfering with the electoral process of the union at the university.

THE Women Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) has engaged civil society organizations and critical government agencies to advance knowledge towards achieving the right implementation strategies in fighting gender-based violence.

Plateau State Governor, Barr Simon Bako Lalong recently signed into law the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act to strengthen the fight against gender based violence.

Senior Programme Officer, WRAPA, Mallam Mohammed Ibrahim observed that it has become a thing of worry that despite all the social and political commitment to promote women's rights, gender based violence is on the

### WRAPA engages CSOs, agencies, others against violence

increase; noting that WRAPA has worked with government to end all forms of violence perpetrated against women in our society.

Deputy Director in the Ministry of Justice, Barr Lyop Rwang took time to educate participants on the various sections of the new law and the punishment that goes with breaking the law. She observed that it seeks to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

Barr Rwang advocated that it was expedient for all relevant agencies to develop action plans for the implementation of the law as well as Sexual Response Centers as captured in the law.

As for the Gender Opportunity Law (GEO), Barr Lyop Rwang appealed to the government for the speedy establishment of the Gender Commission as enshrined in the law.

Participants who spoke variously to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** noted that it was an opportunity to hold people accountable, who have violated with levity women, children and sometimes men.

They expressed gratitude that the state can be proud to have a legal framework to execute the fight against gender based violence.

The two day workshop was held at Le Monde Hotel, Jos.



Osodeke

### Journalists urged on effective, sustainable reportage

THE Director of USAID Funded Intergrated Health Programme (IHP), Dr Siaka Alhassan Bauchi State, has urged the members of Journalists for Public Health Development Initiatives (J4PD), to be more effective and engage in sustainable reportage of health related issues.

Dr Siaka Alhassan at the opening of a 2 day workplan development meeting of the NGO held at Chartwell Hotel, Misau recently, commended members of the NGO for their

**From  
LAWAL UMAR ABUBAKAR  
Bauchi,**

resolve to work in one of the delicate areas of journalism, health reporting which he said is all about humanitarian services to the public.

Alhassan said that their efforts have been noted by the Country Director of USAID who has developed interest in supporting the NGO in areas of sustainable health reporting for development.

He however urged them not to limit their sources of funding

to one place but partner with relevant agencies as many as possible in order to expand their horizons of sponsorship and funding.

Represented by the Director Finance of IHP, Daniel Yerima, the State Director of IHP stressed the need for J4PD to develop an implementable work plan in order to attract partnership and funding.

Earlier, Coordinator of J4PD, Ms Elizabeth Kah commended USAID IHP for training members of the NGO on a rudiments of health

journalism which is a specialized area of the profession.

She also appreciated USAID IHP for funding and facilitating the work plan development meeting saying that it will put the NGO on the firm stand at the end.

He then charged members to actively participate in the work plan development in order to have a starting point for operation as well as ensure that the NGO win members of the NGO on a partnership and collaborations.

# Sports

## Morocco prevail over nine players Super Falcons

NIGERIA withstood a number of adversities before narrowly losing to host nation Morocco after penalty shoot-out, in a supercharged 12<sup>th</sup> Women Africa Cup of Nations semi final match in Rabat on Monday.

**Newsnow** said that, a total of 45,562 spectators turned the Complexe Prince Moulay Abdallah into a boiling cauldron, and only their experience, guts, grit and determination kept the nine-time African champions firmly in the game as their every move was booed while the Lionesses were roared on the moment they had the ball.

The Lionesses, who last played at the Women AFCON 22 years ago, before the current finals that they are hosting, started like a house on fire and pegged the Falcons to the rear in the early minutes. But gangling Ifeoma Onumonu should have given Nigeria the lead in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute when she was brilliantly set up by Ngozi Okobi-Okeoghene.

Three minutes later, Okobi again showed good anticipation to truncate the Moroccan surge, and set up Onumonu, but the forward again failed to make hay.

In the 34<sup>th</sup> minute, Okobi deftly intercepted again at the edge of the box, but her effort screamed away from goal.

