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pace of work at  
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# Sunday Standard



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# Nigeria and fuel conundrum

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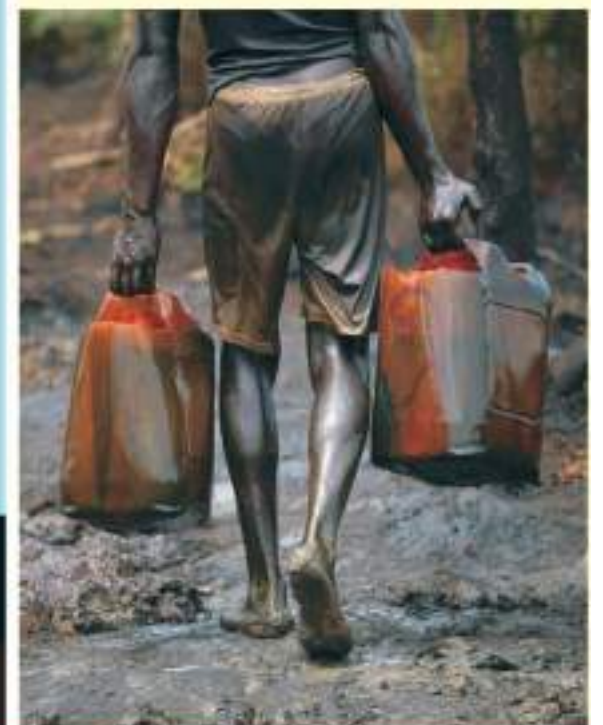


*With the sudden and unexpected increase in fuel price, without official declaration, Nigerians are worried. While the cost of living in the country has already skyrocketed; this latest development has become worrisome. Where is the country headed for? And what lies ahead for Nigerians?*



## EU delegation, NNPC officials, JTF visit illegal refining sites

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## Nigeria borrows N3 trillion for salaries, others

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### Stemming the rising airfare hikes

**THERE** is no denying the fact that air travel all over the world remains the fastest and probably, the safest. Apart from some occasional mishaps, air travel still remains one with guarantee in the transport sector. People use it to engage international business men and women who make use of this mode of transportation to transact their businesses. It gives comfort to other categories of traveller's citizens of the world, students from one country to the other and even sportsmen and women going for competitions.

**IT** is therefore sad and unacceptable that media reports indicate that Nigerians are groaning as both local and foreign airlines hike fares. It is not fair and smacks of national embarrassment that Nigeria which hitherto in the not too distant past, had a robust and sufficient air carrier, the Nigeria Air ways is suddenly facing this mess.

**MORE** annoying too, is the revelation by Air travel experts that most foreign carriers have stopped selling the lower fare inventory in Nigeria, leaving travellers with expensive fare options described as the highest in the sub-region. Foreign airlines who stopped selling low fare tickets include, Virgin Atlantic which now charges N2,353,200 for economy and N5,345,700 for business class on the Lagos-London route.

**FOR** Turkish Airlines, the economy class ticket from the Lagos-Istanbul route has risen to N874.661 while the business class ticket now goes for N1,980.896. This is the same situation Nigerian travellers are experiencing with other carriers like British Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Luthansa, KLM. Air France, Air Maroc and Ethiopian Airlines.

**WE** find it shameful, if not despicable and unacceptable that Nigerian air travellers have to go to neighbouring countries like Ghana, if they must purchase the lower fare inventory. Indeed, something is amiss as everything is not working. The hardship Nigeria air travellers are now facing amidst the economic crunch is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated.

**REPORTS** indicate that before now, the economic class ticket on Nigeria-UK route was between N400,000 and N650,000 depending on the booking period. While business class was between N800,000 and N1.2 million.

**INDEED**, government needs to be told in very clear terms that the exorbitant foreign airlines fares are taking a monumental toll on the citizenry. What about parents with their children schooling abroad? What about the businessmen and women always on the move abroad? With time, can they afford the fares?

**WE** believe that, government must act urgently and do the needful in order to stem this precarious situation. Already, some of the foreign carriers have even warn of the situation becoming worse and making Nigerian travellers pay even more unless the Federal Government begins to settle the outstanding N450 million that has been trapped in the country.

**AGAIN**, the issue of Forex has become very problematic for foreign airlines. We are of the opinion that the Federal Government should have a synergy with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) towards confronting head long this problem.

**WE** believe that the present problem many look monumental. It is equally not insurmountable. With the right political will, determination and resilience, it may just be a thing of the past. Nigerians can ill-afford to be embarrassed this way.

### Nigeria's government borrows N3 trillion for salaries, others

**T**he Nigerian government borrowed over N3 trillion to cover non-capital expenditure in the first four months of 2022, a register that covers salaries, government running costs and even debt repayment, a PREMIUM TIMES analysis of government spending data shows.

The spending comes amid Nigeria's bloated deficit spending and poor revenue.

The government in its fiscal performance report for January through April said the spending target for the period was N5.77 trillion, while the actual spending as of April 31 was N4.72 trillion.

A breakdown of the actual spending within the quarter shows that N1.94 trillion was for debt service, N1.26 trillion for personnel cost, including pensions. The remaining went to statutory transfers, overhead cost and debt servicing.

Only a meagre N773.63 billion was spent on capital projects — which should include everything from roads to bridges, rail and school and hospital buildings, projects that affect the generality of Nigerians.

The government's retained

revenue during the period was only N1.63 trillion, out of a target of N3.32 trillion, putting the deficit between actual spending and revenues at N3.09 trillion.

The new report, therefore, shows rather than borrow for investment in the nation's human and infrastructural needs, the government continued to borrow to finance consumption, offset overheads, pay pensions, and settle related recurrent expenses. This is contrary to globally acknowledged fiscal advice that borrowing should be channeled toward capital expenditure.

Nigeria largely operates a consumption-based and rent-seeking economy with a fiscal and constitutional framework that engenders consumption, deepens poverty, and elevates misery amongst its estimated 200 million population.

Over the years, experts and policy analysts have warned of the danger of borrowing for consumption, as it weakens the nation's fiscal position and raises debt management risks.

In the first quarter of 2022, Nigeria's public debt rose to N41.6 trillion from



Ahmed

N39.56 trillion recorded at the end of December 2021.

The Debt Management Office earlier in the month said Nigeria's debt profile is prone to the volatility of oil prices and forex exchange risk.

### Nigeria's unity beyond 2023 is my priority -Buhari

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari on Friday, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, met with stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The stakeholders were led to the meeting by the National Chairman of the party, Senator Abdulahi Adamu.

Addressing the APC delegation, the President said the unity, security and prosperity of the country would matter most to him, beyond his days in office as President.

President Buhari, who expressed delight that the APC was on course to achieving that desire, thanked the delegation "for the kind words on my role in processes leading to the emergence of our candidate, and his running mate, for the Presidential election in February, next year."

"I want to thank you all for the roles you played in the build-up, first to our national convention earlier this year, and later, to the primary elections.

"You were all of one mind, wanting the best for the party, with the candidate emerging in a free and fair manner.

"For us all, the cohesion and unity of the party was the first priority, and ambition was second. I am glad that you all saw the larger picture, rather than narrow, self-serving interests."

The President recalled that when the APC presidential running mate, Senator Kashim Shettima, was presented to him recently, he had said he would reserve his comments till the handover ceremony on May 29, 2023, at the Eagle Square.

He stated: "I still maintain that same position", as he lauded party members for acknowledging the many virtues that qualify the vice-presidential candidate for the noble position.

President Buhari expressed confidence that Shettima would not disappoint the party, and Nigerians at large.

He also commended the party for resolving to further mobilise more Nigerians, particularly youths, to register, and get their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs), saying "It is the way to go."

Adamu said: "Our main goal is to see the success of the APC in the forthcoming general elections. There's no better parting gift than to ensure that the APC produces the next president."

Bagudu told the President that he had set a worthy precedence on internal democracy in political parties, saying: "Under pressure to dictate or suggest, you were determined that the democratic process should be given the opportunity to work and what we have seen is that democratic processes can produce very excellent results.

"We have a presidential candidate and a running mate, whom we are all proud of."

Bagudu attributed the gradual return of normalcy to the North Eastern part of the country to the spirited interventions approved by the President, acknowledging the rise in agricultural activities and food production in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States.

The vice presidential candidate reiterated the willingness of the APC presidential candidate, Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu and himself to serve Nigeria with justice, equity and fairness.

"We want to solicit the support of the President once INEC lifts the ban on open-air campaigns and we want to latch on to your achievements and brand name to victory, and consolidate the leadership of the party", he said.

The presidential flag bearer, Bola Tinubu, was absent just as governors

of the APC from the South West.

Among the party stakeholders in the meeting were Senate President, Ahmad Lawan; Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Idris Wase, and presidential running mate of the party, Shettima.

Also present were some state governors elected under the party including Babagana Zulum (Borno) Atiku Bagudu (Kebbi); Abdullahi Sule (Nasarawa); Inuwa Yahaya (Gombe); Mai Mala Buni (Yobe) former Speaker, House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole; former Borno State Governor, Ali Modu Sheriff, and former minister of Agriculture, Audu Ogbah.

In the meeting as well were the Secretary to Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, Chief of Staff to the President, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari; APC national officer, Emma Eneukwu, among others.

### EU delegation, NNPC officials, JTF visit illegal refining sites

**T**he European Union, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd (NNPC) and the Joint Task Force (JTF) Operation Delta Safe, on Friday visited an illegal refining site in Rivers, to inspect the impacts on the environment.

The refinery, already destroyed by the JTF is located in Ahoada West Local Government Area of the state.

The visit is for the EU, partners to assess things for themselves and how crude oil thieves set up illegal refineries and the adverse impact on the communities.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the EU delegation comprises Samuela Isopi, Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS; Cecile Leeman Team Leader, Southern partnerships EU Commission.

Others are Richard Young, Head of Division West Africa; Thomas Kieler, Political Adviser, EU delegation to Nigeria; Jerome Riviere, Programme Manager EU delegation to Nigeria; Juan Sell, Ambassador of Spain to Nigeria.

Mele Kyari, Group Chief Executive Officer, NNPC, commended the JTF for their good work in the Niger Delta area, in safeguarding the nation's oil and gas assets.

He said Nigeria would soon curtail the breaches, and that they came with the development partners to see how much work was going on and how they could help to bring sanity, restore oil production and security for everyone.

"It cannot happen unless we are able to work together with all the reports; we are also ready for our partners to see things for themselves and the efforts that are being made to curtail the situation.

I commend the troops on ground,

working to ensure that the nation's oil and gas sector is secured.

We believe by August we will be able to bring down the menace to a minimal level. It is not good for the community, it has a huge negative impact on the environment.

"Today the livelihood of the people here are impacted, people doing the business are not from the community, they are actually from other places.

We are working with the community to take this out so that they can go back to their normal way of life.


"We are happy we are here today to see things for ourselves and our partners," he said.

On his part, Aminu Hassan, the JTF Commander, said within the period of three months, the taskforce destroyed more than 2,000 illegal refineries in the area.


He said: "In one site here you can get between 50 to 100 composite units where everyone is operating; just like a market, everybody is doing his illicit business in one market. So, that is how they operate.

Within a refining site, you can get hundreds of units, everyone doing his own, within a week or thereabout you can succeed in destroying thousands. Mechanically we are destroying their machines which they are very fast in constructing.

If you really want to suppress them, you must be faster than them, work ahead of them that is why we introduced these equipment, he said.



With  
**Katdapba  
Y. Gobum**  
On Sunday



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**"Even as it is explosive, I would rather talk about it as perhaps just gloss over the issue. For how long would we ignore the issue? For how long would the men think that the women do not matter, so long as we think we are in a man's world? Who says that the women do not matter in these issues that we have always excluded them?"**

**L**ET me make a confession right from the onset, and I won't hide under any guise: women the world over have come of age. They are everywhere proving their mettle. They have done a lot to be appreciated by the men. Those who think otherwise may not discard such views for a long time to come. The views are purely held on the basis of gender and for us, mark it; it is dangerous to our development as a people.

Like it or hate it, we can't deny the fact that women have changed the face of how things are done. We have examples to show; in fact even those who do not want to hear about the exploits of women, are quick to point to the fact that women have tremendously made their marks in Nigeria's development.

I have chosen a topic that several of Nigerians would prefer not to talk about. Each person you meet has a different version to the issue. Some of the reasons are spurious as they are laughable in content. The reasons don't reflect logic but are in the main chauvinistic in reason. Well, that is what the women don't want to hear, so also are some men.

Even as it is explosive, I would rather talk about it as perhaps just gloss over the issue. For how long would we ignore the issue? For how long would the men think that the women do not matter, so long as we think we are in a man's world? Who says that the women do not matter in these issues that we have always excluded them?

Statistics have been provided on the level of acceptance of the quality of work and representation in the last couple of years. This is not to run away from the realities that in years passed, women were not considered to be 'good' enough to give quality representation. This is no doubt chauvinistic in orientation and thinking.

We know that the balance of power is tipped heavily greatly against the women. They don't just need appointment; they need to slug it out with the men during elections. The truth is that the women don't have the financial muscle to wrestle power from the men; hence they have to depend on the men for tickets to contest elective positions.

The women may be more in number, but it is always the men that are in command. One woman wrote: "sometimes I think that men are afraid of the speed with which we will achieve development if they gave power to women and so they hold on to it." We shall soon come to this point, to be able to get things right.

Below it has been considered why there are impediments in the way of women. I have reproduced the views so as to make a point in the area that

## The fight for Nigerian women



**Lau**

even the men and women have continued to ignore. We need as a people to study what other countries have achieved in the area of balancing the negative stats against women. It is a different story altogether today. Consider this, and let me warn; these views are expressed by some Nigerians. Let us consider these indices gotten from different sources:

In August 2003, women won 48.8% of the parliamentary seats. In the 2008 elections, women won 45 out of the 80 parliamentary seats, amounting to about 53.25% of the votes. Rwanda's post-genocide 2003 constitution reserves 30% of parliamentary seats for women. Perhaps as a result of genocide, the population of men in Rwanda today is 45% while that of women is 55%, so you could argue that the current representation in parliament is a fair reflection of current demographics. These women voted a new law granting women land inheritance rights, a thing which almost a heresy in our traditional African setting.

Within Africa, the average for women representation is 18.5%. Uganda and South Africa have an average of 44%. The post-Apartheid Constitution of South Africa has outlawed all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, gender or sexual orientation. And they enforce those rights with great relish.

The Nordic countries have traditionally had the best tradition of gender balance in parliamentary government. The average representation of women is 44%. Norway and Finland have produced remarkable women prime

ministers. The average for North America is 23.1%, while that of Europe is 19.9% (not that far ahead of Africa)! The Arabs, predictably score the lowest world-wide (11.7%).

Nigeria is extremely far behind in women representation. The problem exists throughout the 3 tiers of government. So far, no woman has made to Governor's position. Of the 700+ local governments, there until last year only 4 LG women Chairmen (funny, that one)! Obasanjo in his second coming did bring in a good number of women into the cabinet (although the murmurs of the 'Obasanjo women' being literally his were all the rage. And it was said that he dislodged the remarkable Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala because she did not understand what it meant to be "an Obasanjo woman". I am sure there were some who were totally above board, but one of them so ferociously defending his right to be philanderer got me rather suspicious of her and in fact of most of the "Obasanjo women".

Unfortunately, I have to also say that the type of women who make it in Nigerian politics are the types that none of us would like to identify with. Most are considered fair game for the after midnight dark complots by wheeler-dealer politicians. These women are seen as part of the national cake (excuse my French, ladies)! In Hausa land, all the women politicians were viewed as being only slightly better than whores (Gambo Sawaba and Laila Dogonyaro who passed away recently). I am sorry to say, one of them did not have an enviable reputation in Aso Villa when she was in the Cabinet. One

of those types has made it to the Senate in my own Southern Kaduna. No decent woman would be prepared to do what some of these people are prepared to do to get where they are.

Where does that leave us? Politics is a murky business, but it is also a calling demanding the highest ideals in moral character. It is about our very lives and destiny -- and the life chances of millions of our citizens. Women must be part of it, because they are the bedrock of our society. We need to create a political culture that allows the right sort of women to make it into politics and to be a pride not only to the womenfolk but to our society and nation. We need great women, noble women -- and I am sure they are there in our country, our communities and even in this Forum of ours. We must encourage them not only through progressive laws but through positive affirmation.

Patricia Etteh was removed for allegedly misusing 600 million naira. Her successor Bankole is in trouble for allegedly diverting a staggering 35 billion naira. Women, clearly, are better, if you truly look at it. Professor Adenike Grange was handcuffed for taking 10 million naira. Some of our men politicians are walking away literally with murder. Hassan Lawal, formerly of Works, had 25 billion in one account along. Let's allow the women to take over this country. Women are most reluctant to fight wars. They may be corrupt, but they seem more compassionate at the end of the day put side by side with the men.

Again whether we like it or not out there, 'women are still struggling to be heard, of the 13 women that contested the governorship elections (in Nigeria), none was successful. 59 women contested as deputies, mainly in inconsequential parties except in Lagos State. 22 women contested the House of Representatives poll and only 15 were elected into the 360-member lower chamber. 7 women were elected into the 109 member senate out of the 97 that contested the election. In the 36 States Houses of Assembly, 517 women contested for seats and only 42 were elected. More so, only 1 contested the presidential election-Ebiti Ndok of UNPD, of course, she did not win'.

Well I didn't expect her to make any impact. Even as a reporter I never read about her candidacy or given as much publicity as the others. Perhaps it could be attributed to her lack of financial muscles as the men who contested along side with her. Nigerians are quick to point to the foray of Sarah Jubril, who since time immemorial has contested

elections with the men. While it is a fact that she was not the only female delegate, she got only a vote during the presidential primaries at Eagle Square, Abuja.

While it was apparent, she may have voted for herself, the other female delegates chose to go with the men. We do not know of any reason, but we do know that the women may have always stood against themselves and victory. She, like other women may have lost because they were not supported by the womenfolk. It has always been like that; as a result they hardly go far in such political contest.

We can count so many women who attempted or rather competed with the men but got wounded in the process. You don't need to go too far, remember, former NAFDAC and Minister of Information and Communication, Dora Akunyili. She resigned to contest for a Senatorial seat in Anambra. She almost (yes almost, that word again) got it, but got burnt on the way. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala also got burnt because the men wouldn't want the women to create any impact.

There was no doubt she put up a spirited fight like most women are wont to do. She no doubt lost gallantly. There are several women such as her. They got consumed by the political 'fire work' of their men counterparts. That does not mean they are inferior. They are not; it is only the imagination of the man; and indeed some the women who do not believe in their ability to conquer the world. This is the category that has stood between women and the realization of their enormous potentials.

As a matter of fact, most of the parties hardly gave the women any room to operate and express themselves. But it was not reason enough to get that decimal outing they got. Several of them made their marks without the men's support. That is what the men wouldn't want to hear about.

There is a national shortage of women politicians just as there is a shortage as engineers. But we know that some women have come out tops of the men in certain areas of human endeavour. There is so much to reap from the women. Their capacity for insisting of why things should be done rightly is awesome and can be appreciated in the final analysis.

That is what the country wants now. We have gone through so much and for negative reasons indeed. The time has come for the women to change the country's orientation in good governance and accountability. We are lacking in such regards, my instincts continuously tell me, and the women can provide that platform.



## Blast from the past

**I**N my journey in the civil service, there are days, months, years I hate to remember. Those were days one toiled, sweated but like the biblical fig tree, they were full of promise but nothing paid off.

A worker's life is like a slow trek through the rough terrains of the wilderness, all the while looking forward to the Promise land. That is the light at the end of the tunnel. The motivation for most workers, is their salary at the end of the month. If one is lucky to find fulfilment in one's job, that is a bonus.

Over the years, I have discovered that most people are working to be able to pay bills. It is only a negligible number that are engaged in what they love doing.

The life of a Nigerian worker is to spend the salary before it comes. And when the salary comes, one settles all the credit one has collected. So that the next month's credit begins on a clean slate.

Do you wonder why our parents used to retire to the village? Most of them could not build a house while they served in the civil service. Co-operative societies were not common then and they could barely survive on their salaries talk more of sparing a chunk of it for a building project.

Why is one recalling all this? For more than 2 months we have not been paid, one has felt the pinch. If not for the fact that workers in the state have been enrolled in health scheme-PlasChema, so many civil servants and or their family members would have kicked the bucket.

It has been a very difficult time. Eating 3 square meals a day has become herculean task. To say the fact, most people are trying to eat at least once in a day and it is still not easy.

Every now and then, some staff who are hard hit would send their apologies that they don't have transport fare or money for fuel to enable them come to office. A few people have been insensitive to their complaints. But I have been there, so I understand.

A male civil servant shared how he was forced to ask for help from a relation due to lack of payment. The first place he asked, he was told to explain his reason for asking for the money. After he explained why, he was denied the help. He had decided that he was not going to ask for help again until his daughter in secondary school was driven home for school fees. They had just a week before exams. Burying his pride, he asked another relative with the promise to pay back when paid salary. He explained how embarrassed he felt.

No matter what one is going through, if one is able to take care of

one's problems or survive without seeking for help, one's dignity is intact. This can only be possible when one is paid as and when due.

A family friend was patching up his life during the regime of Dariye when our salaries were rarely paid. At some point, we were owing government more than a year's salary. Then the most unfortunate thing happened. His daughter was involved in a domestic accident. Hot water poured on her body. But because of lack of payment, he could not take his daughter for treatment in the hospital. Every one he ran to, had nothing to give. This man said he broke down and cried, cursing the government of the day, as he watched his daughter crying in pain. It was not until the next morning that they were able to get help and rush the girl to JUTH.

This was our story as civil servants during the times of Governor Lalong's predecessors (the last 2). We would work for months before one month salary would be dropped. One could not plan nor budget. Unfortunately, even existing co-operative societies suffered the brunt of government's insensitivity. They could not help their members. Their growth was stunted.

The civil servants who retired at those times had a very bad experience. They couldn't plan for their retirement, neither could they build house before their retirement.

It was at that time that we heard gory stories of these men who served their country meritoriously, slumping and dying at the Sub treasury after several months waiting for their pension that were rarely paid.

They endured maltreatment as if it was a sin to be a senior citizen. Some of them suffered frustration and yet didn't get to enjoy their stipends. There are vultures everywhere.

So much age falsification took place at that time. Nobody wanted to join the ranks of the senior citizens. They wanted to remain in service and be relevant and to continue to be on the pay roll of government.

Those with conscience had often decried the suffering of the senior citizens of our nation at the mercy of some heartless government officials who wanted to reap where they didn't sow. It was very pathetic seeing them jam-packed at the Sub treasury, come rain, come sunshine. Some used to be assisted to walk due to ill health and or age.

Recently, civil servants have been reminiscing those ugly days. Because after more than 6 years of being treated well by government, it seems government is beginning to waver.

The enemies of this administration are already saying: 'Aha! Aha! 'But I know, these are just some rough terrains. Governor Lalong will not fail us!

## NEWS

# NUJ faults journalist attacker's defence

From **AMEDU JOSEPH,**  
Lokoja

**T**HE Kogi State Chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has condemned Mr Hamza Aliyu of Initiative for Grassroot Advancement in Nigeria (INGRA) for defending his colleague, Mr. Idris Miliki who recently assaulted a Journalist.

The union, in a statement issued by the Chairman, Adeiza Momoh-Jimoh and Secretary, Ademolu Seidu-Haruna in Lokoja asked Aliyu to shut up over what it described as "biased" and "blinded" defense.

Miliki had recently verbally assaulted the Kogi NAWOJ Chairperson, Mrs Ann Olurinde, which necessitated the NUJ declaring total blackout over the activities of his NGO, Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, (CHRCR).

But Aliyu described the action of the NUJ as "very wrong" and "unfair" to Miliki, whom he said did nothing wrong after all.

The activist claimed that the union needs Miliki more than he (Miliki) needs the Union. But the Union, in its response to Aliyu's outburst, reminded him of the fact that "good character and decency should be the hallmark of any civilized person."

"We are so surprised of your claims when it's the same you Mr. Hamza Aliyu, who alluded in your write-up that Miliki is challenged when it comes to relating with people, and suggested that everyone who has come in contact with him, (Miliki) should be able to accept his misbehavior.



**Isiguzor**

"You also described Miliki as a fearless person, who speaks truth to power, which may be the only reason you, (Aliyu) believes that people should continue to swallow Miliki's bitter pills each time he dishes it out.

"The council wishes to call your attention to the fact that good character and decency should be the hallmark of any civilized person.

"We refer you to your university graduation brochure and that of Mr. Miliki if he ever went to school, where it is expressly stated that graduating students are found worthy in character and learning.

"Therefore, if your client (Miliki) is only found worthy in speaking truth to power and lack the requisite to relate well with people, then whatever gains he must have made from being worthy in speaking truth to power will be rubbish by his lack of

character.

"Mr. Hamza Aliyu, you got it wrong when you said that the fundamental freedom of speech of Miliki has been infringed upon because our action has not stopped him from saying whatever he wants to say.

"But get this, all we have said, is that our members will no longer be part of the people Miliki can treat with disdain Period." the union declared.

"You can't bite the finger that feeds you and expect to be fed again, no way.

"We will therefore not tolerate any rubbish and unnecessary embarrassment from any low level person in the name of collaboration.

"The dignity and respect for our members is sacrosanct and must be accorded to them at all times," the union declared.

## UN Women advocates for women participation in politics

BY **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

**T**HE National Programme Officer of Women, Peace and Security (WPS), UN-WOMEN Nigeria, Olubukola Ademola Adelehin has expressed optimism that the Action Plan developed by Media Network in Plateau State would create more women participation and awareness in communities.

She stated this while in an interview with **SUNDAY STANDARD** correspondent in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently at the Annual Planning of the WPS Media Network, Plateau State organized by UN-Women in collaboration with Ministry of Women Affairs and supported by the Norwegian Embassy.

The National Programme Officer said, "It is an agenda of increasing participation and effective representation of women in every aspect of peace and security in Plateau as conflict and insecurity affect women differently from men.

"But most of the time when it comes to decision of responding to these issues, the voices of women are

always lower, while the voices of men are always the most active and dominant voices. But then, if we do not take holistic action in all community engagement and really find sustainable solution to the issue of conflict and security, then we are missing out.

"So, this network is really pushing that agenda of ensuring that women participate equally to create that peace and security and equal stake on the Plateau. I am optimistic looking at what happened. The active participation, the creative ideas that came out and the patience demonstrated by the media professionals showed that they are interested and we are going to work together.

"I am really encouraged and I know that the development of the Action Plan to the end of this year will be wonderful. I have already seen that we are expecting good stories that would help create awareness in communities because the programme is working closely

on having more women in political appointive positions", she enthused.

Olubukola, however, stressed that when more women were in leadership role, they would be able to influence decisions that have to do with women in terms of peace and security issues and address the security challenges that affect most women.

She disclosed that the UN-Women supported by European Union has been engaging Plateau, Adamawa and Gombe states on gender equality and empowerment of women in peace and security from 2013 to 2019 as Phase I, but expanding what they did before to Phase II starting from 2022 to 2024.

"Initially, we work basically on women, peace and security but in this new Phase II, we are also looking at interface between peace and security and women political participation. So this Phase II is to build up and expand what we have done before", the National Programme officer disclosed.

# SUNDAY POLITICS

## INEC presents CoR to Osun Governor-elect, Deputy

**T**HE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has presented a Certificate of Return (CoR) to Osun governor-elect, Sen. Ademola Adeleke, of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The presentation of the certificate came about 72 hours after Adeleke was declared the winner of the Osun governorship poll.

Adeleke polled 403,371 votes to defeat the incumbent Gov. Adegboyega Oyetola of the All Progressives Congress (APC), who polled 375,027 votes.

The INEC National Commissioner supervising Osun, Ogun, and Oyo States, Prof. Kunle Ajayi, who presented the certificate to Adeleke, also presented another Certificate of Return to the Deputy Governor-elect, Mr Kola Adewusi.

Ajayi, commended the people of the state for the peaceful way and manner in which they conducted themselves during the election.

He said that the voter turnout was large and there was no major electoral violence incidence recorded during the election..

The commissioner said the introduction of innovative technologies and processes such as the use of; Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), INEC Election Result Viewing Portal, Election Risk Management tools, Training for Corp members among others, had significantly geared INEC towards delivering seamless voter experiences to the electorate.

"Indeed, the election was perhaps the most anticipated election of the year, not just because it was the last major off-cycle election before the 2023 General Election, but also, it was the first major election after the highly rated Ekiti Governorship elections, which was viewed by Nigerians with a note of caution.

"However, with the successful conduct of the Osun governorship election, the Commission would like to assure Nigerians that this has become the standard of Election Management in Nigeria.

"On the part of INEC, as an electoral umpire, under the leadership of the Chairman Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, we are consistent in achieving our vision to become one of the best election management bodies in the world and acting on our core values of; independence, impartiality, neutrality and transparency", he said.

