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Nigeria and the leadership question

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These are certainly tensed times in the nation's history considering the fact that a lot happened in quick succession last week especially with latest happenings from various angles of the society. First, it was the hullabaloo at Nigeria's judicial arm that raised the red flag indicating that all may not be well with its hierarchy. **KENNETH DARENG**, examines the leadership challenges that have eluded the nation over the years.



> Page 2 **Terrorism taking tolls on Nigerians -Buhari laments**



Germany set to return Benin Bronzes to Nigeria

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Caught on the wrong side of the law

The recent saga of a lawmaker being caught on the wrong side of the law for organ harvesting has become the thrust of public discourse in which if convicted, the lawmaker may get a maximum of life sentence or a fine or both on summary conviction under the United Kingdom slavery Act 2015.

Similarly, in Nigeria, one of the serious organized crimes is the illegality of trafficking in human organs or harvesting within and outside the country especially of minors or under aged persons. This attracts severe sanctions and punishment. In the United Kingdom (UK) forced organ harvesting and trafficking are interlinked crimes which are illegal but legal donations of ones organ can only take place with the donor's consent.

Unfortunately, the alleged desperation by Senator Ike Ekeremadu to save the life of his daughter, Sonia, landed him and his wife into detention in London. Ike Ekeremadu is a member of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party, PDP. He has been in the Senate since 2003, served as Deputy Senate President from 2007 to 2019. He is charged with conspiracy to arrange and facilitate travel of a minor with a view to harvest his organ.

According to the U.K prosecutor, a 15 year old homeless boy, David Nwamini Ukpo was transported from Lagos to Heathrow with the intent of harvesting his kidney because one of Ekeremadu's daughters has a kidney disease.

Though, Senator Ekeremadu and his wife were since remanded in police custody in the UK after they were arraigned before an Uxbridge Magistrate Court for alleged conspiracy for a minor's organ harvesting charge, they both deny the charge before the court.

For decades, Nigeria's health sector has suffered from acute underfunding; there is toxic mix of problems including inaccessibility of quality health care, poor health facilities and infrastructure, corruption, insufficient health personnel amongst others. Failure of the government to provide quality and sustainable health facilities to its citizens, has exposed Nigerians including the Senate which Ike Ekeremadu presided over as Deputy Senate President but could not pursue and provide good and affordable health care system for the citizenry.

Apart from a few top private hospitals, majority of hospitals in Nigeria are mere consulting rooms lacking in all that is needed to save lives of the citizens of the country. Our leaders especially politicians often jet off to UK, USA, Dubai or Germany for medical tourism at the detriment of the people who voted them into power. Moreso, they have callously denied their fellow citizens quality health care system preferring instead to patronize the health care services provided by their peers in the UK at a great cost to Nigeria's economy.

As much as we sympathise with the family of Senator Ike Ekweremadu and their daughter, Sonia, who suffers from kidney failure, we pray for her quickest recovery. We want to emphatically call on our lawmakers to do the needful by formulating necessary legislations for the establishment of quality and sustainable health care infrastructure and facilities across the country.

Furthermore, we condemn in its totality the harvesting of organs for sale and call on indigent citizens not to engage in selling their toes for money, like what is happening in Zimbabwe where citizens of that country are engaged in selling their toes for money, not minding what it is going to be used for.

Now that election is around the corner, 2023 should be the time Nigerians should use their franchise to elect credible leaders that have their plight in mind, with the hope of eradicating such bad habits like the organ harvesting amongst others.

Germany to return Benin Bronzes to Nigeria



Nigeria, Germany Sign Agreement on return of 1,130 Benin Bronzes

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

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

Mohammed and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Amb. Zubairu Dada, signed the declaration for Nigeria, while the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Annalena Baerbock and the Minister of State for Culture and Media, Ms Claudia Roth, represented the European nation at the forum in Berlin.

The minister said the joint declaration would pave the way for the return of the Benin Bronzes to Nigeria, adding that Germany did not colonise Nigeria and was not part of the looting of the artefacts.

Mohammed recalled that the artefacts were looted from the ancient Benin Kingdom during the British forces' expedition to Benin in 1891. He thanked the government and people of Germany for the single largest repatriation of artefacts anywhere in the world.

He said: "We also want to most sincerely thank the authorities of the various German regions, cities, museums and institutions that have been working in concert to ensure the manifestation of the history-making event that we are witnessing today."

"By this singular action, Germany has taken the lead in correcting the wrongs of the past. Germany has gained more friends in Nigeria and all over the world by returning to Nigeria what rightfully belongs to it."

On his part, Dada described Germany as the champion of justice and fairness.

A British colonial expedition looted vast quantities of treasures in 1897 from the royal

palace of the Kingdom of Benin, including numerous bas-reliefs and sculptures.

The artefacts ended up spreading far and wide. Hundreds were sold to collections such as the Ethnological Museum in Berlin, which has one of the world's largest groups of historical objects from the Kingdom of Benin, estimated to include about 530 items, including 440 bronzes. Many of them date from the 16th to the 18th centuries.

"This is just the beginning of more than 1,000 pieces from the Kingdom of Benin that are still in German museums, and they all belong to the people of Nigeria. It was wrong to take the bronzes; it was wrong to keep them for 127 years", German Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock, said on Friday.

The bronzes "are some of Africa's greatest treasures, but they are also telling the story of colonial violence", she added.

Governments and museums in Europe and North America have increasingly sought to resolve ownership disputes over objects that were looted during colonial times.

Germany announced last year its intention to return the Benin Bronzes that ended up in the country.

Officials did not give a timeline for the return of the remaining artefacts, but Berlin's Ethnological Museum said an agreement on the rest of the bronzes it holds will follow later this year.

The authority that oversees the

museum said it expected to keep some on long-term loan.

Friday's agreement provides for museum cooperation between Germany and Nigeria. Germany is helping Nigeria set up a new museum in Benin City, where bronzes will be displayed in the future, Baerbock said.

Meanwhile, UNESCO on Friday, welcomed the signing of a joint declaration between the Governments of Germany and Nigeria for the return of Benin bronzes to Nigeria.

Germany and Nigeria ratified the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property that encourages the conclusion of bilateral agreements regarding restitution of cultural property.

The Preamble to the 1970 Convention states that "museums, libraries and archives should ensure that their collections are built up in accordance with universally recognised moral principles".

UNESCO welcomes this historic agreement as an example of successful international cooperation, allowing the African continent to reclaim its heritage.

"This declaration is all the more important as it paves the way for a broader dynamic of cultural cooperation which we hope will inspire other States and lead to similar cooperation projects", said Ernesto Ottone R., UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture.

Terrorism taking tolls on Nigerians -Buhari laments

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

Condemning the act, recently, the President described it as a direct assault on Nigeria which will not be allowed to go unpunished.

According to a statement by Garba Shehu, Senior Special Assistant to the President (Media & Publicity), Buhari paid tributes to the gallant men of the security forces who lost their lives in the process of defending the attack.

The statement quoted him as saying: "We honour our security forces, and particularly those brave souls who have

given their lives fighting against the evil that is terrorism. They constitute the best that Nigeria has to offer and we remember each of them.

Sadly, Nigeria's fight against terrorism continues. It is a battle that is taking its toll on all of us. But we shall not relent, nor shall we surrender.

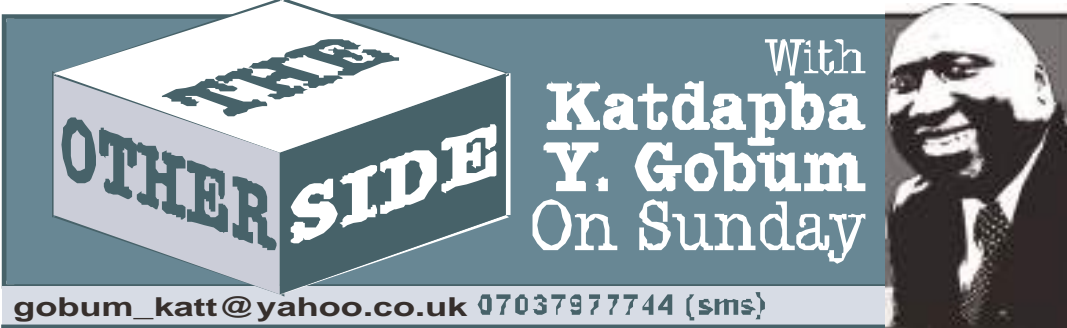
"We say it again that we have reduced Boko Haram to a shell of its former self. But terrorists are parasites. They thrive when the world is suffering.

"This atrocity only serves to further strengthen us against them. Nigeria is united in obliterating these demons. Each day we grow closer to that goal. When they lash out during times of global suffering it is the act of a

cornered animal, an act of desperation. As always, their goal is the same: to sow fear and division amongst us. We will not let them.

"Instead let us pray for the families and loved ones of those who sacrificed their lives in the fight against evil, and let us pray for the safe and speedy return of those abducted. We will do everything possible to ensure their return.

"And to the sadists, I say this: we are coming. No matter what rock you crawl under, what hole you sink into, what lie you hide behind, we are coming and we will find you. Shiroro will see justice. Nigeria will know peace," the President assured.



With
**Katdapba
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"Votes can count if the people are involved in the process. With the registration going on in various centers across the nation, the bug has been caught. All those young men and women who have refused to return home until they are registered, there is a glimpse of hope that the revolution has come".

Use the PVC, and let your vote count

IN the last couple of days since the presidential primaries were held, there is a preponderance of those agitating for the ownership of the Personal Voters' Card. No wonder, most registration centers are filled to the brim with young people desiring to register to vote in 2023.

At some of the centers, it is possible to imagine that no registration ever took place in the past. There is genuine eagerness and willingness to register and exercise their franchise in 2023. If anything, the message has been read well enough, that no one wants to be left behind in the scheme of things to come.

Most Nigerians know and are worried that we have had bad leadership in the past. But it must be known that societies where politicians who do not have anything for their people are elected may not be the victims, they are said to be 'accomplices'. Whatever decision we make during elections will determine the future of a people. Therefore, voting for the right leaders, secures our tomorrow.

From what we have witnessed here so far, Nigerians have woken up from their slumber and are appreciating the importance of the PVC—the power in their hands, waiting to be used to their advantage in the next election.

Unfortunately, as has been observed, 'when it is time to fix Nigeria, we look for our ethnic and sectarian kins even if unqualified. But when our cars break down, we don't look for the Muslim or Christian, Yoruba or Hausa mechanic to fix it, we look for the best. Until we begin to approach fixing Nigeria with the same attitude we approach fixing our cars, our problems are only just starting'.

Those who vote right have no need to be haunted by their consciences during the reign of a regime. Going by what there is on ground, it is possible to have myriad of voting opinions in 2023. Voting wrongly for us, can be hazardous, as its consequences may continue to affect us; so long as whatever happens after the election will depend on what happens on Election Day.

Nothing makes us a better people than for all to be involved in the process. They say, bad leaders are often elected by good citizens, who refuse to vote during elections. It is good not to be the reason that the country will cry simply because only a few people gave themselves the opportunity to vote. We all have, depending on how we deploy our votes.

Before we get to year 2023, it has become pertinent to stress a point about those who have



Mahmood

always thought that sitting on the fence save them problems. The time has come for real action to be taken. Gone are those days when we always thought that our non-challant treatment of getting involved is like avoiding responsibility. It is only when the tide is up that spectators are able to know those swimming naked.

Did you ever think about what happened during the primaries, and what exchanged hands between aspirants and delegates? The delegates are alleged to have been 'purchased' by the highest bidder; and no wonder, the hues and cries about the process are high; but are continuing to elicit genuine concerns for the reformation of the system.

As a result of the development above, the inflation (structural bottleneck) trend is noticeable and worrisome to Nigeria's economy. Election induced spending occasioned by massive withdrawals from the banks; despite deposit mobilization will not help the country. The economy, we all know is in dire straits needing all hands to be on deck to wake it up from slumber.

The only option left for Nigerians is to use their PVCs effectively to install credible people in government. They cannot make a mistake this time around, as more Nigerians are using the window for registration to get theirs before the election.

The mistake we often make is in our reluctance to come out to vote. Now they know that the only strongest weapon to bring on board patriotic Nigerians into

leadership position is the use of their PVCs. Before now, not many Nigerians were aware of the potency of their voter's card; as many have always thought it was a waste of time to have one or even to register to be counted.

In fact, in some states, particularly in the South East, voter apathy has become so common, so much so that anytime there is an election exercise; most young men are seen using their streets to play football. The exercise is left for the elderly, to the effect that votes counted are not a true reflection of the number of registered voters in the states.

It is our freedom, as it is the only way to avoid future misfortune by putting the wrong people in government. With a voter's card, a new Nigeria can be birthed by us. It is most Nigerians' dream to have a sustainable and better country, where all can have a say and having a sense of togetherness. Ensure that you use the card for the purpose it is meant for.

Amongst us, there are many Nigerians who prefer to have governments, which for four or even eight years, they will continue to slave under. Many simply prefer to be non-challant, for them to receive from politician's pittance or food condiments that may last only for a day; such is a punishment for all. Such class of people, it should be noted are responsible for drawing the country backwards. Should we continue in this, so that the politicians can profiteer? It is a known fact that lessons

have been learnt of what the country has gone through.

Rewind the hand of time back some 43 years ago; the competition for elective voting was not as fierce as things are now. Many things have since changed and are creating concerns for all. I remember that first vote I cast in the election that brought Shehu Aliyu Shagari to power in 1979. I am not sure if we were registered then, every eligible voter was asked to go to the nearest voting center.

FEDECO then was not as organized as INEC today. Year after another, the process has continued to be reformed so that best practices could be deepened and our democracy strengthened for our benefit. Even though, we may not have reached the stage where INEC's performances could be described as perfect; it remains to be seen what Nigerians can make of the window for registration for their PVCs.

A few Nigerians have 'helped' circumvent the process towards making the electoral system work properly in Nigeria. Some of the frauds often noticed during elections have been our undoing, 'helping' to draw us years backward.

While most countries have made their electoral systems accessible and accommodating, we are where we are on account of what a few would want to benefit from by jeopardizing all that is good for the people. It is one sure way to ensuring that the wrong people are brought into leadership positions.

Elections in Nigeria are by all means getting complicated and the processes are making the voter complacent. The lack of interest has made the politicians develop more strategies at getting power and to stay in it.

In the passive naivety of Nigerians, inappropriate measures that deprive the country of the much needed development have eluded us. How sad can we be than to see opportunities fretted away by our undoing!

Our stunted development, we all know, must have come as a result of having leaders that do not know why they went into government. They came on board on account of several skewed processes that have continued to haunt the people of Nigeria.

It is as a result of what the country has gone through over the years that we are facing current state of challenges. Until leaders that emerge from the process are genuinely selected, so long shall we continue to have all manner of them foisted on us.

While we have tried to copy what other countries have

successfully done for years without regard to how they made it; it should be worrisome how we have failed in the efforts to make a mark.

Something fundamentally must be wrong, and it can only be described as failure arising from the system and processes involved. The power to change evil in the land is in our vote. Many young people, physically challenged people are resolute to register and be counted for the election in 2023.

Bad leaders have been responsible for many sad incidences in Nigeria. Students get badly treated so long as leaders don't know what is good for the education sector. In Nigeria, university students have been at home for months without the resolution of the ASUU strike. There appears to be no solution in sight; and this situation is turning our wards into a band of frustrated Nigerians already unleashed on the society.

Before now, only the old were interested in elections. The young people did not take interest in who became the leaders in their various constituencies. They are mostly the unemployed, who before now had no voter card. Most were not aware that bad governance could be activated on account of them not getting involved in the process of electing leaders. Now they know and it does appear they are willing to do it right.

Whatever happens that is evil or bad to a people in any society could be traced to bad leadership. Communities are insecure, young people graduate from schools and do not get jobs for years until they become frustrated; businesses fold up as soon as they are started for lack of funds to build them; and yet there are untold hardships experienced on a daily basis by families. Hasn't the time for people to ask questions? The solutions to all of the above are in the ability to use the voter's card rightly by putting the right people in leadership.

Votes can count if the people are involved in the process. With the registration going on in various centers across the nation, the bug has been caught. All those young men and women who have refused to return home until they are registered, there is a glimpse of hope that the revolution has come.

The revolution in desiring things to be done right has come. We can go with it if the processes are also right. For me, something tells me that what we are going to witness in 2023 will surprise all, on account of the number of the young men and women who have decided to take the destiny of their future in their hands.

Let your PVC be the weapon that will ensure that we have laid to rest bad leadership in Nigeria.



Poverty mentality

ONE of the worst and unkind type of bondage is poverty mentality. It cages one, magnifying fears and limitations to a level so out of this world. You become a dreamer where you should be a pilot of affairs. Your mindset keeps you on the sidelines where you should be on the driver's seat.

A lady shared her own story which captures what one is trying to say. She said when she was growing up, her family had only one towel which they all shared, her parents inclusive. Anytime, anyone of them was going to the bathroom, they looked for it from the last person that used it. It was usually the cause of fights and quarrels among the children. And the cause for receiving lashes of cane from their parents. It could earn one beatings if not left on the bathroom door.

The above lady said, at some point, the towel became worn out and tore to several pieces, but they continued using the old pieces like that. The parents grabbed a piece, and so did the children.

This continued until one of the sisters went for her National Youth Service Corps. She was posted out of their state, so she was forced to shop for some personal things, including a towel. To her surprise, it was very cheap. At that time, a very big towel was less than one thousand Naira (N1000).

When the younger sister that narrated the story above visited her older sister, she was shocked to discover that her sister had several towels, each kept at one point in her house to serve a purpose. For example, she kept one outside for dusting off her legs before entering her apartment.

She explained to her younger sister that she had to break through that bondage by making towel a common thing in her house after the demeaning experience they suffered at home. She concluded by telling her sister that their parents fed them well, paid their school fees but made them live like paupers as far as towel was concerned when it is very cheap.

Another young woman shared her experience where their toilet broke and they were forced to continue using it like that until they packed out of the rented house. She said it was so disgraceful that she always lied to her friends anytime they came around and wanted to use their toilet, that someone was using it. Years later, when she was building her house, she discovered that it was not beyond their reach to replace the toilet but for some reasons, her parents who were both civil servants, refused to replace it.

A colleague in the office told one how she was forced to always choose between Christmas clothes or school uniform. She used to choose school uniform and would wear it on Christmas day with pride. It wasn't that her parents couldn't afford to give her both but they had no regards for school; and she had high regard for school. Today,

they are eating of the fruit of her resilience and determination.

One is also guilty of allowing poverty mentality to rule one. Several times, one had patronised second hand socks sellers and even second hand towels for car and dusting surfaces. It was not until recently that one discovered that one could get the new ones at wholesale shop at the same price.

One had listened to the marketers who claim that the second hand products are top quality. But one should be able to make a distinction. There are things that Nigerians produce that are top quality. There are little things like socks, towels, handkerchiefs, etc that we produce in Nigeria that are good enough. You may pay the same amount for a second hand which is not wise.

There are also personal items like underwear that is not advisable to buy the second hand. Unfortunately, so many people patronise second hand panties, boxers, braziers, and even body towels. We often forget that the last person that wore the clothes may have had an infection that was contagious.

One has heard the case of a baby who ended up with a terrible skin disorder after its mother used a second hand towel on the baby when it was born. The parents spent so much in JUTH not to talk of weeks spent before the disease was addressed. The disease took its toll on the baby and mother.

A cousin of mind went for second hand blanket which she believed to be cheaper only for her to discover that the new one cost the same in the whole sale shop in Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos. She lives to regret her choice because the material used for the second hand blanket is of very low quality and the wool comes off and sticks to her hair and dark clothes. The colour too is fast, as such, it is steadily fading.

The problem with us is poverty mentality. We believe something is out of our reach without asking about the price and comparing the two. We prefer to go for the lesser alternative, telling ourselves that it is the best just as the marketers want us to believe.

One could say it is the Nigerian mentality at work. The country is rich but the majority of its population is poor. They can barely eat 3 square meals. Eating once a day is now the most popular.

We produce rice, but it is very expensive and beyond the reach of the poor. We are blessed with crude oil but petroleum products are scarce and beyond the reach of the ordinary Nigerian.

We have power yet the common man cannot iron his clothes with electric iron or use water heater. Our story is rich country, poor citizens!

Our manufacturers have been pushed to the background as second hand items take the place of their products. When will we ever give 'Made in Nigeria' items a chance? The time is now. Remember, the change begins with you!

NEWS

CLCN raises alarm over senseless killings of priests

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

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

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

"Less than one month ago we issued a press statement over the Sunday, June 5, 2022 unprovoked brutal attack and massacre of Catholic worshippers on Pentecost Sunday, right inside the Church in Owo, during which over 40 unarmed Nigerians including women and children lost their lives, and many more were badly wounded.

"We condemned the barbaric act and called on the government to as a matter of urgency arrest the perpetrators and address the issue of insecurity in the nation. While waiting for the government's response, the situation keeps deteriorating as our Church and priests are now the soft target of these dare devils.

"We repeat, any government that cannot provide security for her people, indirectly tells them to defend themselves by whatever

By **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

means they can. For how long are we to witness these barbaric acts of killing of our people and now our priests who have sacrificed all not only to the Church but the society as a whole", the statement stated.

According to the National President, they were indeed tired of calling the attention of the government on what was incontrovertibly their primary responsibility Yunkwap disclosed that, many Nigerians, including priests, are still with their abductors saying, "we strongly believe that this government is too intelligent not to know what is happening; as such they owe Nigerians an explanation as what is happening and why the Catholic Church and priests have become targets?".

He called on all fellow Catholics and indeed Christians (men and women) of goodwill to rise to the

occasion and begin to match words with action in these perilous times in the history of our dear nation and must demand accountability from our leaders.

Langkwap charged Nigerian leaders as a matter urgency to be seen taking action against this evil murderers, rather than merely sitting at their comfort zones issuing condolence messages. In spite of the evil, let us be assured that our Lord is enthroned on high. He sees all things and he will surely deliver us and our nation from all evil plaguing the nation", the statement read in part.

However, the Council sympathised particularly with the Bishops, Priests and the Laity of Kaduna and Auchi Dioceses who lost their priests in the hands of these bandits, praying God to console all families who have lost their dear ones as a result of the senseless killings in our land.



Sir. Yunkwap

NASG reintroduces monthly environmental sanitation exercise

Nasarawa State Government has announced its decision to reintroduce the monthly Environmental Sanitation exercise in full force with a view to instill in the residents of the state, the culture of environment cleanliness for a healthy living.

The state Commissioner for Environment, Mr. Yakubu Kwanta made the disclosure after supervising the monthly environmental sanitation exercise in Keffi during the weekend.

He stated that already the state government has fully embarked on the mobilization and sensitization exercise in order to keep the people abreast with the development for them to key into it properly.

Kwanta who described environmental cleanliness as a prerequisite for a sound and healthy living, assured that the state government would never rest on its oars in that regard.

"Given the significance of environmental cleanliness to the health and well-

being of the people, the state government would leave no stone unturned towards ensuring that it properly mobilizes the people to actively key into the exercise for all to have a better means of living", he assured.

The Commissioner further assured that the Governor Abdullahi Sule led administration is determined enough to make the state a model in terms of environmental cleanliness given its strategic position in Nigeria as the gateway to the Federal capital Abuja.

While commending the Chairman of Keffi Local Government Council, Hon. Muhammad Baba Shehu and the people of the area for their compliance within a short notice, he assured them of all the necessary support from the state government to enable them secure, preserve and protect their environment for them to have a healthy living.

In his remarks, the Executive Chairman of Keffi Local Government, Hon.

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

Muhammad Baba Shehu thanked the state government over its commitment towards environmental sanitation which he believed would go a long way in improving the people's quality of lives.

He then assured that on its part, the local government would strive to compliment the role of the state government in that regard so as to collectively make the environment clean for the people to have healthy lives.

The chairman further assured that his administration would ensure the full mobilization of the people to actively participate in the exercise since it was for everybody's good.

While appealing to the people of the area to endeavour to key into the environmental sanitation exercise, he stated that on its part, the council would also encourage its people in that regard especially that a clean environment is a panacea to good health as many diseases would be driven away.

POLITICS

Chairman puts smiles on faces of physically challenged

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

In fulfillment of his campaign promise to the people of his local government the Executive Chairman of Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Hon. James Bawa Thomas has put smiles on the faces of people living with disabilities in the area with the free distributions of 100 tricycles to them in order to ease their movements and support their other activities.

The 100 tricycles were distributed to the people with disabilities from across the electoral wards and districts in the local government area.

Speaking during the distribution ceremony, the Chairman stated that the gesture was a deliberate effort aimed at assisting the people with disabilities and giving them a sense of belonging.

Thomas then recalled that the class of people being supported have also contributed to the emergence of his administration and contributed to its progress and therefore his administration will never move without bringing them on board.

The Chairman stated that given the slogan of his administration as "Jirgin Talakawa", which simply means, masses train, he chooses to be identified as such because he is for the poor masses. He promises to always be after their wellbeing especially that he had already placed them at its topmost priority.