Admittedly, the Lionesses were comfortable on the ball with excellent control and crisp passes, with captain Ghizlane Chebbak, Sanaa Mssoudy and the precocious Fatima Tagnaout threatening the Nigeria goal now and again as they weaved swiftly about the pitch.

Three minutes into the second half, Mauritan referee Maria Rivet stopped play for a VAR check, only to return and hand a red card to midfielder Halimat Ayinde. The decision shocked the Super Falcons, who had been been challenged by lasers focused on their eyes by spectators, but they refused to cave in to onslaught after onslaught by Mssoudy, Tagnaout, Yasmin Mrabet and Rosella Ayane.

In the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute, captain Onome Ebi saved on the line with goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie stranded, and it was the turn of Ashleigh Plumtre to do same two minutes later as Ebi crashed into Nnadozie in yet another invasion by the Lionesses.

In the 55<sup>th</sup> minute, Rasheedat Ajibade's pull-out was plucked by goalkeeper Khadija Er-Rmichi, but seven minutes later, Nigeria were ahead after Ajibade twisted, turned and crossed for Ifeoma Onumonu to powerfully head against the upright. The melee saw Yasmin Mrabet flick the ball into her own net.

Morocco were level only four minutes after, when Nnadozie failed to deal with a cross by the ubiquitous Tagnaout and Mssoudy gratefully slammed into the net.

In the 71<sup>st</sup> minute, Rivet



Falcons

again stopped play for a VAR check, and this time handed Rasheedat Ajibade a red card, reducing the Falcons to nine women.

Nnadozie made a dozen saves towards the end and in the ensuing extra time, with the Lionesses all over the place, but Nigeria could have won it when Gift Monday beat the hosts' defence on the counter and crashed a well-

measured shot against the crossbar, only for the ball to roll out.

In the penalty shootout, forward Ifeoma Onumonu missed for Nigeria as Rita Chikwelu, Regina Otu, Ashleigh Plumtre and Gift Monday scored. Morocco scored all their kicks, through Yasmin Mrabet, Ghizlane Chebbak, Zineb Redouane, Nesryne El Chad and Rosella Ayane.

LINDA Motlhalo struck deep into stoppage time to fire Banyana Banyana into a second-successive Women's Africa Cup of Nations final following a 1-0 victory over Zambia at Mohamed V Stadium on Monday.

**Goal** said that, it was a close contest between the two Cosafa teams and it took a spot-kick to separate them in the dying stages of the match.

Djurgarden midfielder Motlhalo scored from the penalty spot in the fourth minute of injury time in what was her second goal of this tournament.

**Wafcon:** Banyana Banyana anticipated tough Zambia encounter

South Africa defender Bambanani Mbane anticipates a tough Wafcon semi-final encounter against Zambia on Monday

South Africa will now wait to know who they will meet in the final between hosts Morocco and Nigeria who are due to clash in another semi-final match.

Having previously finished as Wafcon runners-up on five occasions, Banyana will be hoping to finally get it right this time around for their first continental title.

Banyana coach Desiree

## Motlhalo penalty sends Banyana Banyana into final



Banyana Banyana

Ellis dropped from the starting line-up midfielder Mapula Kgoale, Lebohang Ramalepe while left-back Sibulele Holweni was absent.

Full-backs Bongekla Gamede and Karabo Dhlamini were back to start as Melinda Kgadiete returned to partner Jermaine Seoposenwe upfront.

Zambia coach Bruce Mwape replaced goalkeeper Hazel Nali with Catherine Musonda in what was the only change from the line-up that beat Senegal in the quarter-finals.

Mwape also opted to set up a frontline of three forwards Xiomara Mapepa, Lubandji and Avell Chitundu.

Shepolopolo showed from the start they were going to give Banyana a tough evening with some threatening play.

An unmarked Ochumba Lubandji failed to connect while being inside the box, connecting with a cross from the left side off Grace Chanda nine minutes into the contest.

Moments later, it was Chanda's turn to shoot just wide, failing to direct her effort having been well-positioned.

Following the trouble of having to thwart Zambia's danger, Banyana got a good opportunity to take the lead from a freekick outside the box but Refiloe Jane's kick did not trouble goalkeeper Musonda just after the half-hour mark.