Ajayi said the certificate was issued in consonance with the provision of Section 72 (Sub section 1 ), which mandated INEC to issue a sealed Certificate of Return to the Governor-elect and Deputy Governor-elect within 14 days after



**Mahmood**

declaration of result by the Returning Officer.

In his remarks, the INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner, Prof.

Abdulganiyu Raji, commended members of staff of INEC in general under for displaying absolute professionalism and commitment to ensure the election outcome was generally acceptable.

According to Raji, our democracy will be stronger if we come together to do the right things such as campaigning with fulfillable promises, modeling positive attitude and behavior while in office.

"Abiding by these steps will not only make life easy for INEC, but also ensure hitch free electoral processes", he said.

Responding, Adeleke thanked the people of the state for their support for his victory.

He said with his election victory, the state would

move forward to a brighter future.

"This victory will not have been possible, but for the goodwill of the patriotic men, young and old, who worked hard to make sure we reclaim our stolen mandate.

"I am overwhelmed by your love and support and I do not take this trust you have bestowed on me for granted.

"Our state has now turn to a new page and we can now look forward to a bright future and a path for progress and prosperity for our people.

"I dedicate my victory to my late brother, the first executive governor of the state, Isiaka adeleke and every indigenes of Osun state and to all my supporters, friends and families", he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that INEC, on Sunday morning declared Adeleke as the winner of the Saturday's governorship election in the state.

## Adeleke reiterates commitment to 5-point agenda

**G**OVERNOR-Elect, Senator Ademola Adeleke has reacted to reports that he has reneged on his promise to clear backlog of salaries and pensions during a Channels TV interview.

A reaction by his Spokesperson, Mallam Olawale Rasheed, says, "This is a lie from the pit of hell as Senator Adeleke throughout the interview never at any point disowned his promise to clear outstanding workers' salaries, pension and gratuities and better the lives of all Osun people.

"Contrary to the frustrated mind of the deceitful author, the Governor - elect explained in detail how he will source for funds to meet the needs of workers including his unique promise of reviewing issue of leakages in state finance and redirecting security votes to meet urgent state needs.

"In the interview, Senator Adeleke not only reiterated his pledge to address workers' welfare which is number one on his five-point agenda, he also affirmed that payment of workers'

entitlement will not be recorded as an achievement as a labourer deserves his pay.

On the larger governance issue, the Governor-elect touched on his plans for education, security, job creation, agriculture, infrastructure, debt management and other germane issues.

"A people still in shock at their defeat probably could not concentrate on the full interview to watch a Governor-elect displaying his clear grasp of issues and his preparedness to hit the ground running.

As Oyetola ran a government of lies and propaganda, the troubled writer assumed all politicians are liars and double faced exploiters of the public.

For the Governor-elect, public office is a sacred trust in which the occupant must display honour and integrity. As a Senator, Senator Adeleke over-fulfills his electoral promises which was attested to across Osun West during the electioneering campaign. He will repeat that feat as Governor of Osun state.

"We remind the outgoing

**T**HE Nigerian Governor's Forum (NGF) has promised to assist the Osun State Governor-Elect Ademola Adeleke to tackle the challenges facing him.

Chairman of the forum Dr. Kayode Fayemi in a congratulatory message on behalf of the governors said they would give Adeleke full support as he embarks on this new journey towards elevating Osun State to a higher level'.

The governor elect, Adeleke, is expected to join the forum from September 27<sup>th</sup> after his swearing in.

In the congratulatory message Fayemi stated, "we look forward to working with you and assure you of our commitment to provide understanding services in line with global best practice, and hope you will in turn trust the forum machinery to, at all times provide you professional, technical and administrative support.

## NGF to assist Adeleke in tackling challenges

**From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

"We wish you God's guidance, strength, direction and the wisdom to deliver on your mandate to your people".

The chairman of the forum told the governor elect under the platform of the PDP who defeated the APC to win the election that all governors are served equally and respectfully in the forum.



**Fayemi**

## INEC promises best elections in Nigeria's history

**From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

**N**IGERIA'S electoral umpire, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has pledged to deliver the best-ever general elections in Nigeria in 2023.

This heartwarming assurance was given in Abuja by INEC Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu when he received a delegation of the International Republican Institute (IRI) and that of

the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in his office.

Yakubu said the meeting with the two bodies was the first that INEC was hosting after the governorship election in Osun state and assured that it would improve on its successes in subsequent elections.

"We are encouraged by your kind words, but there is still a lot of work to do.

"We assure you that we will continue to work not only hard but even harder

to deliver the 2023 general elections.

"I have listened to some of the issues raised but perhaps, when we go into the working session there will be an opportunity for us to respond to some of the issues," he told the delegation.

Yakubu also spoke about the governorship elections held in Ekiti in June and that of Osun held recently.

"As for preparation for the 2023 general elections, I want to assure you that we promised Nigerians that Ekiti was going to be good and Ekiti was a good election.

"We promised that Osun was going to be better, Osun was a better election. We are promising that the 2023 general elections will be our best election ever and we are committed to delivering best election ever," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Frank LaRose, Secretary of State for Ohio, United States of America (USA) and leader of the delegations, commended INEC on its various efforts at improving on the conduct of elections in Nigeria.

He said the meeting was the first that INEC was hosting after Saturday's governorship election in Osun and assured that it would improve on its successes in subsequent elections.

"We are encouraged by your kind words, but there is still a lot of work to do.



**Adeleke**

Governor that the Governor Elect is a man of honour with antecedent of close affinity with workers, women, youth and several interest groups within Osun state. The workers, pensioners and the mass our people voted out of genuine conviction to reject a government of liars, falsehood and ineptitude.

"The outgoing Governor by his aspersions on Osun people is worsening his already battered image as even after his defeat, he

neither showed remorse but continued his path of describing Osun people as gullible and unintelligent.

"To the good people of Osun state, Senator Ademola Adeleke reiterated his commitment to his five point agenda as well as his readiness to serve the people with full sincerity and openness. He is not only prepared for the task ahead but has an action plan to transform his five point agenda into reality.

## SUNDAY POLITICS

## PLHA happy with pace of work at British-America

By PAULINE DALLONG

THE Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA) has expressed satisfaction with the pace and level of construction work at the fly-over bridge along British America junction.

Chairman of the House Committee on Works and Transportation who is also the member representing Bokkos constituency, Hon. Amurudu Usaini made the disclosure recently as he led other members on an oversight visit to the site.

Speaking on his general assessment of what he saw on ground, Amurudu on behalf of the state assembly said he was impressed with the level of work which he described as about fifty percent completion.

He was however, quick to warn the construction company handling the project to keep to the agreed stipulated time of completion which is by the end of December, 2022.

According to him, tax payers monies have been committed towards the actualisation of this project by the state government and it was only wise for Plateau people to enjoy the benefits of their money.

Earlier, the Project Manager and Director Civil Engineering in the state Ministry of Works, Engr. Beedee Bot while taking the committee round the construction site explained the various scope of work and the current stage which he said is at the super structure.

He disclosed that the other scope of works remaining were the retaining walls on both sides, concrete works, hard work, pavement and surfacing etc while the casting of the main bridge was ongoing, adding that in the next ten



Usaini

days work would commence on the drainages and the other side of the fly over.

Also speaking, the Project Manager Cranebury Construction, the company handling the work, Engr. Dani Mansour assured that all work would be completed and handed to the state government by the end of December this year.

On challenges faced, especially regarding making

funds available which might hinder the completion of work on time, he disclosed that there was none except for the rains which of course cannot be handled but promised to find ways of working around it.

Other committee members present included Hon. Timothy Dantong, Hon. Pirfa Tyem, Hon. Ezra Dakup, Hon. Gwottson Dalyop and Hon. Mohammed Ballo who made certain observations which were noted.

## NUPSRAW gets new Executive Council

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Plateau State Chapter of Nigeria Union of Public Service Reportorial, Secretarial, Data Processors and Allied Workers (NUPSRAW), has elected new officials to run its affairs for the next four years.

At the end of the exercise, Comrade Nelly James Amamma emerged as Chairman with Comrade Nansel Danjuma as the Vice

Chairman.

Others officers include: Comrade Matawal Joshua, Assistant Secretary, Comrade Cecilia Kumdiyel, Financial Secretary, while the positions of Treasurer and Auditor went to Comrade Mandir Goselle and Comrade Kaneng Dung Pam, respectively, while Comrade Roseline Kim Pam emerged Chairperson of the

advantage of the opportunity given by Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, and get registered, transfer or make any kind of adjustment to their PVCs so they can be part of the 2023 elections by voting and exercising their constitutional right.

### INEC happy with success of Osun election

THE independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has commended the success it recorded in the recent governorship elections in Ekiti and Osun state, saying that it has fulfilled the promise it made to Nigerians.

Chairman of the electoral body Prof. Mahmood Yakubu who disclosed this recently when he played host to delegation from the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) said next year, general election would be the commission's best outing.

According Prof. Mahmood, the commission has promised Nigerians that Ekiti, Osun elections were going to be better elections and 2023 general election will be INEC best election ever and it is

committed to delivering the best election ever.

"We assure that we will continue to work not only hard, but even harder towards the 2023 general election".

The INEC boss commended the delegation for its kind and encouraging words, admitting that there is still room for improvement.

Leader of the delegation, Frank La Rose had earlier noted that Nigerians deserves free, fair and acceptable elections.

La Rose who is an election commissioner in the State of Ohio, said the team was in Osun State to observe the recent election.

According to the team leader "we visited Osun because that was only the second time an election has been conducted under the new electoral laws".

## Adamawa INEC debunks allegation of discriminatory registration

From GYANG PAM, Yola

THE Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) in Adamawa State has debunked the allegations of discriminatory registration of voters in the ongoing Continuous Voters Registration (CVR).

This was contained in a release tagged, "Re-Allegations on Discriminatory Registration of Voters" signed by Ali Atuman, Deputy Director and Head of Department for the Honourable Resident Electoral Commissioner, Kashim Gaidam.

According to INEC, the allegation is indeed unfortunate as the CVR is taking place in the state office centre at Galadima Aminu Way Jimeta-Yola, and

all the twenty one local government area offices are opened to all qualified residents.

The release stressed that in the non-discriminatory effort to give residents who are located far away from these centers equal opportunities, the CVR has been devolved to registration areas/wards and going on rotational basis at designated centres across the state.

It added, "It is necessary to correct the wrong

impression about our processes, and hereby request that the people and organizations making the allegations should mention LGA offices and staff involved in the unwholesome acts".

INEC called on well-meaning stakeholders to remain vigilant and to report with details any incident or incidents of violations of the CVR Guidelines.

It will be recalled that tongues have been wagging on alleged registration of particular religions for the success of a political party and of a particular religion.

## Low PVC registration; Northern Youth Groups register dismay

From MATHEW JWANTU, Minna

COALITION of Northern Youth Groups (CNG) carried placards in Niger State to register their dismay over the low turnout of people for registration, revitalization and collection of Permanent Voters registration Card (PVC) in

the region.

The Director, Strategic Communications of the coalition, Samaila Musa, made this known while speaking with journalists during a sensitization walk held in Minna, titled, 'Get Your PVC to rescue and rebuild Nigeria'.

Musa urged youths in the country to desist from all forms of social media

abuses but to express their anger by getting their PVC and vote for credible leaders during the 2023 general elections.

He emphasized that the youth owned the country considering its population, strength and should resist the hijack of the nation hence must ensure they change the narrative politically.

The Group Director on Political Affairs, Comrade Mohammed Mohammed also said Niger state is third lowest ranking in the online registration with over 20,000 unclaimed PVCs which he described as worrisome.

He noted that the sensitization became necessary because, to change anything within the political system the citizens must be armed with their PVC to effect a change by voting for credible leaders of their choice.

Mohammed who called on both young and old from 18 years old and above to come out enmasse to register and collect their PVC to enable them achieve their yearnings and aspirations and vote for leaders of their choice in the forthcoming elections.

Also speaking, Coalition Board of Trustee, Chairman, Dr Nastura Ashir Sharif advised Nigerlites to vote for credible leaders that have the nation at heart devoid of tribal, regional or religious sentiment.

Sharif however appealed to the electorate not to sell their votes noting that the vote buyers don't mean well for the country, adding that the people should get their PVC within the few days available for them and vote for leaders that will secure and provide every social amenity to them.

## CVR: NILOWV embarks on house to house sensitisation

BY LUCY CHINDABA

THE Nigeria League of Women Voters (NILOWV) Plateau State chapter has revealed that the organization is embarking on a house to house campaign for women to come out in their numbers and ensure that they register in the ongoing voter registration before the July 31st deadline so as to obtain their Permanent Voters Card (PVC).

This was revealed by the Plateau State chapter chairperson, Lynda Barau-Alhamdu, in Jos the Plateau State capital.

According to her, this was part of efforts by the organization to increase the participation of women in the political process.

The league of women voters held a consultative meeting to brainstorm on how women can make a mark in next year's general elections and the process starts by obtaining a voter's card.

The organization also revealed that some polling units will be selected from the three senatorial districts, the



Amamma

Women Committee.

Out of the seven available positions, five females emerged with two males. Also, out of the seven positions, five were elected unopposed. The posts of Financial Secretary and Assistant Secretary were the only two keenly contested positions and we're duly elected by the 63 delegates.

Announcing the results of the election, the Returning officer, Comrade Abdulsalam M. Dala, who is also the Deputy National President of NUPSRAW, congratulated the newly elected officials of the union and called on all members to give them the needed support to help move the Union, NUPARAW forward.

Earlier, while declaring the ninth Quadrennial State Delegates Conference opened, the Plateau State Head of Civil Service, Engr. Sunday Hyat,

who was represented by the State Director of Labour, Mr. Michael Lamu, said the essence of unionism is to empower members and maintained that that is why government is committed to their welfare.

In an acceptance speech after taking her Oath of office, the newly sworn in State Chairman of NUPSRAW, Comrade Nelly James Amamma, thanked members for believing in them and promised to operate an open-door policy where all will contribute their ideas for them to achieve NUPSRAW's dreams.

According to the Chairman, "we appeal that Secretariat Cadre be highly considered during employment to promote efficient service delivery at the work place. This will further strengthen the Union and help sustain peaceful industrial harmony".

## SUNDAY POLITICS

# Paradigm shift in 2023 presidential poll

**The defeat of Nigeria's Vice President Yemi Osinbajo at the recent presidential primary of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to fly the flag as its standard bearer left many Nigerians across all strata devastated. CARL UMEGBORO writes.**

**T**HE reason being that the Vice President has distinctively, spontaneously won the hearts of many people both in and outside his party, APC through responsiveness in the course of duty particularly in critical times.

Legitimacy is a vital tool in leadership. Undeniably, during President Muhammadu Buhari's foreign medical trips, Osinbajo, then as acting president satisfactorily took charge, delivered, and proved his worth.

As a result of the traits, many had looked forward to Osinbajo's emergence as the APC candidate towards succeeding Buhari but their hope was unfortunately dashed by 'politicians' at the convention ground. Osinbajo's professional background needed for critical law reforms stands him out.

Conceivably, his loss seems to be the greatest slip of the ruling party in its years of existence. Had Osinbajo emerged an APC candidate, believably, the poll would be a walkover for the ruling party considering that many people across all corners hold him in high esteem due to his cultured lifestyle.

On the other hand, some supporters of Bola Tinubu, the eventual winner of the APC presidential primary, mostly from the Southwest tagged Osinbajo a 'betrayer.' Their gripe is - 'It is Jagaban's turn to rule Nigeria.' Apparently, they didn't fathom that it is nobody's exclusive right to aspire for the seat.

Secondly, they didn't decode that Osinbajo was pressured by leaders-of-thoughts on account of his aptitude. And obviously, they overlooked that winning in a convention of few individuals is not the same as facing the nation considering the present age that the umpire, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has continued to demonstrate capacity to conduct credible elections.

Indeed, Buhari deserves accolades for allowing the agency perform its duties without interference unlike his predecessors. The umpire from records is gradually restoring peoples' confidence in democracy and also attentively disposed to prudent ideas.

For instance, after the 2015 general elections that many registered voters were handicapped, disenfranchised by the default registration, and couldn't make it to their polling units mostly due to change of location, through a piece titled 'INEC, Voters' Card and Fundamental Rights (The Nation of 13th January, 2017; Nigerian Tribune of 14th January, 2017, and other newspapers), I pushed for INEC to consider periodic review of polling centre prior to general elections to enable people that changed locality do an update.



**Mahmood**

Responsibly, the umpire measured, credited the detailed ideas and by implementing it ahead of the 2023 poll, those disenfranchised in the previous elections due to relocation will vote this time owing to the 'polling units transfer' in force.

The agency should continue to sustain the momentum. With the Electoral Act, 2022, the game has changed and those still trusting on electoral malpractices like before may wait forever.

Other contenders for the presidential seat are Atiku Abubakar - PDP; Peter Obi - LP; Rabiu Kwakwanso - NNPP, and others. So far, only the standard bearer of the LP, Obi has articulated how his prospective administration will tackle the present-day crises facing the country.

His economic blueprint itemises how to improve every region in

the country from the northern region that has large expanse of fallow land, to the South particularly Lagos to become a livable megacity and down to other southern states. Of course, electorates need to know what to expect. Diverting attention can't substitute it.

Thus, those yet to show clearly what to expect on the table which is the singular reason for the contest should do the needful. For example, Tinubu's key mantra is "It's my turn to rule". Atiku offered a five-point agenda but arguably the usual campaign rhetoric since ages.

Ditto to Kwakwanso's undetailed slogan of 'Taking Nigeria to the promised land.' Yet, party delegates endorsed them to contest for the sensitive office amid prevailing nationwide crises. This is a misnomer. Leadership underscores value;

capacity to provide succor to the people than glamour. Maybe, some still believe that it is business as usual.

Considering the prevalent crises in the country presently, there's a need for a paradigm shift. The situation in the country demands a leader with proven capacity and knowhow in solving the teething challenges.

Without a doubt, all the candidates are qualified by the enabling laws having attained the requisite age and minimum academic level. However, expediency is very important. Like in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 6:12 says ...'All things are lawful unto me but all things are not expedient for me.'

Relatively, all the candidates are legally qualified, but, considering the state of the nation, certainly, not all are fit. Thus, the 2023 poll is peculiar. It

is a battle between public interest and personal interest.

The nation needs a leader with capacity for radical innovations for economic growth. Those invoking ethnic sentiments seemingly forget that even Katsina State, home state of the incumbent, is not spared in the crises ravaging the country.

Suffice it to say that this critical time is perilous to promote mediocrity at the expense of merit as no ethnic region in the country is spared from the prevalent socio-economic crises.

Electorates must use their power; Permanent Voters Card (PVCs) judiciously against ineptocracy. The nation must say 'NO' to visionless leadership. What should matter presently is the capacity to move the nation out of quandary and decay.

To be instructive, what to bring to the table should be the focal point. Though, power should sensibly shift to the south as Buhari, the incumbent; a northerner is rounding off aggregately, a two-term of 8 years in power.

Secondly, as a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country, an ideal team must reflect inclusiveness so as to promote religious harmony and peaceful coexistence. Indisputably, the two dominant religions; Christianity and Islam have credible and competent practitioners. An action may be lawful merely for being 'unprohibited' by laws but not suitable and affirmative.

Indeed, Nigeria is collapsing speedily and demands a state of emergency through innovative leadership. These days, both the rich, poor, even pregnant women and infants are unsafe.

Ditto to monarchs, clerics, security personnel. If it is not herdsmen-community's clashes claiming lives, it will be abduction for ransom or killing for hostility, money-rituals or religious extremism.

Same for highways and railways, the only affordable means for the majority. Staying at home is not safe, at worship centres and schools - the same. All these vices result from cumulative quack leadership over the years.

Obviously, a turnaround is germane, but cannot come by chance. Leadership is typically garbage-in, garbage-out. So, it is high time a square peg is put in square holes. A democratic revolution is long overdue. Thus, aspirants' antecedents and qualifications must come to bear.

Ethno-religious sentiments cannot tackle the threatening nationwide disasters. As practiced in the private sector, let the team with proven capacity and best credentials, not political orators, fly the kite. There's no other way for the dividends of democracy yearning for.

**Culled from BusinessDay**

**"Considering the prevalent crises in the country presently, there's a need for a paradigm shift. The situation in the country demands a leader with proven capacity and knowhow in solving the teething challenges. Without a doubt, all the candidates are qualified by the enabling laws having attained the requisite age and minimum academic level. However, expediency is very important. Like in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 6:12 says ...'All things are lawful unto me but all things are not expedient for me'".**

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## AVM ILO TOURS NMDC JOS FACILITY

*Air Vice Marshal Nnaemeka Ilo, Director Research and Development, NAF Headquarters Abuja recently toured the facility at the National Metallurgical Developments Centre, Jos*



*AVM Nnaemeka Ilo with the representative of DG/CEO, NMDC, Dr. Mrs Dorcas Joseph*



*A cross section of management staff of NMDC*



*Air Vice Marshal Nnaemeka Ilo, his Deputy, Wing Commander Hussaini and others at one of the plants*



*Dr. Mrs Dorcas Joseph explaining some points to AVM Nnaemeka Ilo and his deputy*



*AVM Nnaemeka Ilo with his deputy making some remarks*



*Dr. Mrs Dorcas Joseph, Nigeria Airforce Director Research and Development in a group photograph with staff of NMDC*



*The visitors listening to explanation staff of the Centre*



*Director Research and Development, NAF Headquarters, his Deputy, Wing Commander Hussaini flanked by management staff of NMDC during the facility tour*

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



**B**EFORE now, oil was said to be the mainstay of the Nigerian economy. But with the fall in oil prices experienced all over the world, the need to look elsewhere with a view to diversifying the economy has become imperative. No wonder experts have continually harped that for Nigeria to move from a mono economy, it most improve its drive for development and diversification in such a way that mineral resources will take centre stage and shore up the dwindling economy.

The story of mineral resources and mining would not be complete without mentioning Plateau State. From the history of both mining and mineral resources, the state has been known to top all other states in the country which is why the present administration is not relenting in ensuring that the state takes its rightful place as a key player in the sector. To say that Plateau is richly endowed with various mineral resources is to state the obvious. However, harnessing this potential in order to boost the revenue generating capacity of the state is a big problem.

It is in the light of this, that the Plateau State House of Assembly in collaboration with the state Ministry of Environment and Solid Minerals Development recently embarked on a joint task force on revenue drive to tin sheds, mining and construction companies operating in the state. Some of the visited companies are Astro Mines Ltd, Illera Mines Ltd, Muhabubdu Goni Mines, Malcom Mines Nigeria Ltd, Campstino Company Ltd, Sergio Company, Middle East Mines Ltd, Tai Sino Global Nigeria Ltd, Tripod Engineering and Civil Works, among others.

Notably, concerns were raised by the task force on the excessive activities of mining artisans in the state. The health hazards associated with activities by miners from radiation rates of metals such as monazite, lead, tin etc has proven overtime to have very devastating effects on citizens of host communities. Another issue raised was on the default in registration and payment of state levies to the state government by tin sheds, mining and construction companies domiciled in the state.

Quite worrisome is the state of mining ponds scattered across some parts of the state. These ponds have proven to be death traps, and in other ways causing great danger to both humans and animals. It has been observed too, that over the years mining activities have been going on without any form of benefit in terms of compensation. Several appeals have been made by past and present administrations on the need for the federal government to expedite action on the issuance of license to the state for the exploration and exploitation processes. In essence, if funds are made available for the reclamation of the mining ponds, it will no doubt go a long way in putting the lands to better use.

The case for the payment of the 13 percent derivation to the solid minerals producing states of which Plateau is one, has always been a source of concern. Experts are of the opinion that the federal government should address the imbalance by putting them at par with the oil producing states already enjoying the 13 percent derivation. Their argument stems from the fact that mineral resources were also used to develop the country before the discovery of oil.

Thus, the taskforce assignment became necessary due to these worrying concerns, especially where the federal government has consistently failed to remit the said 13 percent derivation to the state government for some time now. It is

thought that if mining companies do not default in their payment of royalty to the federal government on minerals transported out of the state, then the reason for denying the state must be unraveled.

Speaking during the visit, the House Committee Chairman on Environment and Solid Minerals Development, who is also the member representing Langtang North North constituency Hon. Pirfa Tyem noted that if the mining companies do their part by paying such royalties, the state automatically stands the chance of assessing any ecological fund. To see how it can be corrected, he sought to know the challenges faced in the course of carrying out their operations. The lawmaker also warned some notable mining



## On PLHA mining sector revenue drive



companies situated in certain residential areas to desist from doing so.

As a member of the task force, the state Commissioner for Environment, and Solid Minerals Development Jude Dakur, conveyed the state government's appreciation to miners for contributing their quota to the development of Plateau State.

He however, emphasised that the reason for the visit was not to witch-hunt any company but to make sure that all players in the mining sector adhered to due process. After all according to him, governance was all about putting in place policies that would bring about lasting development for the people.

For the commissioner, engaging the federal government official in charge of mining in Plateau will resolve some of the dicey constitutional matters shortchanging the state of its revenue as enshrined in the Solid Minerals Policy Act. To this end, all frustrations suffered by the state

government will be a thing of the past. The miners on their part expressed the willingness to comply with the state government by improving the revenue base of the sector. They equally drew the attention of the task force to ensure a situation that would avoid them paying multiple levies.

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Sylva



Kyari

# Nigeria and fuel conundrum

**With the sudden and unexpected increase in fuel price, without official declaration, Nigerians are worried. While the cost of living in the country has already skyrocketed; this latest development has become more worrisome. Where is the country headed for and what lies ahead for Nigerians? VICTOR ALI Writes.**

**N**IGERIANS are groaning, for none of their reasons or fault. While leadership amnesia has set in, followership docility and complacency is the order of the day. The country is in dire need of salvation and deliverance. For too long, the bottom line has been that, Nigerians, particularly the hewers of woods and drawers of water (the poor) have been at the receiving end.

A nation blessed with both human and natural resources, Nigeria, the self-acclaimed "giant of Africa", has for decades depended heavily, if not wholly, on the "black gold" – oil, with all its concomitant ripples effects on the economy. Any changes in global price of crude oil often impact either positively or negatively on the nation's economy and its social life. Not forgetting, annual budgets which over the years have been distorted making its implementation unworkable.

Though before the advent of oil, there were some resources particularly in the agricultural sector which kept the re-unity country going, the groundnut Pyramid in Kano, the Cocoa enterprise in Western Nigeria, the coal striving industry in Enugu, nay Eastern part of the country, were the golden eggs

that laid the foundation of pre-independent Nigeria. But suddenly, oil took the centre stage in Nigeria's economy and even politics. Governments have consistently and persistently given reasons why it subsidizes oil (fuel), but there have been foul cry from Nigerians and government functionaries themselves.

With entrenched subsidies, why the long queue by motorist at filling stations? Why the sudden hike of price of the commodity? As Nigerians presently are passing through harrowing economic situation, no one needs a soothsayer to predict that, more hardship is underway. While government still insists that fuel subsidy stays for now, marketers have since hiked petrol price, with the Federal Government of Nigeria mute about this issue. And that is the crux of the matter?

There seems to be confusion in the petrol supply chain. The regulators – Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulation 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 export prices. Those who shut their filling stations to consumers said 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. Only few stations vend petrol at the regulated price. Prices range between N170 and N200 per litre in Lagos and the Federal Capital Territory, (FCT). The litre price is however higher in the hinterlands. In spite of this anomaly, the regulators have been silent on the arbitrariness of the market. Media reports also indicate 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 Group Managing Director, (GMD) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, (NNPC) Limited, Mallam Mele Kyari, last week.

Obviously, from the subsidy regime, hike in the product's price to long-queues experience, in filling stations, there is more to it than meets the eyes. Nigerians are confused and overwhelmed as no tangible reason(s) have been given for such situation which from all intent and purposes is

set to plunge Nigerians into more hardships as the price of fuel determines the prices of other commodities in the economy. From transportation, housing, and foodstuff, fuel gives direction as to what obtains as prices.

In the face of these confusion and uncertainties, the hydra-headed monster, corruption, seems to have a field day. How can you have a subsidy regime in place and marketers would arbitrarily hike the price of the product and the Federal Government in conspiracy of silence keeps mute? Or has the fuel subsidy removal finally come to abode?

Writing in her first book, **Reforming the Un-reformable**, the erstwhile Minister of Finance under former President and Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and Mr. Goodluck Jonathan, she declared that, the subsidy issue was a scam. The former Minister of Finance further highlighted that racketeering in the name of fuel subsidy in her other book, **Fighting Corruption is Dangerous has become the orde of the day.**

While governments have been arguing that fuel subsidy was aimed at ameliorating the

hardship of the people, the contrary seems to be the case. This is most encapsulated by Bolaji Abdullahi, a former Minister of Sports and Youth Development, in the president Goodluck Jonathan – led administration, in his book, **On a Platter of Gold – How Jonathan Won and Lost Nigeria.**

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

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

**Continued on Page 31**

NEWS

**Lalong pays last respect to Ngo Naomi Jugu**

By PALANG KASMI

**P**LATEAU Governor Simon Bako Lalong was among thousands of sympathizers and family members who paid their last respects to popular politician and rights activist Ngo Naomi Jugu.