"Similarly, it suffice to say that the physically challenged deserve

Love, care and support and that is what propelled our administration to provide these wheelchairs and distribute to the disabled community in this area.

further more, apart from the wheelchairs, my administration has also concord with the fact that there is ability in disability and therefore purchased some machines to be distributed to some selected among them as the first phase of such empowerment skill, while others will have their own in the next phase of this economic and social emancipation target. The chairman stressed that the machines will no doubt add value to their economic status especially those with skills like shoes making and shining, he assured.

He explained that the idea behind his charitable gesture is their optimism that with this move, it will go along way in cushioning the hardship encountered by the people with special needs in the community. Thomas assured that this is just the beginning. As times goes on, they will unveil more programmes aimed at improving the living



Sule

condition of the disabled person.

We must therefore call on everyone to join the crusade as this government has already borrowed a leave from His Excellency Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule, in fixing all the needful in ensuring that we put smiles on the faces of the less privileged in the society, with a particular reference to disabled person, youths and women in this local government. And that is why is since I assumed office as the Executive Chairman, I have been going from pillar to post to come and provide the needed sense of belonging to the just mentioned vulnerable segment of or society.

He therefore appealed to the people in the area to join hands with the administration of Engineer

Abdullahi A. Sule of the state that was highly committed in putting smiles on the faces of the disabled people youths and women as well as other vulnerable members of the society with a view to make their lives more meaningful and have a sense of belonging.

The Chairman then disclosed that the Local administration under his stewardship as recently engaged over five hundred vulnerable women on a four weeks training on different skills acquisition, and provided them with take off materials to put into practice what they had learnt so as to become self-reliant this he said explained how committed and serious the administration is towards alleviating the plight of peoples.

Taraba PDP guber case fails to proceed

From: VICTOR GAI, JALINGO

The Federal High Court, Jalingo Division had on Thursday entertained the case brought to it by Professor Jerome Nyameh against the Taraba State PDP governorship candidate, Col. Agbu Kefas.

Nyameh is praying the court to declare him as the validly nominated candidate of the PDP for the 2023 governorship elections.

The case had Professor Jerome Nyameh as the plaintiff and The Independent National Elections Commission (INEC), Col. Agbu Kefas, the People's Democratic Party, Kabiru Bappa as the first, second, third and fourth defendants respectively.

Counsel to the 3rd defendant, Emeka Okoro and Counsel to the plaintiff Pius Damba Pius Esq., argued over the "preliminary objection" to the suit brought by the defendants in which the court could not proceed with the hearing.

The presiding judge, Simon Akpa Amobeda, therefore adjourned to 14 July 2022 for definite hearing of the suit.

Amobeda who was on vacation, however promised to conclude the case, being a



Darius

pre-election matter, before leaving.

"Pre-election matters are special matters and it is my hope to finish the pre-election matters before I leave and if I am not able, I would leave it to my learned colleague," he disclosed.

Counsel to the plaintiff, Pius Damba Pius Esq. further spoke on the case.

"They were not ready because they brought some objections this morning and so the court cannot proceed with hearing as a result of their objection.

"So for us we are ready to

Tatara community in Karu Local Government Area, of Nasarawa State has paired accolade on the Executive Chairman Karu Local Government Area, James Thomas, for the free medical outreach in the area recently. They stated this during the flagging off of free medical treatment held at Primary Health Care Centre, Tatara, during the week.

The free medical outreach, which was sponsored by Karu Local Government Chairman, James Thomas, in conjunction with Association of Hospital and Administrative Pharmaceutical of Nigeria, the association of community pharmacist of Nigeria and the Senior Special Assistant to Governor Abdullahi Sule on Primary Healthcare, respectively, where the patients were treated from different ailments.

Speaking to newsmen, some of the beneficiaries, Mr. Banshe Wayo and Mrs. Rejoice Zaka, appreciated the effort of Karu Local Government Chairman for fulfilling is campaign promises by alleviating their

Karu LGC pours accolades on Chairman

FROM MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

health Challenges and urged other politicians to emulate him.

While flagging off the free medical outreach, the sponsor who is the chairman, Karu Local Government Area, James Bawa Thomas, said the medical outreach was to following the giant strides of Governor Abdullahi Sule towards providing health services to the people of the state. He promised to continue serving the people of Karuas expected.

Earlier, the Senior Special Assistant to Governor Abdullahi Sule on Primary Health-Care, Princess Margaret Elayo, said health is one of the major challenge rural communities are faced with. Elayo commended the chairman of the council for the initiative, stressing that there are drugs available to give the patients after

examination by doctors.

On their parts, the Head of the Medical outreach, Pharmacist Luka Augustine, and Doctor Aleke Nnaemeka, disclosed that the free medical outreach was part of their social responsibility to the communities in addressing their health challenges. They explained that the patients will be treated from different diseases and will be given the prescribed drugs.

Also speaking, the Supervisory Councilor for Health Karu Local Government Area, Hamza Sani, the Director Primary Healthcare, Haruna Elayo Kuje and Councilor, representing Tattara Kondora Electoral Ward, Ombuganza Ezekiel, assured Tattara community of their selfless service in meeting up to their health related challenges. They however sue for their support to enable them succeed.

Gombe Deputy Gov heads APC reconciliation committee

From: WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

Gombe State Deputy Governor, Dr. Manasseh Daniel Jatau, has been inaugurated to head the State's APC Reconciliation committee after fallouts of its congresses and primaries.

The State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, while inaugurating the 21-

man Reconciliation Committee charged members to resolve all grievances that arose from the just concluded congresses and primaries of the ruling party in the State.

According to the Governor, the committee is specifically charged with the responsibility of harmonizing and uniting members of the party ahead of the 2023 general election.

He explained that, the setting up of the committee became necessary in view of the seeming differences that ensued during the just concluded party primaries in the State.

He said, "in a contest such as the just concluded APC primaries, it is practically impossible for all the yearnings and aspirations of every contestants to be met without some form of misgivings, reservations or grievances arising from the process".

He observed that, political contests are often followed by grievances which makes it imperative for any progressive leadership to come up with a system that will holistically address the concerns of all members for the purpose of maintaining a balance in the system.

The Governor also noted that the constitution of the Reconciliation Committee is not peculiar to Gombe State alone as other states across the country and at the national level have equally established same to bring back all aggrieved members of the party to the negotiation table.

"The President had even sat with some aggrieved members of the National

Assembly in an attempt to arrive at a middle ground in the interest of the party", Governor Inuwa stressed.

He also maintained that the APC in Gombe State is rock solid considering its numerical strength as well as the infrastructural development it was able to provide for the people of the state in the last three years.

Responding, the Chairman of the Committee and State Deputy Governor, Dr Manassah Daniel Jatau, commended the Governor for deeming it necessary to constitute the Committee which he described as a step towards re-uniting and repositioning the party ahead of the 2023 general election.

"There is no gain saying the fact that in every contest a winner must emerge; and in the process of the contest sometimes feelings of dissatisfaction by some members come about.

"However being members of the same APC political family, the compelling need to come together, discuss and comprehend the situation of the entire family must be done and that is why this committee has become necessary", the Deputy Governor maintained.

Earlier, the Gombe State APC Chairman, Hon. Nitte Amangal reeled out the committee's terms of reference to include: identify aggrieved members of the APC following the outcome of the last Primary elections and to discuss with such members towards reconciliation;

Suggest possible realignment of such aggrieved members and compensation where necessary and suggest the avoidance of such occurrence in the future.

The Committee has two weeks within which to submit its report to the leadership of the party.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Bauchi lawmaker vow to impeach Speaker

From
Abbas Gungura,
Bauchi

NOT satisfied with the leadership of state House of Assembly in Bauchi, 22 members of the House on Friday passed a vote of no confidence on the principal officers of the House under the leadership of Abubakar Y. Sulaiman for ineptitude.

The 22 members led by the Deputy Majority Leader, Baballe Abubakar Dambam, representing Dambam/Dagauda/Jalam Constituency declared that the leadership of the House has failed in its responsibility to the members.

They therefore, called on the leadership to choose the amicable option of voluntary resignation from office or be impeached any moment from now.

The leader of the aggrieved 22 members while addressing Journalists at the end of their meeting at the Assembly complex in Bauchi said "After our meeting held today, Friday, 1st July 2022, 22 members of the Bauchi State House of Assembly resolved to pass a vote of no confidence on the leadership of the House from today".

He added that "We consider that as it is today, there is no leadership in the State House of Assembly, I am among the leaders but we feel that it is the right time and we must do it. We have therefore passed a vote of no confidence on all the leaders of the Bauchi State House of Assembly".

"We are calling on the leaders of the Bauchi State House of Assembly to honourably tender their resignation letters to the Clerk of the Assembly. That will allow the Honorable House the opportunity to elect its leaders in order to forge ahead," he stressed.

The 22 members also called on the state government under the good leadership of Sen. Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir, to be neutral in the affairs of the House saying, "The Governor should not see this as a threat to him or that we are trying to sabotage his government. No, that is not our intention, it is just that we don't have confidence in our leaders and I am part of them. Nothing can be done right as long as this leadership remains in existence".

"We hope that the affected people will tow the path of honour and step aside because this is the right time to change the leadership of the House. We assure the Governor that the change of leadership in the House will not affect his administration and we will do everything possible to see that his government succeed," he assured.

The members also expressed displeasure over the manner the 2022 Hajj exercise was conducted, lamenting that many people could not be airlifted due to inadequate arrangements by the government.



Mohammed

The members were particularly bitter that those who paid in 2019 and 2020 were not considered for the exercise saying that it was wrong for that to happen just as many of the trained officials could not make it, therefore, making the pilgrimage very difficult.

The members particularly expressed displeasure that the Speaker of the House, Abubakar Y Suleiman is the Deputy Leader of the exercise (Amirul Hajj), yet the members were not treated well and carried along in the conduct of the exercise.

In his reaction to the development, Special Adviser on Assembly Liaison to the Governor, Sani Mohammed Burra said that the issue of Hajj is a general problem across the country due to the limited seats allocated to the state.

On the resolution of the 22 members of the leadership, he said that "It is their internal

affairs and they will resolve it amicably among themselves. I just want to assure that the cordial relationship between the Executive and the Legislature will continue," He concluded.

Plateau PDP and deceptive politics of decamping

Stories by
EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Plateau State Chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), has disregarded the purported decamping claim of its members to the People Democracy Party describing the information making the rounds as fake and unfounded.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the State APC Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital yesterday.

The statement said, "The

PLATEAU State Governor Simon Bako Lalong has expressed sadness over the demise of a frontline politician and elder stateswoman, Ngwo Naomi Jugu.

Lalong in a message, described the death of Jugu, who died at the age of 82, as a huge loss to her immediate family, Berom nation, Plateau State and Nigeria at large considering her enormous contributions to the socio-political development of the country.

He said in the statement: "I recall her impact as a politician, women mobilizer, philanthropist, business woman and advocate for justice and human rights where she canvassed for the improvement of the lives of ordinary citizens".

Lalong said apart from serving in various Governments in Plateau State and Nigeria, Ngwo Naomi Jugu was very active in the socio-cultural

Lalong mourns Naomi Jugu

By PALANG KASMI

activities of the Berom people which earned her the title of "Delo-Berom".

In the condolence message, Governor Lalong said the State and Nigeria will miss her wisdom and counsel that has been

highly valuable particularly during trying moments.

While sympathising with her family, the Governor

asked them to be consoled by her achievements which touched the lives of many and enabled them break barriers to progress.



Lalong

attention of the All Progressives Congress in Plateau State has been drawn to a press release by the People's Democratic Party of a purported decamping of hundreds of APC members to its camp on Sunday this week.

"The theatrics of decamping by the PDP in the state is as embarrassing as it brings to the fore the desperation by the party to impress its sponsors outside the state.

The well-orchestrated news of APC followers decamping to the PDP in Mikang on Sunday is one propaganda

taken taken too far.

"The other day, it was the story of thousands of people decamping from the APC to the PDP in Langtang South, Pankshin LGA and at a supposed grand rally in Jos to receive decampers, including the former APC Chairman in the state, Chief Letep Dabang who is now left a quandary and serious dilemma", it stressed

According to the statement, it explained that, "what really took place in Tunkus that day was a comic show carefully planned by a former Chairman of Mikang Local Government Council who wanted to outsmart other PDP stakeholders in the state, including a former Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly in the sharing of booty from the Governor of Rivers State, His Excellency, Nyesom Wike.

"The former LGC Chairman who arranged the drama was jolted when he discovered around 2pm on the day set to receive the so-called decampers that the event was collapsing on his head, hurriedly went to town and deceived some youths to go to the stadium in Tunkus under the pretext of giving them financial assistance from an empowerment organisation. On getting to the stadium, they discovered that they had been deceived by the former Chairman", it revealed.

However, the APC Publicity Secretary said, his party has it on good authority that the Chairman's action has led to a silent war between him and key stakeholders of the PDP in the local government who all boycotted the event saying, "what the PDP as a harvest of big catch into its fold was, indeed, a non-event given the high display of deceit that took place.

"The persons described as

political heavyweights who were received were in reality some inconsequential individuals who were just elevated in the social media to deceive the public. These decampers are the same faces who are being recycled in all the decamping charade by the PDP in the state", he disclosed.

Hon. Namang expressed concern that Hon. Barry Tiss who was paraded as the leader of the decampers from Garkawa District was a parttime Councillor in the local government while Nantok Swadet who was the leader of the decampers from Tehl District was the leader of Hunters Association in Mikang Local Government Area respectively.

"Stephen Golna'an who was elevated as the leader from Piapung District was a Personal Assistant to the former Leader of the Legislative Arm of Mikang Local Government Area. More curious is Joseph Dalok who was carefully selected from Keoneom District. He is a cousin to Chief Letep Dabang, the former Chairman of the APC in Plateau", he wondered.

He said, the PDP as part of its grand deception keeps on deceiving the public and INEC that it was abided by the court decision to dissolve its state exco with the party being ran by Hon. Theophilus Dakashang, the PDP North Central Zonal Chairman in Lafia.

He, however, assured that the APC in the state was unperturbed by the orchestrated decamping antics by the PDP and that, the party's umbrella remained in tatters and was thus, not capable of providing shelter to itself not to talk of our members moving into its fold.

... And hunted by sordid past

The All Progressives Congress, Plateau State, has observed that the social media space has, in the past one week, been awash with fictitious scripts, reckless and shameless releases by the People's Democratic Party, PDP in the State.

This came in a press statement signed and issued by the State Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the state capital recently.

The statement stated that, "Its reckless and shameless releases are ostensibly aimed at demarketing the ever focused and hardworking Governor of the state, Rt. Honourable Simon Bako Lalong and the All Progressives Congress, APC in the state.

"The APC would have ignored these display of rascalism and total disregard for decorum and libellous scripts by the party's so-called image maker who is unmindful of appending his signature on any gabage prepared for him by some paid commercial junk writers

posing as journalists. The Publicity Secretary, however, said the APC was compelled by the need of not allowing gullible minds to believe that lies told by the PDP many times could easily be passed for the truth more importantly that, the PDP in the state was being hunted and haunted by its past.

He said, "it was just as demonstrated by its spurious and unsubstantiated allegations in its 20th June Press release titled" Of Governor Lalong's Rising Corruption Profile and Insensitivity. What it did wrongly and what it failed to do while in office for eight years and which the APC government since 2015 has been doing its best to correct, has been a source of sleepless night for the PDP.

"Its grandstanding which is boundless should not be allowed to persist as our people deserve the right to know the difference between fiction and realities hence this response. Before then, methinks that the PDP should be more concerned with the issue of its shooting

itself on the foot which led to its non-participation in the last local government election an issue which still dangles like the sword of damocles", Namang stated.

According to him, "we are watching keenly the manipulation and all the desperate antics by the party to deceive the electoral umpire to believe that all is well with it even in the face of its multiple and ceaseless litigations which still put its fate on the edge.

If the PDP is a responsible party, it should be concerned about putting its house in order rather than embarking on a journey in a wonderland".

The Veteran Journalist, therefore, strongly advises the PDP government to desist from its notoriety of spreading falsehood and play the role of an opposition party in the state with decorum and that, the APC was amenable to genuine criticism instead of the destruction antics and distraction which was the bane of the ailing PDP in our beloved state.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Zoning and the hegemony of the Northern oligarchy

Nigeria is an amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates in 1914, in other words, it is a fusion of the Northern and Southern regions by the British colonial administration. Contrary to the philosophical belief which was also given an illustration as the fusion of the two protectorates called the "Salad Bowl", which many still see this as a marriage between two strange bed fellows. This is in view of the fact that, they are only staying under a forced marriage due to the tendency of one trying to outwit the other: Dumah Randong takes a look at this union against the recent political permutations ahead of the 2023 general election.

IN a multi religious and ethnic setting like Nigeria, certain factors must be taken into cognisance for the system to be able to function in a manner that every member of the federating units will have a sense of belonging. This has underscored the need for it's citizens to agree on certain issues to balance these heterogeneous cleavages. In Nigeria, religion and ethnicity are major factors when it comes to appointment or election at the center.

This is the cogent reason why issues like zoning is always a major consideration for elective offices while Federal Character is meant to also take care of appointive positions. This piece will attempt to look at these issues vis a viz our current political arrangement and the lopsidedness in terms of leadership in the country. There is no denying the fact that all is not well in Nigeria when considered from the prism of religious, ethnic and regional consideration. These, perhaps are the reasons why the country is the way it is today. For a country like Nigeria, we need a balanced and fair representation for the country to be able to move forward devoid of agitation from any part of the country which could serve as potential grounds for crisis. That is the more reason why we need to be guided by the Constitution in all matters that affect our common interest as a people.

The issue of zoning to my mind is nonnegotiable as far as the structural composition of Nigeria is concern and one may not be far from the right to say power rotation or power shift, whatever adjective that appropriately qualify it is to say has come to stay in Nigeria. Though, not constitutional but a popular idea and best option to reduce pressure and agitation from many quarters, hence it was brought into the polity to take care of the issue of marginalization either from the religious or ethnic point of view since Nigeria is a secular state. With party primaries now over, the main opposition Party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who has Former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar as its flag bearer. In the same manner, the Labour Party (LP) also picked Mr Peter Obi as its own standard bearer, the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) otherwise known as the Thirdforce, picking Rabiu Kwankwaso also as its Presidential Candidate as well as the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) who recently held its special convention and had the emergence of Asiwaji Ahmed Tinubu as its Presidential flagbearer. This is not to say these are the only political parties that have fielded candidates for the 2023 general election but to mention just a few.

Politics according to a popular saying, is a game of numbers which is why a country like Nigeria being a conglomeration of many religious and ethnic diversities went ahead to adopt the system of zoning and power rotation to be able to balance the equation and manage its diversity. Therefore, for anyone to want to say this system can no long hold, leaves much to be desired and a calculated move played on the sensibility of the rest of the citizens of this great country called Nigeria. The system has been seen to be popular not only in Nigeria but in the whole of the black African democracies or continent. Since the history of democracy in Nigeria, no part of this country can claim to have enjoyed power more than the North including the Military regimes but despite that, there are still some among the Northern elements who still selfishly hold the view that the North is the most marginalized in terms of the leadership position in this country. Recent events are beginning to point to the fact that some people want to prove that they are more powerful and important that they have the capacity to decide the fate of this country politically or other wise and this is what most analysts see as a disturbing trend in this era. The candid opinion is that in

The interest of peace and cohesion, such an act should be seen as not only selfish but an attempt to create among



President Buhari

the rest of the peace-loving people of Nigeria which will not be in the overall good of all. In this situation analysts have seen it as a move capable of overheating the polity.

In 2015 for example, when Goodluck Ebele Jonathan contested for another term in office, there were descending voices by the Northerners against Jonathan eligibility to recontest because by serving part of the tenure of the late President Shehu Musa Yar Adua of blessed memory stand disqualified to contest for the office of the President of Nigeria which generated a lot of controversy leading some people to seek legal interpretation.

That singular act generated a lot of heated argument among the Northern elements. Let it be said without equivocation that the idea of power sharing or zoning as the case maybe is a popular decision and way of distribution of power and the most acceptable because it has benefitted many people even within the North. People have understood the importance of zoning even though there is no legal backing regarding that but the Political Parties have adopted it as the mode of power sharing to ensure fairness so that nobody feels shortchanged in the process. As important as it is, but some people in this country are still not favourably disposed to it just for some selfish reasons. Since the return to democratic rule in 1999, power rotation between the South and North has been the most acceptable way of administering this country.

But to the chagring of many surprise some vested interest in the North have started singing a different song that after all, the North has the numerical strength to decide where the pendulum swings. That as far as they are concern, the North has all it takes to remain in power hinging their argument on the fact that they have the population and nobody can intimidate them. The Northern Elders Forum (NEF) through its spokesperson, Dr Hakeem Baba Ahmed and the likes of Dr Usman Bugaje have of late been enmeshed in issuing out intimidating statements regarding the position of North on zoning. Dr Hakeem Ahmed has been very vocal on this zoning arrangement insisting that for any one agitating for power shift must be by negotiation and not by intimidation, especially the one by the South East.

On his part, Dr Usman Bugaje had said while speaking on Channels

North. However, soon after the country gained sovereignty from the British Colonial Masters, the North has been at the corridors of power. This attitude of clinging on to power has created a lot of misgivings in the polity which also gives an impression that the rest of the regions were second class citizens. The point to stress is that zoning or power sharing is not backed by law but the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is explicit on the character principle so that no any religious, ethnic and other sentiments come up. But however, the issue of zoning like I said, is just a gentleman agreement which the parties have all agreed to respect but suddenly, some people have reneged.

De known that the North had been so selfish to the point that it frustrated the independence of Nigeria at a point. This was at the eve of achieving self rule in 1957 by some educated Nationalists. It is needless to talk of domination of one region or ethnic group in country coming from a heterogenous background like Nigeria to behave the way the North assumed itself. For emphasis, the North has been at helm of affairs in this country right from independence. In Military regime for instance, from the time of the Former Military Head of State, General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida whose regime formed a political transition programme that lacked the sincerity and goodwill to implement it to the latter ended up a complete hoax as his plans to out the khakki and become the civilian President could not sailed through, hence the transition programme was scuttled. This is part of the game plan and intrigues associated with these Northern oligarchy.

The transition programme would have received national and global approval if allowed to succeed but end up in the history books because it didn't meet the desires of some. Nigeria's multi billionaire and business mogul, Bashirun MKO Abiola, a Muslim from the South West Nigeria, a Yoruba by tribe who contested the Presidential ticket under the Social Democratic Party (SDP) picked Ambassador Babagana Kingibe, also a Muslim from the North East, Borno State and a Kanuri by tribe between National Republican Convention's (NRC) Bashir Today from Kano State, North West Nigeria and his running late, Sylvester Ugoh, an Igbo has been a reference point in the country and globally because it was adjudged to be one of the most credible, free and fair election in democracy in Nigeria. This could have been one of the events that shaped democracy in Nigeria but the Babagida regime could not allowed the acclaimed winner of the 1993 Presidential election to take over as the next civilian President after a long period of Military rule in the country. The Maradona as he is fondly called, decided to subvert the will of the people by incasering the winner of the presidential polls while trying to claim his mandate. Arising from this phenomenon, the one who could have mated out this to Chief MKO Abiola is non other than the undoing of the Northern oligarchy. Abiola was put in Prison for the number of years that he to stay there until next the Military Junta determine the faith or otherwise of this hero of democracy.

To further worsen the matter, Abiola was further charged with treasonable felony so as to further elongate his period of incaseration for demanding for his right. The Minna born General having succumbed to pressure from the International Communities and other well meaning individuals, decided to hand over power to the interim government headed by late Chief Ernest Shonekan who also could withstand the pressure handed over to General Sani Abacha of blessed memory. This is to further appreciate how the North has dominated the political scene.

The reigns of General Sani Abacha did not come without it's fare sheer of the problem as he too tried to emasculate or muzzled those perceived as his enemies. This became obvious because Abacha like Babangida didn't want to

hand over power. In the course his regime there were attempts to stage a coup and so many military officers were alleged to have participated in one way or the other including some retired Generals. Amongst them was General Olusegun Obasanjo who was thrown into prison for openly critical of his government and linked him with the coup plot. Some senior Officers who were also thrown in prison included the Deputy Head of State Lt. Gen Oladipo Diya, Maj Gen Tunji Olarenwaju, Maj Gen Abdulkareem Adisa and eight others on 3rd December, 1997 for plotting to vehemently overthrow the Abacha government. In this respect, the dominance in the country's political space has been a combination of military and civilian regimes of the Northern extraction.

In 1999 when Nigeria returned to democratic rule after series of events that took place culminating in the handing over of power by the General Abdulasami Abubakar who's transition programme was consummated, the North in a move to appease the Yoruba ethnic group in the South West, having descended on most of their leaders and kinsmen, this so-called born to rule had no option but to surreptitiously released Obasanjo who's jail term of 30 years was reduced to 15 years to contest for the Presidency in 1999 of which he contested and won. So, from whatever perspective you look at this scenario, it's all about the North dominating the political scene and other spheres of public space over other regions which is against fiscal federalism in the true sense of the word. Now this cliché of hegemony has reached it's crescendo with most of them (Northern elements) boasting of having to decide the political faith of other regions on the presidency of this country.