But Shepolopolo were back shortly after with Mapepa forcing Gamede to clear the danger.

Jane tried again on 34 minutes but shot weakly from the edge of the box and the teams went into the half-time break goalless.

Banyana then thought they had a glorious opportunity to score 13 minutes into the second half when they were awarded a penalty by referee Lidya Tafesse Abebe.

But the video assistant referee overturned Tafesse Abebe's decision for a free-kick as South Africa had got back into the game to stop Zambia's dominance.

Goals, however, continued to elude both sides but with seven minutes to go, South Africa substitute Hilda Magaia almost got the breakthrough from close range but Musonda did well to save.

## Remo Stars: FA to investigate match fixing

NIGERIA Football Federation (NFF) will launch a probe into allegations of match-fixing following the bizarre penalty shootout between Remo Stars and Ijebu United during the Ogun State FA Cup final last Thursday.

**Goal** said that, NFF wants to find out exactly what happened after the two teams were involved in the unusual shootout.

This follows an incident captured in a video, that has since gone viral, where the Remo Stars goalkeeper appeared to do little to stop the opposition penalties while Remo players seemed to purposely miss the target.

Ijebu went on to win the match 3-0 on penalties in what was the regional qualifying tournament where both finalists qualify for the National FA Cup competition but the incident left a bitter taste in the mouths of observers who suspected something sinister might have been at play and now NFF what to find out what exactly happened.

"There will be an investigation," said NFF general secretary Mohammed Sanusi as reported by **ESPN**.

He added: "It is very, very embarrassing. I have already directed the head of the NFF Head of Integrity to handle the investigation."

Remo Stars had, however, denied the match-fixing

allegations with club secretary Michael Onikute telling **GOAL** that the players were protesting against the refereeing decisions during the final.

"Well, first on the allegations of match-fixing, this is totally false," said Onikute.

"What I can deduce from the social media posts is that some individuals are trying to get much attraction by posting the [penalties] video with the word match-fixing, because they know it would alert the football world," he added.

"You will also see that they never presented a concrete explanation about the game rather than match-fixing. That shows the level of unprofessionalism of such journalists involved in the propaganda. If indeed the match was fixed, we would not have streamed the game live on our social media channels."

"That being said, the game in question was not even credible enough to be on any sports betting platform and all team members are banned from

taking part in any form of betting activities."

He went on: "We as a team were utmost disappointed with the level of organisation, coordination and officiating of the games in the state cup."

"Just before the end of the normal time, the match officials ended the match without the additional time and before the end of the 90th minute so the game could end in penalties. We opted not to play the penalties, but the Ogun State FA insisted we played, or risk being banned."



Remo Stars

Sports

# NFF guidelines must be followed in election-Longbap

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

THE Chairman, Plateau State Football Association, Sunday Longbap, has highlighted that the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has its election procedures of which must be followed in any of their election.

He disclosed this in an interview with **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** sports desk, during the opening ceremony of the Coach Fidelis Ilechukwu's Peace Football Tournament, held at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium recently.

Longbap who is NFF Board member stressed that, the date line of the election is September.

"well, in any elections, there are procedures that must be duly followed, September is the time frame of this present Board to windup their programmes in order for election to be conducted, but I don't want to join words with the executive Board of the association, who are saddled with the responsibility of fixing dates of congress, in order to bring out a blue print for the election, but we had hitches, especially with the Corona Virus pandemic, which affected the calendar", he said.

"The Federal Government advised that the date line should be adhered to but not interfering with the activities of the Board, because the association is an independent body and there are those saddled with the



Longbap

responsibility of handling its issues, he added.

The chairman expressed happiness with the organizer of the tournament, which he said hidden talents will be discovered.

"I am here to witness a peace football competition organized by the Technical Adviser of Plateau United which is a grassroots football tournament and I will always identify with such kind of tournament because hidden talents will be discovered and engaged positively", he

declared.

While commenting on the Plateau United continental slot, the chairman stressed that this is not the first time the club is representing the country at the continental championship.