The funeral service was held on Friday, July 2022 at ECWA Unity Church, Rayfield and it attracted eulogies and praises to the late Jugu who died recently at the age of 82.

It attracted public and non-public officials, politicians, businessmen and women, Civil Society Groups, the Boys' and Girls Brigade and numerous women groups who came out to bid farewell to the late Jugu.

Governor Lalong while paying his last respect to the late Jugu, who was named "Deloh Berom" by her kinsmen for her laudable contributions to her community, described her as a loving mother, principled and passionate for the development of Plateau State and Nigeria.

Lalong said the Late Deloh Jugu was very active and passionate for touching the lives of others. And will be remembered as one who was resolute for the protection of the lives of women, children and the less privileged.

"Ngwo Naomi Jugu was a fearless politician who never tolerated injustice but would rather give up her rights and comfort to fight for equity, fairness and justice", he said.

The Governor also said her life story is one of Service, diligence and excellence because she carried out her assignments with the fear of God and love which were qualities that made her serve various Governments in the State and at the National level in many capacities.

He said she had conspicuously left indelible footprints in the sands of time which will need to be filled by those she has mentored and raised in the area of politics, community service, business and education among others.

In his sermon, Rev. Ayuba Ashishe challenged Christians and Nigerians of other faiths to bear in mind that they will one day give account of themselves before God who has the records of their activities.

He said according to the Book of Revelation in the



Lalong

Bible, every soul that stands before God is to be judged according to the deeds they did, therefore Christians should live right.

The Man of God said Late Deloh Naomi Jugu was a committed Christian who did her best to follow the ways of God at all times.

The family of the deceased appreciated Governor Lalong for his support, respect, and love

towards Mama Naomi Jugu while she was alive and even at her death.

They described their late mother as a caring and loving person who did not only raise her biological children, but also trained many others who have become great persons in politics, business, education among others.

The Delo Berom Naomi

Jugu had passed recently the 28th day of June, 2022 after a brief illness at the age of 82 years.

She is survived by six children, 16 grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, nephews, nieces and many relations.

Until her demise, Jugu was a Special Adviser Emeritus to the All Progressive Congress in Plateau state, the first Deputy Commandant of the Nigerian Civil Defense Corps Plateau State Command, the first and Pioneer President of the Berom Women Association, the National Patron of the League of Women Voters in Nigeria, the Patron Plateau State Political Women Forum and other various Women Political and Social groups.

Her remains were later committed to mother earth at her residence in Rayfield, Jos.

**PSIRS restrategises for revenue generation**

By JIDAUNA DARING

**P**LATEAU State Internal Revenue Service (PSIRS) has evolved a deliberate strategy aimed at repositioning the workforce for better understanding so as to inject fresh ideas on revenue generation.

In a statement signed by the Executive Chairman of the Service, Mr. Dashe Arlat and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos it disclosed that staff of the organization will have better understanding of the revenue generation policy that would enable them to have deeper knowledge of their professional callings.

According to Mr. Arlat, staff of the PSIRS must see their new places of assignment as a place to learn and inject fresh ideas to ensure better view and performance of revenue collection in the state.

The Chairman advised the workforce to redouble their efforts so as to sensitize and educate Tax payers on importance of filling returns, keeping records, response to demand notices and



Arlat

registering their business with the Service as well as obtain their Tax Identification Numbers (TIN) in order to avert the wrath of the Consolidation Revenue Law 2020.

He cautioned the staff against vices capable of attracting negative activities and encouraged them to ensure all revenue policies are followed to the letter for effective performance and positive legacy.

Mr. Arlat used the forum to commend the

Executive Governor of Plateau who is the Chairman Northern Governor's forum and Chairman Revenue Council, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong for providing a favorable playing ground to the workforce of the service for effective step up of revenue profile of the state.

He encouraged tax payers to contribute their quota in the socio-economic development of Plateau by paying their tax as and when due as one of their civic responsibilities.



**INEC to end voter registration July 31**

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has declared that continuous voter's Registration (CVR) would officially end on July 31, 2022 to enable them process all names of those registered ahead of the 2023 general elections.

The Commission announced the extension after deliberations on some concerns around the exercise among other things as disclosed by the INEC's National Commissioner and Chairman Information and Voter's Education Committee, Festus Okoye, in a statement in Abuja saying, "the Commission was projecting 95 million voters for the 2023 poll".

**Former NAWOJ Chairperson, others for UN award**

Former Plateau State Chairperson of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), Mrs. Jennifer Yarima, and three others have been nominated for UN Ambassadorial Award.

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

**UNICEF to support Plateau State on maternal health, sanitation**

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

The assurance was given during a visit by UNICEF's Chief of Bauchi Field Officer Dr. Tushar Rane at Government House Jos, where he commended Plateau State for being the first state to embark on passage and domestication of Child Rights Law in the country.

**Gov. Lalong mourns Aren Eggon Bala Angbazo**

The Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong, has mourned the the paramount ruler of Eggon nation, His Royal Highness (HRH), Bala Angbazo who died at the age of 89.

Lalong in a statement said he was saddened by the death of the royal father who was a great ruler of not only the Eggon people, but a father to many across Nasarawa, Plateau and beyond while in his 41 years of being on throne.

**PLHA hopeful pledges to address water challenge**

THE Jos-North/West Constituency's candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Hon. Danjuma Azi, has pledged to address the lingering water problem of his constituency where women and children have sleepless nights going to look for it when elected to represent his people in the Plateau State House of Assembly come 2023.

He made the pledge Monday while in an interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State Capital ahead of the State Assembly in 2023 general elections having known the water situation of his people over the years and would want to address it.

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

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has said that it will continue to keep sensitive election materials with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) ahead of the 2023 general elections.

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

**France secures energy deal with UAE**

France has secured promise of new energy supplies from the United Arab Emirates after talks between President Emmanuel Macron and UAE leader, Sheik Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan in Paris.

**Nentawe cheers Plateau United to victory against Eyimba**

The Plateau State APC gubernatorial candidate and leader of the Generation Next Movement, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda and his running mate, Hon. Pam Botmang, were guest spectators at the Zaria Road Stadium to support Plateau United Football Club against Eyimba in their final match of the NPFL 2022 season.

The APC flagbearer, who is also a reputable sports analyst, led other members of the Generation Next Campaign Organization as well as hundreds of supporters into the stadium amidst cheers from the home fans.

Compiled by EZEKIEL DONTINNA

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# ASUU strike: Negotiating with 'Ghost'?

**IT is not an over-statement that there seems to be no end in sight over the deep crisis between the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of University (ASUU) and other University-based unions in Nigeria. Labour rights have become one of the most threatened rights in the world. CHINDAPBA NGOP writes.**

OVER the years, successive governments in Nigeria have always bowed to the conservative notions that improving the living standard of the working class citizens can be an obstacle to fostering of economic growth and employment as prescribed by the engine of neo-liberalism thereby neglecting to improve and maintain the policy levers that will ameliorate working conditions of workers in the country.

As just and reasonable the demands of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) are, in the struggles for a pay rise and repositioning of public universities by embarking on the six months old strike which is in conformity with the fundamental principles of the right of trade unions to collective bargaining as guaranteed by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Federal Government seems to be shifting blames of the prolong strike on ASUU for being adamant to return to their classrooms.

While the endless and unprofitable negotiations and meetings continue. The prolong strike has not only posed profound threat to the nation, but has also undoubtedly made government to lose more than the cost of granting their demands without these unnecessary strikes in the final analysis.

The Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, have continued to trade blames over the endless impasse. While ASUU has maintained its position that the strike action is inevitable and necessary to save the public university system from total collapse, to persuade government to subscribe and accept the homegrown Universities Transparency Accountability Solution, (UTAS) government on its part has insisted that Unions should drop their key demand of using their generated payment platform of the UTAS which government insist that it has failed. The integrity test, instead, ASUU should allow government to use the widely used Integrated Personnel and Payment Information System (IPPIS).

The unfolding events on perhaps one of the prolonged strike ever between the Nigerian tertiary institutions is catastrophically putting ASUU on the defence as Federal Government have continue to come under heavy condemnation by the public court of opinions over its poor handling of the protracted industrial dispute that has grounded almost all the activities in the public universities. The federal government in its bit to safe itself from public shame came out to declared total rejection of Professor Nimi Briggs led-committee report, saying there have never been any collective bargaining (CBA) between unions and Federal Government claiming what they (government) have on table are mere proposals.

This was contained in a statement signed on July 13, 2022 by the Deputy Director of Press and Public Relations, Olajide Oshundun of the Ministry of Labour and Productivity, in a swift reaction, Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Femi Falana came out to condemn the purported rejection of the report by Minister of Labour and Productivity, Dr. Chris Ngige, adding that the information accessible to him shows that he was not authorized to



**Ngige**

reject the report and be 'subject to a campaign of calumny.'

To further fan the flame of the crisis, the Federal Government through the Ministry of Finance had accused ASUU for collaborating with Briggs' committee to have fixed an unworkable wages for the Nigeria universities lecturers without recourse to the relevant advisory Ministries, Departments and Agencies that are key in the negotiations. According to the ministry of Finance, MDs such as Ministry of Finance, Education, Labour and Employment, Budget Office, Office of the Head of Service of the Federation, National Office of Salaries and Wages Commission were deliberately excluded from the negotiations and sittings of the committee.

From the forgoing, one can sadly deduce that ASUU have all along been negotiating with 'Ghost's and unknown men, it therefore goes to suggest that there have never been any instrument of action, (agreements) between the unions side and government for lack of mandate from government side right from Professor Munzali led-committee which was set up in January 2021 after ASUU suspended their strike action over the renegotiation of 2009 unfinished agreement in December 2020. The suspended which however was reactivated on February 14, 2022 after government reneged to implement the Munzali reports which means government on their part has never any appreciable sincerity in the long renegotiations of the contention 2009 agreement that always ended up with proposals, and reports and not with any concrete agreement.

But one wonders where the same government side always get express mandate when it comes to sanctioning of workers interest and would have little or no mandate to make concessions with unions. It would be recalled that government in May 2022, in its quest to break the ongoing strike invoked section 43 of the Trade Disputes Act of 'No Work No Pay Rule' for the striking workers.

particularly the recent agreement that was reached on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2022. ASUU President revealed that at the start of the negotiations, the union asked Nimi Briggs led-committee if they sincerely have the mandate of their principal to negotiate with them and they said yes. "We asked them does it mean that whatever we agree with will be accepted by government?"

They said 'yes.' We started negotiations and finished on 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2021. They (committee) said they were going back to show their principal and get permission to sign. We have been waiting till now" The president said. It sounds absurd on the part of the unions to have allowed the other party of the negotiating team to go back to their principal again to obtain consent before signing what was agreed upon at the quite tragically, ASUU with their sophisticated intellectual capacity seems not to have deeper knowledge of those they were negotiating with, after all, the government side had answered affirmatively at the beginning of the negotiations that they have been given the power of attorney or latitude to agree on any point they all reached. It is often said "the secret of walking on water knows where the stones are." ASUU should have persuaded and held the Briggs committee by 'neck' to sign what were agreed upon before leaving the venue with their experiences of the 2021 renegotiations of the much remains the prime cause of the prolonged conflict knowing that other previous negotiations had ended with mere reports and proposals while the government side continue changing negotiations to another.

Second, time management is one of the cardinal ingredients in negotiations which ASUU did not effectively managed, hence, ASUU could not prevailed on federal government to implement Prof. Munzali Jibril's led-committee reports after a months of submission. In fact, the Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Femi Falana also faulted the process of collective bargaining between ASUU and Prof. Munzali renegotiating team. He said, "instead of incoming out the grey areas in the agreement, the federal government turned round to set up another committee under the leadership of Prof. Nimi Briggs in March 2022." The constant changes in the collective bargain process that have lasted for almost 12 years only amount to waste of time and resources.

Thirdly, ASUU should have known

better by now that we are in a democratic settings whereby our political office holders who wield more power do not believe or have no confidence in the educational system they imposed on us and that explains why most government officials, and political office holders over time, starting from the presidents, Vice presidents, ministers, governors, permanent secretaries and even commissioners all have their children school overseas and private universities with our common wealth. This year alone, the Rivers State Governor's son, and Ex-Imo State Governor Emeka Ihedioha's son all graduated from UK Universities amid the protracted strike. While the strike drags on, ASUU lamented that "Those in power turned their back on our degraded universities as they shuttle between Europe and America to celebrate the graduation of their children and wards from World class universities. This speaks volumes on the level of depravity, insensitivity, and irresponsibility of Nigeria's opportunistic and parasitic political class."

Community of Vice chancellors and other spirited individuals have continued to appeal to the presidents to take charge of the negotiation and hasten the process as the strike has not only disrupted academic calendar, encourage brain drain and could pose a grave generational aftermath.

Contentedly, President Buhari has given parents and students a new ray of hope as he has graciously answered the pleas of Nigerians by directing the minister of education, Mallam Adamu to resolve the prolonged strike and report back within two weeks. It is hope that the minister and his will be given the full mandate to have a meaningful engagement with the unions' side.

With these new developments it is expected that the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), would shelve its belated solidarity protest with the academic staff union of universities. NLC had announced to their members that it would embark on two day nationwide protest on July 26 and 27 July 2022 to impress on government to go back to the negotiating table and immediately conclude the ongoing negotiation with trade unions in Nigeria's universities for them to resume normal and full activities. Nigerians expect the Academic Staff Union of Universities ASUU and federal government will come back to the negotiating table with full mandate and better skills to transform completion into cooperation and open into partners.

**"From the forgoing, one can sadly deduce that ASUU have all along been negotiating with 'Ghost's and unknown men, it therefore goes to suggest that there have never been any instrument of action, (agreements) between the unions side and government for lack of mandate from government side right from Professor Munzali led-committee which was set up in January 2021 after ASUU suspended their strike action over the renegotiation of 2009 unfinished agreement in December 2020. The suspended which however was reactivated on February 14, 2022 after government reneged to implement the Munzali reports which means government on their part has never any appreciable sincerity in the long renegotiations of the contention 2009 agreement that always ended up with proposals, and reports and not with any concrete agreement".**

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Intrigues that shape political culture in Nigeria

**The Nigerian foundational power fault lines are always responsible for threat against unity and development. These are primordial factors anchored on religion and ethnicity. More to that, there are also factors arising from roles played by individuals within diverse gerrymandering, which culminates into group actions and have intrinsic potency to mould the political culture. NENDIMMA DOGO GONET writes.**

SOME fault-lines that are indispensable in defining the conflict situations on political note include: the military, stakeholders, youth, women, religion, political party, ward, senatorial constituencies, sectarian divides, rural – urban divides, rich versus poor, minority/ majority and regional dichotomies. These factors are considered as political fault lines in addition to the primordial factors within the spatial scope of the Nigerian state because they have helped to shape the political history and consciousness of the nation discussed hereunder as attempt to understand and fast track our political consciousness and to enhance growth. The central focus of this discourse is that these group interests can be interwoven or alternated based on what a particular player seeks to achieve.

Some observers have viewed the military as another political party due to the level at which it has muddled in politics. Since the intervention into politics in 1966 via the first post independence coup plot, it seems the military has remained inevitable in all political discourses and processes. Since it decided to hand over power, it has directly involved in the processes leading to the handing over, supervise same and to a large extent influence the way and manner it should be conducted. Constitutionally, the military is meant to safeguard and aid in the success of the civil authority as encapsulated in the constitution. With arms at its disposal, the institution is feared by the civil authority and the fear of coup is the beginning of wisdom. The presence of the military reminds those on the corridors of power that caution is a perpetual virtue.

That is what endeared the political power to this institution. The military has men to play the role of the brigade of guard and ADC to the president which sensitive in shaping the behavior of the chief executive of the country. That is, military does not only serve the purpose of external defence of the country in terms of territorial protection but also gets involved in internal security. We can adduce with some sense of authority that the persistent coup plots of the pre 1990 eras were influenced by the cold war politics. Nonetheless, when the cold war began to wane, the civilians whose main vocation is to man the political space were emboldened and started agitating for their democratic/civil rights. That was how the post June 12 movement threatened the military in spite of their arms and Gen Babangida and Abacha started forming political parties and conducted elections in a fashion that tended to be of savoury to them. The succeeding military regimes since independence played on the intelligence of the citizens to



**Buhari**

perpetuate their relevance in politics. When Obasanjo was elected in 1999 as the president, he perceived the danger that was lying ahead since military was politicized for several years resulting in how he undertook massive retirement of all military personnel who have held political offices. By so doing, he believed he had neutralized the venom that their presence in service could pose. Nonetheless, this hastens their next action to aspire for political offices taking advantage of the money, skills and influence its ex service men have accumulated while in service. In some instances, they became political godfathers and history has shown how they will keep influencing the political terrain for a long time.

Godfathers can also be referred to as political barons, tycoons, power brokers, compradors, amongst others. This category must have financial muscle to finance and control party platforms to the end or use whoever has finances with the promise to compensate him in the future with appointment or fielding him as an aspirant. They are most often drawn from retired permanent secretaries, military generals and other business moguls. They also recruit pliable men of political future to serve as party EXCO of respective political platforms. By the act of recruitment, the recruited see it as favour from the compradors and for that reason must dance to the tune of the owners – “pipers who dictate the tune”. The compradors view politics in this respect as pure investment opportunity whereby it must not collapse but sustained through seducing those that can add value to the game by promoting the image of the investor with the promise that the recruited has a lot of prospect in the system if he keeps his loyalty in check. The

recruits are placated with offices such as EXCO members, sometimes along with compradors at the beginning.

Subsequently, congresses may be conducted for those that will succeed the offices. The offices are numerous and at different levels such as national, state, local government, ward, etcetera. Those at higher hierarchy push their influence downward to sustain their relevance as kingmakers. Just as those at the leadership were selected through the influence of the kingmakers, they dance to the tune of their masters and dictate who will emerge as delegates during primary elections. Delegates make a lot of money from the various aspirants who jostle for their votes but must vote based on the interest of the kingmaker for the highest bidder. Most often than not, the highest bidder has been charged by the kingmakers to finance the party in exchange of which they canvass votes for him. But since the compradors are often many as collaborators, the comprador collects money from more than one aspirant. If at the end of the day, some lost, they are promised appointments and contracts after the election and having found themselves in office. This is serious albatross to free, fair and credible elections since a good aspirant can be truncated through the whims and caprices of the godfathers. At this stage too, they are not only said to be kingmakers but also forces of disenfranchisement. To a maximum extent, they symbolize political stratification in their activities. Fortunately, for them, the party space and machinations at the pre election level is an ungoverned space because there is no any instrument to checkmate their excesses to a large extent. Ironically, those with grouses during primaries would have saluted the process if it swung in their favor.

The youth group has always been asking for why it is said “it is leader of tomorrow yet the tomorrow doesn’t come to pass”. People who ruled or experienced power in 1979 when most of the youths were yet to be born are still ruling or appointed for leadership currently. It was on this note that President Goodluck Jonathan signed the affirmative action tagged “not too young to run”. The point of attention here is that even youths who have occupied leadership position by appointment or election have reached there either through sheer personal effort, godfatherism, sectional interest or other considerations but not on the basis of being a youth. So by percentage, the leadership style is inclined to gerontocracy. Ironically, youths have the population that far outweigh other corresponding groups yet that currency has failed to garner votes for them. Some of their challenges seem to be based on lack of financial independence so whereby one depends on a godfather, he (godfather) dictates the tune. Moreover, religious, clannish and other superimposing interests are threats to their collective interests well perfected in the ideal situation. So it will take a long time to experience a formidable camaraderie among youth that can foster enviable political future unless something theatrical is done. Nonetheless, the youth platform is not ready to completely die off because some few still find it expedient to draw attention to it when other factors to facilitate their political career fail. That is the tactics that maintains its place as a fault line for political mobilization; and an idea cannot be killed in this regard; thus hope alive.

The most notable historical discourse on women in the recent history can be situated around the Beijing Conference of 1995. This cannot be jaundiced from the end of the cold war that perceived democracy as booty characterized by the demographic currency. Like the youth, some numbers of women have attained political heights without taking advantage of their collective solidarity of womanhood but rode on the back of sectional, ethnic and religious advantages instead. Some men have ridiculed and insulted the yearning of women to rise beyond the traditional setting and consigned them to the dustbin or mere instruments of subservience. This should have been enough to provoked action that can transform their dream but to no avail. But under the government of Goodluck Jonathan, it was captured as 5% affirmative action to help hasten women participation in an atmosphere that has been dominated by paternal and masculine chauvinism. Appointments were made in

favour of women who were made to run critical government parastatals. Even at that, it seems only women who have been disadvantaged by some prevailing points of consideration that have taken the road of priority for womanhood to break some jinks that serve as albatross to meander through the political space. They tend to cling to their husbands because the husbands remain the heads of the families. Probably, the single mothers are more concerned about it and others with certain deficiency that can automate their political manipulation. Ordinarily, the womenfolk should have some leap following the affirmative action that was substantiated by granting them subsidy for the registration fee when vying into a political office but assuaging the women to discard their ethnic, religious, and clannish sentiments for their solidarity may take longer time to actualize since with their number, the impact of their gender has failed to edge out. Ironically, women at the legislative representations have been seen speaking hard when it comes to interest of their gender but the currency that lifted them to the parliament was not from the women foothold. Nonetheless, sometimes, the primary consideration that boosted the expression of interest could be different but when the competition or contest becomes stiff, the gender aspect can be added to galvanise votes. That could be why they will be mandated with multiple interests to defend or they could so project themselves in such multiple shades to add to scorecard towards the next campaign. So it remains a murky endeavor then.

Considering the danger that Christianity and Islam have posed in Nigeria, it has become unbelievable that they were introduced as solutions to the danger that the African traditional religion purportedly unleashed on its adherents. Religion is one of the most imposing factors that have outweighed other corresponding divisive factors. When religion sneezes the world catches cold. This is evident to the extent that a religious friction could be brewed in another country only for Nigeria to become the theatre for venting anger. It has been heard to have been said by politicians that each adherent should vote his people. Gaddafi once said that Nigeria should be divided on the religious lines just to destabilize the country. There are many fault lines that can be termed as not too sensitive except religion; which its sensitivity rests on violence as the output. Where the religious belief system is one, the sectarian and clannish cards could go high. But in the event of plural religious cohabitation, sensitivity of the factor becomes overwhelming.

**To be continued**

**L**AST week, we started a human-interest story on moto bikers in Nigeria and we stopped at safety on the road. Mr. Kunle Adeyanju shares his experience with us. He is the biker who travelled from London to Lagos on his moto bike. He was the guest of H.E Simon Bako Lalong. He was interviewed by *Bangles* and this is the excerpt:

*Bangles*: I bring greetings on behalf of The Editor of The *Sunday Standard Newspaper*, our local newspaper on Sundays, here on the Plateau. I have been assigned to find out what bikers do for a living and what they contribute to society. It is a pleasure to meet you Sir. Please kindly introduce yourself and tell us what you do for a living and how biking became a passion for you as well as your London to Lagos ride.

*Kunle*: my name is Kunle Adeyanju. I am also popularly known as lion heart. I am an entrepreneur, a motivational speaker, an author and also an adventurer. This is what I do for a living. I just completed a London to Lagos bike ride which I started on the 19th of April 2022 and ended on the 29th of May 2022. The ride took a total of 41 days but the actual riding days was meant to be 14 days.

I love adventure. I have climbed Mount Kilimanjaro twice. I have done bungee jumping and skydiving. I have done jet skiing on the Indian Ocean. I have ridden a bicycle from Lagos to Ghana and back. Before the bicycle ride, I wanted to do something that would stretch me and possibly break me and so I kept asking myself "what is my limit", but I found out that when I get to that place, my body adjusts as long as I do not give up and when that kept happening, I said to myself "let me do this bike ride, let's see if I will get to my limit and my breaking point". It took me 3 days to ride to Ghana. That was a bicycle ride of 3 days.

When I came back, it was difficult for me to sit down because I had pains all over, but it still did not break me. I still could cope. So, I finish that in 2019. When I did the bicycle ride, I said to myself, "ok, what other very difficult stretching can I do, something much more challenging, a more challenging adventure. Why don't I ride a motorbike from London to Lagos?" The idea went into my bucket list. This is something I call the "before-I-die" list. Before I die means those things I want to do before I finally leave this earth to go back to my maker. Maybe when I am 90, maybe when I am a 100. I have listed out those things that I wanted to do.

I went into my planning from 2019. In 2021 post-covid, I made a commitment that I was going to do it. After making up my mind, I had to start planning. It took me one year to build the plan and then when I

finally built it, I was ready and was sure that my plan would work. It took me one year to build a plan for the Ride. It took me 3 hours every day to work on the plan. I was working quietly. People usually do not know when one is planning. It is only when the result comes out that people will know, and this is usual and normal.

Next, I did the route selection. I chose the coastline. I went from The United Kingdom to France through to Spain and

selection.

After the route selection, I did my bike selection, and I could not just pick any bike because that would be an accident waiting to happen. I picked the Honda bike with 500cc engine and when I was picking the bike, I used a ranking metrics. The bike I was going to use must be able to pass through these criteria. Whichever scored the highest mark is the bike that I will use. The Honda ranked highest on the ranking



## Leave no brother behind (2)



then Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and so on along the coastline. There is another road you can go through from The United Kingdom to France to Spain then cross into Algeria and then you come straight down to Niger Republic, then into Nigeria. If you go through that route, it is 8000 km to get to Lagos but if you come through the coastline where I went through, it is 12000 km. The question is why anybody would want to do an extra 4,000 miles when you can cut the ride short.

How do you survive 1000 kilos in the desert? If you ride a bike in the desert, there is little you can carry. You have very little cargo space. It is different from riding a Land Rover. There is a limit to what I can carry in my saddle bag or how much fuel I can take. I can only carry a maximum load of 15 kilos or 20 kilos in my saddle bag. It becomes difficult to carry more than that and riding on the sand makes it even more difficult if you carry more than that. You could get stuck in the sand due to lack of traction. I had to look for places to stop after every 500km along. On the route I took, you can only see settlements and people after about 500kms, before having access to life support services and refueling. Yes, I still had a first aid box. It was all part of the plan and that is the route

metrics with its fuel economy and light weight. I needed a bike that was good with fuel economy and had versatility. A bike that I could carry out minor repairs on if it broke down in the desert because if you get into a problem with your bike, you are on your own if you cannot sort yourself out. You may not come back home. You will need every help. If you cannot provide that help, you may not come back home. It is as simple as that in the desert. It is unforgiving. The desert is not your friend. It does not cooperate with you and the margin for error is so slim. If you make a mistake, you may not come back because the desert is not forgiving.

The weight of the Bike is key because in the desert you are going to be riding on the sand. If you are going to be riding on the sand, falling is part of riding. If you fall down on the bike, you can get up and pick up your bike and continue but what if the bike is too heavy? If you are not injured, you have to pick up your bike. You should not be speeding too much. If my bike weighs 190 kilos, if I fall down in the desert and I have 190 kilos to carry, I may not be able to pick it up if I go with the popular brands. I dropped to 69 kilos. If I cannot carry my bike I am stuck in the desert. I am dead because the heat of the Sahara will kill me.

That is what it is. Before you know it, there will be dehydration and hallucination and death, due to brain damage.

I did all this research. I needed to because sometimes you could be in the desert for 3 hours and you do not see anybody. You do not see any car. It is like traveling from Abuja to Ekiti. You may not see anybody, and you are the only one there and that takes close to 5 hours in the desert heat. You may be at a standstill. When you are moving, the wind blows the heat away from you but when you are stationary, you will see that the desert is hell and people die. So, you need to look at things that are easy to manage. Also, I looked for police formations along the way. I needed to have the working numbers for all the police formations. I needed to look for the hospitals. Let me give you an example. I had 6000 points of interest contacts and GPS coordinates. I had all that built in my map along the way.

You need to think about internet data along the way and how to get it. I needed to make provision for a satellite phone. What if there is an accident and it is so bad that I needed a helicopter to rescue? I took out a helicopter insurance and rescue insurance. You need to put all those things in place

because you never know when you will need it. It is because things like that could happen and if it is not there, you may not come home. So, all of this went into planning. Now, you understand when I tell you that it took me a year and I had to spend 3 hours on it working on the plan 3 hours every day for a whole year for a 14 day's journey.

Look at it this way: a lot of people organize rallies. You have heard of something like that. The Dakar Rally from Paris to Dakar in Senegal. Do you know how they do? Three people per car and you are in a team of three cars. One mechanic per team. That is how it goes. Nobody does it alone, but I did it alone and I did not do Paris to Senegal. I did London to Lagos which is much longer. That is the part that a lot of people struggle to believe. They ask me how I did it. I was able to do it and I survived it because I planned, and my plan worked and that is why I survived it.