Alot of concerns have been raised on the political future of Nigeria in the 2023 general election where the general mood of the country has completely changed from the usual support based on the credibility of a candidate to religious or ethnic inclination. The basic fact is that Nigeria is a secular state and based on this any attempt this line will be an aberration on the principle of federalism as enshrined in the laws of the land. A close examination of the recent primaries by various political parties leaves much to be desired. The introduction of a Muslim Muslim ticket is a pointer to the fact that there is more to it than meets the eye.

Unlike in the past, nobody cares who is what. But today the fact remains that religious bigotry and other sectional attachments have taken center stage in the affairs of the people. For example, the ruling All Progressives Congress Party (APC) picked Ahmed Bola Tinubu, a Muslim instead of a Christian from the South, as it's standard bearer. As if that was not enough, it crowned it up with Bashir Masari another Muslim from the North as his running mate which is also a violation of christians. There was a lot of power play by the major opposition party, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP in which the power payers tried to out smert each other. For example, Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto stepped down from the race for former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar and a certain Senator Hayyatudeen a move seen as a plan to ensure the North put up a big fight having sensed that Mr Nyesom Wike was ready to take nothing to chance.

Political pundits may not be far from right to say with the North succeeding in having an Atiku North as PDP flag bearer, it was a plan B, since the Tinubu was not even their choice but only came against their secret plan and wish of Senator Ahmed Lawan who was rejected by the Northern Governor's Forum on grounds of equity and fairness. The general believe among political observers is that the North will vote no other person than their own. The bottom line is that for Nigeria to develop, it must out grow underdevelopment and retardation ver the years. Some of these sentiments that have brought about retardation over the years.



NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION

Conducts

Trial Census for the 2023 Population and Housing Census



What is Trial Census?

The Trial Census is a dress rehearsal to evaluate all aspects of the census operation before the main census on a limited scale.

Where will it be carried out?

- ✓ 5 Enumeration Areas in Mangun, Mangu LGA
- ✓ 5 Enumeration Areas in Daffo, Bakkos LGA
- ✓ 4 Enumeration Areas in Jengre, Bassa LGA
- ✓ 4 Enumeration Areas in Gindin Akwati, Barkin Ladi LGA
- ✓ 6 Enumeration Areas in Chip, Pankshin LGA
- ✓ 4 Enumeration Areas in Namu, Qua'an Pan LGA
- ✓ 6 Enumeration Areas in Jarawan Kogi, Jos East LGA
- ✓ 6 Enumeration Areas in Shendam, Shendam LGA
- ✓ 6 Enumeration Areas in Pil Gani, Langtang North LGA

When will it be carried out?

- ◆ Training of functionaries: June 27, to July 8, 2022
- ◆ Update of enumeration area (building numbering and household listing) 11 to 19 July, 2022
- ◆ Enumeration of persons: 20 to 24 July, 2022
- ◆ Mop up of enumeration Area: 25 to 30 July, 2022

How will it be carried out?

Enumerators will move around in your community numbering houses and enumerating members of households in the Selected Enumeration Areas.

What Trial Census is not?

The Trial Census is not the actual enumeration of the population for 2023 Census. Its outcome will not form the basis of the 2023 Census result.

What are your expected roles?

Please, cooperate with the Enumerators by doing the following:

- Allow them to move freely within your community for the Trial Census
- Give them access to building/housing units in order to enumerate members of the household
- Provide adequate security for the enumerators and their equipment during the Trial Census exercise
- Respond truthfully to enquiries from the Enumerators
- Do not interfere in the exercise and allow enumerators to carry out the assignment professionally.



Signed:
CECILIA DAPOET (MRS.)
Honorable Federal Commissioner

NPC..... Providing Demographic Data for National Planning



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THERE is a wind of defection blowing currently among lawmakers from the two major political parties at the National Assembly. In the last couple of weeks, several senators and members of the House of Representatives are said to have defected from their party to another party. Even though it is not uncommon to see Nigerian politicians moving from party to party, this development is causing serious apprehension for the leadership of both parties especially as we count down to next year's general elections.

Reasons for the gale of defections may not be unconnected with the recent concluded party primaries. The squabbles started after many of the lawmakers failed to secure return tickets during the exercise. Aside blaming the delegate system for their failure, the legislators had foreknowledge that the governors in their respective states had intentions of either unseating or replacing them with new candidates. With this in mind, efforts were made on their part to get an automatic ticket from their different political parties but the plan was not successful.

The National Assembly lawmakers had initially made provisions for the direct system of primary election in the first bill sent to the President Muhammadu Buhari so that all party members and not delegates, who they know to be in the governors' control would determine the fate of candidates but the President rejected it, pleading with them to instead, consider the indirect and consensus options. In their opinion, if they had not gone ahead with the indirect option, they would not have lost.

Interestingly, of the 469 current members of the National Assembly, about 174 House of Representatives members out of the 360 and 54 senators out of the 109 lost their tickets. Dissatisfied and very disappointed with the outcome, the legislators on assumption of plenary decided to abandon their previous parties, opting for a different one that will enable them take part in next year's elections. Reports say that as of today, over 30 APC senators have defected to the PDP, Labour Party and NNPP with more anticipated to leave.

In as much as the Nigerian Constitution does not entertain cross-carpeting by lawmakers, certain loopholes in the law and other factors have given room for it to flourish. Section 68(1g) of the 1999 Constitution stipulates that, "a member of the Senate or House of Representatives shall vacate his seat in the House of which he is a member... If being a person whose election to the House was sponsored by a political party, he becomes a member of another political party before the expiration of the period for which that House was elected, provided that his membership of the latter political party is not as a result of a division in the political party of which he was previously a member or of a merger of two or more political parties or factions

by one of which he was previously a member".

While the above provision of the constitution frowns at cross-carpeting in the legislature, it also contains a lacuna that gives defectors an upper hand as they often use division in their parties as an excuse for switching parties. In the APC for instance, some of the senators have cited injustice as reason for leaving the party. Fingers were pointed at their various state governors for most of the injustices suffered. And from the look of things, only justice would stem the tide of defections rocking the party. In the meantime, the national leadership of the party is doing



An era of defection for lawmakers



Listick



Abok



Aliero

everything possible to halt further defections and broker peace within the party.

NASS lawmakers who defected

Some of the defected senators who had earlier written to the Senate President include the Senate Leader, Senator Yahaya Abdullahi who defected to the PDP. Also, a former Governor of Kebbi State, Senator Adamu Aliero (Kebbi Central) defected from the ruling APC to the PDP. They both blamed Governor Atiku Bagudu of Kebbi State, stating that there is no internal democracy in the APC. Bagudu was also faulted for 'bastardising the party and electoral processes in the state which are now characterised by high-handedness and unfairness'.

Others who announced their defection included Senators Ahmed Babba-kaita (Katsina North), Lawan Gumau (Bauchi South), and Francis Alimikhena (Edo North). While Senators Babba-kaita and Alimikhena defected to the PDP, Gumau on the other hand defected to the NNPP. In the PDP, former Senate Minority Leader, Senator Eyinnaya Abaribe dumped his party for the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) as he cited illegality, impunity and hesitations in decision making as reasons.

Meanwhile, PDP Senator Emmanuel Bwacha (Taraba South) who is also former Deputy Minority Leader in the Senate

defected to the APC, Senator Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi (Imo East) of the PDP has now joined the Labour Party while Senator Kola Balogun (Oyo South) also of the PDP defected to the APC. Dauda



Bwacha



Onyewuchi

Jika (Bauchi Central), who was elected on the platform of the APC has defected to the NNPP. Sources however, say there will be more cross-carpeting amongst the PDP, APC, APGA, NNPP and the Labour Party as time goes on.

PLHA lawmakers who defected

Although in different circumstances, following the impeachment of the former Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Abok Nuhu Ayuba (Jos East) with all the crisis that ensued, he later chose

to defect from the APC to the PDP. Recall that the House after his defection, decided during a plenary presided over by the current Speaker, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda, to declare his seat vacant. The decision was sequel to a letter received from the leadership of the state chapter of the party, urging the House to do so following his defection which is contrary to Section 109(1) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

Another member of the PLHA who defected to another party is Hon. Daniel Nanbol Listick (

Langtang North Central). Listick defected to the Labour Party after resigning his membership of the PDP, following his defeat at the just concluded primaries. According to reports, the lawmaker had alleged that some members who envied his performance resorted to using propaganda against him in the name of zoning. Having weighed all options available, Listick said he consulted widely and decided to pitch tent with the Labour Party. As it is now, Listick is the only lawmaker of the Labour Party in the PLHA.

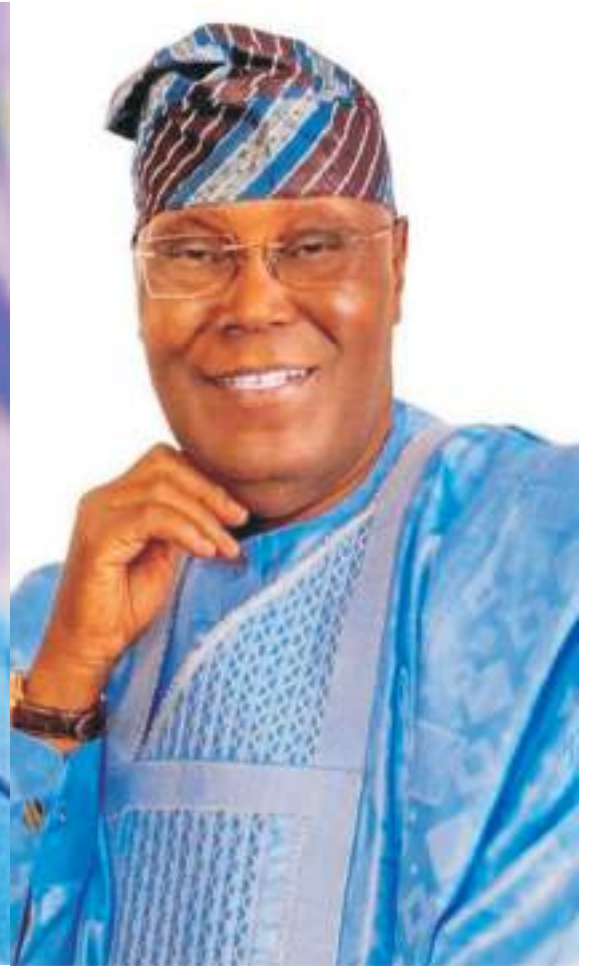
SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Tinubu



Atiku

Nigeria and the leadership question

These are certainly tensed times in the nation's history considering the fact that a lot happened in quick succession last week especially with latest happenings from various angles of the society. First, it was the hullabaloo at Nigeria's judicial arm that raised the red flag indicating that all may not be well with its hierarchy. KENNETH DARENG examines their leadership challenges that have eluded the nation over the years.

THEN like a thunder bolt the news spread over the alleged finding of large sums of foreign currencies by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, [ICPC], in the home of Lt. General Tukur Buratai, retired Chief of Army Staff who is seen as one of the trusted arrow heads in the fight against insecurity across the country.

And while most Nigerians were yet to comprehend the matter, came in a rather shocking one involving the former Deputy Senate President now known as; Ekwere madu-gate. Followed closely by the certificate saga surrounding the Presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress APC, Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu which all dominated the conventional and social media space including talking points.

First, it began with matters arising from one of the most important organs of government, the Judiciary which had snowballed into an open secret where the battle line was drawn between Justices of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of Nigeria in an institution known to maintaining secrets of its

internal wrangling and other administrative issues.

But this time around, it did not take much ado for 14 Justices of the Supreme Court to break that code of silence by reading the riot act while calling for the resignation of Justice Tanko Mohammad, Chief Justice of Nigeria [CJN], based on allegation bordering on corruption and high handedness.

The surprise was that the boiling point was taken to the public domain which has never happened in the history of the Nigerian Judiciary particularly in a situation where Justices of the Supreme Court would come out publicly to castigate the CJN. This then calls to question whether or not the hierarchy of the nation's law courts can be absolved of breaking the laws which they are supposed to protect and safeguard.

When the allegations got heated up, Justice Tanko Muhammad, CJN could not bear the torrents of pressure and on Sunday, June 27, 2022, he immediately resigned his appointment, leaving the most senior Justice to take over and paving the way for Justice Olukayode Ariwoola [SAN], to be sworn – in as the new Acting Chief Justice of

Nigeria.

Even after Tanko's exit, the Senate has vowed to probe those allegations against the former CJN after a petition had been sent by majority of the Supreme Court justices bordering on deplorable welfare conditions and difficult working environment they were facing. **SUNDAY STANDARD** source indicates that prior to the outburst by the justices, Tanko's health was a matter of concern as he was said to have had serious memory challenges as a result of dementia which had its toll on his official performance which in most cases, he forgets resolutions passed at meetings and leaves many other serious issues unattended to. Such lapses led to so many hiccups within the apex court's management.

According to Barrister Ifeanyi Chuks, a Jos based legal practitioner who shared his views with **SUNDAY STANDARD**, opined; "legally speaking, the substance of the allegations against the CJN were serious enough to cast a shadow of the reputation on the entire Judicial system. Perhaps when one looks at the issues raised by their Lordships against the CJN, especially on allegation

of incompetence, corruption and so forth shows that the matter is quite weighty and must have gone beyond patience, tolerance and redemption. Otherwise the public couldn't have known what actually was going on."

Meanwhile, **SUNDAY STANDARD**, gathered that the President of the Senate had at plenary directed the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to get involved in the matter as contained in the petition with a view to unraveling the root cause of this development.

The nation has over the years grappled with the deficit of integrity among its leaders especially when it comes to amassing of ill-gotten wealth particularly those saddled with the responsibility of public trust and accountability. Otherwise, the recent raid by ICPC operatives on House No.2 Wuse, Abuja which media reports had suggested to be owned by retired Lt. General Buratai.

According to media reports, the ICPC had confirmed recovering the sum of N175, 706,500 and \$220,965 along with over 50 luxury watches and at least three Rolex wrist watches with several cars from the said property. The

report drew a wide backlash from the public who see such to be the height of corruption even in the midst of the current effort to find a lasting solution to the wide spread insecurity in the country. Mr Tom Mashat, described the situation as; "Sad and unfortunate and if this happens to be true then, God safe us as a people because our leaders have failed woefully in maintaining public trust."

A clear look at the present crop of leaders across Nigeria today, leaves a lot to be desired as virtually corruption has become endemic to the point of primitive acquisition that has continued to retard the country's progress particularly on the parts of individuals who have run the country dry leading to bad governance and complete lack of vision by people who are aspiring to lead.

Even those who are in leadership positions have fallen out of touch with reality and have departed from common logic and reasoning. Perhaps, what happened to Senator Ike Ekwere madu, former Deputy Senate President alongside his wife Beatrice in the United Kingdom who are currently

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NEWS

Drug abuse: NGO calls for investment in prevention, treatment

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

AN NGO, Vanguard Against Drug Abuse (VGADA) on Wednesday, urged stakeholders and government at all levels to invest massively in prevention and treatment programmes to stem the tide of drug abuse in the country. Dr. Hope Omeiza, the National Coordinator, VGADA, made the call at a two-day training and sensitisation workshop on drug abuse prevention in Lokoja, to commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, with the theme: "Addressing Drug Challenges In Health And Humanitarian Crises".



Marwa

The workshop was organised by VGADA in partnership with Kogi NGOs Network (KONGONET).

Omeiza stressed the need for Federal Government to begin to see the issue of drug abuse as a public health problem and the template behind most of the crime being perpetrated in the country today.

"The government need to invest so much more in prevention and treatment programmes which include: training, sensitisation, advocacy, policy formulation that will aid to stem the tide of drug abuse.

"Government at all levels must ensure that treatment centres are available, prevention programmes be on the way, and let people who are in drug owned up to the reality and be ready to change," he said.

The medical doctor advised those who already involved in drug abuse to come to the point of making the decision to really want to quit drug abuse, and seek the right help. He emphasised that one way to effectively prevent drug abuse among youths, was by giving them self-confidence, strength, skills and abilities to say no to drugs.

He assured the readiness of VGADA to work together with all concerned to prevent drug abuse and the harm that drugs could cause to families and society in general.

According to him, at the end of the training the capacity of the participants would have been improved in terms of having the right information, knowing what is practised nationally and internationally, and have better impacts on their various programmes.

He, therefore enjoined participants to take the lead in protecting both Kogi State and the country at large from the destructive elements eating at the moral and social fabric of the society.

In his remarks, the Kogi State Commander, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Abdulkadir Abdullahi, said drug abuse remained a global menace that should be jointly tackled by all to curb its upsurge and the devastating effects in the society.

Represented by Mustapha

Haladu, Deputy Commander, Narcotics, NDLEA, Abdullahi noted that about 70 to 75 per cent crimes committed globally were under the influence of drugs, saying "wherever there is crime there is drug, and wherever there is drug there is crime. "The need to prevent drug abuse particularly at the grassroots has become imperative, because drug problem is not respective of ages, races, genders or social status".

He commended the organisers for the collaboration, saying the concept would go a long way to further strengthen efforts being out in place in

expanding the scope of drug abuse sensitisation and prevention strategy.

He assured that the NDLEA Kogi command would support and partner the organisation in capacity building especially in the thematic areas of drug abuse, sensitisation, awareness and preventive strategy.

On his part, the Chairperson of KONGONET, Amb. Idris Muraina, said the workshop was to build capacities of critical mass of people at the community level to provide necessary support and guide people to take them out of the quackmire of drug abuse. According to him, participants are NGOs, CSOs,

Volunteers, Religious leaders, Musicians, who will help in carrying the campaign to the people to ensure we curb the issue of drug abuse in Kogi State.

Two participants, Charity Alfa, a Volunteer; and Rotimi Churchill, a Musician, commended the organisers for the initiative, saying the workshop had made them to know much better about drug abuse prevention.

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit trafficking, is marked on 26th June every year to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse.

Earlier, the team from VGADA led by its National Coordinator, Dr Hope Omeiza, paid an advocacy visit to His Excellency, Chief Edward Onoja, who described the training and sensitisation on drug abuse prevention as a welcome development. The deputy governor emphasised that one could not take away substance abuse from lingering critical challenge of insecurity face the nation.

According to Onoja, most happenings in the society today, show clearly the direct correlation between substance abuse and criminality and insecurity. While advising the young people not to ruin their lives by engaging in drug abuse, he enjoined parents to watch over their children and guide them in the right direction.

NPC commissioner calls for citizens participation

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE National Population Commission in Kogi state, Professor Jimoh Isah has declared that it is compulsory for all citizens across the state to participate effectively in the upcoming 2023 Census.

Professor Jimoh Isah made the declaration during the Advocacy and Town-Hall meeting of critical stakeholders in the eastern senatorial district of Kogi state on what is required of them to ensure credible and accurate trial and main census, held at the Ata'Igala Palace in Idah on Wednesday. The NPC Commissioner also admonished the people of the zone to endeavour to turn out en-mass and ensure that they are accounted during the exercise.

He further tasked the people to be honest enough in giving out correct and detailed information about themselves for the purpose of ensuring credible exercise.

The federal Commissioner noted that the trial census billed to commence in July this year in nine selected local government areas of the state is aimed at testing the techniques and methodologies to be used in conducting the main census come February, March and April 2023.

He regretted that the 21 Local Government Areas of the state are not making enough impacts towards the

sensitization of their people on the activities of NPC ahead of the upcoming census.

Also speaking at the stakeholders meeting, the vice-chairman of the Trial Census Steering Committee for Kogi East, Hon Haruna Musa Idoko and the Special Adviser to Governor Yahaya Bello on legislative matter, told the Federal Commissioner that the committee has put necessary machineries in place

for the smooth conduct of the trial census ahead of the main headcount. He commended the efforts of the NPC to conduct credible and accurate census that will be acceptable to all Nigerians and the world over. The stakeholders meeting was attended by traditional rulers, opinion moulders, market women, community and religious leaders across the eastern flank of Kogi state.

Go get your PVC - Bello

From MATHEW JWANTU, Minna

NIGER State Governor, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello, has recently declared Thursday, 30th June, 2022 and Friday, 1st July, 2022 work-free days to enable civil servants and other public office holders participate in the voter registration exercise.

The governor made the declaration through commissioner for information and strategy while briefing news men at Government House Minna the state capital after Executive Council Meeting

He said, "this is in view of the critical need for all Niger lites of 18 years and above to register and obtain their Permanent

Voters Cards (PVCs)."

Explaining the priority given to PVC, the governor directed all commissioners, special advisers, and top government officials to return to their local government areas to sensitise and mobilise the general public to register and obtain their permanent voters card.

He maintained the state government under his leadership will llive no stone unturn to ensure every Nigerlites exercise his/her civic responsibility in the forth coming general election in 2023.

He called on all relevant stakeholders to ensure all hands on decks to ensure this feat is achieved.



Justice Ariwoola sworn in as acting CJN

President Mohammedu Buhari has congratulated the acting Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Olukayode Ariwoola who would be on acting capacity, pending Senate's approval to confirm him as the substantive CJN.

He promised that the judiciary under him shall not fail Nigerians with the support of his colleagues.

According to him, "what Nigerians expect from me is to comply, preserve, abide and protect the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Lassa fever kills 158 lives

Lassa fever has claimed 158 lives in 24 states, since the beginning of this year. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control has said all confirmed cases of 68 percent were from Ondo, Edo 25 percent and Bauchi 14 percent. And age group affected are from 21-30 years.

Military rejects Zamfara citizens to bear arms

The Military High Command rejected the call by the Zamfara State Government for residents to take up arms and defend themselves against bandits and terrorists.

Governor Bello Matawalle had asked the Commissioner of Police to work out modalities for gun licence to residents willing to bear arms to protect themselves.

Reacting on Monday, the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Lucky Irabor, said that he did see the basis for such call. He said it was expedient for stakeholders to follow the rules and constitution accordingly.

Senate confirms Buhari's ministerial nominees

The Senate on Wednesday screened and confirmed the 7 ministerial nominees of President Muhammadu Buhari. They are Henry Ikechukwu Ikoh (Abia), Umana Okon Umana (Akwa-Ibom), Ekumankama Joseph Nkama (Ebony), Goodluck Nana Opiah (Imo), Umar Ibrahim El-Yakub (Kano), Ademola Adewole Adegoroye (Ondo) and Udi Odum (Rivers).

Senate President, Ahmad Lawan urged the ministers designate to sustain and consolidate on the harmonious working relationship between the executive and the legislature.

Kaduna State to recruit 10,000 teachers

The Kaduna State Government has concluded plans to recruit ten thousand teachers to replace those disengaged to improve the teachers pupil ratio. Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Balarabe, made this known in Kaduna on Wednesday during the inuaguration of the distribution of learning materials to pupils in 4,260 public primary schools and 838 learning centres.

The state government had on June 19, announced the sack of 2,377 primary school teachers for failing the government's competency tests.

ADCs to Osinbajo, Aisha promotion raises dust

There is growing disquiet among ranks of the Nigeria Police Force, following "undue" promotions given to Ayoola Oladunni and Usman Shugaba, the aides-de-camp to the Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo and the first lady, Aisha Buhari.

Both were promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), from their previous rank of Chief Superintendents of Police (CSP) by the Police Service Commission (PSC), with the recommendation from the Inspector-General of Police, Usman Baba.

They started their career in 2002 as cadet inspectors, joined the force with their Senior Secondary School Certificate while their colleagues with the first degrees who joined the force at the same time are still CSPs.

Lalong did not abandon Plateau for Lagos

Plateau State Government has debunked allegations and described as false, some media reports that said Governor Simon Bako Lalong had abandoned governance of his state to relocate to lagos State to lobby for Vice President post.

Government's response to the allegation was given in a press statement signed by the Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Governor, Dr Simon Makut Macham.

He described the report as "The perfect case study for fake news, yellow journalism and sponsored hatchet job."

According to the statement, "the source also claimed that the Governor is spending billions of the state's funds for the said endeavour".

Compiled by Hosea Nyamlong

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'We are trying to battle hepatitis'

Prince Danjuma Adda, a Public Health expert is a native of Sardauna LGA in Taraba State. He is the Executive Director, Centre for Initiative and Development (CFID), a Jalingo-based Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) founded in 2007 which drives awareness on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Anti-Microbial Resistance. Adda is privileged to lead the largest international organisation that drives advocacy on hepatitis globally, the World Hepatitis Alliance. In this interview with our Correspondent, VICTOR GAI, Adda spoke on the 'silent killer' hepatitis and what his organisation is doing to check its prevalence across Nigeria.

HOW do you feel being the first African and black man to assume the position of President, World Hepatitis alliance?