"Plateau United has been champions of the Nigerian Professional Football league (NPFL) in the past seasons and had played the continental tournament, we will do our best to ensure they perform well in the championship", he concluded.

## P/Utd assures of state government support

THE Plateau State Government has assured players and management of Plateau United Football Club of Jos that it will not relent in supporting the team as they represent Nigeria in next season's CAF Champions League.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the club's media officer, Albert

Dakup and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** sports desk, it stated that, the State Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development, Victor Lapang, gave the assurance while addressing the team shortly after they defeated Enyimba International of Aba one-nil in the last match of the

2021/2022 Nigeria Professional Football League played at the Jos International Stadium, Sunday.

Lapang explained that government will provide all that is needed to ensure the team perform well in the competition and urged them to reciprocate that gesture

by remaining focus and committed to the task ahead.

The Commissioner who congratulated the team for finishing second in the NPFL by picking one of the two CAF Champions League tickets at stake, said they have made the state proud with that achievement.

He commended the General Manager of the Club, Pius Henwan for instilling discipline, hardwork and commitment in the team and promised government support to enable him succeed in the continental assignment.

General Manager of the Club, Pius Henwan informed the players that preparations ahead of the CAF Champions League has already commenced and assured them that management is working round the clock to ensure that their welfare is properly taken care of.

"Remember, in our last two previous campaigns, we failed to go beyond the preliminary stages of the competition. This time around, I want you to brace up for the challenges ahead

and get into the group stage of the competition, so that we can make Plateau State and Nigeria proud.

Henwan who expressed confidence in the ability of his team to deliver, assured that they will be properly kitted while their welfare which is always a paramount concern to management, will be accorded top priority more than ever before.

Technical Adviser of the team, Coach Fidelis Ilechukwu commended the General Manager and Technical Director of the club for their unflinching support, describing them as the best he has ever worked with.

Captain of the team, Golbe Elisha who spoke on behalf of the players, appreciated the management for their massive support and urged them to improve on the existing welfare of the team.

The Peace Boys who finished second at the end of the season, will now fly Nigeria's flag in the CAF Champions League alongside newly crowned Champions, Rivers United of Portharcourt.

## Williams to continue comeback at US Open



Williams

when I would come back. I didn't know how I would come back."

Williams is one major short of Australian player Margaret Court's record 24 Grand Slam singles titles.

At this year's Wimbledon she lost in the first round to Harmony Tan and, speaking about her hopes of playing at Flushing Meadows, she

said: "When you're at home,

especially in New York, and the US Open, that being the first place I've won a Grand Slam is something that's always super special.

"There's definitely lots of motivation to get better and to play at home."

Williams' first Grand Slam title was the US Open in 1999, and her most recent at the Australian Open in 2017.

## 32 teams to participate in Tukur's Football Tourney

FROM MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

THE football competition sponsored by the Senatorial candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in the Nasarawa West Constituency of Nasarawa State, Architect Shehu Ahmed Tukur among 32 football clubs in Keffi Local Government Area has officially kick-off at the keffi mini stadium during the weekend.

Already, all the football teams to participate in the competition have been registered and adequately prepared to make their debut.

Speaking with the **NIGERIA STANDARD SPORTS** desk, during the opening match, the Chairman of the Keffi Amatuer Football Association (KAFA), Malam Sallau Zubairu stated that the purpose of organizing the competition is to promote the game of football amongst the teeming football loving youths in the area especially that it is loaded with advantages apart from being a source of leisure.

He started that the since the Senatorial candidate has a great passion towards the development youths and sporting activities he feels highly committed to organize the competition so

that the youths can build a carrier in football since it has already assume the status of a vehicle for national and international integration diplomacy and job creation. Meanwhile, the chairman of

the competition Mohammed Yakubu Dikko has assured that adequate preparation has been put in place, explaining that after this edition the competition would be expanded to cover the

whole senatorial constituency.

Meanwhile, the opening match between the Goriya Academy and Aunam Academy has ended up in a one-one draw.