*Bangle*: What can you share with Nigerians about this adventure, especially about planning? We seem to do a lot of "Planlessness"

*Kunle*: What I have to tell Nigerians from my experience, yes, it is true that we have a lot of "planlessness" but we plan. The problem is that we have a problem with implementing our plans. People do not follow through the plan. There are some instances where your plan may not work but because you have planned very well, it becomes quite easy to adapt the plan to the changing situation. That is what happened. That is a success for me. So, planning has to be followed through. Let the plan be adaptable. You need to be well informed. For example, the heat of the Sahara, you need to check the temperature of the road every day. When I wake up before riding, I bring out my thermometer to check the temperature of the road. You do not just get on the bike without checking the temperature of the road which could be as high as 49° C. If you do not do this and get on the road in the desert on a very hot day, you will have a tyre bust. A knowledge of this is part of the planning...

The forgoing is from Mr. Kule Adeyanju, the Nigerian biker who rode from London to Lagos.

The word for today is a word to encourage us not to yield to the spirit of fear. Again, we have been teaching on the series titled, fear not; trust God. This title suggests to us that there are basically two paths that we can take in life. We can either choose the path of trusting God which is the gateway to the blessings of God in our lives or we can choose the path of fear which is the gateway that authorizes the devil to steal, to kill and to destroy.

My encouragement to us by the Spirit of God is to trust God with your life. Many people think that fear is a normal thing. Many do not understand that you can live life with the option of refusing to be afraid. In Christ Jesus, you have been empowered to live above the spirit of fear shutting down its operations in your life and trusting God in all circumstances.

Trust God and you will see His power moving to protect and preserve you and all of those you love regardless of what is going on in the world today.

Our main text is taken from Isaiah 12:2 which says, **Behold (look and see), God is my salvation, I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.** The writer said: God is my salvation and the word salvation there means Yeshua which is Jesus' redemptive name. Yeshua means welfare, wellbeing, prosperity, preservation, protection etc.

Trusting God or trusting in this salvation that He has made available to us in Jesus Christ is the open door for God's power to begin to flow in our lives.

Now, we have made some important points in previous teachings which I will summarize quickly. First, we have said that fear is not only a feeling but also a spirit. The Bible makes this clear in 2 Tim 1:7, **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.** Now we have observed that if God has not given us the spirit of fear, then we are not to tolerate it.

No one in his or her right senses would draw near or cuddle a venomous reptile or animal, so also should we not tolerate the spirit of fear. If you will not tolerate a dangerous animal or reptile in your home then do not tolerate the spirit of fear. Fear is more deadly than the most dangerous reptile.

The word of God teaches us that fear is the open door that authorizes the devil to steal, kill and destroy and to fulfill his ministry of death.

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

Understand that fear is not a gift from God, and that it can be handled and shut down in Christ Jesus. You do not have to fear or live your life oppressed by the spirit of fear one day longer; choose to trust God rather. We have also said that except you identify the source of fear and how it manifests, you will not be able to deal it. The Bible gives us clear



## Fear not, trust God (17)



*Jesus in his death and his resurrection destroyed Satan and the power of death and rendered Satan inoperative but the way He did it is by dealing with the spirit of fear. If you refuse to be afraid, you literally shut down Satan's ability to destroy your life in this world regardless of what is happening. In other words, when you shut down the spirit of fear, you open the door for God's power to move into your circumstance to preserve, to protect, provide and deliver you regardless of how life threatening the circumstance may be.*

### **bondage.**

Jesus came to destroy the power of the devil. He came to render his power impotent. The devil's power is death and in verse 15, we are told that it is through fear of death that bondage came upon the human race. This implies that as evil as death is, it's only way to operate is through fear. Therefore, if you refuse to be afraid, you can shut down the forces of death.

Jesus in his death and his resurrection destroyed Satan and the power of death and rendered Satan inoperative but the way He did it is by dealing with the spirit of fear. If you refuse to be afraid, you literally shut down Satan's ability to destroy your life in this world regardless of what is happening. In other words, when you shut down the spirit of fear, you open the door for God's power to move into your circumstance to preserve, to protect, provide and deliver you regardless of how life threatening the circumstance may be.

So friends, the good gospel news is that, in life, you have the option to trust God. We are not saying the situations of life are not real and do not have the potential to destroy; but in Christ Jesus, God has destroyed death and the power of death which is fear.

instructions in James 4:7 concerning what to do with the spirit of fear. It says, **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

Submitting yourself to God is submitting yourself to His word for it is through God's word that we understand how He thinks. His thoughts, His ideas, His interpretations and His perspective to life are all revealed to us through his word.

In fact, the Psalmist said in Psalm 138:2 that **God has exalted his word (given his word a place of authority) above all his name;** just to show you how reliable His word is. God's word interprets to us God's purposes, plans, ideas as well as His ways of thinking, doing things, interpreting life and His perspective concerning life.

Thus, the Bible says to you submit yourself to God by submitting yourself to His word, then resist the devil and he will flee from you. Flee here means he will run away, as in stark terror. Most times, we do not realize that what we are afraid of is actually afraid of us. The Bible says of the devil that he is a defeated foe but his operation is through fear. Once he can get you to fear, that opens the door to him to operate in your life. The

moment you catch on to his deception and understand that you can refuse to fear, by standing against the spirit of fear; the devil will flee from you.

Since the devil is the sponsor of fear, resisting the devil is resisting the spirit of fear and vice versa. This means that thought of fear does not have to remain with you.

The devil may be plaguing your mind and telling you that you will not live long, that your life is a wasted life and that you will never prosper in this life or that the sickness you are facing will kill you. He may even be saying that you will not live to see your children's children. I do not know what he may be inspiring in your heart that may be terrorizing your life, but understand that the devil is a liar just as the Bible says.

Jesus says in John 8:44 that **when the devil lies, he speaks his native language.** Everything the devil is telling you that creates fear in your heart is a lie. The word of God is truth. You have the God given right in Christ to resist the devil's lies by embracing the truth of God's word. John 17:17 Jesus said, **sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.** This means separate them from the wickedness in this

world by your truth or your reality. Your word is truth and it is reality.

I want to tell someone today that your reality is that you are blessed and you are healed, and your life is redeemed from destruction. No matter the news of terror or the confusion or chaos round about you, the reality is that God is able to take care of you and bring you out of that predicament and move you into a new glorious season of blessing in your life.

You must however understand that your job, spiritually, is to resist the devil; stand against him and against his lies. Shut down his operation of lies in your heart, and come into a place of peace, joy and confidence in God and you will notice that the power of God will begin to invade your circumstances and God will begin to make the impossible, possible in your life today.

I encourage you to rise up in faith and refuse the devil's lies. Do not allow the devil dump his lies on you. Understand that you do not have to settle for his lies or yield to them. You can rise up today and resist his lies by embracing the truth of God's word concerning you in Jesus name. Amen.

## INTERNATIONAL

# Middle East politics: From hyper to hybrid

*Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, centre and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pose for a photo prior to their talks at the Saadabad palace, in Tehran, Iran, on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. MARWAN BISHARA writes.*

**A**S a new type of Cold War came to dominate American-Russian relations after the latter's invasion of Ukraine, major Middle Eastern players are maintaining a distance, refusing to take sides.

It is a sign that the hyper-strategic alliances that polarised the region, and the world, during the old Cold War are turning hybrid, fluid, pragmatic and unpredictable.

During the old Cold War, the Middle East was characterised by greater foreign intervention and relatively more frequent high-intensity conflicts.

The post-Cold War was even worse for the ill-fated Middle East – in the past 20 years, it featured most of the world's deadliest conflicts. But as the wars in Syria, Yemen and Libya wind down; as regional conflicts reach dead ends, and regional and global powers show signs of faintness and fatigue, a new geopolitical environment is now taking shape.

This new dynamic was demonstrated clearly during the recent American-Arab summit in Jeddah and the trilateral summit between Russia, Iran and Turkey in Tehran.

Last week's summit in Jeddah exposed the divergence and distrust between the US and its partners/clients in the Middle East. President Joe Biden tried to convince them to increase oil production and cease all cooperation with Moscow, to no avail.

Despite Washington's pleas and pressures, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt gave no sign that they may stop dealing with Moscow on energy and trade any time soon. This is a far cry from the 1980s, when Saudi Arabia enlisted on Washington's side in the Cold War, helping to dislodge the Soviet forces out of Afghanistan, and pushing down the price of oil under American pressure.

During his first trip to the region as president, Biden, who had only recently railed against the "pariah" regimes that rule in the Middle East, swallowed his tongue and pride at the service of the "national interest". Yet, Riyadh and Cairo rejected US dictates and even questioned its strategic competency and



staying power, considering its humiliating withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan and its erratic behaviour over the past two decades.

America's relative decline, amid China's rise and Russia's resurgence, has prompted its allies to pursue hybrid, non-exclusive foreign relations based solely on their national and regime interests. It is as if Israel's chutzpah has finally rubbed off on its neighbours, friends and foes alike. Like Tel Aviv, important Middle Eastern players want American arms and American aid but not America's advice.

Despite being Washington's closest regional ally and the first stop on President Biden's Middle

East trip, Israel has also refused to acquiesce to US wishes on not only Russia but also Iran and Palestine. In fact, Israel, which has taken the tail-wagging-the-dog dynamic to a whole new level, yet again treated America like no more than a dumb puppy.

Like Israel, Saudi Arabia and its regional allies, Turkey, which straddles east and west, geographically and geopolitically, has gone hybrid for some time now.

In this week's trilateral summit in Tehran, this major NATO member has reached new agreements with Washington's strategic foes, Iran and Russia; even proposing arms sales to the ayatollahs.

After NATO allies refused to sell it air defence systems on acceptable terms, Turkey turned to NATO's foe, Russia, to purchase its sophisticated S-400 system, to Washington's utter dismay. Since then, Saudi Arabia has shown similar defiance, [initiating](#) talks with Moscow to purchase the Russian system.

And like Turkey, Israel and Saudi Arabia, Iran is also trying to pursue hybrid relationships, allying itself with China and

Russia while remaining open to collaboration with Europe and insisting on negotiating a return to the Nuclear Deal with the United States. And since its invasion of Ukraine, Russia has become more dependent on Iran to counterbalance American and Turkish influences in Syria.

Meanwhile, these central Middle Eastern players are pursuing hybrid relations within the region as well as beyond it. Iran and Saudi Arabia may be arch enemies, stuck in a Cold War logic of sort, but they are also involved in direct diplomatic talks aimed at reducing tensions in the Gulf and finding accommodations on regional hotspots, like Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, etc.

Similar dynamics emerged between UAE and Iran, as the UAE normalised relations with the Assad regime in Syria and sort of pulled out of the Yemen war, while at the same time establishing diplomatic, security and strategic relations with Iran's arch enemy, Israel.

In short, the new hybrid geopolitical dynamics look nothing like the rigid and hyper bi-polarity that divided and

dominated the world for decades. Since the world fights wars as it makes business and as it does politics, using similar tools and methods, this shift will likely prove lasting and global. In other words, and at the risk of oversimplification, expect more governments to pursue hybrid policies in an increasingly hybrid environment characterised by hybrid work, hybrid cars and hybrid warfare. This will further complicate the global and regional dynamics, producing a dizzyingly changing reality, making it ever harder to predict what might come next; where a new explosion might occur, or whether certain countries might reach accommodation tomorrow.

All of this begs the question: Will the shift from hyper to hybrid relations bring stability; or even peace to the Middle East? It might indeed reduce inter and intra-national instability for some time, but unless and until regional actors use that window to address the urgent questions of justice and human rights, expect more of the same instability and violence.

**Source: Aljazeera.**

***"All of this begs the question: Will the shift from hyper to hybrid relations bring stability; or even peace to the Middle East? It might indeed reduce inter and intra-national instability for some time, but unless and until regional actors use that window to address the urgent questions of justice and human rights, expect more of the same instability and violence."***



## INTERNATIONAL

# Trump ignored pleas to condemn Capitol riot

**E**x-US President Donald Trump watched last year's Capitol riot on TV at the White House, ignoring his children and aides who "begged him" to rebuke the mob, a congressional inquiry has heard.

"He chose not to act," said Adam Kinzinger, one of two Republicans on the Democratic-led committee.

The prime-time hearing was told Mr Trump did not make a single call to law enforcement or national security staff.

He was motivated by "his selfish desire to stay in power", the inquiry alleged.

On Thursday night, the House of Representatives select committee used its eighth hearing of the summer to draw a timeline of Mr Trump's activities over 187 minutes on 6 January 2021 as a mob of his supporters raided Congress.

The panel is seeking to build a case that Mr Trump, a Republican, acted illegally in a bid to overturn his defeat by Joe Biden, a Democrat, in the November 2020 presidential election.

Members of the committee have suggested there might be enough evidence to charge Mr Trump with such counts as obstructing an official proceeding of Congress, conspiracy to defraud the American people or witness tampering.

Any potential prosecution of Mr Trump would be led by the Department of Justice. But some commentators have suggested that advice issued by Attorney General Merrick Garland requiring prosecutors to obtain approval before embarking on politically sensitive investigations means it is unlikely Mr Trump will ever face trial.

Mr Trump, who has been hinting he may run again for president in 2024, has dismissed the inquiry as a "kangaroo court" designed to distract Americans from the "disaster" of Democratic governance.

The hearing was told that former President Trump had watched coverage of the riot on Fox News in the private dining room at the White House for more than two-and-a-half hours.

The lawmaker also said the chief White House photographer had wanted to take pictures during the historic event, but was told not to.

A former White House national security staffer, whose voice was obscured to conceal his identity, said officials in the executive mansion were "in a state of shock" over what was unfolding at the Capitol.

The committee also played parts of a videotaped testimony by former Trump White House counsel Pat Cipollone, who said he had pushed for a strong statement from the president condemning the onslaught.

"I said that people need to be



Trump

told, there needs to be a public announcement, fast, that people need to leave the Capitol," said Mr Cipollone.

The president's children, Ivanka Trump and Don Jr, had also wanted him to call off the rioters, the committee heard.

But former press aide Sarah Matthews testified that an unnamed White House colleague had argued that if Mr Trump were to disavow the violence, it would be "handing a win to the media".

At 14:24 that day, Mr Trump sent a tweet attacking his Vice-President, Mike Pence, saying he "didn't have the courage to" spurn his constitutional duty of certifying Mr Biden's election win at Congress.

Ms Matthews said the post amounted to "pouring gasoline on the fire". She and Matthew Pottinger, who was deputy national security adviser to the president, testified that that tweet had prompted them both to resign.

Three hours and seven minutes after the assault began, Mr Trump released a video at 16:17, recorded from the White House Rose Garden, in which he praised the rioters

as "very special", but asked them to disperse.

Bennie Thompson, chairman of the committee and a Mississippi Democrat, said in his opening remarks: "For 187 minutes on Jan 6, this man of unbridled destructive energy could not be moved.

The committee also aired a previously unseen video outtake of Mr Trump on 7 January repudiating the violence at the Capitol of the day before.

Polling in the US has suggested that the hearings are having little impact on Mr Trump's personal popularity among Republican voters.

A recent survey by the PBS broadcaster found that just one in five party members think the 76-year-old should face prosecution for his actions on 6 January, while more than half would like to see him as the Republican candidate for president in 2024.

Meanwhile, President Joe Biden's personal approval has fallen to just 37% among voters, lower than Mr Trump's ratings were at any point during his term in office.

## Sri Lankaswears in new Prime Minister

**D**INESH Gunawardena has been sworn in as Sri Lanka's new prime minister, just hours after soldiers and police cleared an anti-government protest site in Colombo.

Gunawardena, a veteran member of the ruling Sri Lanka People's Front and an ally of the Rajapaksa political family, took the oath of office on Friday before President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was elevated to head of state from his role as prime minister by a vote in parliament on Wednesday.

The two men have been schoolmates and friends since the age of three but lead political parties that are diametrically opposed ideologically.

Wickremesinghe, 73, is a free-market champion and a pro-West politician while Gunawardena, 73, is a staunch Sinhala nationalist who believes in socialism and wants greater state control

over the economy.

The cabinet is scheduled to be sworn in later on Friday. Heavy security was deployed outside the prime minister's office during the swearing-in ceremony.

"[Gunawardena] was part of the ruling Rajapaksa coalition, so no new face in Sri Lankan politics whatsoever," said Al Jazeera's Step Vaessen, reporting from Colombo.

There has also been no evidence of the president's promise to bring new faces and to combine the ruling party with the opposition to create some kind of national unity government, she added.

Sri Lankans have taken to the streets for months demanding their leaders resign over an economic crisis that has left the island nation's 22 million people short of essential items such as medicine, food and fuel.

The protests forced out former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last week. His

**R**USSIA'S Ministry of Justice has requested the liquidation of the Russian branch of the Jewish Agency, a non-profit organisation that promotes immigration to Israel, according to a Moscow court.

The website of the Basmany district court said the ministry filed the request on July 15 and it would be discussed on July 28.

"The court received an administrative complaint from the justice ministry's main department requesting the dissolution ... of the organisation 'Support for links with the Jewish diaspora, Jewish Agency Sokhnut,'" said Ekaterina Buravtsova, a spokeswoman for the Basmany court in Moscow, quoted by Russian agencies on Thursday.

Buravtsova said the request was made after legal violations but did not provide further details, according to Interfax news agency.

Last week, the Russian justice ministry told the Ria Novosti state news agency that it carried out "document checks" with the non-profit

## Russia's justice ministry seeks to shut Jewish agency

organisation between May 30 and June 27 but did not give any more information about the result of the checks.

The move against the Jerusalem-based agency, the largest Jewish non-profit organisation in the world, follows criticism by Israel of Russia's war in Ukraine, as Israel's then-Foreign Minister Yair Lapid accused it in April of carrying out war crimes.

Moscow has repeatedly denied atrocities and said it does not go after civilians, although thousands have been killed in nearly five months of war.

"Russian Jews will not be held hostage by the war in Ukraine. The attempt to punish the Jewish Agency for Israel's stance on the war is deplorable and offensive," Israeli Diaspora Affairs Minister Nachman Shai said in response to news of the court filing.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper reported on July 5 that Russian authorities

suspected the Jewish Agency of illegally gathering data on Russian citizens, while also linking the move to tensions between Israel and Russia over Ukraine and Syria.

Around 7,000 Jews emigrated from Russia to Israel last year, according to Israeli government data.

Though Israel has not sent military aid to Ukraine, it has condemned Russia's invasion of its neighbour. Traditionally strong relations with Moscow deteriorated in May after Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Adolf Hitler had Jewish ancestry, prompting anger in Israel.

The agency, established in 1929, played a key role in the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

It began working in Russia in 1989, two years before the end of the Soviet Union, after which hundreds of thousands of Jews from all over the USSR left for Israel.

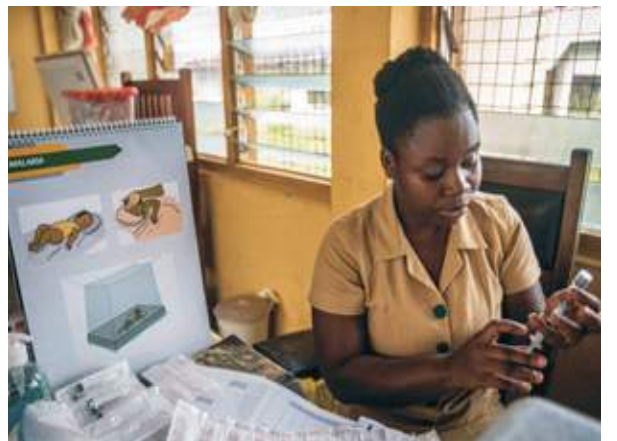
More than a million Israeli citizens today are originally from the Soviet Union.

## WHO to roll out malaria vaccine in Africa

**A**S the World Health Organization announces the next step in its distribution of the world's first authorised malaria vaccine in three African countries, concerns about its value have come from an unlikely source: the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, arguably the vaccine's biggest backer.

WHO endorsed the vaccine last fall as a "historic" breakthrough in the fight against malaria but the Gates Foundation told The Associated Press (AP) news agency this week it will no longer financially support the shot.

Some scientists say they are mystified by that decision, warning it could leave millions of African children at risk of dying from malaria as well as undermine future efforts to solve intractable problems in



public health.

The vaccine, sold by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) as Mosquirix, is about 30-percent effective and requires four doses.

The malaria vaccine has "a much lower efficacy than we would like," Philip Welkhoff, the Gates Foundation's director of malaria

programmes, told the AP.

Explaining its decision to end support after spending more than \$200m and several decades getting the vaccine to market, he said the shot is relatively expensive and logistically challenging to deliver.

"If we're trying to save as many lives with our existing funding, that cost-effectiveness matters," he said.

The Gates Foundation's decision to pivot away from supporting the rollout of the vaccine in Africa was made years ago after detailed deliberations, including whether the foundation's money would be better spent on other malaria vaccines, treatments or production capacity, Welkhoff said.

Some of the resources that might have gone into getting the vaccine to countries have been redirected to buy new insecticidal nets, for example.

"It's not the greatest vaccine in the world, but there are ways of using it that could have a big impact," said Alister Craig, the dean of biological sciences at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

The world is struggling to contain the spike in malaria seen since the coronavirus pandemic disrupted efforts to stop the parasitic disease, which killed more than 620,000 people in 2020 and caused 241 million cases, mainly in children under five in Africa, Craig said.

demonstrators' barricades outside the sea-front building, while the last remaining protesters on the premises - some still on the steps - were evicted.

By morning, the troops - armed with automatic assault rifles - surrounded the complex and the main roads leading to the area remained cordoned off.

Police spokesman Nihal Thaldudwa said the decision to use more than 1,000 soldiers and police to clear the protest camp overnight had been made to allow the president's office to resume its work again.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka, the main body representing lawyers in the country, said at least two lawyers were assaulted when they went to the protest site to offer their counsel. In a statement on Friday, it called for a halt to the "unjustified and disproportionate actions" of armed forces against civilians.

family has ruled Sri Lanka for most of the last 20 years but public outrage over the economic crisis forced several family members to leave ministry posts earlier in the crisis.

Gunawardena's appointment came several hours after security forces made several arrests and cleared a protest camp near the presidential palace in Colombo, where demonstrators have gathered for the past 104 days.

Sri Lankan security forces demolished the main anti-government site, evicting activists in a night-time assault that raised international concern.

Troops wielding batons and armed with automatic assault rifles swooped in on protesters blocking the presidential secretariat.

Hundreds of soldiers and police Special Task Force commandos removed the



# 'I'm a legend in my own right!'

We had the chance to ask some questions to Rick Hyde, rapper and producer of the Black Soprano Family, Benny The Butcher's crew, who told us about his latest album, entitled in Italian "Stima", about the importance that DJ Shay (R.I.P) had for him and the city of Buffalo (NY), about his past, his upcoming projects, how it is being in the same studio with DJ Drama, The Alchemist and Hit Boy and much more.

**C**an you tell us about the origins of B\$F and how and when did you meet Benny? Do you have any anecdotes about the first times you met?

B\$F started in 2011/12 once Benny had came home from prison on a violation. I've known Benny since roughly 2007 and we both were apart of a locally established label BuffCity Records owned by DJ Shay. BSF was our chance to rebrand as we gained further knowledge of the business and how to operate on a larger scale.

**We heard that before B\$F and Griselda were successful, you worked in the airport or as a security guard... Who played the biggest role and what prompted you to quit your job to pursue a career in rap music? At what point did you take this choice and was it a difficult choice or were you already sure about what you were doing?**

Man, answering this question brings back memories. I worked a shit load of odd jobs such as the airport, security at a hospital in Buffalo deemed "Heroin Hospital" because of the rapid OD rate, I worked at Target, Sears, Pizza Hut, some retail jobs, you name it. But I seen the changes and impact that



Rick Hyde

**Griselda** was making and I decided to give it my all one time. And now I'm a legend in my own right!



**At the end of May you released your latest album called "Stima". Can you tell us how this album was born and how was the creation process of it? Where did this title come from?**

"Stima" was released as a catalyst to what I'm about to do musically. I got production on the new BSF album and I'm working on "Plates 3" simultaneously, so "Stima" is a preview of the prowess to come!

"Stima" is Italian for respect or high regard and I feel like I'm at the point where the fans gotta respect my input in this game.

**Do you have a favorite song in "Stima" and why? What does this album represent among your discography?**

My favorite song on "Stima" is probably "Who Am I" because it's vivid and a different side of me. It's almost like I picked up where I left off on "Plates 2" but on steroids. It's captivating and forces you to hear me out.

**Your first solo album that started to make a name for yourself as a rapper and producer is 2019's "Plates", in 2021 you released its sequel "Plates 2" and now "Stima"... In what do you feel you have matured most along this path? Is there something you regret or do you think you have lost along the way?**

My journey is just beginning honestly, I'm in year 3 of what looks to be a prosperous career and I'm blessed to have that advantage. I feel like I'm growing at a rapid rate and I'll just continue to dominate both sides.

**Working closely with the Griselda boys or working on your and B\$F projects you**

Continued on page 26

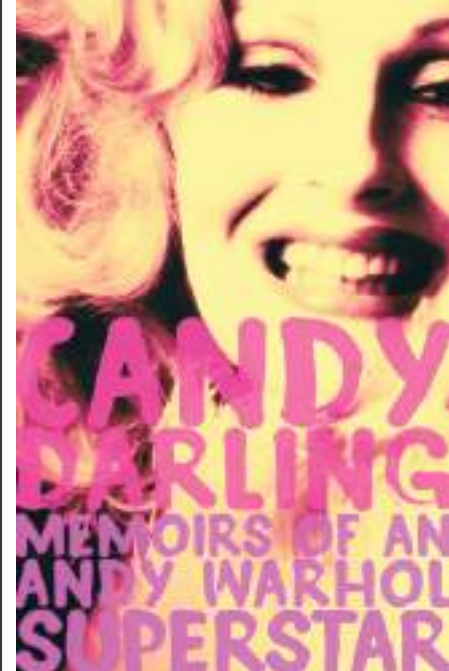
## Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

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



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

### Candy Darling



Rediscover the first trans superstar in Candy Darling's personal journals, chronicling her time in Andy Warhol's Factory and as muse to The Velvet Underground. Darling, who sadly passed away at only 29, was one of the most visible of Warhol's stars and starred in the first, Off-Broadway run of a Tennessee Williams play after the playwright specifically requested her casting. Her witty thoughts capture an era in this memoir.

### Free Woman



Often ignored by historians, Victoria Woodhull is a historical figure that drastically shifted the political conversation in the United States. Woodhull's commitment to rabble-rousing and activism marked a major shift in the movement toward women's suffrage. She even ran for President of the United States in 1872.

Those who opposed her views (and who were likely equally appalled by her unconventional background) heavily attacked Woodhull. She had been twice divorced and held a series of unorthodox careers before running for President.

Even the feminists of her time were infuriated by Woodhull's campaign—she was an advocate for free love, birth control, and the freedom of female sexuality, long before any of those ideas became commonplace.

Continued on page 26

# THE EVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

# Why do I have chin and neck hairs

**S**OMETIMES, chin or neck hair is more than irritating. It might be a sign of an underlying medical condition. Let's take a closer look at why we get chin and neck hair and the best way to handle it. What causes chin hair in women? Typically, hair grows from the root or hair follicle just under the skin. This can be due to genetics or age. Menopause can trigger more chin, neck, or facial hair. Research shows different racial groups can have different levels of androgen and resulting body and facial hair. Hair follicles are unique for everyone and how they respond to testosterone can differ. The rate of hair growth from follicles also varies.

This can result in a few random long hairs in unexpected locations like the neck. For most people these random hairs are normal. When chin hair is a health flag a little facial hair is common and normal, this includes chin and upper lip area. Excess hair on the body or face in females is known as hirsutism.

Sudden changes in facial hair patterns might mean your body is sending a sign something has changed. It can signal a hormonal imbalance caused by a medical condition or a side effect of medications. Examples include:

**What causes chin hairs?**

Everyone has hair on their chin and this is perfectly normal. We all have vellus follicles that produce very fine, tiny light-colored hair that is often referred to as "peach fuzz". Vellus hair serves a purpose, which is to help regulate our body temperature.

Your hormone levels shift periodically and throughout your lifetime because of aging, weight gain, and other factors, including pregnancy and menopause.

Even a slight increase in androgen or imbalance between your male and female sex hormones — which everyone has — can result in more terminal hairs in places you may not expect, like your chin.

There are a number of factors at play when it comes to facial hair. Some facial hair is normal and harmless, while some can be a sign of an underlying medical issue. In most cases, chin hairs are normal.

**Getting rid of an unwanted chin hair**

There's not much you can do to stop chin hairs from growing — they're just a part of being human. You do, however, have many options for removing random chin hairs if they bother you.