It was a very competitive process in 2020. Nominations were sought from all over the world and the finalists were interviewed. After the interview, I got a call that I got this appointment. Yeh, I had the feeling of great excitement. It was also a dream come true for me. That has been my career plan and ambition. I really trained hard towards achieving that. I have been part of the World Hepatitis Alliance right from 2011. So I was part of the system. I was feeling this excitement at the same time with every sense of responsibility looking at what has been achieved in the past. One needs to build on to take the organisation to the next level.

There is very low awareness about hepatitis such that people only get concerned when others die from the disease. Can you tell us about the disease, the different types and how to manage them?

What you are saying is the problem we have been grappling with for several years. There is gross lack of awareness on viral hepatitis. Hepatitis simply means inflammation of the liver and knowing fully well that the liver is the largest organ in the body (the liver is made up of what is called hepatocytes cells that are in billions). So hepatitis simply means that liver is getting inflamed. But then there are many things that could make the liver get inflamed. Toxins could make the liver get inflamed. Alcohol, chemicals could make the liver get inflamed. But the one we are talking about is viral hepatitis, meaning inflammation of the liver caused by viruses. And of this viral hepatitis, there are five different types; viral hepatitis A, B, C, D and E. But the one that is of greatest health importance is viral hepatitis B and C because together, B and C caused the death of over 1.1 million people annually. Now, Nigeria has a burden of about 8.1% based on recent studies, translating to about 19 to 20 million Nigerians living with the disease. But unfortunately, majority of people living with this disease are not even aware they have it because hepatitis is a slow progressive disease of the liver.

Slow because it takes like 15 to 20 years because it keeps attacking the liver cells and the liver is the only organ in the body that regenerates and replaces itself. You might not seem to know. The liver replaces its cells but the virus is attacking. So the interaction between the viruses and the liver would ultimately make the liver begin to degenerate, develop fibrosis, develop cirrhosis and ultimately develop liver cancer. But all of this takes time. It takes like 15, 20 to 25 years. So a lot of people don't see it because the liver is travelling over time to heal itself, so they don't even know they have the disease. So by the time they come down with either swollen abdomen or any complications as a result of liver problem, it might be too late.

So for hepatitis B, there is a vaccine



Prince Adda

but there is no complete cure for hepatitis B unlike the lie they tell people all around. But there is cure for hepatitis C. Now the mode of transmission is almost similar with HIV. An infected mother can give to her baby and that is why all pregnant mothers are supposed to be screened for hepatitis to know if they have it and if they don't have it, the baby is supposed to get the vaccine or the pregnant mother is supposed to get intervention. Unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected person to another person is another mode of transmission. Unscreened blood transfusion, contaminated needles, razor blades, what people use in plating hair and again sharing needles. So the virus stays in major body fluids like the semen, the vaginal fluids and then blood and blood products.

It is important for people to detect the virus early because early detection is what would help to slow the progression of the disease to liver cancer which is where it ultimately leads to. Early detection is very important for people to prevent it from getting to major complication but the challenge is awareness. Most of the time, it has similar symptoms with malaria and typhoid. Most people would have headache, abdominal pain, swollen abdomen and all these things, but when it comes to swollen abdomen, it is like the liver is really getting bad. But because of this similar symptoms with other diseases, a lot of times people are misdiagnosed.

And to make matters worse, majority of people are living with the disease they do not know and they go about with risky lifestyles like taking alcohol, taking herbal medication, which further aggravates the liver condition. So

the best thing to do is to detect it on time and for me I lost my mum to this and that is my motivation for doing this way back in 2007. From that moment, I was privileged to serve this institution and from 2008 to date, we provide free hepatitis test to members of the public. It is our own way of making people know their status and help people to seek for early care.

What is the prevalence rate of hepatitis in Taraba in particular and where can you place Taraba among the 13 states that you are doing intervention and Nigeria as a whole?

Taraba has really been very fortunate. From the government side, I would say the governor of Taraba State, Arc. Darius Ishaku was the first governor in Nigeria to start hepatitis intervention. I give kudos to him and that is why in 2018, we gave him an award in Abuja. However, I am not sure that it has been sustained. And that is why we are using every avenue to ask him, he can still do more...and he could still sustain the good work he has started. It might shock you to know that Taraba State has one of the best infrastructures in hepatitis management in Nigeria. We have the PCR laboratory at the Federal Medical Centre. We have the PCR laboratory in Takum that runs one of the cheapest viral loads in Nigeria. In Takum, viral loads is done for N5000 or N10000. In FMC, it is done for less than N15000. You can't get it anywhere in Nigeria. My organisation has also invested a lot in Taraba. Currently, in Sardauna local government, we are providing what is called Hepatitis B prevention of mother to child transmission with support from TY Danjuma Foundation. We are screening all

pregnant women who attend ante-natal in General Hospital Gembu, in GECHAN hospital, in MPH including Ngoroje. And we have volunteers who are screening women at the communities. We had volunteers we trained, three years ago. All the PMOs across all the General Hospitals in Taraba. We trained doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lab. scientists in collaboration with the Ministry of Health on how to manage hepatitis. I am not sure any state in Nigeria has done that. And currently, even in my organisation, we provide free screening and two months ago we donated hepatitis C drugs to the government of Taraba worth over N40 million.

Many people have accessed that free treatment. We currently have some of the drugs available (Hepatitis C) to cure people and the market value is over N200,000 per person. But we have given out free to over 100 people to tell you how much blessed Taraba is. We have done the same hepatitis B (PMPCT) in Specialist Hospital. We have screened pregnant women attending ante-natal; those that were positive for surface antigen and e-antigen. We have donated free treatment prophylaxis to pregnant women attending ante-natal in Specialist Hospital. We are doing now in Takum and we hope to start in Federal Medical Centre Jalingo. So we have invested a lot in hepatitis care in Taraba, we have screened thousands of people and we are still screening.

Can you tell us about your organisation, the Centre for Initiative and Development (CFID) and the various interventions you are doing?

The one I mentioned about viral hepatitis, is CFID that is doing it and not Taraba State government. The training that I mentioned was carried out by my organisation in collaboration with the Taraba State Ministry of Health. The treatment I told you was by CFID and the donation we gave to the state government. Currently we are implementing a HIV/AIDS intervention in three local governments: Sardauna, Ussa and Karim-Lamido. That project alone is employing over 48 young people that are receiving monthly stipends and the project provides screening and testing for HIV for children, adolescents and caregivers and there are a lot of success stories. Many people that don't have access to testing, we provide this testing for them. And many that never knew their HIV status, we have been able to identify them, link them to care and provide services that retain them in care. Through CFID, with support from Pfizer PLC, we are supporting four hospitals on a project called Anti-Microbial Stewardship and system strengthening. And for that project, we have trained multi-disciplinary health care workers and supported to establish Anti-Microbial Stewardship and systems. Taraba is benefitting more than any other State in the 12 states where we are working. We have invested a lot and these are direct foreign investment coming to the health sector, strengthening systems. We are putting systems for Anti-

Microbial Stewardship that would help to reduce irrational dispensing and use of antibiotics in Specialist Hospital Jalingo, General Hospital Takum, General Hospital Gembu and Federal Medical Centre Jalingo. Now commulatively, all these are helping to build systems in the healthcare.

I know that funding is very crucial in this project. So how do you go about funding your organisation?

We are an organisation that is very stubborn in resources mobilisation. We are very privileged to have a strong resources mobilisation Initiative. All those things I mentioned are from our foreign partners in the US, from the UK and it is out of trust for what we do. For example, for the Anti-Microbial Stewardship, we are working with several volunteers in Taraba and other 13 states. We are one organisation that believes in transparency and accountability and that is why to a very large extent, we have been succeeding because we touch lives and evidences are there to show. We work with community structures. We don't work in isolation, we work with government institutions. We work with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). They are our technical partners. We work with Ministries of Health in every State and the Taraba State Ministry of Health. We work in collaboration to drive sustainability and ownership and to drive local expertise and capacity so that beyond the project circle, we have knowledgeable people that would continue with the systems.

Bearing in mind the successes and the challenges inherent in the system in terms of awareness, what is your call on the general public?

You don't wait for food before you know your status. Even if there is no free hepatitis testing, people should take ownership of their health. It doesn't cost more than 1500 to go to any hospital to run hepatitis B or C test. Besides we in this NGO, opposite Bondiya Place here, we provide hepatitis test here for free and in almost all the places where we work, we provide it for free. Even if people cannot get it free, in view of the challenge that it can end people's lives and it is a silent killer, why can't you just avail yourself (just take the little you have) and get tested. People should have a good health seeking behavior and not wait for government.

About 19 to 20 million Nigerians are living with viral hepatitis B and C without even knowing they have the disease, Danjuma Adda, President of the World Hepatitis Alliance, revealed.

According to Adda, the reason for this situation is due to the slow progression of the disease and the resilient nature of the liver which keeps regenerating and replacing infected liver cells.

The Taraba born Public Health expert, in an exclusive interview with **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jalingo, also disclosed that hepatitis B and C constitute the greatest threat of all the types. He said hepatitis B has no cure but can be managed while hepatitis C has a cure when detected early.

SUNDAY FEATURE

Guest House Kwata rehabilitates drugs addicts

The alarming rate of drug addiction which has permeated communities known to be pure, has become worrisome. It is very glaring when one looks at the destruction it is wrecking on humanity particularly the young people who remain the leaders of tomorrow in any given society. JIDAUNA DARING writes.

IT is believed that some people use illegal or legal drugs inappropriately when it comes to prescription in ways on part from prescribed or using someone else's prescription.

Therefore, people should not be quick to forget that misuse of drugs can cause or lead to physical, social, economic or legal harm as far as the danger of drugs or substance abuse is concerned.

What is equally disturbing so to say is that, there are negative feelings, fear, hostility and thoughts towards drug use and drug users.

It is also on record that, millions of people globally start or continue to take drugs despite the information available and the negative consequences of drug.

This unpleasant way of life has on daily basis consumed the lives of our energetic, brilliant, tall ended and well-equipped young people with different skills obtained that can keep them busy in life for the rest of their lives.

Unfortunately, the reverse is the case, the menace has sent some youths to their early graves while some have joined different criminal activities due to its influence.

Other bad side of this drug addiction is that some parents whose children have become victims have been so bitter and heartbroken, some parents develop heart problems and die before their time, parents or guardians who did not want to tolerate such children because of their waywardness in drug addiction take no other option than to disown them to their dead.

Equally too, some of the drugs addicts are often defeated and captured through bad friends. This young people after been lured into such bad groups always become a disgrace or embarrassment to themselves and their entire families.

However, the ripple effect of this menace as it is presently, has seriously made life to become extremely difficult for the people. This is because the people are no longer walking or moving freely as it was the case. This is because of the unfriendly activities being carried out by some criminal elements who have become senseless or heartless, killing their fellow human beings. Example is the activities of Boko Haram, armed bandits, kidnapping and cultism among others.

To curb this menace, government at all levels should on their part put mechanisms that would further ensure proper control of the consumption of any kind of drugs, or substance abuse.

Therefore, it also behooves on National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), traditional rulers and other security outfits across the country to join hands and combat this scourge that is still on the increase in the society.

The general aim of drug prevention is no doubt a broader



one. This is the healthy and safe development of children and youths to realize their talents and potentials to become contributing members of their communities and society.

With this alarming rate of drug addictions, it is becoming imperative to have more rehabilitation centres established by government, groups and spirited individuals. This would go a long way in ensuring available centres for the treatment of victims who have become nuisance due to health disorders.

In this case, very Rev. Fr. Jack Yali should be commended for establishing and running a rehabilitation centre, called Guest House Kwata, "Our Mission in life is to help those who are struggling with challenges, particularly those whose lives are impacted by substance abuse and mental health disorders.

I have over 40 years of sobriety and have devoted my life to sober living".

Sadly, over one million people living within Jos and its environs are said to have been affected addiction/substance abuse. President/CEO Guest House Kwata, Very Rev Fr. Jack Yali

disclosed this during the celebration of a successful recovery of a drug addict from Guest House Kwata centre for addiction treatment, mental health and co-occurring disorders, held at Kwata in Jos South LGA of Plateau State, last Friday.

Rev Fr. Yali, while speaking on the success stories of the centre said that, the centre has rehabilitated over 200 victims of addiction/substance abuse. He pointed out that the centre's treatment is 12 steps philosophy, adding that the centre is in the business of picking up alcoholic, drug addict, mental health illnesses. He stressed that after rehabilitating the victims, the centre also sent them back to their communities.

Rev Fr. Yali remarked that, there are people who are still suffering from different addiction that need rehabilitation so as to enable them go out and help themselves as well as others.

Yali opined that, the problem presently faced, is not restricted to any social class, religion, background or age group. "I want to implant the consciousness that will push our society to rise and deal with this problem that if left

unchecked will be witnessed in many homes across the country".

He maintained that he is also offering his expertise to assist state government who are willing to set up rehabilitation centres as a means of curbing this challenge of alcoholism and drug abuse ravaging our nation.

According to him, Guest House Kwata is the first treatment centre in Nigeria that is using the 12 steps model of treatment, adding that it is only their centre that used Minnesota model with CBT that is based on change.

He explained that the centre uses a lot of counseling that are geared towards making the recovered victims get something better to do in the society.

He added that, the centre as part of its success stories has opened a barbing saloon shop for one of its clients, Pius Ejeka so as to enable him continue catching fish for himself rather than giving him the fish to eat.

Rev Fr. Yali also said that, the centre is 5 years since its establishment, saying that what the centre is doing is basically representing Samaritan work.

He called on other spirited individuals to key into programmes that would further transform the lives of the people in the society.

In her remarks, Vice President Operation, Guest House Kwata, Christy P. Lekwot expressed optimism with the centre, she said that based on her experience at the centre, she observed that mothers play a crucial role in the centralization in development of their children or humanity in the society.

Lekwot encouraged women to always pay attention to their children, especially from 2 to 7 years which remain the most crucial age of their human development. She advised parents to always ensure close monitoring of their children so that they would not fall victims of any addiction in life.

One of the recovered survivor of drug addiction from the centre, Pius Ejeka expressed happiness and thanked the centre for bringing him out from the dark zone to bright zone. He appreciated the centre for also making him to become productive, particularly for opening a new barbing salon for him.

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

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

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

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

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

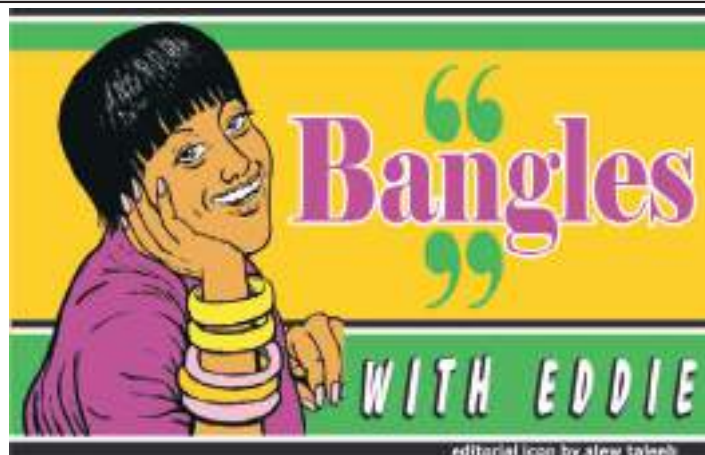
In our communities, there are people who are able-bodied but simply refuse to work because someone is siphoning and supplying to them. It could be through doling out monies to lazy able-bodied men and women in the community or through wishy washy contracts. I am not talking of those who will do any job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

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

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

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

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



The culture of catching your own fish



Ngige

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The forgoing is from Indian Express. In continuation of this

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

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

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

IN our last week's teaching, we left off sharing some very life changing thoughts about the operation of the spirit of fear and the fact that fear is Satan's foremost general, foremost strategy that opens the door for him to manifest his wicked and nefarious act upon the human race. Most people have a very casual idea about fear and most people think that fear is normal. Now that is one of Satan's greatest strategies and deceptions upon us; for us to think that fear is normal.

2 Timothy 1:7 says For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but he has given us the spirit of power, love and of a sound mind: So my question is, if fear is normal, why does the bible say God has not given us the spirit of fear? Fear is in this world today but God is not behind the spirit of fear. The devil is behind the spirit of fear. Fear came into the human race at the fall of man when Adam sinned and began to be afraid of God's presence.

Fear came in when sin came into the world and sin was brought into the world by Adam's disobedience. Sin and Satan are behind the operation of the spirit of fear. It is important for us, as we understand how God sees things, to agree with him. Amos 3:3 says Can two work together except they be agreed? It is important for us to understand that once we come on the same page with God or once we begin to think like God and cooperate with him, we can begin to enjoy his power and see his blessings flow unhindered in our lives.

We must look at the spirit of fear the same way God looks at it and not the way the world does. We should not think fear is normal. Indeed it may seem normal to many people but God calls it abnormal. Fear is not a gift from God. The bible says in James 1:16-17, Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, (no changing) neither shadow of turning.

The Bible says that God has not given us the spirit of fear. If it is not gifted by God to you, you should reject it. Like I said earlier, one of the devil's deceptions is to make us receive as normal what God calls abnormal less we begin to make excuses for why it should stay in our lives, not knowing, that the thing that is staying in our lives is the very thing that Satan is using to destroy us.

God calls fear abnormal. He has not given or gifted us the

spirit of fear therefore we are to reject it plain and simple. He has only given us the spirit of power, love and a sound mind.

James 4:7 says Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. There are two instructions there. First, submit yourselves to God: Submitting yourself to God is submitting yourself to the

you in stark terror. Now the word resist means to stand against, set yourself against, to oppose or set up an opposing force against something.

In the same vain we can say resist the spirit of fear and that spirit will depart from you. Resist or stand against the spirit of fear and it will depart from you.

You must have the

Fear not trust God (16)



authority of his word. You cannot see God physically, you cannot touch Him or feel Him but God reveals Himself to us through His word. Jesus says in John 8 you have not seen God at any time, you have not heard his voice, nor seen his shape and form at any time but the Son of God that comes from the bosom of the father, he has revealed him or made him known.

Jesus is the revelation of God to us and John 1:1-4 tells us that Jesus is the living or the incarnate word of God. So submitting ourselves to God is bringing ourselves under the authority of the word of God. That means we are to look at life the way the word of God or the Bible teaches us to look at life. So if the Bible tells us that fear is not a gift from heaven, we are to reject it. We are to submit ourselves to God's idea of life.

We are to submit ourselves to how God thinks; how God see things, how He interprets issues, and we find out God's perspective for life from the word of God. As we submit ourselves to the authority of God's word, the Bible says to resist the devil and he will flee from you. One translation says he will run away from you in terror. He will literally run away from

understanding that first of all, fear is not normal. Secondly, fear is not a gift from God; it should be rejected. Thirdly, fear can be resisted. You do not have to tolerate fear. We are not to tolerate fear, we are to resist it. Most people think that they cannot do anything about fear; they have rationalized that fear is normal so they must live with it but no my precious friends;

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**God's words are
 God's thoughts
 towards you.
 Jeremiah 29:11
 says, For I know the
 thoughts that I think
 toward you, saith
 the Lord, thoughts of
 peace, and not of
 evil, to give you an
 expected end. to
 give you a future and
 to give you a hope.
 Glory to the name of
 the Lord Jesus
 Christ.**
 ”



your livelihood or existence or that suggests to you that God cannot be trusted, or produces anxiety about your future or your circumstances, know that that though is sponsored by the devil as those are not consistent with God's word. When you think on God's word, it produces peace, joy and hope. It produces confidence in the future. When you think on God's thoughts, it surrounds you or produces within you a confidence of God's ability to take care of you no matter what is going on.

Understand that thoughts that produce confidence in your heart concerning God's ability to take care of you; concerning a glorious future; concerning God's ability to protect, preserve you and provide for you; and help you fulfill the destiny he has called you to fulfill are sponsored by heaven or sponsored by God. You find those kinds of thoughts in the word of God.

John 8:32 says And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Again, in John 17:17 Jesus himself said, sanctify them by thy truth: thy word is truth. The word of God is the hub or the center of truth. When you take the time to think on God's word, and to speak it out of your mouth, it will produce faith and confidence in God and in his ability to preserve you and take care of you. That is your greatest defence against the spirit of fear.

Thoughts that do not contribute to your faith, your joy, peace or your confidence concerning God's ability to take care of you regardless of the circumstance, are thoughts sponsored not by God but by the devil. These thoughts, you will discover, produce fear, anxiety, worry and all kinds of threat in your heart. It will take away from you peace, joy and confidence in life.

If you want to take care of fear, take care of the thoughts, ideas and suggestions that are sponsored by the devil by embracing God's word.

God's words are God's thoughts towards you. Jeremiah 29:11 says, For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. to give you a future and to give you a hope. Glory to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

fear is not normal, fear is the gateway for the operations of hell in your life.

Fear is to be resisted in your life and not to be tolerated. We have often said, you cannot resist something that you do not know exists or you cannot resist something you do not fully know about. For you to be able to resist fear, you must know what fear is and what it is not. you must know how fear operates. You must know how fear manifests itself. When you understand how fear manifests itself, you can successfully put up a resistance against it.

Again, fear operates through thoughts, ideas and suggestions. If you want to resist or oppose the spirit of fear, you must identify thoughts, ideas and suggestions that are sponsored by the spirit of fear. Now how do you know thoughts, ideas and suggestions that are sponsored by the spirit of fear? Simple, know that the character of a thought is determined by the manifestation it produces. The character of a thought, an idea or a suggestion is revealed by what it manifests or what it produces.

Any thought, that produces in you a threat concerning



'We convey the right messages to God's people'

The Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) LCC Nassarawa Gwom Jos, Flame Drama Group recently commenced its drama weekend programme to evangelize the world. In this interview, the Drama Director of the Church, Christiana Adams speaks on the problems and prospects of the group. Excerpts:



Christiana Adams

Briefly, what is Flames Drama Group all about?

The Flames Drama Group is a sub-group under the Youth Fellowship of COCIN LCC Nassarawa Gwong which comprises of Christians of different age categories, fully talented and using their talents to win souls for Christ. This group is saddled with the responsibility of ministering through drama. The name Flames is derived from our utmost goal of impacting people greatly, so much so that the evidence will be seen in the lives of our audience, just as flames is the evidence of fire.

What has motivated you to hold a drama weekend?

The Flames Drama Group being a dynamic group always look for unique ways of ministering to people and over the years' souls has been blessed through our ministrations but most times, we have limited time to minister hence the need for a drama weekend to enable us minister in more suitable atmosphere with a good time allocated. Aside time constraint, we also want to bring in a life theatre experience into the church as it will enable people to receive from God in a new dimension.

What have been the flames experience?

Most frequently, this group ministers to people in the church as the requests and invitations come in from various sub-groups in the church either during their weekly fellowships or during their annual week-long programmes. We also get invitations not only are avenues for ministering and touching the lives of our wide audiences, they in turn help to develop and improve our acting skills and God-given talents to the glory of God. They also help us to keep our lives in check, because as ministers in God, we ought to live upright lives and stay away from sin as much as possible. On a yearly basis, the Flames Drama Group organizes a drama fiesta held in the Church auditorium,

which lasts for at least three days. During this period, drama groups from other churches are invited to act different plays or playlets as means of ministering and preaching the good news of Christ. Th group, to the glory of God, produced a movie in the year 2016 titled: "Muzu, at last for Christ." This movie highlighted the challenges and obstacles Christians face in their societies and a reminder to them that despite all the struggles, they should never give up or lose hope because at the end, there is always a reward for endurance and perseverance. As a form of relaxing from the stress of the whole year, an end of year hangout was organized, where members drilled. and uncoined the happenings of the year. The ups and downs encountered during the year were listed as well as suggestions made as to how to have a better and fruitful years ahead. Retreats, prayers and fasting sessions are put together quarterly for the physical, mental and most importantly, spiritual growth and development of our members.

What are some contemporary challenges that you have identified?

Challenges are not uncommon in any group where human interaction is paramount. A lot of challenges stare us in the eyes and drastic steps needs to be taken to overcome these challenges. Inadequate manpower is a very disturbing challenge to the group. We have very limited number of members, especially adults in the group. This makes casting generally difficult in plays that require a lot of adult skills and talents to bring out a clearer picture of what we need to project to our wide audience. Some of our members are very inconsistent. This act of inconsistency draws the activities of the group backwards and sometimes bring them to a brief hold, which is not good for any group that needs to grow and go beyond where it is. Insufficient financing is a major difficulty we have been battling with for years now. Money, they say keeps the world going. This group is not an exception. We need money to purchase costumes we use for our various plays, transport ourselves to places where we have been invited to minister and to attend to other pressing issues Time is also an important factor that needs utmost attention. Due to the various sub-group meetings and programmes held in the church, we are left with the only option of meeting and rehearsing very late in the evening, into the night. This affects the attendances of members who live far away from the Church? These are the basic gaps and challenges we experience as a group. As a way forward, we appeal to members of the Church in general to make out time and join this group to enhance its

Continued on page 25



Nigerian actresses with highest net worth

These talented celebrities have many followers on social media. In addition, some of these Nigerian female actors have increased their net worth through business endeavours and endorsement deals. Here is a list of these actresses' with their net worth.