## 40 players to play at the lower division league

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

COACH Zakary Baraje has so far selected 40 players that would later be screened to form the newly Keffi United Football Club of keffi to play in the National Football League in the country.

Speaking with newsmen in Keffi immediately after the final match of the Turaki Unity Football match competition a platform that was used for the selections of the players, coach Baraje described the selection exercise as quite successful and promising.

"The selection process was quite successful and it appears to be impressive and promising also as all the players selected to be later screened are good ones that can hit the ground running as far as the game of football is concerned" he asserted.

He stated that it was after

the screening exercise that the best ones would be selected to form the new team that would play its matches in the National League Competition. Baraje then thanked Senator Adamu for the opportunity given to him to perform his duties in that regards as well as the officials and co-coordinators of the competitions for the support rendered to him in that regards.

The **NIGERIA STANDARD SPORT** desk recalled that Coach Zakary Baraje was appointed by Senator Abdullahi Adamu the current National Chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC) and sponsor of the Turaki Unity Football Cup competition to use the competition as a platform to select players that would be use to form the keffi United

Football Club.

The players would be selected from the five Local Government Areas namely; Karu, Keffi, Kokona, Nasarawa and Toto that made-up the Nasarawa Western Senatorial District.



Plateau United

## Sports



Morgan

### Morgan penalty secures CONCACAF victory for US

ALEX Morgan's 78th-minute penalty sealed the USA's place at the 2024 Olympics as they beat Canada 1-0 in the Concacaf W Championship final.

**BBC SPORT** said that, Morgan netted her 118th international goal after Allysha Chapman fouled American Rose Lavelle in the area.

Victory in Mexico avenged the world champions' shock defeat by Canada in last year's Olympic semi-finals.

Canada, the reigning

Olympic champions, will face Jamaica next year for the other Concacaf spot at Paris 2024.

Jamaica qualified for the Olympic play-off by winning the W Championship's third-place match, as Kalyssa van Zanten scored in the 102nd minute to give them a 1-0 extra-time victory over Costa Rica.

Morgan only returned to international duty with the USA in June after an eight-month break that she says helped her "mentally and

physically".

"I feel like I'm in form, and some of the younger players are able to look up to the older players," she said.

"It always feels good to be called a champion. So this game means a lot to us. It's always going to mean a lot. Canada gave us a run for our money. But we prevailed and feel good about the performance."

All four W Championship semi-finalists have secured places at the 2023 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

### State Gov't back Bayelsa United to qualify for NPFL'



THE government of Bayelsa State has challenged Bayelsa United to double efforts to gain promotion to the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL).

**NPFL News** said that, Bayelsa State Deputy Governor Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo gave the charge at the weekend when he hosted the players and technical crew of the club to a dinner at the Government House in Yenagoa.

The quarterly dinner, an initiative of the Deputy Governor, was put together as a morale booster for the team to surmount their opponents in upcoming matches.

A statement by the Senior Special Assistant to the Deputy Governor on Media, Doubara Atasi, quoted Senator Ewhrudjakpo, as saying that both female and male teams of the state had become signature names in the nation's football history.

Consequently, Corporate Nigeria, according to the Deputy Governor, are now showing interest in the sponsorship of the state-owned football clubs.

While calling on the players to keep their eyes fixed on qualifying for the premier league, particularly as they currently sit top on the log, he urged them not to rest on their laurels as winners of the nation's National League.

He used the opportunity to reassure them of government's unflinching support, noting that the Governor Douye Diri-led administration would continue to prioritise their welfare.

Ewhrudjakpo said: "We are very proud of you. Our teams have become signature and household names in national football. When I travelled recently with the Commissioner for Youths and Sports, to get sponsors, a lot of them said they couldn't wait to

become your sponsors.

"So, you can be rest assured that you will get sponsors from banks and companies by next year. I want you to know that, you are already the pride of Nigerian football, and when you gain promotion into the premier league, you are going to defeat those same teams you defeated during the AITEO Cup."

"We have broken all the records of the state governor when he was Commissioner for Youths and Sports. Our major challenge now is, the promotion of Bayelsa United to the premier league, and we believe that, by the next two matches the coast will be very clear for us.