Options for getting rid of chin hair include:

- tweezing
- shaving
- waxing at home or by a professional
- professional threading
- professional sugaring
- laser hair removal
- electrolysis



A couple of stray chin hairs can be easily plucked out with tweezers. Shaving is another fast and easy way to remove chin hairs. The downside to shaving is that you'll likely have to do it more often and regrowth appears coarser.

Contrary to popular belief, your hair doesn't actually grow in thicker — it just appears that way because the tips of the hairs are blunt rather than tapered after shaving.

**When a chin hair is a health flag**

There are times when chin hair is a red flag that something may be going on with your health. Excessive chin or facial hair, or suddenly increased growth in hair on any part of the face, may be a sign of a condition called hypertrichosis. The type of hypertrichosis specific to women is called hirsutism.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, hirsutism is common and affects 5 to 10 percent of women of childbearing age. It can cause dark, coarse hair growth on the chin, upper lip, chest, abdomen, and back.

Though the exact cause of hirsutism is not always known, it can also be caused by several medical conditions.

**Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)**

PCOS is the leading cause of hirsutism. This common condition affects as many as 12

percent of U.S. women of childbearing age, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's characterized by a group of symptoms that affect the ovaries, including:

- tiny cysts in the ovaries
  - high levels of androgen and other male hormones
  - irregular or missed periods
- Along with excessive or unwanted hair, people with PCOS often also experience:
- weight gain
  - heavy periods
  - acne
  - headaches

- skin tags
- dark patches in skin creases

Females with Cushing syndrome often grow excess facial hair and have irregular periods. A fatty hump between the shoulders, purple stretch marks, and a rounded face are other common signs of the condition.

**Non-classic congenital adrenal hyperplasia (NCAH)**

NCAH is a milder form of a genetic condition known as congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) that occurs later in life. The condition is very rare and doesn't always cause symptoms. Women who do have symptoms experience those related to excess androgen, such as:

- excess facial hair
- frontal baldness
- menstrual irregularity
- infertility

**Androgen-secreting tumor**

Androgen-secreting tumors of the ovaries or adrenal glands are

rare and account for just 0.2 percent of cases of hirsutism in women. The excess hair caused by these types of tumors usually grows suddenly and continues to grow even with medical treatment.

The excess hair may be accompanied by other signs and symptoms, such as:

- high testosterone levels
- increased muscle mass
- enlarged clitoris
- deepening of voice
- increased sex drive
- male pattern baldness
- abdominal or pelvic mass

**When to see a doctor**

You should see your doctor if you experience an increased growth of facial or body hair over a short period of time.

Hair growth that is accompanied by other symptoms, such as severe acne, a change in your voice, or irregular periods should also be evaluated by a doctor.

A dermatologist can look at your chin hair and determine if you should be screened for PCOS or other medical conditions based on your appearance and other symptoms.

Having some hair on your chin is perfectly normal and usually a cosmetic concern more than a medical one. Chin hair can be removed safely using a number of at-home and professional methods, if you choose to do so.

If you have a lot of hair on your chin or experience increased hair growth suddenly, it could be a sign of a hormonal imbalance. Excess body hair in unusual places or chin hair that's accompanied by other symptoms should prompt a visit to your doctor to find the cause.

Source: [Healthline.com](https://www.healthline.com).



# EVIE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Relationship

# Why idolizing may harm your partner

**D**ATING is a multi-faceted venture. We're dealing with people's misperceptions, unintended projections, and misplaced insecurities.

But what causes people a lot of pain, and they don't even realize they're doing it, is idolizing the person they date.

People create this phenomenon when they believe the person they're dating is above them in some way.

Maybe the other person's looks have you dreaming about finally obtaining them all for yourself. Perhaps their success makes you feel like they're always just a step above you.

And while it might seem harmless, idolizing the person you date causes a lot of hurt, for you and them.

**If you're wondering if you idolize your partner or the people you date, there are a few signs you can look out for:**

**When you think of life without them, you feel empty.**

When someone is put in the position of your "everything" the thought of losing them feels life-shattering. It's different from losing someone you simply love and care about. It feels like losing



a limb or the "best thing to ever happen to you."

**When they mess up, your world feels rocked.**

In your mind, the other person can do no wrong; you are the only one that messes up in relationships, not them. There are specific times you can recall when they made a mistake — at work,

forgetting plans, or locking their keys in their car — and you made all these mistakes for why the mistake happened.

Maybe you even blamed yourself.

**They call all the shots.**

When it comes to making big decisions, you default to giving them that power. Maybe you think

validation from them in the form of compliments. You may rely on them monetarily.

People who idolize their partners have trouble maintaining a life outside of the relationship.

**Arguments feel like the end of the world.**

You do everything you can to avoid fights, but very often, they happen. And when they do, you feel like it will end your relationship.

As a result, your emotions are all over the place. You're angry, sad, scared, and upset. Even if the argument lasted an hour, you feel the impact for days after.

Whether you're the one providing the alter or have found yourself unwillingly upon one, idolization sucks. In reality, a serious relationship means to equals coming together.

But pedestals aim to do the opposite.

**Why idolizing your partner hurts them.**

When you put someone on a pedestal, you minimize them to an idea. You're saying that their beauty or success defines who they are. In your mind, they can do no wrong when it comes to those aspects.

They're no longer a complex human being, wrapped up in traumatic life events and insecurities — they're a perfect anecdote that you've created.

So when they do inevitably mess up — which everyone eventually will — you'll either fault them or won't support them, out of denial. Which doesn't sound like a loving relationship to me.

I've dated men who saw me as a prize to win (how do I know? Through the grapevine and sometimes, straight to my face). But it was dehumanizing. I wanted a real, deep connection with someone. Not a person who minimized me to this one idea based on my looks and accomplishments.

**Why idolizing your partner hurts you.**

The notion of she/he is "out of

my league" is ridiculous. We are all human beings figuring out how to navigate life. By saying the people you date are above or below you implies your value is based off the people in your life.

Which isn't true.

Putting yourself in a position of less than, instead of giving yourself a nice stepping stool to rise up to their level, will ultimately lead to a constant feeling of inadequacy. That will only build up inside you as resentment.

One day, it's bound to explode.

**The reality is, relationships level the playing field.**

When you get into a relationship with another person, you both hold the same power. At any point, one of you can break it off. You both need to put in the effort to maintain a thriving relationship.

You're both team members. You go from vying for someone's admiration or proving you're worthy to date — though I'd argue that isn't healthy either — to the stages that come after deciding you both want to be together.

If you don't accept that your opinions and decisions matter as much as your partner's your relationship will always feel like you're not worthy of being in it.

**That doesn't mean admiration is unhealthy, though.**

With this all being said, admiration is not the enemy. Appreciation for how your partner's looks and the hard work they put into their career is still important. They just can't be the only part of the relationship you focus on.

And they most certainly can't make you feel inadequate.

You can love different aspects of a person without thinking they're better than you. You can accept a person's love without feeling you're above or below them.

**Love yourself and insecurities begin to vanish.**

If you struggle with feeling like you aren't worthy of your relationship, then chances are, you don't value yourself. Cultivating self-love is a beautiful remedy to feeling inadequate. Believing you deserve the best is going to help you rid any notions that you're the only lucky one in the relationship.

Because they are also lucky.

You'll only be able to accept someone's love when you can love yourself. People nowadays are in relationships ridden with insecurities and wondering why things aren't working out. It's because they can't believe that their partner loves them; how can they when they don't love themselves?

Let's take these pedestals we put people on and burn them. Let the expectations and idealizations be released into the smokey air and never again fall into the fallacy that you're above or people the people you date.

In a relationship, you're both equals. And it'll do you good to start believing that.



it's because they know the "best dinner spots" or their friends are cooler than yours.

You see as someone who is more so invited along on their life.

**You have trouble standing up for yourself.**

You know what bothers you. You know what hurts your feelings.

But when the other person crosses those boundaries, you don't speak up. You're scared of their reaction; you worry that they'll decide to stop dating you. So instead of stating how you feel, you keep mum.

**You depend on them a lot.**

When you put someone on a pedestal, you believe they can provide a lot of value to your life that you couldn't provide on your own. You might seek



# Reality Bites

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## Signs and ways of dealing with depression

**D**EPRESSION is a mental health challenge that can eventually eat you up if you don't keep personal trackers and checks to watch out the signs and parameters and assess yourself.

There are many causes ranging from loss of loved ones, tragedies, disasters, accidents, bankruptcy, financial and emotional challenges, disappointments, unfulfilled dreams and desires, among others.

The death of popular Nollywood actress Ada Ameh of the favourite Popular comedy sitcom 'The Johnsons' this week was so tragic to many because the actress had shared variously how she is battling with mental health issues after losing her only daughter Aladi in 2021 alongside seven of her family members.

According to the health experts, there are some signs that shows a person is having depression and there is a thin line between being unhappy and being depressed.

Healthline editorial team say "Being unhappy isn't the same as being depressed. Depression is a term often used loosely to describe how we feel after a bad week at work or when we're going through a breakup. But major depressive disorder — a type of depression — is much more complicated. There are specific symptoms that determine whether it's depression or the sadness we all sometimes experience in life".

However determining if persistent, unshakable dark feelings are a result of depression can be the first step toward healing and recovery.

They suggest you read these warning signs to see if it's time for you to see a mental health professional.

### 1. Hopeless outlook

Major depression is a mood disorder that affects the way you feel about life in general. Having a hopeless or helpless outlook on your life is the most common symptom of depression. Other feelings may be worthlessness, self-hate, or inappropriate guilt. Common, recurring thoughts of depression may be vocalized as, "It's all my fault," or "What's the point?"

### 2. Loss of interest.

Depression can take the pleasure or enjoyment out of the things you love. A loss of interest or withdrawal from activities that you once looked forward to — sports, hobbies, or going out with friends — is yet another telltale sign of major depression. Another area where you may lose interest is sex. Symptoms of major depression include a decreased sex drive and even impotence.

### 3. Increased fatigue and sleep problems

Part of the reason you might stop doing things you enjoy is because you feel very tired. Depression often comes with a lack of energy and an overwhelming feeling of fatigue, which can be among the most debilitating symptoms of depression. This could lead to excessive sleeping.

Depression is also linked with insomnia, as one might lead to the other and vice versa. They can also make each other worse. The lack of



quality, restful sleep can also lead to anxiety.

4. Anxiety. While depression hasn't been shown to cause anxiety, the two conditions often occur together. Symptoms of anxiety can include nervousness, restlessness, or feeling tense feelings of danger, panic, or dread rapid heart rate rapid breathing increased or heavy sweating trembling or muscle twitching trouble focusing or thinking clearly about anything other than the thing you're worried about

### 5. Irritability in men

Depression can affect the sexes differently. Research shows that men with depression may have symptoms such as irritability, escapist or risky behavior, substance abuse, or misplaced anger. Men are also less likely than women to recognize depression or seek treatment for it.

6. Changes in appetite and weight. Weight and appetite can fluctuate for people with depression. This experience may be different for each person. Some people will have an increased appetite and gain weight, while others won't be hungry and will lose weight.

### 7. Uncontrollable emotions

One minute it's an outburst of anger. The next you're crying uncontrollably. Nothing outside of you prompted the change, but your emotions are up and down at a moment's notice. Depression can cause mood swings.

### 8. Looking at death

Depression is sometimes connected with suicide. People who

die by suicide usually show symptoms first. Often people will talk about it or make a first attempt before succeeding in ending their life. If you think someone is at immediate risk of self-harm or hurting another person, get help for the person. If you have had some of the previously mentioned symptoms for more than two weeks, you might be suffering from major depression disorder. Recognizing that you're depressed is essential to getting the right help.

Depression affects millions of people, but there are varying treatments available, from lifestyle changes to medications. No matter the path of treatment you choose, asking for professional help is the first step to getting back to feeling like yourself again.

How to overcome depression  
Jabeen Begum in a piece on Webmb.com says being depressed can make you feel helpless but there's a lot you can do on your own to fight back. Changing your behavior -- your physical activity, lifestyle, and even your way of thinking -- are all natural depression treatments.

Get in a routine. If you're depressed, you need a routine, says Ian Cook, MD. He's a psychiatrist and director of the Depression Research and Clinic Program at UCLA because depression can strip away the structure from your life. One day melts into the next. Setting a gentle daily schedule can help you get back on track.

Set goals. When you're depressed, you may feel like you can't accomplish anything. That

makes you feel worse about yourself. To push back, set daily goals for yourself. "Start very small," Cook says. "Make your goal something that you can succeed at, like doing the dishes every other day."

Exercise. It temporarily boosts feel-good chemicals called endorphins. It may also have long-term benefits for people with depression. Regular exercise seems to encourage the brain to rewire itself in positive ways, Cook says.

Eat healthy. There is no magic diet that fixes depression. It's a good idea to watch what you eat, though. If depression tends to make you overeat, getting in control of your eating will help you feel better. Get enough sleep. Depression can make it hard to get enough shut-eye, and too little sleep can make depression worse.

Try not to nap. Take all the distractions out of your bedroom -- no computer and no TV. In time you may find your sleep improves. Take on responsibilities. When you're depressed, you may want to pull back from life and give up your responsibilities at home and at work. Don't. Staying involved and having daily responsibilities can help you maintain a lifestyle that can help counter depression. They ground you and give you a sense of accomplishment.

If you're not up to full-time school or work, that's fine. Think about part-time. If that seems like too much, consider volunteer work. Challenge negative thoughts. In your fight against depression, a lot of the work is mental -- changing

how you think. When you're depressed, you leap to the worst possible conclusions.

The next time you're feeling terrible about yourself, use logic as a natural depression treatment. You might feel like no one likes you, but is there real evidence for that? You might feel like the most worthless person on the planet, but is that really likely? It takes practice, but in time you can beat back those negative thoughts before they get out of control. Check with your doctor before using supplements. "There's promising evidence for certain supplements for depression," Cook says.

Do something new. When you're depressed, you're in a rut. Push yourself to do something different. Go to a museum. Pick up a used book and read it on a park bench. Volunteer at a soup kitchen. Take a language class.

"When we challenge ourselves to do something different, there are chemical changes in the brain," Cook says. Try to have fun. As strange as it might sound, you have to work at having fun. Plan things you used to enjoy, even if they feel like a chore. Keep going to the movies. Keep going out with friends for dinner, avoid alcohol and other drugs. Substance misuse is common in people who have depression. You may be more likely to turn to alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs to deal with the symptoms of your depression. It's unclear if drinking and using drugs causes depression. But long-term drug use could change the way your brain works and worsen or lead to mental health problems.

# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

### Build maturity in relationship through commitment

By **KAY BOLDAN**

**R**ELATIONSHIP can be daunting because while we want them to be fun and whimsical, they often end up being a mirror that highlights our areas of needed improvement and concern.

But part of learning to see the value of relationships is facing some of the stumbling blocks that, if left unaddressed, can keep any one of us from experiencing that sense of love, intimacy, and connection. We all have these stumbling blocks, these scars we're working through.

And yet, there is a difference between something that trips you up and something that blows up your whole relationship.

If you are looking for relationship maturity, there are some major potholes you'll want to evaluate and, if possible, work to either avoid or address in your own life. If unchecked, any one of these things can take over your relationship.

#### Unspoken expectations

Everyone in a relationship has expectations. Scratch that — every human being on planet earth has expectations.

In order to have relationship maturity, you have to realize that the goal isn't to eliminate expectations completely. Rather, the goal is to learn how to control your expectations so they don't end up blowing up in your face.

To control your expectations,



you need to voice them. Most things sound better in our heads than they are in reality.

When we speak our expectations out, we give ourselves the opportunity to evaluate the merit and necessity of those expectations.

It gives us a chance to let our partner know where we're at, mentally, physically, emotionally. It also opens up a door to our deeper emotions, our fears, hopes, and desires.

#### A negative self-image

Our self-image is made up of

many things — our past, our pains, and our perceived circumstances.

We craft our image based on the praise or lack of praise of people closest to us, on the ways we've been hurt or on the moments of success we've experienced growing up. We hold on to words, to feelings, and we look for validations and affirmations that seem to confirm who we believe we are.

Even though our self-image is a composite of so many areas of our lives, we tend to internalize negative feedback more than the positives.

Our self-image is often like trust. It takes a long-time to build, but it only takes a moment to break.

If you have a very negative self-image, it will be hard for you to reach relationship maturity, mainly because your negative self-image will likely lead you to latch on to your partner in ways that are unhealthy.

#### Unwillingness to trust

There is a depth in every relationship that is reserved only for those who are willing to break through the barrier of vulnerability.

In order to do that, you need to trust that your partner will value your vulnerability and respect your emotions and feelings.

These pain points are real. Trust issues lead to negative beliefs, as well as increased levels of anxiety and stress. A person with trust issues often spends more time building barriers that block feelings of pain, rejection, and even love.

#### Proclivity for comparison

You cannot focus on growing your relationship into maturity if you are always focused on what others are doing, saying, or thinking.

We have created various tools in our society which are comparison magnets. Most forms of social media are hinged on the feeling of comparison and exclusivity. Many forms of advertisement are similarly rooted.

Relationship maturity means learning to best value what is right in front of you. You can waste so much of your life and your relationship pining for something you may or may not ever get.

#### 5. Refusal to listen

Because we're not perfect and we are prone to make mistakes and goof up, it is crucial that we are willing to listen to others. Especially to those who are closest to us.

If you refuse to listen to your partner, you will eventually end up heading in different directions. It's like driving in a new city and refusing to heed the instructions on your GPS. You'll likely end up in a completely different destination than you intended.

Listening isn't just about hearing. It's about admitting that there is more to the story than just your side. It's giving credit to new ideas, even when they challenge your way of living.

The best way to prove you are listening is by implementing another's advice.

#### Resistance to be courageous

Facing your imperfections is hard and tedious work. We want to be able to snap our fingers and just wish away the hard parts of growing up and becoming mature, but it never works like that.

It's more like driving across the country. It's long, often monotonous, and exhausting.

Without courage, you'll be hard-pressed to ever experience true maturity with your partner. Courage is the willingness to take on some risk in order to experience a greater reward.

#### Maturity is not a badge you earn

Most couples view maturity as a tier to reach or a badge to earn. Much like the girl scouts.

But true maturity isn't a level, it's a commitment. No one has each or even one of these six landmines completely figured out. Where you start in your relationship is rarely where you end. Time invites new challenges and new circumstances into each of our lives.

Therefore, if you want to truly experience relationship maturity, you must address these six potholes and do it consistently. Without that commitment, you'll wake up one day and realize that while you were sleeping, one of these tensions snuck past your defenses and got into your relationship.



## BUSINESS WORLD

# Revamping agriculture through collaborations

**Nigeria stands to benefit a lot from this collaboration, considering the advantage of similarities the two countries have in climate, ecology, and types of crops. Rahma Oladosu writes.**

**T**HE essence of the deal is for Nigerian institutions like TETFund to be able to send young students to Brazil to study how it was able to use agriculture to drive its economy into the stage it is at the moment. Already TETFund is currently sponsoring about 120 scholars who are running their Masters and PhD programmes in Brazil with the sole objective of understudying their agricultural revolution policy and its impact on the national economy.

Before the discovery of crude oil and gas in commercial quantities in the country, agriculture was the mainstay of the Nigerian economy. The sector was a resilient sustainer of the people in terms of food supply, employment and national income generation. This was possible as a result of focused region-based policies, alongside the comparative advantages bestowed by the different produces.

However, the sector has struggled to live up to expectations since the 1980s, due to policy neglect, economic distraction and the indiscretion of successive Nigerian governments.

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

A strong, efficient and productive agricultural sector has the capacity to enable a country feed its growing population, export and earn foreign exchange, generate employment and provide raw materials for industries. The agricultural sector has the potential to be the industrial



and economic platforms from which the speedy development of a country would take off.

Through agriculture, environmental benefits such as sustainable management and renewal of natural resources, preservation of biodiversity, land conservation, as well as contribution to the development and viability of rural areas can be derived. At micro and macro levels, the agricultural sector is strategically positioned to have a high multiplier effect on any nation's quest for socio-economic and industrial development.

Looking back, the history of agriculture in Nigeria dates far back to the pre-colonial era. Subsistence agriculture was overwhelmingly dominant on the eve of British colonial rule in

Nigeria. In this enterprise, food production featured prominently and there was self-sufficiency in food supply. With the country's vast agricultural resources and large expanse of arable land and well distributed rainfall and a warm temperature all year round, agriculture played a progressive role in serving as the major source of livelihood of the country's population.

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

and forestry at 8.1 per cent, 3.2 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively. Agriculture remains the largest sector in Nigeria, contributing an average of 24 per cent to the nation's GDP over seven years (2013 - 2019). In addition, the sector employs more than 36 per cent of the country's labour force, a feat which ranks the sector as the largest employer of labour in Nigeria.

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

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

Outdated methods of agriculture, such as the use of hoes and cutlasses reduce efficiency, as these methods are costly and time consuming. Nigeria's failure to adopt advanced mechanised systems has reduced the quality of its agricultural products. Violent conflicts due to desertification and water depletion in the Northern part of Nigeria is a big

problem. Nomadic herdsmen are now shifting towards the Southern part of the country in search of grazing fields and water for their animals and this has resulted in clashes with crop farmers in the South, thereby causing food producing states to witness declines in output. Resource shortage is another big challenge because over the past years, Nigeria has dealt with very low yields per hectare due to shortages in the supply of inputs, such as seedlings and fertilisers, as well as inadequate irrigation and harvesting systems, which hinders productivity and yield rates. And lastly, with a population of roughly 200 million people, Nigeria's agricultural productivity is insufficient to meet the food demands of its growing populations, thus increasing the demand and supply gap in Nigeria.

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

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

The essence of the deal is for Nigerian institutions like TETFund to be able to send young students to Brazil to study how it was able to use agriculture to drive its economy into the stage it is at the moment. Already TETFund is currently sponsoring about 120 scholars who are running their Masters and PhD programmes in Brazil with the sole objective of understudying their Agricultural Revolution Policy and its impact on the national economy. This latest agreement would therefore empower TETFund to be able to do more of this.

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

**Source: Premium Times: Rahma Oladosu writes from Wuye District, Abuja.**

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

## BUSINESS WORLD

## FG, World Bank commit to WACA project

**T**HE Federal Government and World Bank have reiterated commitment to implement West Africa Coastal Areas (WACA) Management Programme, to improve livelihoods of coastal communities in the country.

The Minister of Environment, Mr Muhammed Abdulahi, made the commitment at a two-day National Stakeholders' Technical Committee Meeting on WACA programme in Abuja on Thursday.

Abdulahi, represented by the Director, Environmental Impact Assessment in the ministry, Mr Abbas Suileman, said the effort would reduce the vulnerability of coastal areas.

According to him, the programme will also promote climate-resilient integrated coastal management, within the framework of sustainable environmental management.

"The benefits of the WACA are quite immense; the WACA will help Nigeria obtain financing and expertise to sustainably manage her coastal areas, enhance industrial competitiveness, market access, innovation and investment promotion.

"It will also promote productive employment for rural communities and entrepreneurship development, sustainable energy and environmental management.

The minister said the implementation of the programme was delayed due to some technical issues, including funds for technical studies which were prerequisites for Multi-Sectoral Investment and outbreak of covid-19 pandemic.

He said that the World Bank had secured a grant for the technical studies in Lagos, Delta and Cross River states.

"In view of this, I am convinced that the World Bank in Nigeria will continue to bring to fore their wealth of experience and understanding in achieving results within the shortest possible time," he said.

Abdulahi urged stakeholders, the World Bank and its partners to redouble their efforts at developing the coastal landscape now that WACA had been implemented in other West African countries.

According to him, the critical stakeholders should carry out their official responsibilities with utmost diligence and uprightiness.

"Let me also reiterate that your appointment to the National Stakeholders Technical Committee on WACA is indeed a call to



Abdulahi

service.

"It is also a representation of your various state governments, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the minimum expected from you is a service of honesty, integrity and

foresightedness," he said.

The Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mr Hassan Musa, said WACA was established in 2015 by World Bank to manage growing coastal erosion and flooding problems in West Africa region.

## Nigeria broke as debt payment exceeds revenue

**N**IGERIA'S fiscal position worsened in the first four months of the year as the cost of repaying debt surpassed the government's revenue in the first quarter of 2022.

According to details of the 2022 fiscal performance report for January through April, Nigeria's total revenue stood at N1.63 trillion while debt servicing stood at N1.94 trillion, showing a variance of over N300 billion.

Nigeria's Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, on Thursday warned that urgent action is needed to address the nation's revenue challenge and expenditure efficiency at both the national and sub-national levels.

The report showed that gross oil and gas federation revenue for the first four months of the year was projected at N3.12 trillion but as at April 30, only N1.23 trillion was realised, representing a mere 39% performance.

Despite higher oil prices, the report showed that oil revenue underperformed due to significant oil production shortfalls such as shut-ins resulting from pipeline vandalism and crude oil theft as well as high petrol subsidy cost due to higher landing costs of imported products.

However, non-oil taxes trailed targets marginally, with average performance of 92.6%.

"Revenue performance is expected to improve in the second half of 2022 as a

result of concerted efforts to address the oil theft and pipeline vandalism, the report said. It added that there is also seasonality to some of the non-oil taxes, which means that the nation expects to collect significantly more in the second half of the year.

"The improved revenue collection should also moderate the Debt Service to Revenue ratio, which is currently above our target level," the report said.

The expectation of improved revenue collection should also moderate the debt service to revenue ratio, which is currently above the nation's target level.

In the first quarter of 2020, Nigeria's debt service as a percentage of revenue rose to 99%, according to the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy (MTEF/FSP) report released by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning.

The data showed that in Q1 2020, Nigeria incurred a total sum of N943.12 billion in debt service while the Nigerian government retained revenue at N950.56 billion. In effect, Nigeria's debt service to revenue was estimated to be 99% during the period.

On Thursday, the new report showed that the Nigerian government's share of oil revenues in Q1 2022 was N285.38 billion (representing 39 percent performance), while non-oil tax revenues totalled N632.56 billion, representing 84 percent. In essence, the government generated N401.8 billion from company income tax (CIT)

**N**IGERIAN Bottling Company (NBC) Ltd., the bottling partner of the Coca-Cola Company in Nigeria, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the implementing partners of its recently announced €1 million donation.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the MoU was signed at the company's headquarters in Lagos.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Managing Director of NBC, Mr Matthieu Seguin, said the donation reflects the company's commitment to enriching communities in Nigeria.

Seguin added that the donation would be targeted toward empowering youths and women, the provision of water and sanitary facilities, as well as scaling its PET recycling initiatives in Nigeria.

"This donation underscores our commitment to improving the lives of our

## NBC, implementing partners signs MoU

communities.

"It will be directed toward areas we believe we can have the most impact - empowering youths and women, and the provision of water and recycling facilities.

"I would like to particularly thank our partners in these initiatives, who have been selected based on their strong track record and will work with us to ensure that this investment is directed where it's needed most," Seguin said.

He noted that the key partners for the programmes covered under the €1 million donation include Karis & Eleos Hand of Hope Foundation, West African Vocational Education (WAVE), Organised Private Sector in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (OPS-WASH) and Chanja Datti Ltd.

According to him, OPS-WASH will deliver state-of-the-art toilet facilities across identified communities in

five states in Nigeria, reaching about five million people annually.

Seguin said that the fund via its parent company - Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company would be deployed to support four key initiatives including the Federal Government of Nigeria's journey toward becoming Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2025.

He added that it would be deployed for upskilling underserved youths and women in high demand skills; and community recycling initiatives.

Seguin said the execution of the projects by its implementing partners would be executed within 12 months.

He said that WAVE Academy would undertake the up-skilling of youths in Abuja, Lagos, Oyo, Osun, Edo, Rivers and Kaduna in digital and hospitality skills and connect them to job opportunities.

He said that Karis and Eleos Hand of Hope Foundation would focus on empowering vulnerable women across eight states with relevant skills to support economic inclusion of women.

Seguin added that Chanja Datti would drive the intervention that supports community recycling in Lagos State and Abuja.

He said that the initiative would also contribute to raise the number of recycling banks in the selected communities.

The managing director said that it would further support in raising awareness on responsible disposal of wastes, especially plastics, while empowering vulnerable women economically.

He said that the MoU provides a formal framework for the programmes based on shared values and further demonstrates NBC's commitment to contribute to the uplifting of communities and socio-economic development in Nigeria.

Seguin said that the donation was part of NBC's 70th anniversary celebration and reflects the company's unwavering commitment to Nigeria and its people.

In her remarks, the Lagos State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs Cecilia Bolaji Dada, commended the company for the donation.



Zanab Ahmed



# ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

## Rising cost of operation cripples fish farming *-Entrepreneurs*

**Over 60 per cent of fish farmers has been forced to shut down, while others are struggling to stay afloat due to the rising cost of feed and other challenges bedeviling the industry. Gbenga Akinfenwa writes.**

**T**HE development, according to stakeholders and other sector players, is a setback to efforts aimed at bridging the demand fish deficit gap, which currently stands at about 2.5 million metric tonnes yearly.