Genevieve Nnaji - \$10 million

Who is the richest female actress in Nigeria in 2021? Genevieve Nnaji tops the list of the richest actress with a net worth of \$10 million. Nnaji is a talented actress who has starred in many movies. Besides acting, she is also a producer. In 2019, she produced Lionheart, the first Netflix original film produced in Nigeria. The talented actress is also the owner of the St Genevieve clothing line. She has sponsorship deals with Etisalat, Amstel, Malta, and Jumia, among others.



Ibinabo Fiberesima - \$8 million



Ibinabo Fiberesima, one of the wealthiest Nollywood actresses, was born in Port Harcourt on January 13, 1970. Fiberesima debuted as an actress in the film Most Wanted in 1998. Read also Most beautiful Hausa actresses in Kannywood She was the winner of the Miss Wonderland pageant in 1999 and the first runner-up in the Miss NUGA competition at the University of Calabar. In 2014, the actress

married her college sweetheart, Uche Benjamin Ugbuka. Her net worth is \$8 million as of 2021.

Funke Akindele - \$7.6 million

Funke Akindele is one of the most influential Nollywood stars, having a large fan base on Instagram. Akindele's performance has earned her both national and continental recognition. With a net worth of \$7.6 million, she is one of the top three richest Nigerian celebrities.



Omotola Jalade Ekeinde - \$7.2 million



Omotola Jalade is one of Nigeria's most influential actresses. The majority of her fans refer to her as Omosexy. Since joining Nollywood in 1995, she has starred in over 250 films. In addition to acting, the Nigerian actress is a well-known musician and activist. Time Magazine named her one of the top 100 influential persons in the world in 2013. Her net worth is estimated to be \$7.2 million.

Rita Dominic - \$6 million

The Nollywood actress was born in Mbaise, Imo State, on July 12, 1975. Rita Dominic has received numerous notable cinema awards, including the Africa Movie Academy Award. In addition, she is a co-founder of The Audrey Silva Company (TASC). Rita's net worth is estimated to be \$6 million.



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INTERNATIONAL

Madrid: NATO Summit for hawks

Historic, transformative, game-changing. Even before this year's Nato summit began, the epithets were rolling in. For this was the first such summit since Russia's fateful invasion of Ukraine on 24 February. FRANK GARDNER writes

WOULD differences bubble up to the surface? Would some countries push for an early ceasefire in Ukraine? Or would the alliance's more hawkish leaders get their way and see a new, robust posture towards Moscow with Nato's borders reinforced?

Most important of all, would Turkey drop its opposition to two key democracies - Finland and Sweden - joining the alliance?

That diplomatic breakthrough came early on with the two Nordic nations set to be fast-tracked to membership after their foreign ministers signed a security pact with Turkey.

The Kremlin reacted with predictable indignation, branding Nato an aggressive, expansionist organisation with imperialistic ambitions.

I asked Jens Stoltenberg, Nato's Secretary General, for his reaction.

"Finland and Sweden," he replied, "are two sovereign democratic nations and they have the right to choose their own path."

"Russia doesn't respect the decisions of free nations and therefore it uses force to try to prevent them from doing what they want. That's one of the reasons why they have invaded Ukraine."

And what, I asked Stoltenberg, would he say to those who suggest that Nato is partly to blame for the war in Ukraine by "provoking" a paranoid Kremlin which claims it is being surrounded by a hostile Nato?

"This idea that Nato has some kind of responsibility for the [Ukraine] war is absolutely meaningless," retorted the Nato chief.

Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Finland and



Leaders at the Nato summit in Madrid pose for a group photo

Sweden have the right to choose their own path in joining Nato

"Ukraine is a sovereign nation, they have made their decision. We are 30 allies, we have made our decision. None of that is an excuse to invade another country."

"The core of this matter is that President Putin doesn't like a free democratic successful nation on his borders. He therefore wants to re-establish some kind of sphere of influence. That's unacceptable and that's why our allies are providing unprecedented levels of support to Ukraine."

That support materialised into

a billion-pound package of UK military aid, including drones and electronic warfare kit, bringing the UK's military assistance to Kyiv to £2.3bn.

By midway through the summit the US had announced a package of reinforcements for Europe: two squadrons of F35 stealth bombers to be sent to Britain, two naval destroyers to Spain and thousands of troops to Romania.

The UK followed suit, announcing a further 1,000 troops to be allocated for the defence of Estonia, a frontline state on Russia's border with one of its two aircraft carriers allocated - in a time of emergency - to a newly enlarged Nato rapid response force that's set to grow from 40,000 troops to over 300,000.

The aim of all this, Nato ministers told me, was to build such a powerful deterrent that President Putin is dissuaded from launching any more land grabs in Europe.

But what about an eventual peace deal? Will it ever be possible to make a deal with Russia that ends the war in Ukraine?

That can only happen, said the UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, once Russia is pushed out of Ukraine and held accountable for its (alleged) war crimes.

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said Nato needed to ensure a Russian invasion of a sovereign nation could not be repeated

Interviewing her in the shadow of the towering, plate-glass skyscraper that houses

the UK's embassy in Madrid, I asked her if she still believed that included making Russia give up Crimea, which it annexed in 2014. She wouldn't be drawn. But she said Nato needed to ensure that a Russian invasion of a sovereign nation could never be repeated.

Ms Truss was far from being the only "hawk" pushing for a robust stance towards Russia, and to a lesser degree China.

In a sunlit Spanish garden in downtown Madrid I interviewed Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas. Could she, as a neighbour of Russia, I asked, trust in a future peace deal with Moscow?

"I think the West has been

misled by Putin," she replied. "He has lied a lot and has not kept the promises that he has given and therefore we shouldn't believe him any more. Plus the mistake that we have done is that the war crimes have not been punished."

If there were any dissenting voices among leaders at this summit, I didn't hear them. But once those leaders have returned home they may find more domestic problems taking priority. So not every ambition announced with such fanfare in Madrid may end up being fulfilled.

Source: Al Jazeera



Truss



Stoltenberg

INTERNATIONAL

5 killed in magnitude 6.1 Iran earthquake

Tehran, Iran – At least five people have died and dozens of others injured after at least three earthquakes with a preliminary magnitude of more than six hit the province of Hormozgan in southern Iran.

Two of the strongest shocks were registered at magnitude 6.3, but the one that inflicted all the casualties is thought to be an initial magnitude 6.1 quake at a depth of about 10km (6.2 miles) below the surface that hit in the early hours of Saturday.

"All of the victims died in the first earthquake and no one was harmed in the next two severe quakes as people were already outside their homes," local official Foad Moradzadeh was quoted as saying by the state news agency IRNA.

At least 30 aftershocks were felt in villages and towns near Bandar Abbas, local officials said, adding that tremors were also felt in the neighbouring United Arab Emirates.

The quakes sent thousands of people into the streets, where they spent the rest of the night. Many people are still staying in tents that local authorities and emergency services have set up.

Yaqoub Soleimani, the secretary general of the local Red Crescent emergency aid service, told Iranian state media the search and rescue operations have concluded and no more casualties are expected.

He said setting up cooling systems for those affected by the tremors is a challenge as local temperatures reach as high as 45 degrees Celsius.

Videos on social media and those aired by state television showed homes destroyed in several villages. Dozens of villages also briefly lost power.

Iran's southern provinces have recently seen several powerful earthquakes, but casualties and damages have been limited. The state TV said 150 quakes and tremors had struck



A man cleans up rubble after earthquake

western Hormozgan over the past month.

Two powerful quakes hit an area near the island of Qeshm, close to Bandar Abbas, in November last year, leaving one person dead.

In April last year, a magnitude 5.9 earthquake hit Bushehr,

where a major nuclear power plant is located, but it did not cause much damage.

In southeastern Iran's Kerman province, a 6.6 magnitude earthquake killed more than 31,000 people and flattened the ancient city of Bam in 2003.

Ghana to ask IMF for help on economy

Ghana, one of West Africa's largest economies, will hold formal talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a support package, the government has said, only days after hundreds took to the streets protesting mounting hardship.

The cabinet gave its support for the decision at a meeting on Thursday, following a phone conversation between President Nana Akufo-Addo and IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

Until now, Ghana, the continent's second-biggest gold producer, had refused to seek IMF support to rescue an economy crippled by the pandemic, rampant inflation and a depreciating currency, despite analysts warning it is close to a debt crisis.

The IMF did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Analysts said the decision should help Ghana deal with its challenges.

"Positive news – given the succession of external shocks, and the increasing challenges for Ghana's



President Akufo-Addo arrives to vote at a polling station in Accra, Ghana

economy," tweeted Razia Khan, chief economist for Africa and the Middle East at Standard Chartered.

"This decision was almost inevitable, given the worsening economic situation and the threat of a balance of payments

An Israeli strike on Syria's coast south of Tartous has wounded two civilians on Saturday, the Syrian defence ministry says.

Damascus accused Tel Aviv of launching an "air aggression" from across the Mediterranean, west of Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli, with several missiles targeting south of Tartous.

"The Israeli enemy carried out an air strike" at about 6:30am near the town of al-Hamidiyah, the ministry said in a statement, identifying the locations hit as poultry farms, without elaborating.

It "led to the injury of two civilians, including a woman", the statement said.

There was no immediate

Syria says Israeli strike wounded two civilians

reaction from Israel on the raid. While Israel rarely comments on individual attacks, it has acknowledged carrying out hundreds of air raids in Syria since civil war broke out in 2011.

It says the strikes are necessary to prevent regional rival Iran from gaining a foothold on its doorstep.

The raids have targeted Syrian government troops as well as allied Iran-backed forces and fighters from the Lebanese Shia group Hezbollah.

Last month Israeli strikes on Damascus International

Airport rendered its runways unusable for weeks.

The airport was targeted by a volley of missiles fired from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, state media reported.

Besides the extensive damage caused to civilian and military runways, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said the attacks had targeted nearby warehouses used as weapons depots by Iran and Hezbollah.

The Syrian war has killed nearly half a million people and forced about half of the country's pre-war population from their homes.

Ukraine-US to send advanced surface-to-air missile

The United States says it will send Ukraine two NASAMS surface-to-air missile systems, four counter-artillery radars, and about 150,000 rounds of 155mm artillery ammunition to assist Ukraine in its fight against the Russian invasion.

The Pentagon on Friday said the additional material will come as part of the latest US assistance package for Ukraine, announced by US President Joe Biden at a gathering of NATO leaders and expected to total about \$820m.

The package announced on Thursday will also reportedly include more

ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS).

The US hopes its latest assistance will bolster the Ukrainian resistance as Russia pushes forward with a campaign of long-range missile attacks that have rocked Ukrainian cities and a series of Russian successes on the ground in eastern Ukraine.

Russia has made the eastern Ukrainian provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk a focus of its assault, hoping to force Kyiv to give up on its hopes of wresting control of them back from Russia.

The US military support brings its total contribution to the Ukrainian war effort to nearly \$7bn since Russia

launched its invasion of Ukraine on February 24, causing large-scale death and displacement in Ukraine and instability in global markets and supply chains.

"We are going to support Ukraine as long as it takes," US President Joe Biden said this week at a press conference during the NATO summit in Madrid.

The US is giving Ukrainians "the capacity" so that "they can continue to resist the Russian aggression," Biden said. "And so I don't know how it's going to end, but it will not end with a Russian defeat of Ukraine in Ukraine."

"I am especially grateful today to the United States and to Biden personally for the package of support for Ukraine announced today, which includes very powerful NASAMS – an anti-aircraft missile system that will significantly strengthen our air defence. We have worked hard for these supplies," Zelenskyy said late on Friday in his nightly video address.

Much of the aid formally announced on Friday will take weeks or months to reach Ukraine, The Associated Press said.

While the US remains the largest contributor to the Ukrainian war effort, other countries have also stepped up assistance.

Turkey has armed Ukraine with Bayraktar TB2 combat drones.

The United Kingdom has committed more than half a billion dollars in support, including armoured vehicles, anti-tank missiles, air defence systems, rockets and explosives.

Canada has likewise given more than \$200m worth of supplies since February. Ukraine has also received assistance from countries such as Spain, France, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark, as well as several of its neighbours, including Poland and Slovakia.

in the country's capacity and efforts to weather the crisis."

Ghana's dollar-denominated sovereign bonds rallied sharply with issues up maturing in 2026 and 2027 jumping nearly five cents in the dollar to trade at their highest level since May.

Central bank governor Ernest Addison said in May that Ghana faced an overall balance of payments deficit of \$934.5m in the first quarter of 2022, compared with \$429.9m in the same period last year.

Hundreds took to the streets in Ghana's capital Accra for two days this week to protest against spiralling inflation and other woes. Growth slowed to 3.3 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2022 and inflation hit a record of 27.6 percent in May.

The central bank raised its main interest rate by 200 basis points to 19 percent last month, the second rise this year to buttress macroeconomic stability.

crisis due to the deteriorating external environment," said Leslie Dwight Mensah, Economist and Research Fellow at the Institute for Fiscal Studies in Accra.

"The first gain for Ghana will be improved international confidence

JEVE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Relationship

When it's time to walk away from love

Love can be an incredibly hard thing to recognize. But it's an even harder thing to know when it's time to walk away from romantic love. You may have waited years to be able to find someone that you truly felt like you loved. Yet now, you find yourself wondering if it's really the right thing, and you aren't sure if it's time to put an end to it or if you're supposed just to push on through.

Not sure if it's time to say goodbye?

If you're wondering your relationship should be done just because that initial excitement that you had at the start of your relationship has ended, it doesn't mean you'll need to rush into any decisions. Sometimes it is truly the time to walk away, and other times, it may just be a rough patch.

When walking away is right and when to stick with it

There are multiple different stages of love that your relationship is going to move through. You weren't going to hold onto that feeling of pure joy and excitement that you experienced in the beginning forever. When you first fall in love with someone, you overlook imperfections and things about them that would normally drive you crazy. But in the euphoria of a new relationship, you don't even notice them. However, as time goes on, those things start to stand out to you. You start to think, "how did i not notice this before?"

This is perfectly normal in a relationship and something that every long-term relationship is going to go through. You don't have to give up on your relationship just because of this.

You also don't need to walk away from romantic love because you're starting to disagree more



and have different opinions. Relationships are made up of two unique individuals, and it's not normal for a couple to agree on everything. If that happens, it's usually because one person is giving in to the other. Disagreement can be a good thing if you know how to work past them healthily in your relationship.

No relationship is going to make it through years and years of never having arguments and disagreements. It's perfectly normal for relationships to have ups and downs. But, those with healthy relationships and true love will be able to weather those difficult times. However, sometimes you shouldn't push on and move forward in your relationship, and we'll get to some of those below.

When you're feeling as though you lost who you are

If you wake up one morning

and realize that you don't even know who you are because you've changed yourself so much to keep your significant

other happy, it's a good sign that you should walk away from the relationship. Real romantic love does not require another person



truth

It's important to trust the gut feeling that you have in life. If you just know that your relationship isn't right, even if you can't quite put your finger on what it is, then there's no reason to stay in the relationship. If you find yourself in this position and you're married, you want to address it with your spouse and try counseling to see if you can figure out what it is instead of just walking away from love and your marriage. But if you're only dating, there's no reason to continue a relationship when you don't feel like it's the right thing, even if you don't know the reason why.

There's nothing wrong with trying to take some time to figure out what the problem is, but in the end, sometimes you just know, and you need to trust your gut.

When you're going through the motions but feeling no happiness or love

There's a big difference between a relationship progressing through the different stages of love and simply going through the motions. If you find that you're just setting

to change. Suppose the person that you're in a relationship with does not love you for who you are. In that case, there's not really a true purpose in staying with them because relationships should be about mutually building something together.

If you have changed so much about yourself that you don't recognize yourself, chances are you're going to need to end the relationship to find yourself again. With therapy and counseling, including services offered through better help, a relationship can last if the appropriate changes can be made. Still, couple in the relationship would need to be willing to make it work.

When you know in your gut the

a pattern and doing the things that you normally did with your significant other, even though there is nothing there to back it up, it may be time to walk away.

You aren't feeling respected
Respect is a very important thing in a healthy relationship. If your significant other doesn't respect you, then it's not a healthy relationship to stay in. A lack of respect can easily permeate the rest of the relationship because it may mean they don't respect your wishes and feelings in all regards.

They may also cross boundaries that you have established and do other things with which you're not okay. Respect is important in any relationship, and especially in a romantic relationship.

EVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Small acts that are a big deal

By
JAMES MICHAEL SAMA

PEOPLE who do pay attention to details are the ones who you can trust to stand by your side and weather the storm. So what are some examples of these smaller romantic acts that, in reality, speak volumes?

There is an important distinction to be made in relationships between people who pay attention to detail, and people who don't. The first type are people who don't usually go all-out on the big things like extravagant gifts or getaways for special occasions, but they don't do small things like take care of you while you are sick or go to pick up a prescription at CVS.

People who do pay attention to details, however, are the ones who you can trust to stand by your side and weather the storm. These are the types of people who understand that the small things count the most because those are the things you do for someone simply because you love them, with no special occasion required.

So, then, what are some examples of these smaller romantic acts that, in reality, speak volumes?

Write love notes.

I know, we're not in high school anymore... but all the more reason that nobody would expect to open a small piece of paper with "I miss you" or "I love you" written on it. It's free, easy, and can be left anywhere to surprise him or her. A surefire way to put a smile on his face.

I know from experience how amazing it feels to have your significant other do something like this for you.

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Listen.

In a healthy relationship, each partner relies on the other for love, guidance and advice. Sometimes, just taking the time to genuinely listen to what she has to say, and not saying anything at all, will say more to her than your words ever could.

Particularly for the guys: If a woman is complaining to you,



remember that it means she trusts you enough to express her feelings to you. Don't betray that trust.

Do that thing he or she wants to do.

Whether it is watching a TV show your significant other enjoys, going to see the musical you're not really into, or trying that new restaurant with the cuisine you don't really care for -- do it anyway (and have a good attitude about it).

Relationships are about compromise, which means at times we do things we wouldn't normally do in order to make the person we care about happy. They will appreciate your effort and enjoy the experience even more because they get to share it with you.

Send a good morning text.

A text that starts your partner's day on a good note doesn't just say "good morning," it says "you are the first person I thought of when I woke up this morning."

Do what you say you're going to do. Be reliable.

Reliability, how boring. Reliability is the reason you buy a Toyota Corolla, not excitement. It's not glamorous or sexy or particularly interesting -- but you know what? When you walk outside in the morning and turn the key you know that sucker is going to start up without a flinch no matter how much it has been through.

A great romantic partner is

someone you can count on without having to worry. You know they are going to be there for you when you need it. You know they are going to stand behind you when you need support, beside you when you need a teammate, and in front of you when you need protection. You don't have to wonder if they are going to do what they said they are going to do or if they are going to flake out on you last minute, because they are

and love more deeply with others.

7. Be patient with your partner.

Patience is an essential trait in someone we hope to build a strong relationship with. It takes patience to learn about each other and our personality differences. It takes patience to adjust, and to remain kind while they adjust. It takes patience to have productive discussions rather than arguments.

Patience is something that only we

come to you for one, no matter what it's about.

Make your partner feel safe.

This is not about physical safeness, but also emotional safeness. Just because men enjoy the feeling of physically protecting the woman they love from harm, doesn't mean they don't need to feel safe in their own ways as well.

Some men find it more difficult than others to emotionally open up and express themselves. In order to do so, they need to know they are not going to be judged for their feelings. Safety, in all uses of the word, is important for both partners to feel.

Always be willing to compromise.

While of course you should be compatible with your teammate, that doesn't mean that you will automatically love every single thing they love, and vice versa. If you truly care for someone and their happiness, you will be willing to watch, do, see, and experience things they enjoy, as they would do for you in return.

Without compromise, we can easily find our relationships resembling a see-saw with a huge boulder on one side, the distribution never shifts.

In this case, the boulder represents



reliable.

Pay close attention and react accordingly. Be thoughtful.

In relationships and in life, I believe many of us overlook the importance of thoughtfulness. Life moves quickly and we often get so wrapped up in our day-to-day routines that we lose sight of how important it is to work to make our significant other happy as well. This includes learning one another's likes and dislikes, supporting each other during difficult times, and encouraging each other during the good times.

It includes paying attention to small details and doing special things accordingly that we know each other will like. Being thoughtful helps us live, connect

can feel -- others may notice it but if you do it right, nobody will actually know you are even being patient because you remain so calm and collected the entire time. Take a deep breath, and allow life to unfold as it should.

Be honest.

This is another big one. It may not seem like it, because honesty should be a quality that you express towards everyone in your daily life -- but being honest with a man or woman you care about will show that you respect them enough to be straight up.

Choose your words carefully, don't express your honesty in a way that would hurt feelings, but make sure your partner knows that they will get a straight answer when they

the wants and needs of one partner. There should be an equal amount of balance in order to keep you both happy and satisfied.

Satisfaction and fulfillment in a relationship can only come from forging a strong bond with another. When your hearts beat in unison at night and your thoughts transfer through a simple glance across the room. When you find that, you will understand the small everyday gestures that build this bond are the most important ones of all.

As Robert Brault said: Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.

This post originally appeared on JamesMSama.com.

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Signs of drug abuse in your loved one

THE problem of drug abuse and addiction is a worldwide challenge that has made many families lose their loved ones.

It is a worrisome trend that destroys the future and lives of the addicts who end up with a bleak future because of the devastating effects it has on victims.

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which came about through resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, by the United Nations General Assembly observes 26 June as the day to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

Supported each year by individuals, communities, and various organizations all over the world, this global observance aims to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society, and continues to advocate to protect the right to health for the most vulnerable, including children and youth, people using drugs, people with drug use disorders and people who need access to controlled medicines. Campaigns calling on governments, international organizations, civil society, and all stakeholders to take urgent action to protect people, including by strengthening drug use prevention and treatment, and by tackling illicit drug supply is usually done to mark the day all over the world.

It is important to understand the danger signs that signals your loved one, a child, spouse, sibling, parent or friend is suffering from drug addiction and help the person before it gets too late.

According to cirche lodge, a website that provides expert advice and solutions to drug abuse, not every addiction looks the same but unfortunately, media representations have painted many misleading caricatures of how a person suffering from substance abuse disorder appears or behaves.

The website states that often, people do not acknowledge that they have a problem, and friends or family members are the first to notice something has changed. Therefore, if you are worried that you or a loved one is suffering from an addiction, uncertainty makes it hard to proceed. However, there are some telltale signs and symptoms to help you identify



any potential issues and some certain things to watch out for includes:

SMALL PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS:

These can include slight alterations to physical appearance that may start to become noticeable. Bloodshot or red eyes and pinpoint or dilated pupils are all telling signs of many types of drug abuse. Also, pay attention to skin texture and complexion. Frequent abnormal puffiness and flushed or washed-out color can also indicate ongoing abuse of drugs or alcohol.

Many forms of drug abuse come with small behavioral changes that might be dismissed as "tics."

Any of these could be signs of a hidden condition, persistent itching in a specific area of the body, Impulsive pulling down of sleeves to hide marks, slurred speech, and frequent sniffing. While these are not definitive signs, if they are accompanied by secretiveness or defensiveness, they could provide helpful clues as to whether something is wrong.

OVERALL APPEARANCE:

Long-term abuse of drugs and

alcohol can result in drastic changes to physical appearance. Many drugs have appetite suppressing or other altering side effects, meaning abuse often results in visible weight changes.

These rapid changes to body composition, such as sudden weight loss or weight gain, or lack of interest in personal grooming, especially if it declines without explanation, can also point to substance abuse and can be cause for concern.

PARAPHERNALIA:

It can be an obvious indicator if you find equipment in someone's room or among their things. Some common items include Cigarette wrapping papers, pipes, syringes, rolled up banknotes, cut-up straws, soiled cotton swabs, lighters, burnt spoons or bottle caps, bongs, razor blades

"Cutting" surfaces like mirrors or glass.

Not all drugs require anything to use them, but you might see other items that point to misuse. For example, medicine bottles from more than one doctor can be a sign

of prescription drug abuse.

STRUGGLING WITH LIMITS:

This can manifest as urges to take a prescription drug at a higher dose than prescribed or continuing after the health problem it treats has ended. Addiction makes it hard to follow even self-prescribed rules. If you have set yourself a self-imposed use limit but cannot stop yourself, this is a concerning sign.

LOSS OF INTEREST:

Substance dependency takes over the mind's reward system. Take note if someone is becoming complacent in realms they used to take great pride in or apathetic towards the people or hobbies they usually cherish.

It may mean they are funneling their energy toward feeding the impulse of using drugs. Frequent failure to show up or follow through on plans, lack of enthusiasm, or dulling of talents can all indicate an underlying struggle.

MOOD SWINGS:

Many substances, especially when used heavily, impair the user's ability to manage emotional input. This can appear as sudden misery, extreme upset, irritation, or anger in situations when they could previously handle their moods well. If a normally calm and collected person seems hyper and manic, or an optimist is dealing with sudden waves of depression, it could be a sign of drug abuse.