"We will not joke with your welfare. This dinner is part of our promise to you that we are going to be meeting every quarter and we are determined to keep every promise made to you. That is why we are doing everything possible to equip you for every game ahead."

In their separate goodwill messages, the Majority Leader of the Bayelsa State

House of Assembly, Hon. Monday Obolo- Bubou and the Minority Whip c, Hon Timi Omubo-Agala, praised the state government for its unrelenting support and commitment to sports development in the state.

In his remarks, the State Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Dr. Daniel Igali, described the state-owned football clubs as ranking among the best-looking-after teams in the country, irrespective of the league and position they occupy. He thanked Governor Diri and his Deputy, Senator Ewhrudjakpo, for attaching high premiums on sports development.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Bayelsa United FC, Ebiki Timitimi, while narrating their journey in the National League, explained that though the road was rough at the beginning, the Team is now confident about victory as the season gradually winds down.

Timitimi equally thanked the state government for the high level of encouragement being given to the team with a view to getting their best in both home and away features.

### Cameroon, Senegal seal Women's World Cup play-off slots

CAMEROON and Senegal have secured a passage into the 2023 Fifa Women's World Cup inter-confederation play-offs following victories over Botswana and Tunisia respectively in the fifth and sixth place play-offs of the Women's Africa Cup of Nations on Sunday.

Goal said that, we now know which nations from Africa are through to the World Cup inter-confederation play-offs. Cameroon, who qualified for the 2019 World Cup in France by virtue of reaching the 2018 Wafcon semi-final, suffered a 1-0 loss to holders Nigeria in the quarter-finals and needed a brilliant goal from Ajara Nchout to seal their ticket. The Inter Milan forward picked the ball outside the box before firing in a thunderous shot that flew

past Botswana goalkeeper Maitumelo Bosija on the stroke of half-time.

The second half was quiet with neither side posing danger but the Indomitable Lionesses were reduced to 10 when Fadimatou Aretouyap was sent off for a stump on Bosija with 10 minutes remaining.

Cameroon leave the tournament disappointed, having failed to achieve their main target of a semi-final place while they only managed one win before Sunday's match with two draws in the group stages landing them the difficult knockout fixture with Nigeria. Botswana, meanwhile gave a good account of themselves in what was their debut appearance at Wafcon given they played the top three

ranked nations (Nigeria, South Africa and Cameroon) and still managed to reach the quarter-finals.

Senegal secured their passage into the inter-confederation play-offs after edging out Tunisia 4-2 on post-match penalties following a 1-1 draw in regulation time. The Senegalese will now try their luck in the 10-team play-off in New Zealand in February and Europe have one place apiece.

### NPFL: Kano Pillars relegated after losing appeal

KANO Pillars' frantic effort to escape being relegated from the **Nigeria Professional Football League**, NPFL has suffered a terminal blow.

NPFL News said that, this follows the decision by the Appeals Committee of the **Nigeria Football Federation** (NFF) to turn down the club's appeal against the three points deduction earlier sanctioned by the Federation's Disciplinary Committee.

With 45 points going into their last match of the season against Shooting Stars, Pillars already had the herculean task of beating the Oluyole Warriors by at least a three-goal margin to save their Premier League status.

However, with the deduction of the three points, Pillars are left with 42 points which all but confirms their relegation to the Nigeria National League (NNL). Pillars will have themselves

to blame for their avoidable predicament as the latest points deduction means they lost six points this season to violent conduct either by their fans or officials.

The Decision of the Appeals Committee read: "Finding No.5 of the Disciplinary Committee, which was not appealed against by the Appellant, was what the Committee found as the main crux of the disruption of the match by the attack of the Kano Pillars' former Chairman on Asst. Referee 1, as shown in the pictorial evidence presented before the Committee. In view of the above, the appeal fails.

"On the issue of the destroyed camera, the Committee agrees that the memory card was removed and the pouch of the microphone was destroyed,

as such, this constitutes damage to property, therefore, the appeal fails.

"The decision of the Disciplinary Committee is hereby upheld. Consequently, the appeal is hereby dismissed.