Few weeks ago, the Director, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Dr. Ime Umoh, during a stakeholder's dialogue in Abuja, revealed that Nigeria's current fish production stands at 1.2 million metric tonnes yearly, while the demand has risen to 3.6 million tonnes, leaving a deficit of about 2.5 million metric tonnes.

According to him, the deficit is being supplemented by frozen fish importation, adding that intensified efforts by the artisanal, industrial and aquaculture value chain players are capable of bridging the gap.

But the National President, Tilapia and Aquaculture Developers Association of Nigeria (TADAN), Remi Ahmed, who regretted the misfortune of the industry in recent years, said, "It is not possible to bridge the deficit gap. Even, from the wild where most of these fishes originate, they are reducing drastically. Local production too cannot even get closer because of the high cost of feed. Many farmers are getting out of business because they can no longer cope.

"From the aquaculture point of view, we cannot get nearer bridging the deficit gap. The feed we were buying at the rate of N3, 500 and N4, 000 that we were crying that the price was too much, is currently sold for between N11, 000 and N13, 000. What are we going to produce with it? Unfortunately, the catfish value chain seems to be the worst hit. The market women buy at ridiculous prices from farmers but sells at exorbitant rates to consumers.

"Honestly, more than 60 per cent of farmers are out of the business, but the Tilapia fish farmers are still managing because there are lots of things that can be used to feed tilapia fish, though you may not get the desired result on time, but in six to seven months, you'll



get your 500grams using water weeds. It only costs you the stress of going to the river to get them harvested for your fish. And those of us producing the fingerlings of Tilapia, we could see that there is a lot of promises, that's why we are still in business."

Aside the challenge of high cost of feed, Ahmed listed dearth of farm hands, lack of incentives and unfavorable government policies as other limitations impeding the progress of the industry.

He said: "Farm hands are no longer available anymore. I went as far as Benue State to get farm hands, but maybe we overpriced them or we over pampered them, we are currently regretting sourcing

farm hands from there. They wanted to steal the entire farm. And when you go to Badagry, those from there are drunkards - no plans for their life.

"Even the government policies are not helping at all. The Federal Government prefers to give foreigners financial support - single digit interest rate than Nigerians. When you are giving billions of naira to a single farmer, you overlooked Nigerian farmers, even if you want to give them double digits, you must offer them support to 0..."

The Founder of Homeland Farms and Agricultural Services, Birnin Yero, Kaduna, Aliyu Mohammed, who also confirmed that the deficit gap

will be difficult to bridge, said no matter how serious and determined the government is in its policies to close the gap, if there is no security in place, the deficit will continue to increase.

The problems hampering the production of fish in Nigeria are numerous; they include high cost of feed; low water quality; shortage of improved seeds (fingerlings and juveniles etc.); inadequate technical management; lack of structured market for the farmers (negative activities of middlemen); and insecurity of life and property in areas where farms are located.

"Insecurity has been hampering farming generally in the country. So, even if it were possible to address the

first five problems in the short run, insecurity has been a major setback to farming in Nigeria."

The National Chairman, Fisheries Cooperative Federation of Nigeria, the apex body of fisheries cooperative societies, unions and federation in states, Evang. Anthony A. Ashagye, listed high cost of feeds, problem of sourcing fingerlings, acquisition of land, inadequate training, lack of financial support and lack of modern fish markets as some of the major challenges.

While noting that the sector can solve 70 per cent of the country's problem, he said the high cost of feeds, is caused by total dependence on feed importation, adding that about 80 per cent of the feeds are imported. "This is one of the things government should have done, by establishing feed mills. We have raw materials for the establishment of feed mills, but it was not considered by the past administrations. So, the cost of feed is taking the highest budget in aquaculture.

"The second one is the challenge of acquiring fingerlings, it starts from the grow stock, the present system relies on the little effort of our fish farmers because if you don't get a good fish breed, the fish will not grow and at the end you may not get anything at all, the supply of fingerlings is a big problem to the industry. Acquisition of land is another problem, except you want to go into fish culture, which we have not started in Nigeria, except you want to use surface tank, if you want to establish fish pond you need land, land acquisition is a major challenge."

Ashagye stressed that adequate training on fish breeding for farmers, will assist them to be self-sufficient in fish breeding and management of their farms.

"Taking a critical look at Agriculture, one can easily access a rice farm if it's 10 hectares of land or more, it could easily be ascertained. That also goes for livestock, the number of the animals can be counted, but for aquaculture, the fish grows in the water and nobody sees it, fish farmers are underrated, that's why we don't get assistance in terms of loans.

**Source: The Guardian.**



# 'I'm a legend in my own right!'

Continued from page 18



**started doing before? What are the biggest differences in your approach between producing and rapping?**

Contrary to everyone's belief I always been a rapper first. I started producing out of anger when a local producer at the time denied me beats. I sat and learned the program and became a household name from the mud.

The approach to producing is better because I don't have to be as technical as I do a rapper. But it's my duty to be efficient on both sides, no excuses!

**The city and Hip-Hop scene of Buffalo certainly suffered a huge loss with the passing of the late DJ Shay (R.I.P). What was your relationship with him and how did you get to know him? And what is the greatest help or advice he has given you personally?**

I've known DJ Shay since 2006/07 and he was everything musically I needed. Producer, engineer, A&R, manager, literally all in

**had the chance to see at work some of the greatest producers and mc's ever ... Who impressed you the most, also for unexpected sides, and why? What was it like working with Dj Drama?**

Yeah, I'm in A LOT of rooms I don't speak on because those moments are dear to me. But I get inspired by HitBoy and Alchemist the most. Their work ethics are insane and contagious. You just wanna make an album on the spot when you are in the room with them.

Working with DJ Drama is cool, just seen him at a video shoot in NY recently and he insisted we do another "Respected Sopranos" tape, so you never know lol.

**You are not only an MC, but also a really good producer: what was the thing you**

one. I was Shay's understudy and not by position but by choice I learned the game from him and use that knowledge to this day.

**How would you tell the importance of DJ Shay for Buffalo to those who don't know what he did?**

That's easy, I'll have them Google BuffCity Records and you'll see where we came from in comparison to where we are now. Shay's legacy is all over Buffalo and lives vicariously through us daily.

**What should we expect from the BSF and Rick Hyde until the end of 2022?**

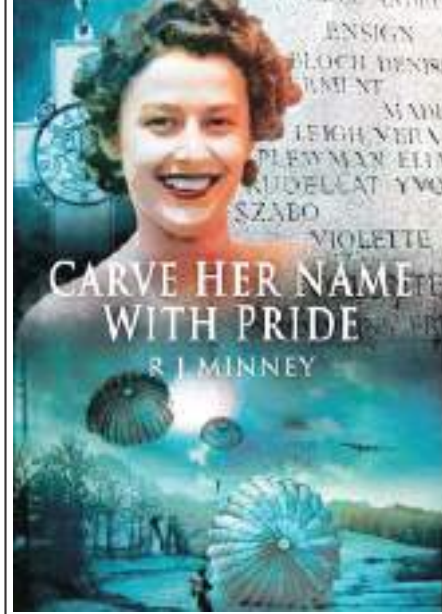
You should expect nothing and prepare for EVERYTHING! That's a jewel! Plates 3 on the way!!!



# Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

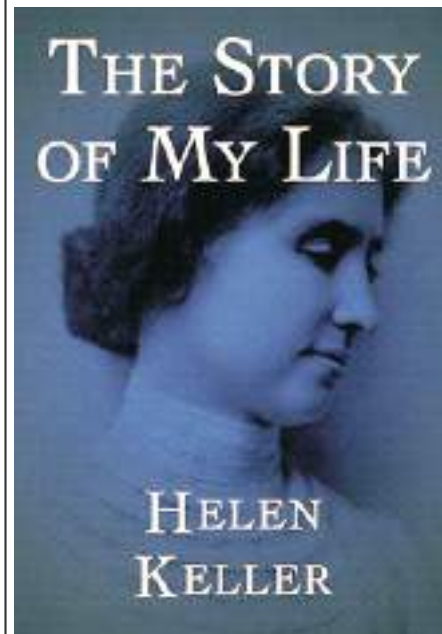
Continued from page 18

## Carve her name with pride



One of World War II's most notable female spies, Violette Szabo was a French and British Special Operations agent in occupied France. Szabo's bilingualism was a major asset to Allied forces; she was sent into France to scout out the locations of German munitions factories undercover as a French secretary on her way to a new job. Szabo, sadly, was eventually captured by German forces and deported to Ravensbrück, a concentration camp outside of Berlin.

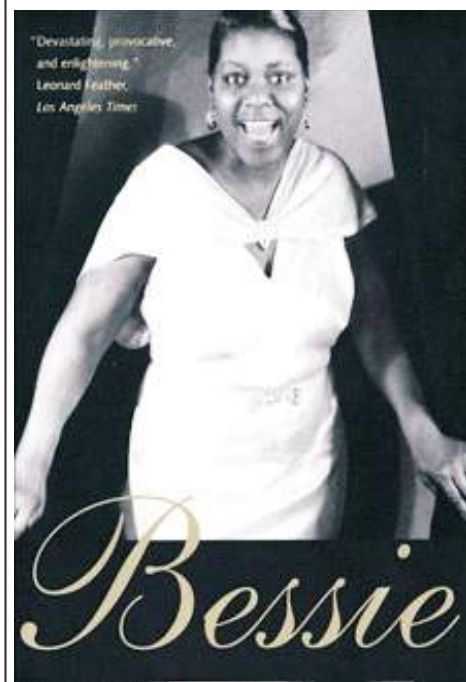
## The Story of my life



A story that has been transformed into both stage and film adaptations, Helen Keller has remained an American icon for triumphing in spite of having lost her sight and hearing at a young age. With the help of her teacher—and later devoted friend—Anne Sullivan, she was able to embark on a journey that would change her life forever. Her perseverance led Keller to become the first deaf-blind person to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Keller published this book when she was 22 years old; in it, she testifies to the darkness and silence she experienced before meeting Anne Sullivan. Her narration is rich with descriptions of her view of the world—she refuses to let her situation debilitate her understanding of the world. Keller's positive outlook on life and the testament of her willpower will leave you feeling hopeful.

## Bessie



The "Empress of the Blues", Bessie Smith was the highest paid African American performer during the 1920s. Smith was performing by the age of 10, busking on the streets with her brother, Andrew. By the time she was 30, she was the biggest act in the black community, leading shows with as many as 40 supporting entertainers—singers, dancers, musicians—and touring in a custom-built railroad car. Now overshadowed by the singers that followed her, like Billie Holiday, Albertson brings the

iconic singer back to life through interviews with her family and friends.

To be continued

# Change of Name

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH	CORRECTION	IORSHIMBE	MRS. PAUL	CHIBUIKE	MRS. KAMSIYUCHUKWU
I, <b>BARNABAS SHANGLE DANIANG</b> , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 27/05/1998 not 02/10/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, <b>AMOCHE ELIZABETH ABEYI</b> , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 06/03/1998 not 06/03/1986 as wrongly captured. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BEGH AVALUMUN IORSHIMBE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IORSHIMBE AVALUMUN BEGH</b> . Correct date of birth is 29/10/1970 not 29/10/1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MISS SANNI DEBORAH KUCHELI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. PAUL DEBORAH ZARUMA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CHIBUIKE JOHN ALABUIKE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHIBUIKE JOHN ALAIKE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>KACHOLLOM ANNA PAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. KAMSIYUCHUKWU KACHOLLOM-PAMKAI IGWE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
CHRISTOPHER	NGWI	GLORIA	IKECHUKWU	SINGKAT	DANLADI
I, formerly known as <b>CHRISTOPHER EMMANUEL, CHRISTOPHER EMMANUELA EBERE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHRISTOPHER EMMANUELA STEPHEN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>FRIDAY GUDU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NGWI FRIDAY GUDU</b> . All former documents remain valid. First Bank, all concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GLORIA GAROSE PAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GLORIA GAROSE OMEIMHEN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>IKECHUKWU IKECHUKWU ONYINYE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IKECHUKWU ONYINYE PEACE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SINGKAT FRIDAY LADAM, FRIDAY SINGKAT</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SINGKAT YOHANA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, <b>DANLADI DASNWAN</b> , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 04/04/1997 not 20/07/1983 and 17/02/1987 as wrongly captured on my BVN Account respectively. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
ZALIKHA	AYUBA	MARY	BITRUS	OZOKOYE	MRS. KANGYANG
I, formerly known as <b>ZALIKHA 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 to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BADIDI BENKEN SAWUCHINYE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AYUBA BENKEN BADIDI</b> . Correct date of birth is 20/05/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MARY ALEX</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARY MANOMI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BITRUS RACHEAL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BITRUS RACHAEL</b> . Correct date of birth is 05/02/1979 not 12/05/1979. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>OZOKOYE CHINWE VIVIAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OZOKOYE CHINWEMMA VIVIAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MISS KATHERINE KANGYANG YOHANNA CHOJI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. KANGYANG LOHLUM SAMUEL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
MRS. NERAT	JULIANA	PAM	OKONKWO	OHEME	GUKTUR
I, formerly known as <b>MISS NERAT KAREN CHOJI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MISS. NERAT-KAREN LOHLUM SAMUEL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JULIANA OLUCHUKWU NWAFOR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JULIANA OLUCHUKWU NWOYE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, previously known as <b>PAM YOP BEATRUS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PAM YOP BITRUS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>LAWRENCE MBADIUKWU OKONKWO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OKONKWO LAWRENCE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>OHEME ABAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OHEME ABAH FRIDAY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GUKTUR GODWILL SELDUM SABO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GUKTUR GODWILL SELDUM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
AZJUJI	TONG	CHRISTOPHER	JOHN	UCHEGBU	ADAMU
I, formerly known as <b>JULIET SUNDAY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AZJUJI JULIET SUNDAY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TONG YAKUBU DUNG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TONG YAKUBU MWANGONG</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DUNG SIMI SULE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHRISTOPHER SIMI PATIENCE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JOHN JENNIFER GAMBA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOHN JENNIFER UWENGSAARA</b> . Correct date of birth is 11/12/2003. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>UCHEGBU PHILIP</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UCHEGBU PHILIP ONYEDIKACHI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ABUBAKAR KHADIJAH HADIZA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAMU KHADIJAH HADIZA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
TEPSIM	ISA	DAWANG	ISHAKU	HUSSAINA	FELIX
I, formerly known as <b>KATLONG IRMIYA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TEPSIM KATLONG JEREMIAH</b> . Correct date of birth 01/08/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, <b>SHINGU ISA</b> wish to inform the general public that my correct date of birth is 26th May, 1995 and not 7th December, 1992 as wrongly captured in my voters card and BVN. Therefore, all concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DAWANG SCOLIA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAWANG SCOLIA DAKOGOL</b> . Correct date of birth is 2/4/2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ISHAKU YUSUFU GONTOR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISHAKU YUSUF GONTOR</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>HUSSAINA ALIYU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HUSSAINA HUSSAINI ALIYU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NWOSU FELIX CHIBUIKE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AMAECHE FELIX CHIBUIKEM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
IBRAHIM	CHARITY	YOHANNA	FRANCIS	GABRIEL	AMINA
I, formerly known as <b>IBRAHIM GOMBIJI KAMSHIWE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM SITJI KAMSHIWA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CHARITY DAVID RWANG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHARITY DANIEL DAPAK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MOSES YOHANNA ZACHARIA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YOHANNA MOSES ZACHARIAH</b> . Correct date of birth is 27/7/1988 not 27/7/1978. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GODDAY FRANCIS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>FRANCIS GODWIN NEHIZENA</b> . Correct date of birth is 22/12/1964. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JOHN A. OCHIGBO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GABRIEL A. OGBU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>HAJIYA AMINA ADAMU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AMINA ADAMU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
BAJOT	BITOK	NANYEP	USMAN	HOOMSTEN	NEHEMIAH
I, formerly known as <b>DALYOP MARY AYUBA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BAJOT MARY DALYOP</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MATHEW MAGRATE AUDU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BITOK YELDAKMWA MARGRATE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TONGBA CODELIA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANYEP CODELIA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MOHAMMED IBN USMAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>USMAN WAZIRI YAYA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TENGAAN, HOOMTSEN JOHN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HOOMSTEN TENGAAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TENDOM NEHEMIAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NEHEMIAH TENDOM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
MUHAMMAD	YIZANG	JULIUS	LAWAN	CHANGE OF NAME	
I, formerly known as <b>MOHAMMED IBRAHIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM JAMILU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>KOPTEN YOHANNA</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YIZANG KOPTIN YOHANNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>PAM MANGA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JULIUS PAM MANGA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>LAWAN OLALEKAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LAWAN OLALEKAN JOHN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	This is to notified the general public that <b>OTUKPA COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE JOS</b> has change its name to <b>OTUKPA COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED</b> . Henceforth it will be known and address as <b>OTUKPA COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED</b> . All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	
SUAIBU	SUAIBU	YOHANNA	SPACE FOR SALE	SPACE FOR SALE	SPACE FOR SALE
I, formerly known as <b>SALE SHUAIBU TUKUR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SALE SHUAIBU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>KAMATALU OBIOMA AUGUSTINEA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TOCHUKWU OBIOMA AUGUSTINA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CHAI OLUCHI IJEOMA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHAI OLUCHI-IJEOMA YOHANNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SPACE FOR SALE	SPACE FOR SALE	SPACE FOR SALE

# NEWS

## Kaduna dangerous terrain for Christian leaders -CAN

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

CHRISTIAN Association of Nigeria, (CAN) has described Kaduna State as a dangerous terrain for Christian Leaders following the discovery of the decomposing remains of one of the Catholic priests abducted by bandits in the state.

Chairman of CAN Kaduna State, Reverend John Joseph Hayab expressed this while reacting to the killing of one of the priests, Very Rev. Fr. John Mark Cheitnum, who until his death, was the CAN Chairman of Jema'a Local Government Area of the state, as well as coordinator of CAN in Southern Kaduna.

"Kaduna State is a dangerous place to travel around and not safe for Christian leaders," a devastated Hayab who was short of words, said. He noted that they are consoled that Rev. Fr. Donatus Cleophas who was kidnapped with him, escaped from his abductors.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan has made public the murder of Very Rev. Fr. John Mark Cheitnum.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Uchechukwu Okolo, dated Tuesday July 19, 2022, which also announced the escape of Rev. Fr. Donatus Cleophas from their abductors.

"Sequel to the announcement of the two kidnapped priests from our diocese, we wish to announce that Rev. Fr. Donatus Cleophas escaped from his abductors and has reunited with us.

"However, it is with a deep sense of sorrow and pains that the Bishop, Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Diocese of Kafanchan announce the gruesome murder of Very Rev. Fr. John Mark Cheitnum.

Fr. John Mark who was abducted from the rectory of Christ the King Parish Yadin Garu, Lere L.G.A of Kaduna State, was brutally killed by his abductors on the same day of his abduction; Friday 15th July, 2022," the statement said.

According to the statement titled, "Re: Kidnapped priests of the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, his corpse was later discovered already decomposing on Tuesday 19th July, 2022.

Until his demise, he was the CAN Chairman, Jama'a LGA as well as the Coordinating Chairman of CAN, Southern Kaduna. Fr. was the Dean of Kwoi Deanery, Director of Communications in the Diocese of Kafanchan and the Pastor of St. James Parish Fori, Jama'a LGA, Kaduna State," it said.

"As we solicit for prayers for the repose of our dear brother Priest and God's consolation on his immediate family, we



Ayokunle

wish to humbly call on all and sundry to refrain from taking the laws into their hands.

"The Diocese has declared a

two-day mourning for peaceful repose of his soul and may his soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen," the statement concluded.

SUSPECTED gunmen on Sunday attacked Agbedo-Akpanya community in Igalamela /Odolu Local Government Area of Kogi Killing two.

Our correspondent gathered that the gunmen who attacked the residents at the market shot sporadically, killing two persons, fatally injuring others.

The community, a boundary village between Kogi and Enugu States has been under attacks over a period of time given its geographical position.

According to sources, the latest attack was "sudden and unexpected".

The attack which has left residents in the area in utter confusion and shock was believed to be the handiwork of the IPOB agitators who now see the community as a soft target to hit without any likely resistance.

"It was sudden and unexpected. It was like a bombshell. We were all in the market when we began to hear sporadic gunshots. People in the market ran helter skelter. It was as if we were in a state of war. The gunmen succeeded in killing two persons and injuring one fatally.

The market soon afterwards became a silent and empty scene. We now live in fear and anxiety as we don't know who and where could be attacked next," he said.

This according to the sources

## Unknown gunmen attack Kogi community

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

has brought untold hunger and hardship to the community at large, hence the need for regular surveillance and patrol of the area to sheath the people from further attack.

Another resident of the community pleaded with the state government to as a matter of urgency rejig its security architecture by deploying more security operatives to the area in order to save lives and property.

"Agbedo, Akpanya is the last

village in Kogi separating Kogi from Enugu State. From Agbedo, you would enter villages called, Unadu, Itchi, Egi Ibagwa—all in Enugu State.

I call on the government to deploy enough security in boundary villages like Agbedo, Akpanya to ensure that these unknown gunmen do not succeed in hitting soft targets and escaping unchallenged," the resident said.

Efforts to get police confirmation on the development proved abortive at the time of filing this report.



Alkali

## UNICEF charges journalists to advocate for girls education

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) has revealed that a total of 650,265 girls have been enrolled into pre-primary and Integrated Qur'anic Education under a project known as the Girls' Education Project (GEP3).

The project is funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK with a focus on the UNICEF Girl Education Project Phase 3, (GEP3) supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom

(UK). This was disclosed by the Chief of Field Office,



Adamu

UNICEF Field Office Bauchi, Dr Tushar Rane, during a media dialogue on girls education, held at the Chartwell Hotel in Bauchi.

Dr. Tushar said despite the benefits of educating the girl child, out of the 10 million children in Nigeria, 60 per cent of whom are girls are out of school, pointing out that the education of the girl child is critical to transforming communities, reducing inequalities, and strengthening economies.

"When we educate the girl

child, child marriage and child mortality rates reduce. The situation with girls' education has been worsened by attacks on schools which have made learning environment insecure and discouraged parents and caregivers from sending their wards, particularly girls, to schools".

"The GEP3 initiative was designed to enhance the enrollment drive for girls, improve learning outcomes for girls and strengthen government's policy making for continued support to girl child

education. The project was implemented in 6 states in northern Nigeria — Bauchi, Kano, Katsina, Niger, Sokoto and Zamfara" he explained.

He unfolded that UNICEF, with funding support from development partners, is collaborating with the government to build the capacity of school-based management Committees (SBMCs) and Community-based Management Committees (CBMCs) on school safety and security, and to make communities more resilient.

According to the UNICEF boss, the Girl4Girl and HeForShe activities of the project empowered about 9,000 girls and boys in Bauchi State to use peer support mechanisms to create demand for girl child enrollment in their communities, adding that strengthening the capacity of teachers is crucial for the retention of girl children who enrol in schools.

"The GEP3 project implemented various capacity building initiatives for teachers while a total of 11,000 teachers have received training on topics such as leadership skills to enable effective running of schools, Early Grade Reading pedagogies to enable early grasp of literacy skills and other key topics essential for effective service delivery".

## Kogi Assembly turns down commissioner nominee

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

KOGI State House of Assembly has turned down the confirmation of Kingsley Fanwo as commissioner in the state. He lost the ticket to

Our correspondent gathered that during the the former acting house sitting, the governor, Chief Clarence Folorunsho Olafemi, son to

confirm the former However, the House Commission for confirmed the Information, citing appointment of Dr. Zakari disagreement by members. Usman as commissioner.

The Speaker, Matthew Usman, who hails from Kolawole, ruled that in view of lack of concurrence by members, the commissioner-designate would have to re-appear. Hospital Management Board.

Fanwo had, in April 2022, resigned his appointment as Commissioner for Information to contest the All Progressives Congress Chogudo Ahmed as

substantive Clerk of the House.

Governor Yahaya Bello

appointed Ahmed in January 2022 after the Ibrahim Amoka retired as Clerk.



Fanwo

NEWS

## Principal witness absence stalls court case

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

THE legal battle between the Epoch Times New York, Kaduna Nigeria correspondent Mr Luka Binniyat and the Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs Kaduna State Mr Samuel Aruwan suffered set back following inability of the prosecution's principal witness to appear at the Federal High Court sitting in Kaduna State recently.

Mr Luka Binniyat who is also the spokesman of Southern Kaduna People's Union (SOKAOU) is being charged under cyber crimes act for cyber stalking, being the basic allegation against him.

When the case came up for continuation of hearing, the prosecution could not produce its last witness in court, "and the matter was adjourned to the second week of August 2022, by the presiding Federal High Court Judge, Justice Mohammed Garba.

Speaking to Journalists at the end of the session, Counsel to defendants Ehizogie Fidelis Imadojemu and Emmanuel Kolawole Atteh said the parties involved in prosecution of Binniyat include the state Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs Samuel Aruwan, the state and Federal Government of Nigeria.

"The prosecution has alluded to the fact that they may be forced to close their case if the last witness does not show up. So if they do, they'll at that point, decide our next step in defense.

"The prosecution is the



Ariwoola

"I've continuously been in trial since this government came into office since 2016 and a total of half a year spent in prison", Binniyat alleges saying he's no longer feeling secure and all the times worried about the security of himself and his family too.

He added that even though the cyber stalking is a Federal Government law but Aruwan is the complaint and one who is seeking my imprisonment.

Earlier, the defendant Mr Binniyat told journalists colleagues in an interview that he's been prosecuted by Mr Samuel Aruwan over a story he reported sometimes last year 2021 in Epoch Times New York, alleging that the story jeopardized the security of himself and that his family.

"All the six trials I'm going through has got to do directly with the stories about Southern Kaduna, described as genocide carried out on them by armed Fulani herdsmen.

"This is the sixth judge I'm facing under this regime. I've been in prison six times, in various notorious police detention centres including CID Gabasawa police station.

He added that even though the cyber stalking is a Federal Government law but Aruwan is the complaint and one who is seeking my imprisonment.

He added that even though the cyber stalking is a Federal Government law but Aruwan is the complaint and one who is seeking my imprisonment.

## NUJ PPC chapel elects new exco

By JIDAUNA DARING

NEWLY elected Executive Council (EXCO), Nigeria Union of Journalists ((NUJ), Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC) chapel, publishers of THE NIGERIA STANDARD and SUNDAY STANDARD Jos, have been charged to take the responsibility bestowed on them with seriousness while discharging their duties.

Chairman NUJ Plateau State council, Mr. Paul Jatau who was represented by the council's Assistant Secretary, Mr. Jabbe Wudetawu gave the charge shortly after the inauguration of the new EXCO of the chapel, held at the corporation's Newsroom, last Wednesday.

Mr. Jatau congratulated the exco and urged them to support the leadership of the state council so as to move the council to a greater height. He said that journalists remain the watch dog or the agenda setters of the society.

He also told the exco that as far as leadership is concerned, they have a lot of work to do for the chapel. The Assistant Secretary also advised the exco to always keep record of whatever programme they will do at all times.

Mr. Jatau while also speaking as a member of PPC

## ...As troops neutralize notorious bandit in Chikun

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

09034000060 and 08170189999.

It further explained that In line with these enhanced efforts, security forces within the last 48 hours intercepted some bandits and gunrunners at Kidunu general area around Eastern By-Pass, Chikun LGA.

After an exchange of fire,

one bandit was neutralized, later confirmed to be a notorious bandit terrorizing the area. Two AK-47 rifles were recovered, along with charms and amulets, a mobile phone and two motorcycles.

The statement was Signed by Samuel Aruwan, Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State.



El-rufai

## Kogi VCDP flags inputs distribution to farmers

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Federal Government through the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) supported by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has begun the distribution of farm inputs to rural farmers for the 2022 Main Season farming in Kogi State.

Speaking at the inauguration in Magajiyi, Lokoja, the National Coordinator, FGN/IFAD-VCDP, Dr Fatima Aliyu, said the essence of the farm inputs' distribution was to empower rural farmers to boost agricultural production and ensure food security in the country.

Aliyu, who was represented by Dr Chyka Unamma, Agricultural Production Advisor of the Programme, stressed that VCDP does not give cash but inputs to farmers' groups, and monitor the beneficiaries to ensure they use the items for the intended purposes.

She described farmers as most essential people and advised them not to regard themselves as poor people regarding their roles in the society to ensure the availability of food in the society.

She urged the farmers not to sell the inputs but to utilise them judiciously to enable the government achieve the set objectives in agricultural productions.

She noted that VCDP was presently supporting only 17 farmers' groups involving in rice

and cassava productions in five benefitting local government areas of Kogi State.

She disclosed that IFAD-VCDP had recently gave a grant to farmers under the "Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF)" to cushion the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable farmers in VCDP states of Enugu State, Kogi, Nasarawa State, Anambra, Benue, Niger, Taraba and Ebonyi.