RECLUSIVE AND PRIVATE BEHAVIOR:

Substance abuse disorders are incredibly isolating. A user often experiences shame and fears social stigma, and some drugs also can induce paranoia. This can cause a person to withdraw from their usual relationships and become secretive. Reclusive behaviors that point to hiding an addiction include spending extended periods in their room, locking the door when they leave or enter their private space, not sharing details about places or people they visit when out of the house, shutting down when asked questions by people they usually trust.

DEFENSIVENESS:

Withdrawn behavior and responding with hostility or wariness when uncomfortable topics arise can be a sign of defensiveness. A person trying to hide addiction may redirect the conversation with arguments or even aggressive mood swings, and distraction methods are also a defensive sign.

ERRATIC BEHAVIOR:

This trait is usually very evident and a symptom of most substance addictions. Depending on the drug, the high could be associated with euphoria, paranoia, feelings of power, or invulnerability. These are all sensations that can lead users to reckless or dangerous actions. Withdrawal brings with it physical and emotional distress that can also lead to erratic or even violent behavior.

Mental health is the sum of many parts. Co-occurring disorders, such as depression or anxiety, are often amplified by drug abuse – with the effects of one feeding off of the other. For people struggling with these synergistic conditions, dual diagnosis is key to effective healing.

CHANGES IN SLEEP HABITS:

Drug abuse tends to wreak havoc on users' sleep habits. Both stimulants and depressants alter the activity of hormones responsible for tiredness and wakefulness. This will drive a user off their typical schedule.

An addicted person will sometimes also experience the opposite effects when the drug leaves their system. If someone keeps "off-hours" – be that oversleeping or staying up for extended periods – relative to their usual habits, it can be a sign of growing chemical dependence.

Experts advice that if you have identified some of these signs in yourself or someone you love, you may want to reach out to an intervention specialist. Addiction is difficult to talk about, even with those you are very close to. An intervention specialist will help your family approach the topic of addiction with clarity and understanding and can provide invaluable support and advice.



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

By **RIA PARIKH**

9 harmful habits that damage your brain

Did you know that certain daily habits can damage your brain?

Why is this important? Damaged brain tissue makes you more susceptible to developing diseases such as dementia and Alzheimer's Disease that stem from cognitive decline. This is not meant to be diagnostic or scary, but substantial research shows that environmental and social conditions can play a part in the development of neurological diseases down the road. Becoming aware of some of these habits will help you to reduce the risk of damaging your brain early on!

Here are 9 harmful habits that can damage your brain.

1. Too much screen time

Chances are, you've heard a lot by now about social media and the brain, but what about screen time in general? It turns out that too much screen time can not only damage your mental health.

In areas such as the frontal lobe, where processing and higher-order thinking occurs, too much gaming and internet use can be damaging.

Instead, we suggest that you consciously limit unnecessary screen time as much as possible. Could you be playing videogames for less time each day? Could you try and work on larger screens, to try and minimize straining? Little fixes throughout the day will help to ensure that you aren't spending too much time staring at a screen!

2. You consume too much negative news

Did you know that the media we consume daily has an impact on our thinking, emotions, and behavior?

According to Psychotherapist, Annie Miller, "It can be damaging to

constantly be reading the news because constant exposure to negative information can impact our brain". An over-consumption of the news can unnecessarily trigger the fight or flight response, which can take a toll on your physical, emotional, and mental health.

As important as it is to stay updated, it is equally important, if

not more, to engage in self-care and take a step back from negative news when you need to.

3. You eat too much sugar

After a long day, do you crave the delightful sweetness of candy bars, cupcakes, and soda? You aren't alone. Craving sugar is one of your brain's ways of responding to stress, but be careful just how much

you give into this temptation.

4. You skip breakfast

How often do you skip breakfast? Whether it's waking up in a frenzy or not feeling hungry early in the morning, taking a pass on breakfast may sound appealing. However, research shows that this can actually damage your brain.

If you're busy in the morning, we totally understand. Breakfast doesn't have to be elaborate. Something as simple as oatmeal or eggs is enough to nourish your brain and body!

5. You keep to yourself too much

Did you know that social isolation can actually be stress inducing? In fact, social stress is a common area in neuroscience research, and the impact of social isolation is pretty shocking.

Other than the commonly known mental health effects of social isolation, such as depression, there are also potential negative effects on the brain itself.

This isn't to scare you, but to emphasize the importance of social interaction. During these times especially, it seems as though social interaction is suspended. And while that is a valid feeling, remember that there are ways to maintain face-to-face interaction without actually meeting in person.

6. You don't move around much

The connection between your brain and the rest of your body might be hard to imagine, but exercise can greatly improve brain function!

Depriving yourself of these exercise-induced benefits could stunt

brain development, and over time, lead to damaging effects.

7. Poor sleeping habits

Overall, do you have good quality sleep? Do you sleep enough, or too much? It turns out that not only how much you sleep.

Sleeping too little or too much has detrimental effects on your energy and mental health, and in addition, can also impact brain function and memory! The more sleep deprived you are, the more it dampens your long-term memory, and might also cause your brain in general to function in ways it's not used to (ResMed).

8. You stay in the dark too much

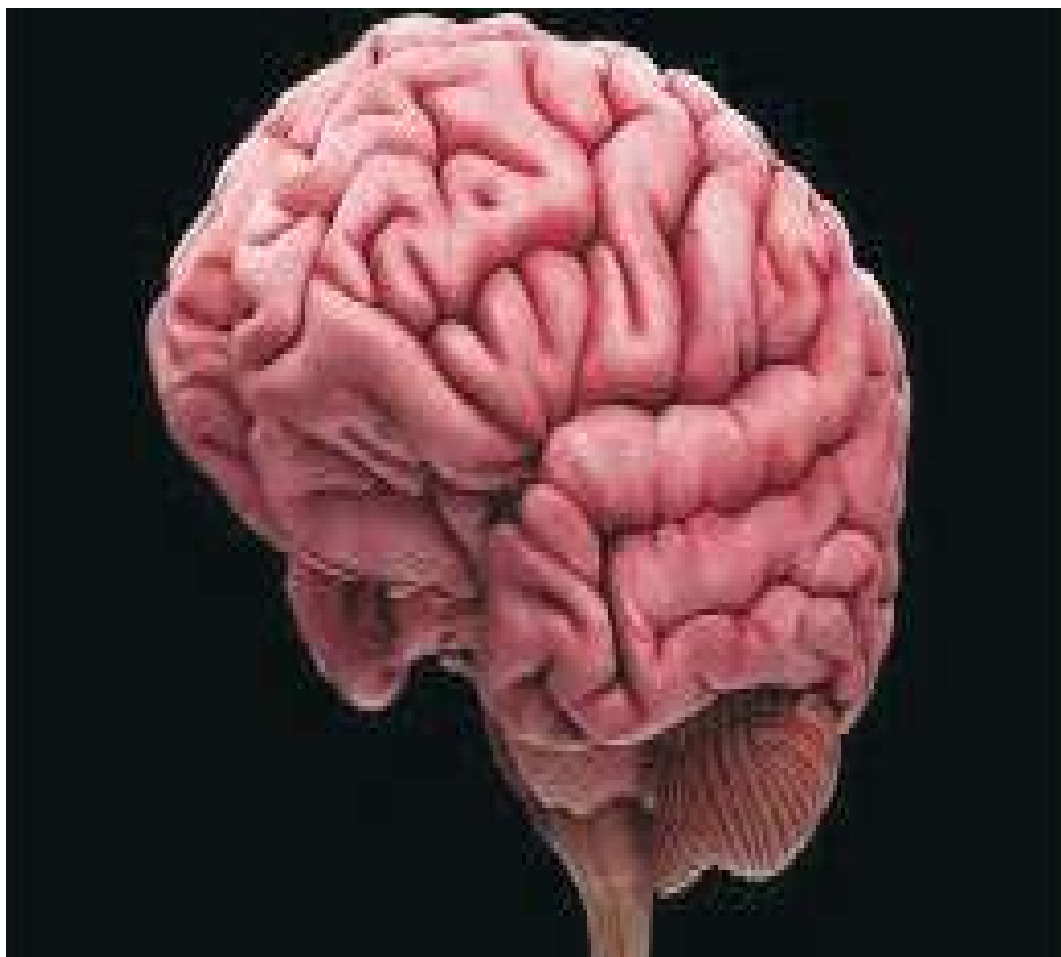
Do you often stare into absolute darkness, wishing you could fall asleep but you can't? Do you love staying in the dark even during day time?

Not getting enough natural light may make you depressed, and that can slow your brain. Studies also show that sunlight helps keep your brain working well. Without light, your brain doesn't know when or how to release that sweet, sweet melatonin. So, ironically, staying in the dark for too long will eventually leave you sleep-deprived.

9. You blast head phones

Music is great! And headphones are so convenient to listen to music comfortably and privately. But did you know that listening to music a little too loud could be bad for your brain?

In addition to your hearing, listening to music too loud could damage your brain, and experts agree that hearing loss could lead to memory impairments down the line.



BUSINESS WORLD

Jumpstarting structural transformation leveraging global value chains

The biggest challenge of the Nigerian economy is diversifying away from commodity dependence through the stimulation of structural transformation towards manufacturing growth and high productivity sectors, and export structure upgrading. LUCKY CHAMBERS UMEZULIKE writes

UNTIL the country economically restructures, its macroeconomic challenges will continue to metastasize. The volatility induced by oil dependence has fuelled macroeconomic instability for the country. This instability is evident in the continuing spiralling inflation, reduction in government revenues and foreign exchange earnings, naira depreciation, and dwindling economic activities. These phenomena contribute to high unemployment rate, preponderate poverty, and burgeoning debt levels.

Nigeria has experienced such downcast economic trend since the 2016 recession, with "recession 3.0" and other subsequent series – if a cogent effort is not taken – imminent in the short term.

In addition, the country's structural change trend has seen a shift of employment from low-productivity (agriculture) to low-productivity (non-business services). This shift is contrary to economic development patterns in industrialised countries where productive resources are transferred from agriculture – through manufacturing – to business services.

The absence of manufacturing dominance in Nigeria's structural transition indicates why the country finds it difficult to achieve sustained economic growth driven by job creation, which is the only way through which growth affects poverty.

The reason is that manufacturing is the special engine of growth because of its productivity potentials. Manufacturing can absorb more labour, pay higher wages and is the locus of technological development.

For the latter, most innovation and technological change emanate from the manufacturing sector before being diffused to other economic sectors such as the services sector. Manufacturing also generates static and dynamic returns and has price and income elasticity.

Several studies have also shown that increasing shares of manufacturing value-added in GDP are associated with faster GDP per capita growth rates. On the flip, non-business services, which include petty trade, hotels and restaurants, and other community, social and personal services often rendered by artisans, can absorb labour quite all right, however, they are of low



Adebayo

labour productivity reflective in low wages and limited opportunities for skills' accumulation and learning.

Furthermore, they are characterized by high job vulnerability, informality rates and constrained by domestic market size.

Against this backdrop, the party is over, and Nigeria must get down to the business of stimulating economic restructuring and manufacturing growth (starting with labour-intensive export industries) by leveraging global value chains (GVCs). GVCs provide that revolutionary vehicle, as gone are the days when countries develop an entire industry from scratch. Instead, developing countries integrate into GVCs and take advantage of wealthier states' industrial bases.

GVC is the fragmentation of production across countries whereby countries produce what they know best and outsource the rest. It is the globalization of goods and services' production whereby any country can access the world market, find a niche and establish itself as a global manufacturing place. It involves designing products in one country, procuring parts and components from several countries, and assembling

the final products in another.

Essentially, parts and components of products criss cross the globe as firms search for efficiencies wherever they are. Samsung, for instance, makes its mobile phones with parts from 2,500 suppliers worldwide. As a result, productivity and incomes rise in countries that plug into GVCs like Bangladesh, China, and Vietnam, among others – where the steepest declines in poverty occurred. Unlike in conventional trade in which firms in different countries compete, GVCs are firm networks with common goals of minimizing production costs and maximising profits.

According to the World Bank, GVCs account for around 50% of world trade today. Participation in GVCs can deliver a double dividend for Nigeria's manufacturing sector. Firms are more likely to specialize in the tasks in which they are most productive, which enhances efficiency and productivity.

Second, firms can gain from connections with foreign firms, who pass on the best technological and managerial. This strategy fosters technology transfer and access to capital and inputs so that firms can upgrade along value chains. Nigeria can coordinate firms and have them start from assembling product parts to producing non-complex parts. And subsequently, transit to creating complex aspects of a particular product value chain. This is one of the surest means to sophisticate Nigerian exports.

The decompartmentalization of complex products such as cars, electronics, phones and computers allow countries such as Nigeria (those at an early stage of industrial development) to specialize in simpler parts and tasks and participate in the trade of manufactured goods.

GVC participation is determined by conditions such as factor endowments, geography, market size, and institutions. Nigeria has an abundance of natural resources, large market size and low labour cost.

However, policies play an important role, and there are impediments to Nigeria's effective participation in GVCs. Policies to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) can address the shortfall of the scarcity of capital, technology, and management skills.

Liberalizing trade at home while negotiating trade liberalization abroad can address the limits of domestic demand and local inputs. Improving transportation infrastructure, reducing high handling fees, providing access to forex, improving customs and border procedures through digital technologies, and enhancing port governance can address the issue of poor trade logistics. At the same time, investing in human capital development and training, skills acquisition, and capacity building can help strengthen domestic capacity to support upgrading in value chains.

One other instance that can help with the understanding of the link between GVCs and specialization is China. China has a "Button Town," where hundreds of factories produce more than 60 percent of all buttons on Earth.

This strategy is the thinking! Nigeria has rubber in abundance, for instance, and the country can leverage it and plug into tyre manufacturing globally and target to have 5% of global market shares of tyre production.

Nigeria should focus on labour-intensive GVC activities and attract foreign investors while stimulating the emergence of domestic firms. But this will be elusive considering a coterie of factors, including

political instability and poor political will. Dutch disease, lack of specific/targeted policies and numerous firm binding constraints (lack of hard and soft public, industrial inputs) still hold Nigeria back. The inability of the government to coordinate and facilitate investments for economic diversification is also an impediment to Nigeria's effective participation in GVCs.

However, Nigeria can still integrate into several products' value chains despite these firm constraining structures. For this to happen, the country should first select priority, labour-intensive industries from the lenses of its comparative advantage with which to commence its GVCs journey.

Second, the government must coordinate investments for economic restructuring, address market failures and stimulate cost discovery of entrepreneurs in non-traditional economic activities.

Third, the country should leverage a gradualist, cluster approach, industrialization strategy that targets growth poles in the country. In addition, the government should prioritize the development of a pilot few of its special economic zones (where there is a provision of hard and soft infrastructures necessary for an industry to succeed).

This strategy is likely to address the challenge of the poor business environment. Nigeria should then rigorously seek foreign investments in targeted value chains. After integrating into these GVCs, firms in Nigeria can then upgrade their standing in GVCs through product, process, functional and chain upgrading. The time is now!

Source: Business Day

"Against this backdrop, the party is over, and Nigeria must get down to the business of stimulating economic restructuring and manufacturing growth (starting with labour-intensive export industries) by leveraging global value chains (GVCs). GVCs provide that revolutionary vehicle, as gone are the days when countries develop an entire industry from scratch. Instead, developing countries integrate into GVCs and take advantage of wealthier states' industrial bases".

BUSINESS WORLD

Buhari create 'work group' to strengthen Nigeria-Portugal trade

President Muhammadu Buhari says he has created a dedicated Portugal Working Group headed by the minister of industry, trade and investment to address special areas of concerns by investors

The group is expected to work with Portuguese investors, address concerns on existing policies and help boost the volume of trade with Portugal as well as diversify into non-oil products.

The president stated this at an economic seminar between Nigeria and Portugal businesses during a state visit to Portugal, on Thursday, in Lisbon, as part of his engagements.

Buhari observed that the two countries were in dire need of new investment opportunities following the devastation to global economies caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and, in recent times, the impact of Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"The relationship between modern Nigeria and Portugal started over 40 years ago with strong collaborations on the diplomatic and defence fronts.

"I was very excited to learn of the increased level of enthusiasm Portuguese businesses have shown towards Nigeria.

"In the past 25 years, trade between Nigeria and Portugal has more than doubled to over \$1 billion by 2020 just before the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been mostly in the oil and gas sector. Although this is great progress, I strongly believe we can and should do a lot more," he said.

He also assured the Portuguese government of Nigeria's support to Portuguese companies wishing to invest in the country.

"The Portuguese were the first European voyagers on record to visit the shores of Nigeria in the late fifteenth century. And just like how African culture is influential in modern Portugal, the Portuguese culture is also felt in today's Nigeria."

He announced that recently, the government of Nigeria awarded a contract to Mota-Engil, a Portuguese company, to construct a railway line that connects Kano in Northern Nigeria to Maradi in the Southern Niger Republic.

He believed that this partnership would open doors for more Portuguese companies to come to Nigeria, as the largest and most populous economy in Africa.

"Just two months ago, Portugal opened its first North Africa Trade Chamber. This will complement the Chamber in South Africa.

"I am confident after your interactions today on the tremendous potential in Nigeria, we will soon be hearing an announcement on the opening of the Nigeria Portugal Trade Chamber."

Recounting that in 2021,



Buhari

the African Export-Import Bank and Portugal's National Association of Young Entrepreneurs announced a 3-year partnership to promote Africa's fashion apparel and textile manufacturing industry, the Nigerian leader said:

"I strongly believe this will benefit Nigeria's vibrant fashion industry."

President Buhari also used the occasion to apprise prospective investors of the many fiscal, trade and monetary incentives that support foreign investments.

"The Nigerian government officials in this room are on standby to provide all the necessary information you need.

"I have already directed the establishment of a dedicated Portugal Working Group headed by the ministry of industry, trade and investment to address any special concerns you may have above and beyond the existing policies in place," he said, adding that "I want to assure you that we will take these requests seriously and our response will be swift."

In his response, the president of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa told Buhari that Portugal can help Nigeria diversify the economy.

"Because we are a very small country, we have huge experience. We have experience in water supply, technology, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, tourism, agriculture, science, health care, trade, and the sea, we want to cooperate with you. We have experienced companies and experienced hands. We have a unique knowledge of Africa," he said.

On the visit, the Portuguese president said, "Your visit is a new beginning. A new beginning of every sector. We don't want 30 or 100 companies, we want thousands of companies in Nigeria, we want thousands of Portuguese in Nigeria and that will be your legacy, my legacy, the legacy of this state visit. I'll be going to Nigeria later on and together we shall see with our own eyes what the outcome of this visit is. This is not a visit of words but a visit of facts and achievements. We will achieve."

Duport energy park to begin operation in July - NCDMB

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) on Thursday said the Duport Midstream Company Limited (DMCL), an energy park located in Edo State, will go live in July 2022.

Simbi Wabote, executive secretary, NCDMB, while on an inspection tour of the facility alongside other partners in Egbokor, Orhionmwon local government area of Edo State, said the commencement of the refinery is subject to the regulatory agency's final check and subsequent approval to introduce hydrocarbon into the refinery.

According to him, "The plan is that, on July 18, DPR will come and do the final check in terms of giving us approval to introduce hydrocarbons into the refinery. So, between now and the end of July, this refinery, in addition to the one we have in Ibigwe, will become operational.

"In terms of our modular refinery operation, by July, this one will go live to tell you

that there are modular refineries working in the country. This will be the second refinery that will switch on in July. Currently, one of our refineries is working, which is Watersmith modular refinery that is producing 5,000bpd and serving the eastern market."

The executive secretary, who noted that there has been significant improvements of the facility compared to the last time the board inspected the facility, thanked their partners for the support.

"This is the rainy season and they have got off to work. Between March and now, what I have seen is marked improvements in terms of installation of the Gas Processing Facility (GPF), completion of the refinery installation. This is an energy park with a data center that is currently operational," Wabote said.

Akintoye Akindele, the chief executive officer of Duport Midstream Company Limited (DMCL), on his part, said commercial production would commence after the final assessment of the facility is

The Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN) is tackling challenges limiting the growth and contribution of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), especially those with operations in the Northern part of the country.

Tony Okpanachi, managing director/CEO, DBN said on Thursday that the bank was concerned about those challenges, as there was still much to be done to boost the growth of MSMEs in the country, even though some achievements have been made. According to him, some of the challenges faced include access to finance, value chains, and markets.

Okpanachi was speaking at the 2nd regional DBN MSME summit in the northwest geopolitical zone of the country, aimed at understanding the problems faced by entrepreneurs within Kano and the northern region, to effectively provide solutions to the identified challenges.

The DBN regional MSME summit was conceptualised as part of a stakeholder engagement to create awareness around the bank's mandate of providing access to finance for MSMEs and small corporate enterprises in Nigeria through the provision of financing and partial credit guarantees to eligible financial intermediaries on a market-conforming and fully financially sustainable basis.

The DBN held the last summit in Maiduguri, Borno State before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and according to Okpanachi "so much has changed."

"The conversations here will

ACGSF: 973,646 beneficiaries repaid N98.91bn

The Chairman, Board of the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF) Mr. Stephen Okon, has revealed that a total of 1,232,326 loans valued N130.903 billion were guaranteed from inception in 1977 to May 2022 out of which 973,646 beneficiaries had

repaid a total of N98.91 billion.

In terms of loan recovery, he said a total of 11,726 loans valued at N801.058m were repaid under the Scheme in the FCT from inception of the Scheme.

Okon stated this Thursday in his remarks during the 2021 ACGSF National

Chairman

Farmers' Award held in Abuja. He said, "The ACGSF Scheme has proved relatively successful in de-risking the agricultural sector in Nigeria as evidenced in the number of loans guaranteed from inception to date. It is worthy of note that the FCT from January to May 2022 has guaranteed a total of 82 loan beneficiaries under the scheme, valued N22.580 million. "This brought the total guaranteed loans in the FCT from inception of the scheme in 1978 to May 2022 to 14,258, valued N1.748 billion.

The Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF) was established by Decree No. 20 of 1977 to guarantee agricultural credit facilities granted to farmers. The federal government and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) both contribute to the Fund in the ratio of 60% and 40% respectively. The CBN however doubles as the Managing Agent of the Scheme and the Secretariat of the ACGSF.

Earlier in his goodwill message, the Branch Controller Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja Branch, Ogbu Onyeka Michael, pointed out that it is evident that the successes achieved under the ACGSF has led to significant improvement in Deposit Money Banks' (DMB) lending to the agricultural sector and has led to remarkable growth in agri-business value chain in Nigeria.

"What we have not done is to introduce hydrocarbons into it. We are fully done, fully installed. However, the way it works is, you must get the regulator who will come to do the final work before we start full commercial production.

"At the moment, we can process 60-million-scf of gas daily. This refinery is a 10,000 barrel per day refinery, starting with 2,500 barrels per day. The

DBN moves to rescue MSMEs in Northern Nigeria



Adebayo

inspire and empower the MSMEs to deploy innovation, strategy, and creativity to sustainably address these challenges and thereby build enterprises that create exponential value and contribute to Nigeria's socio-economic development," Okpanachi noted in his address.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), SMEs in Nigeria have contributed about 48 percent of the national gross domestic product in the last five years. With a total number of about 17.4 million, they account for about 50 percent of industrial jobs and nearly 90 percent of the manufacturing sector.

Though significant growth has been achieved in the MSME sector, there is still much to be done. A PwC

report in 2020 identified obtaining finance, finding customers, and infrastructure deficits as the most pressing problems of MSMEs in Nigeria.

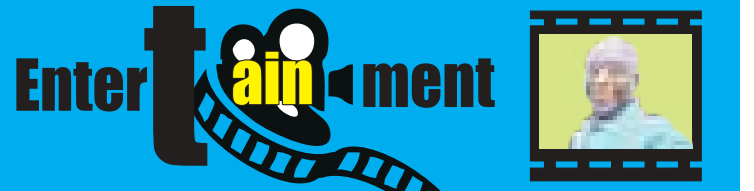
Okpanachi noted that Kano plays a major economic role in the northern business terrain and the challenges that MSMEs there have to contend with are not different from those faced internationally.

The Kano summit was, therefore, to galvanise key stakeholders in the MSME ecosystem within the region to take advantage of the DBN platform to scale their businesses.

The event also aimed to upskill business owners with knowledge on how to access reliable financing and how they can efficiently utilise these funds to upscale their businesses.



Wabote



'We convey the right messages to God's people'

Continued from page 16



Christians shy away from. We sincerely hope and pray that the message in this movie will be clearly delivered to our audience and the aim of this whole project will not be defeated.

How will youth who are vulnerable benefit from this package?

As stated earlier, the weekend is unique in that we have made provisions for side attractions, red carpet and live orchestra. This is what is obtainable only in the cinema and in the theatre. All this are unique ways of turning them back to the Church and if all things being equal, they can encounter

growth. Financial assistance should also be given to help the group carry out its activities properly and effectively.

What have you observed as the major challenges of the present days church?