"On the League Management Company's

letter dated 14th July 2022, addressed to the General Secretary, Nigeria Football Federation, having found that the letter is contemptuous, League Management Company is hereby barred from sending such letter to the Nigeria Football Federation.



Cameroon



Pillars



**Quest**



writer

ZERIHUN ADDISU

## Mazrui: An intellectual who spoke truth to power

**T**WENTIETH-CENTURY Africa has seen numerous towering figures and personalities that could transcend out of generations. The century has given us literary giants like Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, Ayin Kwei Armah, Najihb Mahfouz and incredible scholars like Cheikh Anta Diop, Walter Rodney and others apart from the notable Pan-Africanist political figures. Ali Mazrui is amongst the few scholars that Africa could proudly regard among its all-time brilliant sons and great minds; thoughtful, enthusiastic, bold, critical and courageous to come up with new and deviating ideas on a range of contentious issues.

Mazrui was born on February 24, 1933, in Mombasa, Kenya. The "Black Professor", as he used to be called, was not a good student in his childhood as he said nothing is impossible if hard work and commitment are put rightly in place. He even nearly failed the high school qualification examination in Mombasa – the Cambridge School Certificate examination, which was set and graded by Cambridge University for schools in the British colonial empire.

Because he got what was called a "Third Grade" (meaning just a pass) in 1949, he was not qualified to go to college. The only higher-education college for East Africans at the time was Makerere University, Uganda.

Makerere rejected his application for admission. He even failed to get a job as a junior bank clerk in Mombasa. But he refused to accept that situation as the final word about his career.

After reading all these ups and downs, then, who could believe that he became professor at the age of 35?

His life, career, journey from Mombasa to Makerere, and onto London and New York alone gives sufficient lessons to today's African youth. Once reported saying to students, "each of you has a rendezvous with destiny. Some of you may have an appointment with greatness." He explored his destiny in a highly decorated fashion.

As this great educationist, activist and voice of the destitute, designated as the 'global African' was laid to rest, we need to be reminded of his unique contributions and legacy on African studies, Pan-Africanism, his perspective on Ethiopia and some of the critics.

Mazrui got his Bachelor's Degree from Manchester University in 1960, his Master's from Colombia



Mazrui

University in 1961 and his Doctorate from Oxford University in 1966. His research interest and works cover wide ranging areas of interdisciplinary topics including African politics, international political culture, political Islam and North-South relations in the areas of political philosophy, African studies, and comparative culture, not only politics as a matter of governance, but politics of the human condition as a whole.

That is why he was called "multiple Mazrui". He authored and coauthored more than forty books and published hundreds of articles on prominent scholarly journals. His prolific writing in the past half century has immensely shaped thoughts about Africa and Islam among scholars and the public at large. Due to his immense contribution, the prodigious body of scholarship affectionately dubbed 'Mazruiana'.

He emerged to prominence and influential figure as a critic of socialism and all variants of Marxism of the 1960s and 70s, dubbing it as western imported ideology and arguing that it is an idea difficult to cultivate on African soil. He thinks an African type of liberalism is the answer to the political ills of the continent.

He promoted what he called his unique African liberalism. He also strongly criticised the western capitalist system as exploitative

of Africa and the developing world.

He believes that it has entailed a 'global apartheid' on the global political economy which the liberal political ideals failed to live up to its original cause. With regards to this, Mazrui had already begun critiquing colonial and post-colonial policies in Africa in early works such as, "On Heroes and Uhuru-Worship: Essays on Independent Africa," published in 1967 and followed the same year by, "Towards a Pax Africana: A Study of Ideology and Ambition."

Mazrui was best known in the West, especially in US, for writing and presenting a controversial television series, "The Africans: A Triple Heritage" in 1986. In the nine-part documentary, co-produced by the BBC and the US Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in association with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Mazrui set out to explore wide-ranging aspects of African culture and society "from the inside". Episodes focused on subjects including nature, the family, colonial exploitation, conflict and political instability. It portrayed Africa as having been defined by the interplay of the 'triple heritages' – indigenous Africanity, Islamic and Western influences.