Aliyu added that the RPSF was meant to sustain production and help farmers recover more quickly from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In her remarks, the Kogi State IFAD-VCDP Coordinator, Dr Stella Adejoh, said the gesture was to boost food security and improve the wellbeing of rural farmers in the state.

Dr Adejoh noted that IFAD-VCDP operations and activities which started two years ago, cut across five local government areas of Lokoja, Ibaji, Ajaokuta, Kabba/Bunu and Olamaboro.

She stressed that the programmes had made tremendous positive impacts on the lives of the rural farmers, improved their wellbeing and boosting food security in the state.

Dr Adejoh noted that farm input were not totally free as farmers would contribute 50 per cent of the total cost of agricultural inputs, while VCDP would as well pay the remaining 50 per cent, known as "Marching Grant".

Adejoh advised beneficiaries to make judicious use of the inputs to better their lives and

contribute their quotas in boosting Agricultural production in the state and the country at large.

She enjoined the farmers not to sell the input but to utilize it for the purpose intended, saying it would be properly monitored to the point of utilization at the field.

She warned them that there would be consequences if any of the beneficiaries sold any of the inputs.

She thanked His Excellency, Gov. Yahaya Bello, for his support and for creating the enabling environment for the IFAD/VCDP programmes to flourish in the state.

She stressed that efforts of the governor had ensured the success of the VCDP programmes and activities in the state, and prayed God to grant him wisdom to enable him achieved his set goals in all ramifications.

Some of the the beneficiaries, Aliu Muhammed, Zainab Muhammed, among others, expressed happiness to have benefited from the programme.

They all promised to make judicious use of the inputs to complement the of efforts of the government.

They commended Governor Yahaya Bello for his developmental stride in agriculture, especially in farmers empowerment and assured supports to enable his administration succeed.

Inputs distributed include: Fertilizers, Cassava Stems, Agro-chemicals among others.

Chapel encouraged the frequent the council's secretariat to interact with others. He emphasized that they are praying and also hoping that the uncompleted work at the councils secretariat will soon be completed and put to use for it members.

In her goodwill message, Political Editor of THE NIGERIA STANDARD, Mrs. Lucy Chindaba told the new exco that any position of responsibility given needs to be taken with serious commitment. She urged the exco to come up with some new ideas particularly, progressive ideas for the chapel.

Earlier in his remarks, Electoral Committee Chairman (ELCOM), Mr. Fwenji Go'ar while calling out the names of the cleared candidates for the election told the congress that the candidates were all returned unopposed but were affirmed

by the congress before the oath of office was administered to them by Barrister Mrs. Nenrot Thomas.

Mr. Go'ar emphasized the need for all hands to be on deck. He also appreciated all members of the chapel for the support of the Director, Press and public Affairs of the Governor, Makut Simon Macham and cooperation accorded them by members before and during the election which was conducted peacefully.

In his acceptance speech, the new chairman of the NUJ, PPC Chapel, Mr. Israel N. Lar expressed delight and thanked its members for finding them worthy to serve in various capacities, assuring them of their readiness to carry everybody along during their tenure for the next 3 years.

SUNDAY STANDARD reports that other Exco members elected and sworn-in, include, Celestine Attсар, Vice Chairman; Kenneth Dareng, Secretary; Hosea Nyamlong, Assistant Secretary; Lois Daduut, Financial Secretary and Namu Sanusi, Treasurer.

Giving the vote of thanks, chapel secretary, Kenneth Dareng appreciated all members for the confidence reposed in them and promised to make transparency and accountability their watch word.

Mr. Dareng while thanking the General Manager, Dr. Boniface Gwotbit and his management team for support given them to conduct the election also promised to have good working relationship with the management as well as the leadership of the state council.



Lar

NEWS

# PLSG committed to generating more jobs

By DUMAH RANDONG

**T**HE Plateau State government has set a machinery in motion to generate 20,000 jobs aimed at addressing the high rate of unemployment in the state.

Governor Simon Lalong disclosed this while inaugurating the State Employment Council at Government House, Rayfield, Jos, Thursday.

The Plateau State Employment Council which is to work in partnership with the Germany International Corporation, (GIZ) has Secretary to the Government of the State, Professor Danladi Atu as Chairman and the Permanent Secretary Policy and General Services, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the State, Mr Richard Tokma as its Secretary.

Represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, Lalong said in line with the National Policy on Employment, the state government decided to set up the Employment Council to serve as a bridge and coordinate platform to guide, streamline and coordinate state efforts towards employment promotion and job creation in the state.

Governor Lalong stressed that to further consolidate job creation initiatives in the state, government has decided to establish an initial framework to streamline and coordinate job creation initiatives, strategies and programmes in the state.

He noted that though unemployment rate in the state might have been impacted by movement of young people from other Northern states into the state



Lalong

in search of opportunities which has caused a threat to security.

He pointed out that the issue of job creation was not the exclusive preserve of government alone and tasked both the private and non state actors to join government to address the problem.

While inaugurating the council, Lalong stated that their terms of reference were among others, advice on reforms that will enable job creation in the state and review state proposals on jobs creation and suggest recommendations to government on the approach for implementation.

In a remark, the Representative of German International Corporation,

Hawa Mankilik expressed readiness for a partnership that would be engaging in a robust dialogue on how to find the way forward. He commended the state government for being the first to establish the council in the country.

Responding on behalf of members, Chairman of the council, Professor Danladi Atu appreciated Governor Lalong for the mandate bestowed on them to serve the state and promised to work diligently within the confine of the terms of reference. He called on stakeholders to play their partnership role.

Our correspondent reports that the membership of the Council cuts across relevant ministries and agencies as well as the private sector.

**T**HE Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU) has blamed the Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr. Chris Ngig for the delay in resolving the issue between the Federal Government and the university lecturers.

The President of ASUU, Professor Emmanuel Osadeke who stated this at a news briefing in Abuja said that the contentious issues would have been resolved and the strikes called off long ago if not the overzealousness of the Minister of Labour and Employment.

The president alleged that the minister hijacked the negotiating process from the ministry of education, even when some progress was being recorded towards resolving the strike.

He also accused Ngige of taking, it upon himself the role of the chief negotiator even after he had admitted that he was not the employer of the university teachers and advised the union to march to the Ministry of education with their grievance.

According to him, 'the ministry of labour and employment is principally expected to mediate in disputes between employers and employees with a view

# Blame Ngige for prolonged strike -ASUU

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

tosetting such disputes.

The ministry normally, should await report of the disputes by either side of the dispute for settlement.

'When the minister

apprehends a dispute, he/she must communicate to the parties or their representatives his or her proposal for the solution of the disputes'.



Adamu

# IOC unremitted fund hit 81.6 billion

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

**T**HE Nigerian Maritime Administrative and Safety Agency, (NMASA) said lawsuits instituted on behalf of the Federal Government against the international oil companies, (IOCS) over, Nigerians stolen crude and unremitted funds have so far yielded over 81.69billion arbitral award for Nigerians.

This was contained in a publication by the agency

which was made available to media houses in Abuja.

The publication titled Senate enquiries on NIMASA's payment of \$5million legal fee for \$12billion missing crude recoveries without results said, in 2013, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice in a letter on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 conveyed to NIMASA, the gave an president approval dated November

19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for the engagement of technical experts and a legal team to provide intelligence gathering based tracking of Nigerians hydro carbon and also recover of revenue lost by the country.

It further said, was it aware that an arbitral award was also obtained against one of the oil companies in favor of the FGN, (NNPC) NPDC in the sum of \$1.69billion as well as getting recognition and enforcement order in the judgment and in favor of the FGN (NNPC) NDP in suit No. FHC|L|CS|947| 2019 Nigerian Petroleum Development Co. Ltd v. Atlantic energy drilling concepts Nigeria Ltd and ANOR on the basis of KPMG forensic report.

# Kachia school closed over impaired girl rape

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

**K**aduna State Government has ordered the closure of the Fad Goshen Academy Gumel along Zonkwa road, Kachia Local Government Area of the

state. The state Commissioner, Human Services and Social Development, Hajiya Hafsat

Baba, said. The closure followed a case of rape, defilement and violation of a Victim and survivor, a four-year-old hearing and speaking impaired girl.

The little girl has been unconscious for more than 40 days, since the incidence on Friday, June 10, 2022, and will undergo correctional surgery at Barrau Dikko anytime soon.

According to the Commissioner, the state government will take responsibility, adding that "We felt sad because of the circumstances of the child. The girl cannot speak or hear. We saw that she was truly severely damaged. We have gone to the hospital and they said, she would undergo corrective surgery. The government of Kaduna State will take responsibility for the surgery because she is our girl.

"The school has been closed down because it is still under investigation. That school will remain close until all investigations are concluded and until we get clearance from the court because that girl deserves justice and that is what we are going to do.

We have laws in place and we are implementing these laws. I believe the law will take its course and since security agencies are already investigating the matter, whoever is responsible will be fixed out. But in the mean time, we are asking the

proprietary and staff of the school to refrain from attempting to reopen the school until the girl gets justice." Meanwhile, The owner of the school where the incident allegedly happened wants her school reopened.



el-Rufai



Stand Up for Women Society (SWS) presenting their special numbers at the burial service of Ngo Na'omi Jugul on Friday.

Photo: JOHN LAR

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



# Nigeria and fuel conundrum

Continued from Page 10

N77.7 Billion.

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

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

This brings us to the issue of whether the fuel subsidy has been removed or not! As Nigerians and its leadership comprehend on this, there have been palpable tension, anxiety and even out-right mistrust. With the recent hike in the price by marketers, the confused situation is further compounded. No one seems to understand what is really happening and nobody, particularly on the side of the

Federal Government is willing to offer credible information and equally proper solution(s) as to the way forward.

Even with the subsidy regime in place, Nigeria's economy was bad and in danger. In a recent media report, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, Wednesday June 1, 2022, it averred that, "with Nigeria's fuel subsidy payout averaging N500 billion monthly, total expenditure on subsidy could hit a record of N6 trillion mark by year end, the International Monetary Fund, (IMF) warned. The Multilateral lender also revealed that, a macro fiscal stress test conducted on the country showed that, interest, payments on debts in the country could amount to Nigeria using 100 percent of its revenue to service debts by 2026 if not closely monitored.

According to the news media, the IMF's Resident representatives for Nigeria, Mr Ari Alsen made these disclosures while presenting the latest, Sub-Saharan African Regional Economic outlook, in Abuja. He also revealed that, Nigeria received a total of #16.9 billion facilities from the IMF Following the outbreak of the Covid -19 Pandemic in 2020.

With this gloom prospects on the Nigeria economy, something urgent ought to be done. Though government is yet to make its stand on the fuel subsidy, the hike in the price of petroleum calls for serious concern. Even with the regulated price of the product, Nigerians were, and still are, wallowing in abject poverty, wants and deprivation. The costs of living has become, like it is often said, by God's grace.

Costs of living, transportation, housing, feeding and medicare are certainly out of the reach of the common Nigerian.

Should the increase in the price of fuel subsist, then Nigerians are in real trouble and danger. To say several Nigerians at present cannot afford three square meals a day is true. To also aver that the larger segment of Nigerians lack access to and car ill-afford medicare is stating the obvious. Decent housing for majority of Nigerians is a pipe-dream, many Nigerians cannot afford paying school fees of their children, as anything, indeed, everything has become the exclusive preserve of the elites.

But for how long would Nigerian leaders, who presently showcases character traits of demagogue come to the rescue of the country and its citizenry? For a country that has been

blessed with everything both human and natural which would have catapulted it to the zenith of development, and yet, today finds itself in such a precarious situation calls to question the quality, vision and mission of the leadership.

It is quite ironic that, in a country blessed with abundance of oil, its citizens cannot afford to buy the products. Again, it amounts to double jeopardy, that the price of the same oil, crude or refined, has been the major determinant of the political-economy of the nation. With the recent hike of the product, it would be, to borrow from the late Afro beat iconic music legend, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, "double Wahala for dead body".

What is to be done? While these perilous times stare the ordinary Nigerians on their faces, the country leadership seems to have lost bearing on how to swim out of this murky water of poverty amidst plenty. With a very few cornering the large chunk of the nation's resources, while the majority of the people wallow in penury, something may give. Even the Palliatives that have been put in place in the past in this kind of situation, always come to naught. Bazeen sabotage! It is not an exaggeration to say, Nigeria is on the path of perdition. If Nigeria continues on this dangerous path, there may be self-implosion. After all, a hungry man is an angry man!

**"According to the news media, the IMF's Resident representatives for Nigeria, Mr Ari Alsen made these disclosures while presenting the latest, Sub-Saharan African Regional Economic outlook, in Abuja. He also revealed that, Nigeria received a total of #16.9 billion facilities from the IMF Following the outbreak of the Covid -19 Pandemic in 2020. With this gloom prospects on the Nigeria economy, something urgent ought to be done. Though government is yet to make its stand on the fuel subsidy, the hike in the price of petroleum calls for serious concern. Even with the regulated price of the product, Nigerians were, and still are, wallowing in abject poverty, wants and deprivation".**

## METRO-FOCUS

By YVONNE ISHOLA

## Plateau: Land of milk, honey

ONE of the states that stands out when talking about rare vegetables, the best varieties of food stuffs, root crops and herbs is Plateau State. Root plants like radishes, beet root, carrots, etc abound, and so does the best varieties of tomatoes, yellow pepper, Irish potatoes.

Sweet potatoes in several varieties can only be grown in Jos. The soil is also friendly to hungry rice in different varieties. If you want to know the varieties, go to Bassa or any Berom community and you would be enlightened.

Cabbage, lettuce, cucumber are grown in abundance. And so is spinach, ugu leaves, spring onions, curry leaves, scent leaves, okro, karkashi, etc. Not to mention kale, parsley and celery.

Medicinal flowery plants like broccoli and cauli flower are grown here. And the soil is very friendly to so many fruits too. It is one of the few places apple grows in Nigeria because of its temperate weather.

No wonder, a visiting Chinese said to Plateau residents: "You have no reason to be sick". He made these statement after seeing the wealth of herbs, vegetables, fruits that the soil produces.

The Chinese don't play with diet, especially vegetables, herbs and fruits. They are aware that these groups of foods fortify one's immunity. In essence, what the Chinese meant was that Plateau people have all it takes to live healthy.

Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that Plateau State's tomatoes is adjudged as one of the best in the country, I don't see the state using it to its advantage for revenue drive. There has been no attempt to establish a factory that would process the tomatoes into paste for revenue creation. Instead, we buy from other states that don't grow tomatoes. What a shame!

It is sad that our farmers just recently discovered that it is possible to engage in dry season Irish potatoes farming and that there are so many advantages to that. Firstly, it pays a lot. Secondly, diseases do not ravage them during the dry season. The government is yet to take advantage of this to generate revenue. If it has, I'm not aware.

It won't be out of place to have a packaged chips factory in the state that will generate good money to government coffers. There is a big market for that in Nigeria and it could be exported. God knows Nigerians spend so much on Pringles. Anything similar and sold at a cheap price will be a



welcome development.

One was shocked to discover that the best egg in Nigeria as far as quality and durability is concerned is Jos egg. It is common to hear people asking shop owners in Abuja if it is Jos egg when the price is high. Some caterers only go for Jos eggs. But what have we done about it as a state? Nothing! The state could invest in poultry to raise our IGR.

The government has bought back BARC Farms. This is a step in the right direction. Let

the activities to be carried out there include poultry, tomatoes farm, growing of broccoli, cauliflower, hungry rice, potatoes etc. Those items other states look to us to get the best. That could put Plateau on the map as the best performing state.

A glaring booster to the economy of the state that we seem to be ignoring is tourism. In the past, the traffic of people coming to the state for conferences, vacation was so much. But due to crises and

attacks here and there in different communities within the state, that area of Plateau's economic life is silent.

It started in a subtle way with the burning of Jos Ultra Modern Market more than a decade ago. Then other orchestrated attacks, all geared towards making a lie of Plateau State's slogan: Home of peace and tourism.

So many foreigners and businesses relocated to safer climes just as was intended by

the enemies of the state. However, I believe, we can change the narrative. Let's tell the world our story. And let us all work together as one against our common enemy. Plateau as the name implies, will be great again.

Be encouraged, do not give up. Plateau shall arise again and live up to its name: Plateau! Secure the state and deal decisively with anyone who steps out of place. Plateau arise!!!



# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## LATE NGO NAOMI JUGU LAID TO REST

*The burial service of Ngo (Dr.) Naomi Jugu was held at ECWA Unity Church, Rayfield opposite Old Government House on Friday 22nd, 2022 and her mortal body was committed to mother earth at the family compound*



*Governor Lalong delivering his condolence message at the burial of Ngo Jugu*



*A cross section of sympathizers at the burial service*



*Gov. Lalong putting heads together with the SGS, Prof. Atu at the burial service*



*A cross section of family of the deceased listening with rapt attention to the exhortation by the Pastor*



*APC Chairman, Plateau State, Hon. Rufus Bature, Head of Service and the Speaker PLHA, Yakubu Sanda at the burial service*



*Gbong Gwom Jos, HRM, Da Gyang Buba and other traditional rulers at the burial service*



*A cross section of clergy men at the burial service*



*Remains of the deceased being conveyed to the grave side by the Boys Brigade*

Photos: DANLADI DUK

## Developing your hazard awareness

**S**OME information processing goes on at a subconscious level but a prompt can summon our attention to it. An example is the way we prick up our ears when we hear our names mentioned. In a similar vein, experienced drivers rapidly and automatically switch their attention to events happening outside their field of focus because they have a subconscious and instinctive understanding of the implications of particular traffic situations.

At this point in our analyses of driving proficiency, it is necessary to examine some examples of hazardous traffic situations and remedies thereof. These examples are aimed at facilitating your understanding of potential hazards in different situations. They are further meant to 'pre-sensitize' your awareness so that when you encounter such situations, you already know what hazards to look for and can respond to them more quickly.

### Alertness

Alertness determines the amount of information you can process. It can be thought of as mental energy and its opposite is tiredness or fatigue. Alertness depends to some extent on your personality. Extroverts (outgoing people who need a lot of external stimulation) are probably more susceptible to fatigue than introverts (inward looking people who shy away from high levels of stimulation).

To drive, we need to remain alert -ready to anticipate, identify and respond promptly to hazards. However, most driving is routine that places less demands on our abilities and the risk of crashes from moment to moment is negligible. This relatively low level of stimulation makes us to lose concentration and we need to take active steps to maintain it. In bus urban traffic, the demands of driving may be sufficiently stimulating, but on long journeys on highways or expressways, other forms of stimulation are needed.

### Alertness and anxiety

Alertness depends on your level of

anxiety and there is an optimum level of anxiety for any task. A small level of anxiety arising from a sound understanding of the risks involved can help to maintain alertness and readiness to respond. No anxiety at all dampens your responsiveness and decreases your reaction speed. Too much anxiety can result in failure to process information and respond appropriately.

You can help yourself to stay alert by:

- Consciously assessing the level of risk
- Constantly updating your assessment
- Talking yourself through the risks of the traffic situation.

If you actively maintain your awareness of the risks in this way, it will help you to keep anxiety at an optimum level and you will be less likely to neglect a potentially dangerous situation.

### Fatigue

The ultimate loss of alertness is falling asleep behind the wheel and this has accounted significantly to road traffic crashes. Professional drivers need to be aware that fatigue is related to the total time spent at work and not just the time spent at the wheel. If you are tired from other duties before embarking on a journey, you are much more at risk from fatigue during the journey. As they say, 'body no be wood'. Fatigue is a specific challenge to professional drivers owing largely to social and occupational pressures that often make them continue driving beyond their safety limit. Professionals recommend 30 minutes rest after every four hours of continuous driving. At such breaks, drivers can alight from the car and take a walk or go for light food like snacks (not heavy meal that will further weigh them down and induce dozing and sleeping).

### Monotonous conditions

Driving for long periods of time in monotonous conditions such as low-density traffic, fog, at night or on an expressway reduces stimulation and promotes fatigue. Most people experience some fatigue, whatever the conditions, if they drive for longer than four hours at a stretch.

## NEWS

# JUSUN gets new officials

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**T**HE Plateau State Council of the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), has elected its new officials that would oversee the affairs of the union in the next four years with Comrade Ayuba Tongs, as its new Chairman.

Others elected include Comrade Yakubu Garba as Vice Chairman, Comrade Pasi Ishaya, as the Assistant Secretary General, Comrade Emmanuel Azi Daniel, (Financial Secretary) and to be assisted by Comrade Alexander Barry respectively.

Also elected were Comrade Sa'adatu Abdul Ali, as Treasurer while the position of the state Organising Secretary went to Comrade Nehemiah Yohanna, the Legal Adviser position went to Comrade Ladan Ventim, with Comrade Caleb Adang and Comrade Joy Dabup as Public Relations Officer and Auditor in that order.

Declaring the results of the election, the National Treasurer of JUSUN, Comrade Jimoh Musa, described the election as free, fair and peaceful, encouraging members to see the election as a family affair and should not be seen as war because union elections were not the conventional politics.

On his part, the Chairman, Electoral Committee, Hon. Hyienth Hoomvel Dolnaan, thanked God Almighty for giving him the strength and additional wisdom to conduct this election successfully "I thank the management of the Plateau



Tongs

State Judiciary

especially the Chief Judge, Chief Registrar and Secretary of Judicial Service Commission for giving us this opportunity to organise this election".

Meanwhile, the newly elected state Chairman of JUSUN, Comrade Ayuba Tongs, thanked God and JUSUN members for their confidence reposed in him and promised to not betray the trust bestowed on him saying, "Honestly, I am very grateful, excited and overwhelmed because God has done it. It is a dream comes true.

"With this victory, members should expect better things to come and the Judiciary will be a better place for everybody. Staff will enjoy their welfare and I will create a good

working environment between the Management and the Staff to ensure that we do the right thing.

"I am going to operate an open-door policy and I will bring those who contested with me and lost together because JUSUN is our property. It does not belong to one man, but every member of the Union. I will call them to bring their ideas so that together, we can move JUSUN forward", he assured.

However, all the newly elected members of the Plateau State Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) celebrated the elected Executive Council as they were sworn-in immediately amidst jubilation.

## Women Peace Building Council inaugurated

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**K**OGI State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development with support from Community Initiative To Promote Peace (CIPP), has inaugurated Women Peace Building Council in the seventeen local government areas (LGAs) of the state.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony in Kabba, the Commissioner for Women Affairs, Hajia Fatima Buba, noted that the Mercy Corps-CIPP intervention was meant at promoting peace in the state.

She noted that the Mercy Corps-CIPP had earlier inaugurated the peace building committees in four local government areas of Lokoja, Dekina, Igalamela and Yagba west.

She added that the ministry was collaborating with Mercy Corps-CIPP to extend the peace building committees to cover the remaining 17 local government areas of the state.

Represented by Mr Teddy Adegbola, the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, the Commissioner stressed that the committees would strengthen mechanism for crisis engagement, resilience and early recovery from crisis at the grassroots.

She urged the committees to engage the youths and women in various communities to discourage violence and embrace peace towards the 2023 general elections.

She noted that the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs had established a situation room for data collation on gender based violence in the state ministry where reports were collated for possible intervention.

She commended Governor Yahaya Bello for putting every machinery in place to sustain peace and security in the state.

Also speaking, Mrs Josephine Babatunde, Director, Women Affairs in the ministry, said committee members were carefully selected considering religious, ethnic, political affiliations as well as persons living with disabilities to ensure equity and fairness.

committee members were carefully selected considering religious, ethnic, political affiliations as well as persons living with disabilities to ensure equity and fairness.

According to her, the major objective of the initiative is to prevent violence and promote peaceful coexistence among the people in the society.

According to her, the project is being executed in four communities in four local government areas of each of the six States of Kano, Kastina, Kogi, Kaduna, Benue and Plateau States.



# Lalong celebrates Abdullahi Adamu @ 76

By PALANG KASMI

**G**OVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State has felicitated with National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Abdullahi Adamu on his 76th birthday.

The Governor who gave the message in a statement Saturday also described Adamu as a gift to Nigeria.

The congratulatory message described the celebrant Adamu as a man of vast experience in politics and governance.

It read: "You are a patriotic Nigerian who has contributed immensely to the development of the nation" said Lalong. He added "Sen. Adamu is one of Nigeria's finest politicians who has deployed his experience, capacity and vast knowledge in building democratic institutions as well as mentoring the younger generation for the task of service and dedication to national ideals. His long political career has been very valuable in the democratic journey of the nation as he played various roles at the Local, State and national levels effectively".

Governor Lalong praised the APC National Chairman for being proactive since taking



Lalong

over the mantle of leadership of the ruling party. This achievement he said has brought in "stability, understanding and push for robust reconciliation which is repositioning it for effective service to Nigerians especially ahead of the 2023 general elections".

The Governor noted that Sen. Adamu has also done a lot to boost the nation's agriculture by engaging in farming and also contributing

in the passage of various legislations that have boosted food production in the country during his term at the National Assembly where he headed the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

While wishing him many more years of good health, God's blessings and divine protection, Lalong urged him to continue to serve the nation and also grooming younger ones towards making Nigeria great.

## NSHA hopeful gives reason for contesting

**A**Nasarawa State House of Assembly candidate under the platform of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) for Keffi West Constituency, Hon. Mohammed Mukhtar has stated that his strong desire to serve the people of his constituency through a purposeful representation in the law making body informed his decision to make himself available for the contest come 2023.

Speaking with newsmen in Keffi during the weekend, Hon Mukhtar further explained that the clarion calls from the people of the constituency on the need to make himself available for the

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

contest also compelled him to join the race.

Mukhtar who is a one time Executive Chairman of Keffi Local Government Council pledged to bring forth his wealth of experience to bear in the discharge of his duties in the state House of Assembly if elected.

He stated that he would focus his attention in the initiation of people oriented laws and services especially those that would create a significant impact on the lives of his people especially the youths and women who constitute the greater majority.

Speaking about his acceptance so far, the NNPP

candidate described the people's response towards his candidature as quite encouraging especially that the people always come in their large numbers to identify with the project.

He however solicited for more support and co-operation from the people of his constituency and the state as a whole to enable the NNPP form the next government

He then expressed the hope that victory is going to be on their side given the mass decamping of people and the encouraging support they are enjoying from all over the state.

## Governor appeals to China on security challenge

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

**G**OVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has pleaded with the People's Republic of China to use Bauchi as a pilot state where technology is deployed to fight insurgency and bandits in Nigeria.

The Governor made the appeal recently when he hosted the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria HE Cui Juanchun on the side of the Bauchi Investment Opportunities Summit held at the Banquet Hall of the Government House, Bauchi.

"Even though Bauchi is adjudged to be the most secure, state in the North we don't want to take this for granted," he told the Chinese Ambassador while making presentations to highlight the huge investments opportunities in Bauchi State.

**A** member of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly representing Keffi East constituency Hon. Abdulazeez Sule Danladi has formerly resigned his membership of the All Progressive Congress (APC) and joined the Action Alliance (AA) to contest for the House of Representatives for Keffi, Karu and Kokona Federal constituency.

Presenting his letter of resignation from the party to the Speaker of the state House of Assembly Hon. Ibrahim Balarabe Abdullahi at the floor of the House, Danladi stated that he took the decision based on the injustice and lack of level playing ground meted to him during the just concluded primary election of the party.

He stated that all efforts towards ensuring that all the necessary justice is done to him proves abortive as such he is left with no other option than to back out from the party and move to where he would be provided with all the necessary level playing ground and justice to pursue his political dreams. And aspirants having made all frantic efforts to make sure that justice is done but to no avail.

"I have, no option than to back out from the primary election and then resign my membership of the party to go to where I would be able to pursue my political aspirations and dreams unhindered" he stressed.

## APC lawmaker defectsto AA

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

Danladi who is the Chairman, House Committee on Works and Housing and the Sarkin Samarin Keffi however, thanked the Speaker for his good leadership qualities.

He then said that even as he resigned his membership of the party, he would continue to perform his duties in the House diligently in accordance with the mandate

given to him by the people.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the House, Hon. Ibrahim Balarabe Abdullahi has read the letter before the House and wished him the best.

It would be recalled that Hon. Abdulazee Sulaiman Danladi was elected to the House under the platform of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) before he later dumped the party and joined the ruling All Progressives Party (APC) and now to the Action Alliance (AA).



Sule

## Commissioner charges health stakeholders

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**S**TAKEHOLDERS in the health sector, have been charged to prioritize access to quality maternal health care delivery for every woman and girl with the reproductive age bracket in Plateau State.

The State Commissioner of Health, Dr. NinkongLar, gave the charge Friday, at the 2022 "Safe Motherhood Day Celebration" organised by the State Ministry of Health in collaboration with Plateau State Primary Health Care Board in Jos, the state capital.

The Commissioner who was represented by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mrs Anastasia Domjur, said, quality maternal health care delivery could be achieved through formulating the needed policy, resources and sustainable implementation that would address challenges affecting women and the girl

child.