Insurgency and insecurity are the major problems and challenges bedeviling the church today. Churches and places of worships have been under siege and attacks more frequently than usual. This has made worshippers avoid the gathering of believers, because of the fear of death. Tribalism and sectionalism have also been a great setback to the church. These acts make people feel sidelined and sometimes underrated among other believers and thus the decision of some people to withdraw from participating in church activities. Youths are not also left out as some suggestions brought up by them are either rarely carried out, or most times completely ignored, forgetting that these youths are the leaders of tomorrow and are the church of tomorrow. These challenges if not treated and looked into urgently and decisions made immediately, the church tomorrow will or might not be able to stand the test of time

What projects are you working on right now?

Our mega project is the upcoming movie production. The storyline is ready, but currently being scripted. The movie, though without a particular title yet portrays some ill behaviours in the church and society today. These issues serve as a set back to our serving God whole heartedly and effectively. It also brings to light, some important aspects of Christianity that most

Christ.

What have you packaged for these two days?

Alot. We have prepared two full plays. One is an epic village setting. Using a Yoruba scenario, we portray how most Christians jump from pillar to post looking for what they already have (salvation). The second one portrays a spiritual battle which a Christian encounters between his own desires and the desires of the spirit using a court setting. Aside the drama presentations, there will be music presentations from different sub-groups in the Church. The icing on the cake is a side attraction that has been put in place. Suya, smoothie, Pop-corn e.tc, will all be available at affordable prices.

Who wrote the scripts that are being acted, do we have a local content?

Our scripts are written collectively by some selected members of the group. Most of our scripts are written from the context of what is happening in our immediate society. On very rare occasions, we get inspired by other people's performances and we use their ideas to develop our storyline and scenes to pass the necessary and required message to God's people.

What are your expectations of the future church?

Generally, the future of everything and everyone should be better than the past and even the present. Our expectation of the future church is that it grows to an enviable height and the issues the present church is facing should be looked into immediately and trashed as soon as possible to avoid its re-occurrence in the future.



Nigerian actresses with highest net worth

Continued from page 16

Chioma Chukwuka - \$5.7 million



Chioma Chukwuka is another actress who enjoys portraying an "innocent" lady in romance films. She was born in Lagos, Nigeria, on March 12, 1980. On My Wedding Day, Wives on Strike, Heart of Gold, and The Rain of Hope are a few of the films she has played a role in. Chukwuka has a net worth of \$5.7 million.

Mercy Johnson - \$5 million

Mercy Johnson has worked in the Nigerian film industry for almost a decade. She has established herself as one of the most admired stars in the industry as a result of her talent and hard work. Hollandia Evap Milk and Pennek Nigeria Limited are among the brands she has endorsed. Her net worth is \$5 million, making her the one of richest female star in Nollywood.



Uche Jombo - \$4 million



Uche Jombo is an actress, screenwriter, film producer, and director who has had a lot of success. Her first film, Visa to Hell, was released in 1999, and it was her first foray into the film industry. Uche has written and co-authored several Nollywood films, including Girls in the Hood, Games Men Play, and The Celebrity. She has also been

nominated and won several awards like Female Viewers Choice during the 2015 Golden Icons Academy Movie Awards. Jombo's net worth is around \$4 million.

Ini Edo - \$3.9 million

Ini Edo was born in the city of Uyo in the state of Akwa Ibom. She began her acting career in 2000 and has since appeared in over 200 films. Read also How much is Chinedu Ikedieze's net worth in 2019? Ini Edo is also a brand ambassador for Beauty Secrets of April, a skincare line. She has also won awards such as the Nafca Award and Golden Icons Academy Movie. With a net worth of almost \$3.9 million, Ini is one of Nigeria's most well-paid and sought-after actresses.



Oge Okoye - \$3 million



Ini Edo was born in the city of Uyo in the state of Akwa Ibom. She began her acting career in 2000 and has since appeared in over 200 films. Read also How much is Chinedu Ikedieze's net worth in 2019? Ini Edo is also a brand ambassador for Beauty Secrets of April, a skincare line. She has also won awards such as the Nafca Award and Golden

Icons Academy Movie. With a net worth of almost \$3.9 million, Ini is one of Nigeria's most well-paid and sought-after actresses.

Source: Legit

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

Getting respite through *awara* business

At time that the saying: 'Think what you can do for Nigeria, not what Nigeria can do for you' is resonating, it would seem no one wants to be idle. Mrs Lucy Apollos was trained as a tailor but developed interest in selling awara (soya bean cake) as an additional income earner for her. She explained that she ventured into selling awara because her tailoring work was not moving as she expected it to be. Moreso, she has a large family that she needs to cater for. CELESTINE DANLADI ATTSAR engaged her in a chat.

MRS Apollo said as a widow and mother of four, she was in need of other sources of funds to meet up with her challenges, immediate home needs as things are very hard in the country.

According to her, a friend introduced her to the business of selling awara. Initially when she started, she used to buy the fried awara from a woman in Giring Abattoir in Jos South LGA and would add more ingredients on it then sell it to her customers. But as time moved on and demand increased, she went and learnt how to prepare it from the start to finish. That involved her buying all the grains needed to produce it to consummation level.

When asked about those ingredients needed in making awara, she narrated that the main ingredient is Soya beans. Others are pepper, palm oil, tomatoes, maggi, onion and also tamarid.

According to Apollos, the process is not easy as it needs the complete attention of whoever is doing it. This is because making a



mistake will mean getting bad awara. Mrs. Apollos explained that her point of sale is LGEA Primary School and Obasanjo Model Primary School, all in Hwolshe in Jos

South LGA. And most of her customers are the school children and a fraction of their teachers.

According to her, the waste of the soya beans is sold to mostly pig farmers after drying it. She discovered, it is very good source of protein to pigs.

On the challenges, she encountered while selling her products, she explained that most of her customers are school children and as a mother with years of motherhood experience, she always handles them with caution as she would handle her own children. As to be expected sometimes when they are many, she gets confused, especially when it comes to giving them change after buying. Another challenge is with the adult customers who sometimes don't understand the changes in market forces. They complain a lot, ranging from the size or other taste. But the children don't complain. All they want us get to buy the awara and eat.

She added that things are



very expensive, the prices of the ingredients have doubled twice or thrice compared to the past. This has caused her a lot of collusion with her adult customers.

The business, according to Apollos, has increased her income and by implication, she was able to handle most of her financial challenges. Though the profit from the business is not much on a daily basis, what she does is to do daily contribution in other to save. And at the end of the month, she collects her saving and channels it to her area of needs especially on the education of her children.

When asked how she manages when schools are on holidays, as most of her customers are school children, Mrs. Apollos said she still continues making it but on a small scale and goes about hawking it within her vicinity especially Old Airport junction, Plateau Polytechnic and Kadima Market.

On the issue of her tailoring business, she explained that

she has not abandoned it despite her involvement in awara business. Her strategy is to create time for it especially that the Awara business is mostly in the morning and afternoon.

According to Mrs. Apollos, people still patronizes her mostly they are her church members and people around her neighbourhood. She said she will not stop engaging in tailoring as it is also an additional income to her and the foundation of her business journey.

Mrs. Apollos who is from Gombe State said Jos has become her home since the demise of her husband in an accident around Hillcrest School Jos. She has determined to better her life and that of her children, especially in the area of education.

She advised women especially those that lost their husbands not to allow themselves to be ridiculed or taken advantage of. As they can venture into small businesses and generate income to take care of their children.



Change of Name

RETNA I, formerly known as MISS RETNA WAPTONG DANLADI , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. RETNA BWANS DAFANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	MARY I, formerly known as MARY PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as MARY DAUDA OBADIAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	JOHN I, formerly known as JOHN MONDAY TENKA , now wish to be known and addressed as MONDAY TENKA . Correct date of birth is 3/3/1996 not 1/1/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	AMOS I, formerly known as AMOS POLYCARP AMOS , now wish to be known and addressed as AMOS POLYCARP GULENGS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	DOROTHY I, formerly known as MISS. DOROTHY PAUL MANGKAM , now wish to be known and addressed as DOROTHY DIRSHAK GOMWALK (MRS.) . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	ATUGIK I, formerly known as JOHNBOSCO VERONICA GURUMLAT (MISS) , now wish to be known and addressed as ATUGIK VERONICA ABDULWAHAB (MRS.) . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
BITKOP I, formerly known as MANJI PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as BITKOP AARON NANYIL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GWOM I, formerly known as GAGARA MARY ABRAHAM , now wish to be known and addressed as GWOM MARY TOMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	ALEXANDRA I, formerly known as MILDRED MATKWAP GAPLONG , now wish to be known and addressed as ALEXANDRA MATKWAP TREASURE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	NICHOLAS I, formerly known as RINTAR NIAKSUK BARNABAS , now wish to be known and addressed as NICHOLAS NIAKSUK BARNABAS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	DAKOP I, formerly known as PATIENCE TILIKDI DAKOP , now wish to be known and addressed as DAKOP TILIKDI DASHE . Correct date of birth is 04/05/1989 not 04/05/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	MUHAMMAD I, formerly known as GALADIMA DAHIRU , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD DAHIRU GALADIMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
DANJUMA I, formerly known as DANJUMA KEZIAH GWANTU , now wish to be known and addressed as DANJUMA NANBAM GWANTU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	PETER I, formerly known as GAMA SAMUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as PETER, GAMA SAMUEL . Correct Date of birth is 30/04/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	YOHANNA I, formerly known as DAZENG DUNG YOHANNA , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA DUNG DAZENG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	DUNG I, formerly known as THERESA DAVOU , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNG THERESA DAZENG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	JAMES I, formerly known as CHOLLOM HOLLON MARY , now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES CHOLLOM MARY . Correct date of birth is 05/05/1964 not 05/05/1954. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	BULUS I, formerly known as BULUS ATSI , now wish to be known and addressed as BULUS ARIN AJIJI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
ADESHINA I, formerly known as DANBWANRANG NVOU HELLEN , now wish to be known and addressed as ADESHINA VOUCY HELEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MRS. CELINA I, formerly known as MISS CELINA HAMMAN MBAYA , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. CELINA DAVID GARGADI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DATOEK I, formerly known as INUSA KENNETH , now wish to be known and addressed as DATOEK WALMAK INUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MAIMUNA I, formerly known as MAIMUNA MIKAIL BELLO , now wish to be known and addressed as MAIMUNA MUHAMMAD ABDULLAHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SILAS I, formerly known as SILAS CHINDONG , now wish to be known and addressed as SILAS CHINDONGNAAN DALANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NKECHI I, formerly known as NKECHI MARYANN OKOYE , now wish to be known and addressed as NKECHI MARYANN EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
DATIRI I, formerly known as ADAMS EMMA DATIRI , now wish to be known and addressed as DATIRI, EMMANUEL ADAMS . Correct date of birth is 11/01/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DAMULUM I, formerly known as IDI ISREAL , now wish to be known and addressed as DAMULUM KWOPNAN IDI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	AUTA I, formerly known as AUTA EZEKIEL NYAM, EZEKIEL SANI AUTA , now wish to be known and addressed as AUTA EZEKIEL NYAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	AMEDU I, formerly known as AMEDU AUGUSTINE ONYEJEFU , now wish to be known and addressed as AMEDU AUGUSTINE BABA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DANLAMI I, formerly known as DANLAMI TERRY JOSEPH , now wish to be known and addressed as DANLAMI TERRY YUSUF . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	UNYIME I, formerly known as UNYIME ENEFIOK AKWAOWO , now wish to be known and addressed as UNYIME DANIEL SUNDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
GOLADI I, formerly known as GOTOM PARDUNG GOLADI , now wish to be known and addressed as GOLADI PARDUNG FILIBUS . Correct date of birth is 01/01/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	HASSAN I, formerly known as SHEHU MUHAMMED HASSAN , now wish to be known and addressed as HASSAN ALIYU USMAN . Correct date of birth is 01/01/1992 not 01/01/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JOHN I, formerly known as KANGYANG DACHUNG DUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN KANGYANG DUNG-TONGON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	YARIMA I, formerly known as DABOR DIJE FELIMUN , now wish to be known and addressed as YARIMA DESTING PHILIMON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NANGPONEN I, formerly known as NANGPONEN BLESSING PHILIBUS , now wish to be known and addressed as NANGPONEN PHILIBUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	OLUSHOLA I, formerly known as PUKAT, HAPPY ALFRED , now wish to be known and addressed as OLUSHOLA HAPPINESS ALFRED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
MOHAMMED I, formerly known as MOHAMMED AISHATU , now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED AISHA YELWA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	OBETTA I, formerly known as NNENNA LILIAN EZE , now wish to be known and addressed as OBETTA, NNENNA-LILIAN OJOBOR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	AKINSANMI I, formerly known as MISS OLASUNKANMI BLESSING RONKE , now wish to be known and addressed as AKINSANMI BLESSING RONKE (MRS.) . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ISHIAKA I, formerly known as ISYAKA ABDULLAHI , now wish to be known and addressed as ISHIAKA ABDULLAHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JURKEN I, formerly known as ANTHONY DANBAKI , now wish to be known and addressed as JURKEN ANTHONY KUTDANGKITDA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ONYEKACHUKWU I, formerly known as ONYEKA JAMILU OKEKE , now wish to be known and addressed as ONYEKACHUKWU OKEKE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
GAMBO I, formerly known as DAKUP LUCKY , now wish to be known and addressed as GAMBO ISA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DURU I, formerly known as MISS OKEZIE MERCY CHINASA , now wish to be known and addressed as DURU MERCY CHINASA (MRS.) . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	YUNUSA I, formerly known as YUNUSA MUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as YUNUSA MUSA SHEHU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	YUSUF I, formerly known as AISHA SA'AD , now wish to be known and addressed as YUSUF AISHA SA'AD . Correct date of birth is 02/06/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	BELOVED I, formerly known as OMOLADE OLUSIYI , now wish to be known and addressed as BELOVED OMOLADE JAMES-DUNGIET . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DENPAK I, formerly known as OZELE ROSEMARY NKIERU , now wish to be known and addressed as DENPAK ROSEMARY OZELE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
SANI I, formerly known as KABIRU MUHD SANI , now wish to be known and addressed as SANI KABIRU MUHAMMAD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	RAYMOND I, formerly known as RAYMOND NAANDAT , now wish to be known and addressed as RAYMOND NAANDAT GOEBOK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	OBETTA I, formerly known as IDOKO SAMUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as OBETTA SAMUEL SYLVESTER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GARBA I, formerly known as GARBA AYUKA MARY PRUDENCE , now wish to be known and addressed as GARBA PRUDENCE MARY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	BALA I, formerly known as EMMANUEL OJOMA BLESSING , now wish to be known and addressed as BALA OJOMA BLESSING . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	EZEKIEL I, formerly known as EZEKIEL NATHAN JAMAICA , now wish to be known and addressed as EZEKIEL NATHAN JAMAICA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
AFALA I, formerly known as JONATHAN PATU MICHAEL , now wish to be known and addressed as AFALA PATU JONATHAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SOHDIR I, formerly known as SOHDIR SULE VONGDIP , now wish to be known and addressed as SOHDIR NANFA BAKO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CIRDAP I, formerly known as CHIRDAN GARBA , now wish to be known and addressed as CIRDAP GARBA . Correct date of birth is 20/07/1955. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	IZAM I, formerly known as HANNATU YAKUBU , now wish to be known and addressed as IZAM HANNATU YAKUBU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	UMAR I, formerly known as UMAR ALIYU BELLO , now wish to be known and addressed as UMAR AMINU BELLO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CHUKWUEMEKA I, formerly known as CHUKWUEMEKA UCHE and UCHE UGWUBUNKA CHUKWUEMEKA , now wish to be known and addressed as CHUKWUEMEKA KELVIN LUKE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NEWS

Lalong approves Hirse as Mishkaham Mwaghavul

By PETER TITLE

THE Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong has approved the selection of Da. John Putmang Hirse as the new Mishkaham Mwaghavul on first class status.

A statement made available to SUNDAY STANDARD and signed by the Commissioner, Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Honorable Sylvanus Tappun indicated that Da. Hirse emerged after a selection exercise.

This was successfully conducted by the kingmakers of Mwaghavul Chieftdom on the 15th June, 2022.

According to the statement before his accession to the exalted position, the newly select Mishkaham Mwaghavul was the District Head of Mangu



Lalong

in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The statement reads in part, on this note, the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, on behalf

of the state Government and good people of Plateau State, heartily congratulate the new Monarch and wish this Royal Highness, a peaceful and successful reign on the throne.

'Rewrites the wrongs of the past'

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Ohinoyi of Epira, His Royal Majesty, King Ado Ibrahim has observed that no nation world over, can grow without accurate population of its citizens.

The Royal Father made the observation when the Federal Commissioner of National Population Commission in-charge of Kogi State, Professor Jimoh Isah who was on sensitization tour of the Central Senatorial District ahead of the 2023 Census paid him a courtesy call at his palace in Okene on Thursday.

Ado Ibrahim challenged NPC to strive to rewrite the wrongs of the past and endeavour to conduct credible and accurate census that will be of international standard and acceptable to all Nigerians.

He noted that Nigeria as one of third world countries

was still lagging behind in terms of meeting up with conducting correct population headcount.

"The ball is now in the court of the NPC to use the opportunity of the upcoming 2023 census to do the needful in satisfying the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians on its mandate" Ohinoyi charged.

Ado Ibrahim pleaded with the media to endeavour to live up to its social responsibility of enlightenment and sensitization of citizens on the value of population count.

Responding, the Federal Commissioner of NPC in-charge of Kogi told the royal father that he and NPC officials were in his domain for rigorous advocacy visit to sensitise the people on what was required of them during the upcoming census in Nigeria.

He said that it was the duty

of NPC to persuade the people to ensure that they are being counted during the exercise coming up between February, March and April next year.

Professor Jimoh Isah also informed His Royal Majesty that in the course of their visit, a Town Hall meeting will be held for critical stakeholders in the Central Senatorial District as part of the NPC activities to ensure resounding success in the conduct of both the trial and main census.

He also briefed His Royal Majesty on what the commission has been able to do so far and the tasks ahead with assurances that the commission will not relent in achieving the desired result at the end of the exercise.

Also speaking at the Town Hall meeting organized for critical stakeholders in the zone, the NPC commissioner told the gathering that they should co-operate in working round the clock towards the success of the trial census billed to begin in July and the main headcount for 2023.

He explained that the trial census which will be conducted in nine selected local government areas of Kogi was aimed at testing the techniques and methodologies to be used during the 2023 census.

Professor Jimoh Isah noted that the roles of traditional rulers, opinion moulders, Community and religious leaders in the success of the headcount exercise can't be over emphasized and admonished them to strive to live up to their tasks.

In his contributions during the Town Hall meeting, the Obabanyi of Ehima, Chief Onimisi Samuel who represented the Ohinoyi of Epira, promised adequate mobilization of the royal fathers towards the success of the upcoming census.

According to the traditional

THE Ata'Igala and President of Kogi State Council of Traditional Rulers, His Royal Majesty, Matthew Opaluwa Oguche-Akpa has tasked the National Population Commission to ensure that it conduct credible and accurate census that will be acceptable to all during the upcoming 2023 census exercise.

The Royal father, Matthew Opaluwa Oguche-Akpa also promised logistics support towards the success of the upcoming Census.

The Ata'Igala gave the promise when he received in audience the Federal Commissioner of the National Population Commission in Kogi State, Professor Jimoh Isah who paid him a courtesy visit in his palace at Idah.

His Royal Majesty said that his palace will ensure the mobilization of his subjects to assist in the provision of accommodation, feeding and security for the functionaries conducting the census within

Ata'Igala tasks NPC on accurate census

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja



Ata Igala

his domain.

The Ata while showering his royal blessings on Prof. Jimoh Isah, prayed that Nigeria will witness the most accurate census exercise during his time.

He described Prof. Jimoh Isah as a knowledgeable personality whom he assured will leave above board in the conduct of the census exercise.

He observed that Nigeria over the years down to year 2006 last population census encountered criticism and accusations of inaccurate exercise which he advised should be corrected this time around.

"I hopefully believe that NPC will do a perfect job now to avoid the mistake of the past" the Ata pleaded.

His Royal Majesty said that no nation can do better without a perfect population count and stressed the need to have a reliable data that

could facilitate effective planning for accelerated development.

"It is the population of an area that determines what it gets from the national cake. I am therefore, appealing to all communities across the country to effectively mobilize towards ensuring the success of the upcoming census.

Earlier, the Federal Commissioner of the National Population Commission in Kogi state, Professor Jimoh Isah had told the royal father that he was on advocacy visit with his official in Igala Kingdom for sensitization of the people about the trial and the upcoming census proper.

He also briefed His Royal Majesty on what the NPC has been able to do so far to ensure smooth census exercise with assurance that no community will be cheated.

INEC chair commended for elections conduct



Mahmood

ALH. Sanusi Babban Takko, the Barayan Bauchi has commended Prof. Mahmud Yakubu the Chairman Independent Electoral Commission on his numerous successes achieved so far since his appointment as chairman of the commission.

At our level in Bauchi State, we see you more as one of our illustrious son's making us proud in your given assignment, at the national level, as we urge you to continue to remain a beacon of hope and a shining example

amongst your peers, as well as a worthy ambassador of our great state, Bauchi as history and posterity will always record you on the positive side as one who came, saw and conquered.

Moreso, from the recent conducted Ekiti Governorship elections and other pockets of elections, so far so good under the visionary and dynamic leadership of

Prof. Mamud Yakubu, as elections now in Nigeria are truly free and fair. Interestingly, as the

momentum for the 2023 elections gathers, my appeal to all Nigerians is to continue to support Prof. Mamud Yakubu and his amiable team with prayers, so that 2023 elections at all levels will bring good tidings geared towards the consolidation of democratic dividends in our dear Country.

So far so great, your records of numerous successes recorded in numbers of elections you have conducted since your appointment are quiet legendary and commendable and worthy of commendation by all Nigerians, as his wealth of experience, tenacity, and exposure has been brought to bear in his quest of achieving free and fair elections for the greater good of all Nigerians.

While calling on all true sons and daughters of Bauchi at home and in diaspora across the country to be fervent in prayers continuously for Prof. Mamud Yakubu for more enduring successes in our threshold for building democratic culture in Nigeria, which will serve as a catalyst for other African Countries to emulate and build upon.



Bello

NEWS

CP Onyeka presents cheques to fallen Police families

By Bulus Gambo

COMMISSIONER of Police, Plateau State Command, CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka has on behalf of the Inspector General of Police presented Twenty Two Million, Two Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-nine naira, Eighty-three kobo to families of Police officer who served the nation gallantly before their demise.

While presenting the cheques to the beneficiaries in his offices at the Police State Headquarters Jos, recently, the Commissioner of Police told the beneficiaries that the Inspector General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba, understand the plight of families of his men who died in active service and has shown laudable commitment to ensuring that they get what was due them without further delay.

The Police boss who said the sacrifices of their breadwinners cannot be quantified with anything, advised the beneficiaries to make good use of the money to address their needs and various challenges.

Also speaking, Mr. Nankin Njin who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries thanked the Inspector General of Police for valuing the sacrifices of their loved ones.

The beneficiaries are: Mercy Monday, Timchang Lanfnap, Barmani Nicodemus, Kelvin Monday Dantala, Moses Christopher,



CP Onyeka presenting a cheque to one of the beneficiaries

Danladi Dakup Dechi, Morgan Mulna Babas, Visa Dakwali, Wang, Rita David, Victoria Bwefa Miracle Jonathan, Bitrus Mallo, Stephen Adoh Florence Philip Matthew and Zachariah, Diret Yohanna, Nankin Njin.

COMMISSIONER of Police Plateau State Command, CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka, has advised Police officers to see themselves as responsible people whose precipitous decline in fortune could affect their dependants greatly.

CP Onyeka made the disclosure at the Police Headquarters, Jos recently while lecturing his men on the general aspect of life in relation to policing and the need to eschew all criminal acts capable of limiting their stay in the Force.

Speaking, the Police boss told his personnel to thank God that they are part of

... 'Whatever affects you affects your dependents'

the working class under the Federal Government, with something to fall back on at the end of every month.

He bemoaned the fact that some policemen being oblivious of who they are, collaborate with criminals to commit despicable acts. According to the CP, ill fate awaits such officers because if caught in the act or fingered by investigations, they would be arrested, tried, dismissed, prosecuted and their families would go through a lot.

The Commissioner of

Police who harped on discipline told inspectors who had stayed long in the rank and the newly promoted ones to know the value of their ranks and use it to guide members of the rank and file accordingly.

He also tasked officers to perform their constitutional duties with the fear of God and be civil in dealing with members of the public in order to continue building their confidence in the Force.

Prayers offered for Bokkos potatoes market

BOKKOS International Potatoes Market at NBBRI Kopya, the ancestral home of Bokkos Central People of Bacus, Haihong, Makada, Ruwi and Yafwenyi has been dedicated to God ahead of its operations.

The prayer session was organized by the Executive Chairman of Bokkos Local Government, Hon. Joseph Guluwa who dedicated the New Market to God before the commencement of operations.