Almost more than any other African scholar, Mazrui has dedicated relatively better topics

on Ethiopia and its fascinating and extraordinary role in Pan-African movement including the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), a predecessor to the African Union (AU), and being a sparkle and a beacon of hope to nations and peoples living under the yolk of colonialism in Africa as well as around the globe. His encounter with the Ethiopian intelligentsia began at a time when the revolution was to breakout.

As he narrates in his book, "Political Values and the Educated Class in Africa", "I was in Ethiopia in December in 1973, a few months before the creeping coup started. I was invited to address the student body. An American colleague came to fetch me from my hotel."

"We arrived at the university. The students turned up not just in their hundreds but in their thousands. The mass of humanity that was there was surprising for a professorial lecture. When I looked back my American colleague has disappeared. The students were singing political songs and he had apparently decided discretion was the better part of valour."

Mazrui continues, "I ploughed through this mass of humanity, arrived at the front platform. It was one of the loneliest arrivals of my career because there was nobody there to meet me. I was bewildered, wondering what to do next, and then saw somebody else struggling to come across, accompanied by some other. It turned out he was my host, the professor of political science there."

"When stood up on the platform to introduce me, he was worried presumably about the impact of surrender on university opinion of him, but did capitulate to the situation. What emerged in the course of that address, after students have taken over the chair and given their speeches, was that these were the most radical African students I had ever addressed. They gave me a fair hearing, listening to me to the end, after that asked questions deliberately intended to embroil me in their own profound and understandable dissatisfaction with the Ethiopian imperial system as they knew it. This was the most direct and the bluntest critique of an African government I had ever heard from students anywhere."

The 1960 Revolution in Ethiopia injected something special to him: the only Revolution very

much similar to the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

Mazrui claims "although the differences from what happened in Russia were immense, the Ethiopian Revolution of 1974 was closer to the Russian Revolution of the 1917 than anything else that had happened in Africa. Both revolutions overthrew ancient monarchical institutions; both of them had to confront hostile Orthodox Christian churches; both revolutions were followed by immense internal civil conflict; both revolutions were captured by extremely brutal dictators, Joseph Stalin and Mengistu Hailemariam; and both revolutions ended with ethnic fragmentation in the body politic."

Mazrui is not like other scholars, mostly whites, who labeled the Ethiopian Revolution a 'creeping coup' judging by the mere fact of being a prolonged process to overthrow the monarchy and its replacement by the military regime ignoring the role of the peasantry, the students, teachers, laborers and others.

He was fascinated by Ethiopia's pioneering and path-finding role in various things. He was mesmerized by Ethiopia being "the oldest Christian state in Africa and a savior of nascent Islam." However, this great intellectual, whose analyses are always sharp and bold, was not afraid to comment on Ethiopia's paradoxical nature and unity or harmony of contradictions.

The most powerful and captivating view of Mazrui on Ethiopia is the place as a "Pan-Africanist icon" and as a "stimulator of Pan-African imagination." When he came back after 18 years in that very compound where he delivered his public lecture, he emphasized that Ethiopia was not a natural-born Pan-Africanist since it was closed from the rest of 'Black Africa' due to its monarchical and feudal system.

In 2004, again in a lecture he gave at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies (IES) in Addis Ababa, he praised "Ethiopia was the longest surviving black sovereign state, causing many colonised black people to look to Ethiopia for inspiration". Later, in 2005, in his article Pan-Africanism, he explained the notion of Ethiopia's ironical image.

To be continued

**FRAGMENT**

"Mazrui was born on February 24, 1933, in Mombasa, Kenya. The "Black Professor", as he used to be called, was not a good student in his childhood as he said nothing is impossible if hard work and commitment are put rightly in place. He even nearly failed the high school qualification examination in Mombasa – the Cambridge School Certificate examination, which was set and graded by Cambridge University for schools in the British colonial empire. Because he got what was called a "Third Grade" (meaning just a pass) in 1949, he was not qualified to go to college. The only higher-education college for East Africans at the time was Makerere University, Uganda."

ZERIHUN ADDISU