He disclosed that the Safe Motherhood initiative was first formed in Kenya in 1987 and was celebrated yearly to create awareness on the burden of pregnancy on women's health and to highlight best practices in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity.

Lar, said, "government's supervision of healthcare services and making of more available funds for maternal and child health activities have increased the use of healthcare delivery through community awareness in the state.

"I would like to appeal to all women and girls within the reproductive age bracket to recognize the need to avail yourselves to Health Clinics closer to you to access services when pregnant for

delivery and post delivery period", he appeals.

Earlier, the Executive Secretary of Plateau State Primary Health Care Board, Dr. Livinus Mapkwap, who was represented by the Board's Director of Administration, Ya'uNazapisma, assured that the board would continue to promote, support and partner with the ministry to achieve quality through the universal coverage of quality maternal healthcare services for women and girls.

Meanwhile, the State Reproductive Health Coordinator, Mrs. Hanatu Dung, cautioned pregnant women against patronizing Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) which is not in line with world best practice because this has claimed so many lives of pregnant women and girls.



Abdullahi

communities and government to keep us secured and fortify our borders and make us a safe haven even in this season of terrorism, bloodshed and deaths that Nigeria has become. We want Bauchi to stand out as a place to be visited and respected.

In his reaction, the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria admitted that insecurity was not a problem peculiar to Nigeria.

Mr Juanchun said the biggest concern of his country toward Nigeria is the issue of security "China has its interests here in Nigeria and at the same time we are making contributions to the development of this country. Nigeria and China have common interests" he stated.

He said the report that Bauchi is a peaceful state was a good development and

urged all the citizens to join hands together and do everything within their power to protect themselves and their communities.

"They need technology. We have difficulties but we cannot give up, we cannot surrender. We have technology to fight but we also have the physical defense," he said.

The Ambassador assured that technology can be useful to create early warning to address insurgency and banditry but decline to give details. He said saying "this is not the proper time, but we can use technology to try and protect the people.

On the issue of insecurity plaguing Nigeria, Mr Juanchun said what the people need are trust and confidence to make it greater and more protective.

SUNDAY SPORTS

# Who is Basseyy signed by Ajax?

By SHINA OLUDARE

**D**UTCH elite division side Ajax have signed defender Calvin Basseyy from Scottish Premiership side Rangers.

The defender has joined Alfred Schreuder's Sons of the Gods from Rangers - here's your guide to the Super Eagle..

The 22-year-old Nigeria international passed his medical in the Netherlands before completing a five-year move to the Johan Cruyff Arena - where he will continue his professional career.

Basseyy was born in Aosta, a city in Italy on December 31, 1999.

As a child, he moved to England and he rose through the youth ranks at Leicester City before joining Rangers in 2020.

In his maiden season at Ibrox Stadium, he made eight league appearances for Steven Gerrard's men, while featuring in the Scottish Cup and League Cup, respectively.

To cap a notable start to life in Scotland, Basseyy featured in four Europa League matches, although, Rangers crashed out in the Round of 16.

In the 2021-22 campaign, he featured in 50 matches in all competitions which included 15 appearances in the Uefa Europa League, where they finished as runners-up.



**Bassey**

His arrival is expected to add quality to the Eredivisie side's

defensive ranks as they ready themselves for a 2022-23 campaign which will include

participation in the Uefa Champions League. Marvin Andrews has tipped

Calvin Bassey for greatness if he stays clear of serious injuries.

According to the 46-year-old, the Super Eagles defender will enjoy a meteoric rise if he stays very fit.

"It is very important, the defence, big Connor [Goldson] has been tremendous, Calvin Bassey is strong, athletic. He's only 22 as well," he told *Glasgow Live Sport*.

"If he can avoid any serious injuries then he can go on to have a very big future ahead of him. There's a bit of interest but you were going to get that. They reached a European final and made their mark."

Blessed with a robust figure, the 22-year-old is aggressive and on a good day, he can cause many restless moments for strikers.

Although he does not possess lightning speed, he occasionally assists the attack.

He is a Standard silver card and has a two-star skill moves rating. He prefers to shoot with his left foot and his work rate is medium.

His best stat is strength, which is 75, while he has 62 in dribbling, interception and a shot power of 45.



# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Pinnick assures Falcons of early World Cup preparation

THE NFF President hailed the fantastic display by the Super Falcons against Morocco.

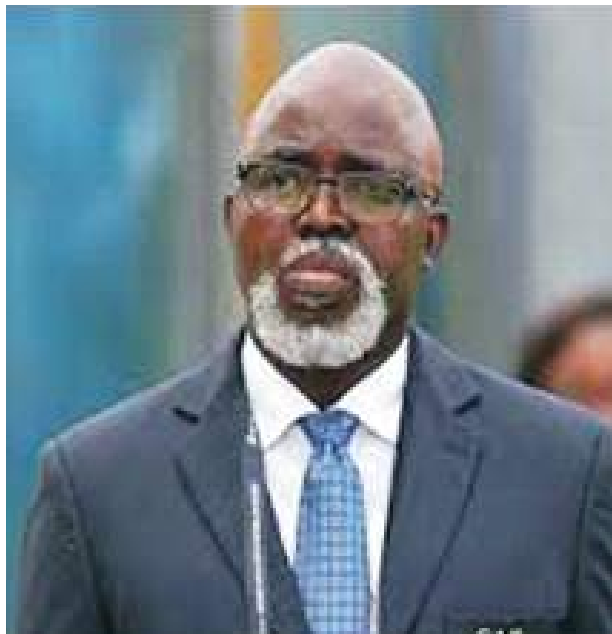
President of the Nigeria Football Federation, Amaju Pinnick, has showered encomiums on nine-time African champions, **Super Falcons** for a valiant display despite several odds and obstacles in their Women AFCON semi-final encounter against host nation Morocco in Rabat on Monday night.

"Of course, we would have been happy to be in the Final and chase a 10th title. But I am happy with the performance of the team and the way and manner they approached the game despite all sorts of setbacks and intimidation.

"To play 50 minutes of a game with only nine players is not an easy task. The Super Falcons gave their all and were truly fabulous. They had the 'Nigeria spirit' in them and showed a sense of patriotism, were dogged, and refused to give up. Penalties are forever a lottery, so it could have gone either way. I commend the team for the outing."

Newsnow said that, the expulsion of midfielder Halimatu Ayinde in the 49th minute reduced Nigeria to 10 players. This was before referee Maria Rivet from Mauritius handed forward Rasheedat Ajibade a red card in the 70th minute, which cut Nigeria's playing strength by two for the remaining 50 minutes (20 minutes of regulation and 30 minutes of extra time) of the thrilling encounter,

Uchenna Kanu had a touch on Nigeria's goal in the 62nd minute though it was recorded as an own goal by Yasmin Mrabet.



**Pinnick**

Nigeria could have put the match in the bag when substitute Gift Monday rocked the crossbar with a well-taken shot from outside the box 11 minutes into extra time.

"Our girls did a massive job on a night they were not only depleted but challenged by laser lights trained on their eyes by the crowd. I am enamoured by their resilience and tenacity. The next step now is for the Federation to do everything possible to prepare the team adequately for the FIFA World Cup finals coming up next year."

Pinnick added he is delighted with the strong pipeline at the moment, with the U20 girls and U17 girls having also qualified for their respective FIFA World Cup tournaments and boasting interesting prospects who can easily fit into the senior team.

"The supply line looks strong enough to continue to present us with good and ambitious

players for the coming years. We will have a delightful combination of experienced and youthful players for the World Cup finals."

Already, the NFF has secured four friendly matches for the Falcons in the Fall, with the team scheduled to play the United States Women's National Team in Kansas City and Washington DC in September, and also to fly to Japan to take on that country's women's squad in Kobe in October. Both opponents offer diversity in style and approach.

Nigeria, Morocco, South Africa, and Zambia have qualified automatically for the 32-team FIFA Women's World Cup fiesta to be staged in five Australian cities and four New Zealand cities from July 20 to August 20, 2023.

Cameroon and Senegal will battle for slots at a 10-team Playoff Tournament in New Zealand early next year.

## Musa reveals Oliseh brought discipline to Super Eagles

SINCE 2010 after making his Super Eagles debut under Augustine Eguavoen, Ahmed Musa has worked with

a plethora of national team coaches.

Newsnow said that, the former CSKA Moscow and

Kano Pillars star has explained why ex-Nigeria managers Sunday Oliseh and Stephen Keshi had the most profound impact on his international career.

Musa won the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations with the late Keshi in the dugout and was first appointed Super Eagles captain in 2015 after Oliseh took over the managerial reins from his former teammate.

It was a contentious decision by Oliseh as many felt that goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama was the most senior player in the squad and had been to three World Cups in 2002, 2010 and 2014.

Musa underlined that Keshi's fatherly role helped the Super Eagles to win the AFCON and praised Oliseh for bringing discipline to the national team.

"Definitely I've worked with different coaches but I'd call Stephen Keshi like my father because we have a very good relationship with him," Musa said to [Arise News](#).

"Whenever we want to play a game he calls me to his room and tells me, 'I know

**NIGERIA** Goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie has questioned how Morocco managed to beat the Super Falcons in the semi-finals of the Women's Africa Cup of Nations on Monday.

Goal said that, the 21-year-old, who plays for Paris FC, is critical of the officiating in their last four battle.

The Super Falcons saw their journey to defend the title come to an end at the Moulay Abdellah Stadium in Rabat after they were eliminated by the Atlas Lionesses, who won 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in regular and extra-time.

During the fixture, the Super Falcons played with nine players in the last 30 minutes and extra-time after

## Nigeria versus Morocco worst match I have ever played

- Nnadozie

Halimatu Ayinde and Rasheedat Ajibade were shown their marching orders.

The outcome of the game has irked Nnadozie, who feels they were the better side and blamed their exit on poor officiating.

"The whole Moroccan team knew that Nigeria is a great team, so to beat us they had to distract us," Nnadozie, who was awarded the Women-of-the-match award, wrote on her social media pages.

"They did everything they did just to distract us. Since I have been playing football, this is the worst match I have ever played in my life.

"They won but this is not

winning for me. The officiating was not really okay. If they were good enough, we were nine players against 11, they would have scored and won. That is to show you how great we are."

Nnadozie further explained why she was proud of the Super Falcons despite the defeat.

"I'm proud to have won the player of the match award in Monday's game, to my great Super Falcons, I dedicate this award to you all. To our amazing fans, thank you for the support and encouragement.

"It's not over until it's over."



**Nnadozie**

## Akuneto to Receive N3.8m, boot as NPFL top scorer

EUNISELL, organisers of the prestigious annual Eunisell Boot award, on

Monday announced Rivers United star, Chijioko Akuneto, as winner of the just concluded 2021/22 Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) season.

NPFL News said that, instituted by Eunisell, West Africa's largest independent

chemical as well as oil and gas engineering solutions company, the Eunisell Boot Award seeks to instill greatness in players in the domestic top flight and celebrate their success story.

Eunisell placed a premium value of N200,000 for each goal scored by the top scorer.

For his feat, Akuneto will receive replica of the reputable Eunisell Boot as well as the sum of N3,800,000 at a date and venue to be announced by Eunisell.

According to a statement from the organisers: "Eunisell is passionate about the Nigerian League and believes Nigerian players deserve to be celebrated."

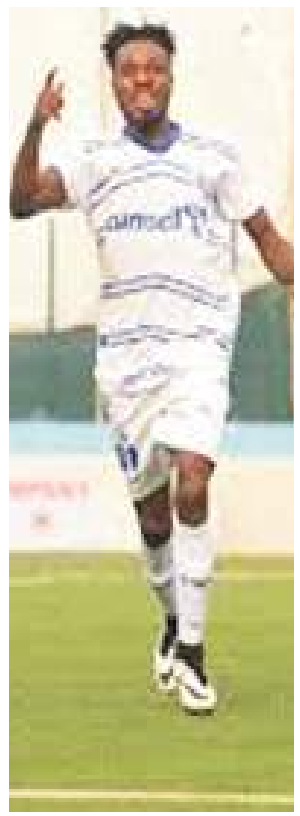
High flying Akuneto scored 19 goals during the just concluded season to finish ahead of other combatants to emerge as the Eunisell Boot award winner.

Akuneto scored a brace on Match-day 37 on the road at Shooting Stars to take his tally to 18 goals and moved ahead of others. He then scored his 19th goal on the last day of the season at home against Gombe United, last Sunday to consolidate.

Junior Lokosa won the inaugural edition of the Eunisell Boot in 2018 after similarly scoring 19 goals for Kano Pillars and it has since remained an annual award for the highest goal scorer in the Nigerian topflight league.



**Musa**



**Akuneto**

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## WA championships: Semenya is back

**C**ASTER Semenya, who will make her first appearance in a world championship in five years when she competes in the women's 5000m in Eugene, has every right to be there.

**BBC SPORT** said that, the World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said this Tuesday as attention falls on Semenya the champion who will for the first time in a long time, run instead in the 5,000m race.

The South African last competed at a world championship in London in 2017 where she won her third 800m world crown.

A year later she won double gold in the 800m and 1500m at the Commonwealth Games which is the last time she represented South Africa in a global international competition.

Semenya was forced to switch from her favored distance to the longer event due to gender eligibility rules that required her to take testosterone-reducing drugs to compete in races between 400m to a mile.

World Athletics bars women



**Semenya**

athletes with high testosterone levels from competing in shorter races because the governing body says the hormone increases muscle mass and oxygen uptake.

Semenya, who became a world champion at 18 years of age in Berlin in 2009, has

made several unsuccessful legal attempts to overturn the ruling.

Sebastian Coe, the world Athletics president has said current restrictions on events from the 400m to the mile were "not set in tablets of stone" stressing that gender eligibility rules would not be changed any time soon.

## Djokovic unlikely to play US Open

**N**OVAK Djokovic is unlikely to play at the US Open after organisers said they would "respect" American government rules over travel for unvaccinated players.

**BBC SPORT** said that, the US requires non-citizens to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to enter.

Djokovic is not vaccinated and missed the Australian Open earlier this year for that reason.

The 35-year-old Serb won the Wimbledon title in July and said that he would "wait hopefully for some good news".

The tournament in New York takes place from 29 August to 11 September.

Three-time US Open champion Djokovic has been

named on the entry list for the final Grand Slam of the year but that is routine, rather than an indication that he will be allowed to play.

A statement from the tournament, which does not have its own vaccination rules, read: "Per the Grand Slam Rule Book, all eligible players are automatically entered into the men's and women's singles main draw fields based on ranking 42 days prior to the first Monday of the event."

"The US Open does not have a vaccination mandate in place for players, but it will respect the US government's position regarding travel into the country for unvaccinated

non-US citizens."

Djokovic's win at Wimbledon took him to 21 Grand Slam titles, one behind Rafael Nadal on 22.



Djokovic won the Wimbledon title by beating Nick Kyrgios

## Kokona wins Turaki Cup competition

*From*  
**MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

**K**OKONA Local Government Area of Nasarawa State has emerged the winner of this year, Turakin Unity Football Competition.

The football club from Kokona Local Government Area succeeded in lifting the giant trophy in the fourth edition of the competition and went home with one million naira cash prize after beating its counterpart from Karu with a 4-3 margin through a penalty shootout after the match ended 1-1 draw.

The final match of the competition which was decided at the Keffi Mini Stadium during the weekend was witnessed by many football fans from across the area.

Speaking after the match, the Chairman of the winning team Hon Auwalu Adamu congratulated his team for their success and assured them of all the

necessary support from the council to enable them continue to win prizes.

Auwalu who was also a player in the team before assuming the leadership of the council, however tasked the players and their officials to see their victory as a stepping stone towards becoming great-champions in the future.

The Chairman also congratulated his Karu local government colleague Hon. James Thomas for reaching up to the final stage of the competition, describing it as a great success and thanked the sponsor of the competition, Senator Abdullahi Adamu for his great love for the youths and football development in his Senatorial constituency district.

Also speaking the Karu Local Government Chairman whose team came second thanked his boys for their rare demonstration of good sporting spirit, saying that with such attributes

## Kasatkina criticises country's homosexuality attitude

**R**USSIAN tennis player Daria Kasatkina has criticised her country's attitude to homosexuality after coming out as gay and also called for an end to the war in Ukraine.

**BBC SPORT** said that, Kasatkina, the world number 12, reached the French Open semi-finals last month.

Homosexuality is not illegal in Russia but the spreading of "gay propaganda" among minors is prohibited and homophobia is widespread.

"Living in the closet is impossible," Kasatkina, 25, said.

"Living in peace with yourself is the only thing that matters."

"So many subjects are taboo in Russia," she says. "Some of them more important than

ours, it's no surprise.

"This notion of someone wanting to be gay or becoming [gay] is ridiculous. I think there is nothing easier in this world than being straight.

"If there is a choice, nobody would choose being gay, why make your life harder, especially in Russia? What's the point?"

Asked if it would be safe to hold hands with her girlfriend, she replied: "Never... judging by things that are going on now, it will never be OK."

Russian and Belarusian players were banned from this year's Wimbledon because of the invasion of Ukraine.

Players from both countries have been allowed to compete on the tennis tour but not under their national flags.

When asked what she wanted most in life, she replied: "For the war to end", adding it was a "full-blown nightmare".

Russians are banned from using the word war to describe the invasion, with Russian President Vladimir Putin instead coining the phrase "special military operation".

Kasatkina became tearful when asked if she was "afraid" she may not be able to return home, replying: "Yes, I have thought about that."



they have displayed he considered them as winners.

While commending the sponsor of the competition for his great love for youths and sports development, the Chairman assured that he would use all that happened as a foundation to re-build and stragthen the team against future competitions.

While congratulating members of the team and their officials for their hard work and dedications, he further assured them of all the necessary support from the council.

Our correspondent also reports that this year's competition was more elaborate because a professional Football Coach in the person of Mr. Zakary Barae was hired by the sponsor of the competition to select competent players that would be use to form the newly Keffi United football club that would play in the National League competition among

others. Meanwhile, the runners up also went home with the second trophy and a cash prize of N750,000. While Nasarawa Local Government Area which came third also got a cash prize of N500,000.

In his remarks the co-coordinator of the competition, Alhaji Hussaini Musa Sabban thanked the sponsor of the competition for what he described as his great passion and commitments towards the development of football and youths in general.

**SUNDAY STANDARD**

**sport,** desk reports that the Turaki Unity Football Cup competition is an annual even being sponsored by Senator Abdullahi Adamu the current National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) with a view to encourage the youths particularly from the Nasarawa Western Zone to build- up a career in football.

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Will Barcelona spending gamble pay off?

**L**AST month Barcelona Economic Vice-President Eduard Romeu asserted he needed 500m euros to "save the club".

Now, six weeks later, the fallen Spanish giants are splashing cash in the transfer market. Big time.

Around £100m has been splurged on Leeds' Raphinha and Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski, and similarly big-money moves for Sevilla's Jules Kounde and Manchester City's Bernardo Silva are being pursued.

Aggrieved Bayern boss Julian Nagelsmann lamented that Barca are "the only club that doesn't have money but can buy any player," and his frustration summed up the mood of many observers who cannot understand how a club with debts of £1bn can spend so heavily.

But that perception is somewhat misguided, and the answer is simple. Here, we examine Barca's extraordinary financial summer, and explain why it's a massive all-or-nothing gamble for a club who find themselves in Las Vegas this weekend preparing to face Real Madrid on Saturday.

On 16 June, Barca's members - who own the club - voted in favour of allowing president Joan Laporta to execute some exceptional measures, which have become known as economic 'levers', in order to raise a significant cash injection.

The first lever saw the club sell 10% of its domestic television rights over the next 25 years to US investment fund Sixth Street, in return for an immediate payment of around £200m - enough, in other words, to comfortably cover Barca's summer signings so far.

And on Friday the club announced that they had sold a further 15% of those rights to Sixth Street, bringing in a reported extra £300m.

There are further plans to sell 49.9% of the club's merchandising operation in the near future.

Together those levers should provide an up-front cash injection of more than £600m. So, yes, Barca now have money thanks to these new financial deals, even if they come with the long-term cost of reduced TV and merchandising revenue. And they also represent a massive gamble.

Following the mess left behind by former president Josep Maria Bartomeu, perhaps the sensible approach to rebuilding Barca would have been a slow and steady reconstruction of the club's infrastructure, cutting costs and placing more reliance on an outstanding youth system.

But Laporta does not have the time or patience for that.

A charismatic populist with a penchant for grand gestures, he does not want to be remembered as "the man who helped revive Barca by laying solid foundations for future success". That might be sensible but it is also boring,



Robert Lewandowski joined Barcelona this summer after scoring 50 goals in 46 games last season, helping Bayern Munich win a 10th straight Bundesliga title

and Laporta doesn't do boring.

Instead, he wants to go down in history as the heroic knight in shining armour who quickly restored past glories - for which he was also the part-architect during his first presidential stint between 2003 and 2010.

After a barren run of just one Spanish Cup title in three years, he is impatient for success. He wants to win major trophies, and he wants to win them now.

So Laporta has pulled his famous levers, raising enough cash to theoretically build a squad capable of winning silverware this season. In turn that could, also theoretically, lead to more revenue through increased prize money and TV rights (especially in the Champions League, which have not been sold), along with the other commercial opportunities that can derive from a world-beating team.

But the extent of the gamble cannot be underestimated. Right now, we do not know whether Raphinha will step up to the next level; whether Lewandowski (34 next month) can avoid age-related decline; whether Ousmane Dembele can avoid injury; whether teen stars Pedri, Gavi and Ansu Fati can continue their emergence; whether manager Xavi can sort out the defence.

Only time will tell, and the gamble is even bigger because it

is a one-time-only deal. Conjuring a short-term cash injection by selling off the club's commercial assets is, surely, an unrepeatable trick. Laporta's levers cannot become an annual occurrence, so this summer's moves - both on and off the pitch - simply must pay off.

Notwithstanding Laporta's financial manoeuvrings, there is clearly also a need for Barca to become more effective in the transfer market than we have witnessed in recent years.

One immediate aspect of that process is offloading a host of unwanted players including

Memphis Depay, Martin Braithwaite, Miralem Pjanic and Samuel Umtiti - a difficult task considering their high wages and, in some cases, lengthy contracts.

Then, of course, there is Frenkie de Jong. His case is different because, in an ideal world, Xavi would keep him. But the brilliance of Pedri and Gavi mean that De Jong is not a guaranteed starter, and he is therefore expendable if the price is right.

Crucially, that price includes not only the transfer fee but also finding an agreement over the wages deferred by the Dutchman

in the last couple of years and now due to be paid.

That negotiation and De Jong's reluctance to join a club outside the Champions League are major stumbling blocks in completing his proposed move to Manchester United, which will probably also determine whether Barca can seriously pursue Silva.

So this intriguing summer contains more twists and turns, before the onset of a truly tumultuous season for the Catalan club. If the gamble comes off, Barca's decline will have been swiftly halted and Laporta will look like a genius; if it fails, the club's fall could become even steeper.





July 24, 2022

# Arsenal signs Zinchenko on 'long-term' deal

Arsenal has signed former Manchester City player Oleksandr Zinchenko on a long term deal. The 25-year-old flew back from City's pre-season tour of the USA to complete the move after Arsenal agreed a £30m deal, which includes £2m in add-ons.

He has signed a long-term contract with the London club and is their fifth signing of the summer.

"This is a boyhood dream come true, because I was a massive fan when I was a kid," said Zinchenko.

"Since Thierry Henry and young Cesc Fabregas was playing here, I was just enjoying watching those games, that Arsenal. And obviously I started to love this club, so I am so excited and I cannot wait to play for this amazing club."

Predominantly a midfielder for his country, Zinchenko largely featured at left-back for the Blues, but only played 15 times last season as Pep Guardiola's side retained the Premier League title.

He says he has spoken to Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta about his role in the team but would keep the details "private", adding: "If the manager tells me one day I need to be goalkeeper, I will be there."

Zinchenko worked with Arteta when the Gunners' boss was on the coaching team at Manchester City and says the experience played "the most important role" in his decision to move.

"Since the first day at City I knew that he's going to be a very good manager," Zinchenko added.

"I am here to achieve big things and I hope we can win some titles, and I hope we are going to fight for every title in which we are going to be involved.

"Even from the last season, I was watching



Arteta with Zinchenko

Arsenal's games and I could smell it's coming, you know? The team is growing up so quickly and I think it's time. It's time to do our best and to achieve something big."

Zinchenko is the second player to move from City to the Emirates this summer.

Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus joined the Gunners for £45m earlier this month.

Technical director Edu said Zinchenko had been a "main focus" in their recruitment and backed the new recruit to help the squad reach a "different level".

Manager Arteta added: "Alex is a high quality player who will give us options and versatility.

"He's a player that I

personally know really well and continued to follow him after my time at Manchester City.

"It's not only about the

positions he can play but as well, the versatility he will give us in attack and defence.

"Alex is a person with great

human qualities and character, and I'm delighted that everyone has made this huge effort to bring Alex to the club."

## Manchester Utd, Aston Villa settle for score draw

CALUM Chambers' stoppage-time header cost Manchester United their 100% pre-season record under new manager Erik ten Hag as Aston Villa came back from two goals down to end their own tour of Australia unbeaten at a rain-soaked Optus Stadium in Perth. Chambers rose unchallenged to nod home a rather soft second that will give Ten Hag something to ponder on his side's return to Manchester.

Jadon Sancho's third goal of the trip had given United an early lead and when Villa's Matty Cash turned a Marcus Rashford effort beyond the reach of his own keeper Emi Martinez, it seemed victory was secure.

But substitute Leon Bailey pulled a goal back right after half-time and Chambers' effort was reward for a much-improved performance by Steven Gerrard's men.

United are expected to complete the signing of Argentina defender Lisandro Martinez from Ajax in time for him to start training with his new team-mates, including Christian Eriksen, early next week, before encounters with Atletico Madrid and Rayo Vallecano. On this evidence, they might need him.

Quite possibly both Ten Hag and Gerrard will be more concerned at finding out if their respective squads got through the game without injury.

Numerous heavy showers in the hours before kick-off left the pitch in an awful state.

Ground staff tried to get rid of the excess water from three hours before kick-off and host broadcaster Channel 10 said in commentary there had even been a plan to fly a helicopter over the grass in an effort to dry out the surface.

That did not happen in the end, although neither set of players looked comfortable when they tried to turn and as Gerrard had his hood pulled over his head to protect himself from another downpour when United's second goal went in, it did not indicate he was having a particularly great time.

The Villa boss' mood will have

improved when Bailey cut inside Victor Lindelof and curled a shot into the bottom corner at the start of the second half.

Sancho was the wide player who lit up the opening period though.

The former Borussia Dortmund winger has played for England only once since he missed a penalty in the Euro 2020 shoot-out defeat by Italy in the final just over 12 months ago.

He struggled in his debut season at Old Trafford but, with three goals in four games, he has finished as joint top scorer on tour with Anthony Martial and looks like the attacking threat that brought him to United's attention in the first place.

His latest effort was excellent, with Martial, Bruno Fernandes, Marcus Rashford and Luke Shaw all involved before Sancho volleyed home at the far post.

Not that everything went United's way.

Bailey would have levelled had Harry Maguire not slid back to turn away his goal-bound effort after the Jamaican had skipped past David de Gea, while Ezri Konsa failed to convert with the goal at his mercy.

Chambers had the final word - allowing both clubs to end their respective tours unbeaten.

Speaking after the match Ten Hag reflected on letting the two-goal lead slip.



Manchester United celebrating one of their goals

**WORLD SEARCH** Answer the clue and search for the word

Q	A	R	D	L	M	F	E	L	I	X	F	M
O	N	O	M	E	Y	O	D	C	K	D	R	I
C	P	Z	K	T	N	M	U	S	A	E	E	K
S	H	E	R	I	C	K	A	T	M	G	P	A
B	N	I	K	I	U	Z	U	O	A	G	F	I
O	L	X	B	J	N	H	A	S	R	S	M	L
S	L	O	A	N	E	W	D	P	U	C	K	A
B	K	Y	S	I	G	X	V	A	R	T	V	O
G	I	A	N	N	I	E	J	G	I	B	H	J
A	J	L	U	H	K	K	I	W	O	B	I	M
M	O	R	R	I	S	I	O	A	F	E	L	N
D	E	V	I	L	S	F	N	C	F	H	P	E

- Red.....(6) Super Eagles name in the 60s
- .....Usman (6) Nigerian UFC fighter
- Ahmed .....(4) Super Eagles Captain
- Bale.....(5)Nasarawa United Coach
- .....Infantino (6) FIFA President
- .....Ebi (5) Super Falcons captain
- Alex.....(5)Nigeria/Evanton striker
- .....Mihambo (7) Jamaican Jumper
- .....stephens (6) American WIA Player who wore Super Eagles Jersey.
- .....Jackson (8) Jamaican Sprinter
- Sandi.....(6) American Pole-raulter Coach
- Allyson.....(5) Most decorated female Olympian
- Ice hockey ball (4).

By IBRAHIM T. LOT