The occasion attracted Christian and Islamic clerics, traditional rulers, politicians and business men and women who all prayed for God's blessings upon the new edifice.



Guluwa

Hon. Joseph Guluwa encouraged the people to support government's plans and programmes which was aimed at ensuring that local farmers are not exploited by the unwholesome activities of middlemen. He expressed the readiness of the LGA to cooperate with all merchants as long as they will not shortchange our people.

He lamented over situations where prices of goods are determined by the buyers at the detriment of the farmers. "No policy to change the fortunes of people ever comes easy" the Chairman said, and called for patience, understanding and support for us to salvage our people to begin to benefit from our own God given blessing.

The Chairman reiterated that his Economic Reengineering agenda was aimed at ensuring that Bokkos farmers gain wealth from their farm produce.

The Saf Bokkos, Dah Monday Adanchin and Saf Daffo, Dah Dauda Maren (represented Ag.Saf Ron Saf Aizat) all applauded the good intentions of the local council and promised to enlighten their wards on the need to support the government. The traditional rulers also poured

enconiums on Prof. Slim Matawal, the DG/CEO NBRI for attracting the project and Prof Samson Duna, the Barden Bokkos (Current DG/CEO NBRI) for completing the complex.

Apostle Ayuba Matawal, Pastor Samuel Matawal Who represented CAN Chairman, Rev Asugun, Rev Yakubu Mutong, Evangelist Gabriel Mandik and Mallam Sale Mansir (JNI, Chairman Bokkos LGA) offered prayers for God's blessings and protection for both buyers and sellers at the market.

Former Management Committee Chairman of the Council, Hon. Luka Makut commended the foresight of the Executive Chairman stressing that posterity will remember him.

The Chairman of the Potatoes Marketers Association Bokkos LGA Branch, Mafulul Wang appreciated the Chairman for coming to their aid and assured of their support at all times.

The STF, DPO, DSS, Commandant Civil Defense Corp, Neighborhood Watch, Community Police, Hunters Association, Operation Rainbow, and the vigilante all promised to provide effective security at the market.

Jos North boss appeals to citizens on voters card

Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Bala Usman has commended Governor Simon Lalong for his foresight in declaring a Two day work free to allow citizens in the locality participate in the ongoing voters registration excise.

The Chairman who made the commendation said, the period will enable citizens of voting

age who are yet to get their permanent voters card do so.

Governor Lalong had earlier announced Monday June 27 and Tuesday 28 as work-free to enable more citizens register in the ongoing voters registration exercise.

The Chairman said his administration was ready to key into the Governor's directive by creating enlightenment on the

importance of citizens having their permanent voters card as the only way they can choose leaders of their choice.

Usman urged the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC to ensure that the devices and other facilities deployed for the registration exercise are assigned to designated locations in the area where citizens would easily access and get registered.

He appealed to citizens to cooperate with INEC officials in ensuring a smooth and peaceful process.

Ujah Anaguta, Pozoh Johnson Jauro Magaji who commended Governor Lalong's directive however expressed concern about some citizen's reluctance in getting registered and called on his subjects to get registered.

The Adagwon Izere of Izere Chieftdom, Adagwon Emmanuel Ajik called on the inhabitants of his Chieftdom who are yet to

register to take advantage of the ongoing voters registration exercise to participate in the process.

On his part, the Gwom Kabong, Da. Justice Gabriel Sha, said Governor Lalong's declaration of the public holiday was a right step as that has given his people who are yet to obtain PVCs to do so.

Deputy Chief Imam, Shiekh Ghazali Adams appealed to religious and community leaders to encourage the followers on the need to get their permanent voters card.

As at the time of filling in this report, citizens of Jos North Local Government Area were seen been trooping in their numbers at designated points to get their PVC'S.

Most of the citizens are however appealing to INEC to extend the registration exercise to afford more people the opportunity to participate in the process.



Usman

NEWS

Mwadkwon congratulates Piyo as PDP Deputy Governorship candidate

By BULUS GAMBO

M E M B E R representing the good people of Barkin Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency and the Plateau North PDP Senate Candidate, Hon. Simon Mwadkwon has congratulated his Constituent, Hon. Ngo Josephine Piyo on her selection by the Peoples Democratic Party as the party's Gubernatorial Candidate.

In a congratulatory message, the Federal Lawmaker and Senate hopeful described Hon. Josephine Piyo as a worthy constituent and ambassador who had remained loyal, steadfast and firm in the Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP) through thick and thin.

"Hon. Josephine Piyo is a grassroots politician, a virtuous woman, great mother and a bridge builder.

"She will bring to the fore her wealth of experience having served as member Plateau State House of Assembly Riyom Constituency and Executive Chairperson Riyom Local Government Council where she served meticulously and performed creditably well.

"As a Former Chairman who served before her, I can attest to the fact that she is indeed a performer and a woman of integrity



Piyo

seeing her efforts in terms of infrastructural and human capital development.

"May I use this medium to commend the Plateau State PDP Chairman, Hon. Chris Hassan and the State Working Committee members comprising of distinguish men and women of valour for providing sound, credible and visionary leadership. It is my prayer that they will lead the party to victory in future elections" he said.

He appreciated Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, the Plateau State PDP Governorship candidate for finding his constituent among many others worthy for the running

mate slot.

He expressed optimism that Ngo Josephine Piyo will add great value to the campaign and make a good team player if elected.

The Legislator urged the PDP family to close ranks, be more united and work for the party's victory at all levels in the forthcoming 2023 general elections and beyond.

He called on the party supporters and citizens to vote massively for the PDP at all levels come 2023 and beyond.

He wished Ngo Josephine Piyo the best and a healthy working relationship with the Gubernatorial candidate.

The attention of Jos North Local Government Council has been drawn to the activities of some unscrupulous elements who have been re-allocating lands titles earlier allocated at the council's Layout in Dong Village.

Executive Chairman of the council, Shehu Bala Usman disclosed that the council has not revoked any land title from its original owners and is not contemplating doing so any moment soon.

Usman explained that even if the council was contemplating such action, due process will be followed after a resolution must have been taken to that effect by the local government Executive Council.

He stated that this will enable the original owners by way of notification to the general public, to that effect, through local and national

Jos North denies revoking Dong village land titles

dailies as well as radio and television and other media outlets.

The Chairman said his administration will not tolerate any act of land grabbing and other forms of criminality and have no intention whatsoever to condone that which is capable of inflicting more hardship and pains on its citizens.

Shehu Bala Usman directed that from now henceforth, no individual or individuals nor staff of the lands section should indulge in reallocation of lands without his knowledge noting that any person who does that is trespassing and if such a person is apprehended, he will face the full wrath of the law.

The chairman warned that anyone who gives money on

account of revocation to any person nor its staff in the Lands Section, should in the interest of peace collect his money back or meet the head of lands section of the council.

He advised the general public to follow due process even if he or she is buying from the original land title owners.

The Chairman have also directed the Land Officer of the council to as a matter of urgency, inspect the council Layout in Dong and restore total sanity in the process and report back to him immediately.

Usman appreciates citizens of the locality for their unflinching support, understanding and cooperation to his administration and reiterated his desire to serve them

Lalong charges National Assembly to end violence

By DUMAH RANDONG

Governor Simon Lalong of Plateau State wants the National Assembly to take concrete steps to end the circle of violence and wanton killings in the state and other parts of the country.

The governor described as unfortunate the way and manner these attacks and killings were taking place with impunity and urged the National Assembly and Federal Government to go beyond the usual condemnation by ensuring that perpetrators were prosecuted to serve as deterrent.

Governor Lalong who made the call when the House of Representatives Ad-hoc Committee investigating the wanton killings in Plateau and neighboring states led by Hon



Lalong

Abubakar Hassan Fulata paid him a visit at Government House, Rayfield, Jos, Friday, stressed that "more often than not when we hear of bandits attack and communal clashes, the first thing we hear is condemnation and it ends there."

Represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, Governor Lalong further challenged the National Assembly and Federal Government to make sure that the report to be submitted was implemented to restore confidence in the people as well as peace in the communities. He noted that it was one thing to give a report and another thing to implement it.

He promised to implement all legislation on peace and perpetrators of violence to bring them to book and expressed regret that there were some form of impunity that informed the activities of these evil men because nobody has been jailed.

Governor Lalong said he was sure that the community might have had the same story in places visited about people coming to attack communities to kill, destroy their homes, properties and some instances occupy their lands.

Earlier, Chairman, House of Representatives Ad-hoc Committee investigating wanton killings in Plateau and neighboring states, Hon Abubakar Hassan Fulata had explained that in the course of their visit, they had interacted

with Kuru communities in Jos South and Kampani, Yuli, Yalo and Beji in Bashar District as well as Pinau and Gimbi Communities in Wase District all in Wase Local Government Area where they were taken through horrific experiences in the hands of these bandits.

While relieving their experiences in the hands of the bandits according to Fulata and Kuru communities for the past ten years they have been hacked to death on daily basis and at ease, the locals have been stopped from cultivating their farms by the bandits as well as kidnapping for ransom of 10- 20 million paid. And at the end, victims were never released but killed.

Hon Fulata who is Chairman House Committee on Rules and Business explained that the purpose of government was to ensure the protection of lives and property of it's citizens but said " we have reached a point where the government is losing the confidence of the people because we can not secure them," he stressed.

"The most dangerous thing for us as a government, is that the substantial number of these communities are relocating to neighboring states and is already compounding the security challenge", he stated.

The committee after the visit, gave the assurance that it will invite the security for interaction before submitting their report to President Muhammadu Buhari.

NPC to conduct ad-hoc staff training

From
MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI
Keffi

IN preparation towards the successful conduct of the proposed 2023 National Census, the National Population Commission, (NPC) has began the training of its ad-hoc staff that would be used to conduct a trial census in Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State pending the commencement of the main exercise.

The training exercise which is for supervisors, enumerators and other categories of staff is being conducted on behalf of the North Central state just as being conducted in the other five geopolitical zones in the country and it draws participants from all parts of the country.

Addressing the trainees in all the the classes that they were taking their instructions/lessons from their various facilitators within Karu Local the federal commissioner in charge of Nasarawa State Mr. Silas

Ali Agara explained that the purpose of the training exercise was to equip them adequately with the knowledge and know-how on how the population census would be conducted.

He stated that such has become highly imperative especially now that the exercise is going to be paperless or technologically driven as such; informed the need to give them all the necessary training.

"The paperless census is the first of its kind in the country and we want to get it right, that is why we have programmed ourselves to go out on trial census to look at the challenges that would come up in the course of this trial census and those challenges would be addressed before the main census of 2023.

" Given the fact that this time around the census exercise is going to be a paperless one driven by communication devices like Android phones, PDF and others, the need to adequately train the participants becomes highly

imperative" he stated.

Agara who was also the immediate past Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State further explained that after the training exercise, it is their facilitators that would recommend what roles or positions they would be assigned to do during the main exercise because it is only the facilitators that would assess their performances and know exactly where and how they would be properly placed to conduct their duties.

" After your training, it is only your facilitators that would be allowed to recommend the proper places either supervisors, enumerators and others that all of you will be placed because they are the only ones that knows and access your performances not anybody from the NPC" he explained.

While advising the trainees to endeavor to cooperate and learn all what they being taught by their facilitators, he stated that even though amongst them there are those with higher paper

qualifications like first Degrees, Masters and even Principal High Degrees, (PHD) the commission is at the end of the training would focus on persons to perform satisfactory and adequately.

Agara who toured all the classes in Karu, Panda, Karshi and Uke all within the local government area to see for himself how the training exercise were being conducted also said the commission has visited the traditional, community and religious leaders to seek for their support and collaborations towards the success of the exercise.

Meanwhile, speaking with newsmen after the tour the commissioner expressed his satisfaction with the training exercise and assured the commission determined enough to make the exercise a successful one.

He stated that the traditional and community leaders would provide to them some guides that would make them to ensure that all people and houses were counted.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Ekweremadu



Salisu



Lyon

Nigeria and the leadership question

continue from page 10 facing charges over organ harvest involving a young Nigerian man which has again put to question the moral, social and political standing of the nation's political office holders?

However, media reports on the account of what led to Eweremadus arrest and detention suggest that the Lawmaker who is a legal professional failed the integrity test at some point as observers including Mr Ebun-Bola Adegboruwa, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria [SAN], described the attitude of impunity on the part of some political leaders who always carry the so-called Nigerian mentality even beyond the shores of the country which most of them have displayed often by their lack of following due diligence with good conscience.

The case of the former Deputy Senate President according to most commentators is the typical attitude of the Nigerian leaders just like in the case of Senator Ekweremadu who has been blamed for not making laws to put an end to medical tourism abroad inspite of his long stay as Deputy Senate President in the National Assembly since 2007. Others have also faulted the leadership for not doing enough to provide standard medical facilities within the health sector which is now exposing the lack of will to make the system work for the good of the entire citizens.

And for a highly placed Nigerian politician to be caught in the eye of such storm is seen by most observers as a major public relations disaster for the Federal Government

particularly President Muhammadu Buhari, who coincidentally was on official visit to Rwanda alongside the Prime Minister of Britain, Boris Johnson. How the international community would view the situation remains another topic for another day.

Nigeria is a country already used to so many comical and embarrassing moments from its so called leaders. During the 2nd Republic, there were instances where the nation must have ridiculed itself before the world where some of the people that were leading them either at the executive, legislature or the Judiciary may have riddled themselves to some positions, some by sheer providence, some goodluck smiled at them while some were just nothing but a fraud.

Nigerians may not forget in a

hurry the charismatic Salisu Buhari, who became Speaker, House of Representatives in 1999 but was later disgraced out of office over a University of Toronto certificate. And within the same period, a similar scenario played out at the Senate where its Presiding officer and President of the Senate, 'Evans' or 'Evan Ewerem' was forced to resign over a certificate saga from Kings College Lagos. In the present dispensation, there were cases that made headlines like the NYSC certificate saga that forced a former Minister of Finance, Mrs Kemi Adesina, and the case of Bayelsa State where David Lyon, was disqualified by an Appeal Court judgment after winning the Governorship election due to flaws discovered from the credentials of his running mate.

History has always found a way of repeating itself within the context of the political landscape of the country. Barely weeks after emerging from a heavily monetized APC National Convention as its Presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, send some shivers to the spine of must Nigerians when the news went viral that his certificates were stolen by unknown persons.

The disclosure was contained in an affidavit submitted to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), as part of eligibility fillings for the 2023 Presidential elections. Although Mr Tinubu claimed

he attended the University of Chicago between 1972 and 1976 where he obtained a Bsc in Economics. He also claimed he had Bsc in Business Administration in 1979, as well as certificate in Public Accounting.

Tinubu skipped the INEC Information column regarding his primary and secondary education. Stating that; " I went on self exile from October 1994 to 1998. When I returned I discovered that all my property were looted including all documents relating to my qualifications were missing."

It would be recall that President Muhammadu Buhari suffered a similar fate in the hands of the military where his documents were said to have been destroyed after the coup that ousted him in 1983. Thereafter, his educational qualification was questioned up to the Supreme Court by Alhaji Atiku Abubakar in 2019. Speaking on the leadership question regarding the certificate controversy of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, a chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and a Barrister, Anthony Ehilebo, said; "We need leaders that we can ask about their integrity and who we elected and what is the qualification of any of them."

Late Chinua Achebe, once said; " There is nothing wrong with the Nigerian weather nor its food, or its air...our problem is that of leadership." Perhaps, the way forward is to elect leaders that can be accountable with the ability to be servant leaders and not pretenders.

"Nigeria is a country already used to so many comical and embarrassing moments from its so called leaders. During the 2nd Republic, there were instances where the nation must have ridiculed itself before the world where some of the people that were leading them either at the Executive, Legislature or the Judiciary may have riddled themselves to some positions, some by sheer providence, some goodluck smiled at them while some were just nothing but a fraud."

METRO-FOCUS

PVC: The struggle continues

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

It is obvious that the fear of the unknown in our political journey has provoked people's anxiety and interest in the forthcoming general elections. This was glaringly seen in the faces of people during the two days holiday declared by the Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong recently.

It was as if this exercise had never been done before. One could hardly believe that the turnout could be this massive with people trooping in to register at respective INEC Registration Centres in Jos/Bukuru metropolis. It clearly shows that there are still more to come if another holiday is declared.

However, in order to reduce hardship people face in trying to get their Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs), the management of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should decentralise the process to enable people have easy access to it instead of the cumbersome process that add more burden even on the INEC itself.

It would interest INEC to know that majority of those who queued up during the two work free days could not even have the opportunity to register because of how mammoth the crowd was.

The struggle continues as most people within voting age are workers who cannot afford to queue up during working days except Saturday or Sunday. Something urgent needs to be done to address their peculiar case.

It is not out of place for more Registration Centres to be created, if possible, at Polling Units just like what happened in 2014. This will ease the work load on INEC staff and also avoid this overcrowding. Moreso that, the fear of contacting Covid-19 is imminent.

It was also observed that with this high level of anxiety and the desire to change our leaders come 2023, it would be dangerous to deny this population the chance to vote the leaders of their choices because the seeming political wave of drama that is attached to this 2023 elections must be managed well.

Most of these electoral violence we witness during elections are not far from these oversight. Therefore, we must take cognizance of this fact and avoid some of these things we can possibly manage, because most of the thugs used to forment trouble during and after the elections are youth who are disenfranchised.

Just like what took place at the Jos-South Local



Government INEC Office recently, where some youth broke the entrance and forced their way into the premises. It is an indication that there is more to it in future than now. People are so desperate to exercise their franchises come 2023, so, the authority saddled with this responsibility should do the needful.

Apart from the fresh registration which has the majority population, there were also some people who came for transfer and revalidation, making the process cumbersome.

These categories of people could have comfortably taken care of their problems online in the comfort of their home. However, not everyone has an android phone and thus would have to go to registration centres to do the transfers.

Quoting from the words of Jos-North Local Government Council Deputy Chairman, Hon.

Ezekiel Shina Agada, "You can see for yourself that the turnout is very, very encouraging and the people are out to get their PVCs so that they will come out to vote well in the forthcoming 2023 elections.

"I just want to appeal that, INEC should be able to extend the days for the registration because you can see a chunk of the population has not registered for their PVCs. Apart from this particular crowd, you can also see that people are turning out enmasse all over the local government. I want to call on the people of Jos-North LGA to exercise patience. And as they go on with the normal registration, there should not be any chaos so that we finish it in good time and peacefully", he appealed.

Truly, we must commend the Executive Governor of Plateau State for understanding the heartbeats of his people to have declared work free days in that



Photos: By DANLADI DUKS

respect. But, sir, like Oliver Twist, we would want to ask for more. This time around, we are not asking for work free day again. We want to appeal that you assist by collaborating with the INEC in the state to step down or rather, provide logistics that would help ease this process. The INEC Commissioner on his part should look at possible ways

that will make this process comfortable. It is our prayers that the INEC will consider this request and move swiftly to address it to make PVC accessible with ease, paving way for a peaceful 2023 general elections that every Nigerian will celebrate. Long live Plateau State! Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

SUNDAY PEOPLE

INAUGURATION AND HANDINGOVER CEREMONY

ECWA Jos District Church Council (DCC) Women Fellowship, recently inaugurated newly elected leaders at ECWA Kyan Rikkos, Jos North LGA



Rev. Dr. Fidelis N. Barry, Chairman, ECWA District Church Council (DCC) inaugurating Prof. Mariam Danladi Solomon, Leader and Mrs. Grace Nuhu Ahmadu as Assistant Secretary of the fellowship



Mrs. Regina S. Tongpang outgoing EWF Leader (left) presenting handing over notes to Prof. Mariam Danladi Solomon, incoming ECWA Jos DCC Leader



Mrs. Elizabeth J. Gimba (left) discussing with Mrs. Cecilia Bwans at the inauguration



A cross section of past ECWA Jos DCC Women Fellowship Leaders at the inauguration

Photos: JOHN LAR



CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

JOSEPH GOMWALK SECRETARIAT, JOS-PLATEAU STATE

PLATEAU STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

VACANCY!

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment into the vacant post of Auditor-General, Local Governments.

A) Post: Auditor-General, Local Governments.

Qualification and Experience

- i. Applicant for the post must possess Bsc or HND in Accounting from a reputable Institution of Higher learning;
- ii. He/She must not be older than fifty-six (56) years of age at the time of appointment;
- iii. A professional accountant with the minimum of Ten (10) years post qualification and cognate experience in Accounting or Auditing Field.
- iv. A member of professional accounting body recognized by an act of the National Assembly;
- v. Persons of reputable character who have not been found guilty or convicted of an offence involving dishonest or professional misconduct.

B) Remuneration:

The salary, super-annuation and benefit of the Auditor General shall be as may be prescribed by the House of Assembly, but not exceeding the amount as determined by the revenue mobilization, allocation and fiscal commission.

C) Method of Application:

- i. Interested persons should send in ten copies (10) of their application and detailed curriculum vitae together with photocopies of credentials as well as names of three (3) referees who can attest about the applicants.
- ii. Applications should be submitted not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this advertisement.
- iii. All applications should be addressed to:

**Chairman Civil Service Commission
J. D. Gomwalk Secretariat,
Jos.**

Signed:

**Chief Luka Fwagyil
Chairman
Civil Service Commission**



Road Runner
 Michael Agada
 magada122@gmail.com
 +234 803 333 5313
SAFER TOGETHER

Night driving (iii)

MAKE sure your lights, indicators, reflectors and number plate lighting are clear and in good working order to enable you see clearly and be seen at all times. A clean windscreen is of equal importance when driving at night.

Drive at a speed that allows you to stop within the distance covered by your lights. Assuming good driving conditions on an unlit road, the headlights of a typical car let you see for about 100 metres. Dipped lights will let you see for about 30 metres and a car travelling at 100 km/h will cover this distance in approximately a second. Keep your headlights adjusted properly. If they are out of line they may dazzle oncoming traffic, even when dipped.

Even with the best headlights, you can see less at night than during the day. Pedestrians and unlit bicycles are extremely difficult to see in the dark, particularly if you have to deal with the glare of oncoming lights.

When to use headlights
 If conditions require you to use headlights to drive safely, you must use them. Use dipped headlights at night or main beam headlights as appropriate. When in doubt turn on your full lights to see clearly and clear your doubts. Ensure that the red lights and the number plate lighting at the back of your vehicle are working properly.

Reflections may help you confirm if they are but the sure way is to turn them on, alight, go to the back and check for yourself. In the case of reverse and brake lights, you can get someone to help you check while you engage your reverse gear and press your brake pedal. That way you can be sure your rear lights are functional. As for your indicators if any of the sides blinks too rapidly it is an indication that either the rear or front indicator is not working.

Use dipped lights:
 just after the beginning (dusk) and before the end (dawn) of lighting up hours, as long as they are need to let you see clearly,
 when stopped in traffic,
 in built-up areas where there is good street lighting, on continuously lit roads outside built-up areas,
 when following behind another vehicle,
 where there is dense fog, falling snow or heavy rain,

when daylight is fading, and generally, to avoid inconveniencing other traffic.

It is good practice to use dipped headlights or dim/dip lights, where fitted, instead of only sidelights (parking lights) in built-up areas where there is good street lighting.

Use main beam headlights in situations, places and times outside of those listed above.

Use fog lights only during dense fog and falling snow. You must turn them off at all other times

What to do if you are dazzled by another vehicle's headlights
 Slow down and stop if necessary.

Always watch for pedestrians or cyclists on your side of the road.

If the dazzle is from an oncoming vehicle, avoid it by looking towards the verge (edge of your side of the road) until the vehicle has passed. If on the other hand the dazzle is from a vehicle behind you and reflected in your mirror, operate the night - driving mode on the mirror

At night, your peripheral vision is not as sharp as it could be and darkness makes it more difficult to gauge distance and movement. From safety perspective, it is important that lights are switched on as soon as dusk appears. That way you will see more and be seen sooner. Researches have shown that crashes are relatively low in areas with policies of driving on dimmed lights during daytime hours. If dazzled by oncoming vehicle's lights, do not be tempted to dazzle back as two wrongs do not make a right. Instead do the needful by heeding to the guide given earlier. You can reduce the glare by concentrating on your side of the road.

The condition of your vehicle is of great importance. If you notice a reduction in the strength of you lights or if they go dim, clean the outer glass. A file kilometres in muddy conditions dulls the lights more than you might imagine. It is also important to have lights properly focused and windscreen well cleaned. Cracks or scratches may mean you should consider replacing them. Even your own glasses, if you wear them should be cleaned before setting out on a journey.



NEWS

Catholic priests protest priest's killing

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

PRIESTS of the Kaduna Catholic Archdiocese, have led a peaceful protest after the funeral Mass for the slain priest, Rev Father Vitus Borogo at the Our Lady's Catholic Church, Kaduna.

Some of them carried placards with inscriptions like; 'we are Priests and not terrorists', 'government should secure Nigerians', 'anyone killed, lost his/her right to life', 'justice must be served', 'do we still have a government' and many others.

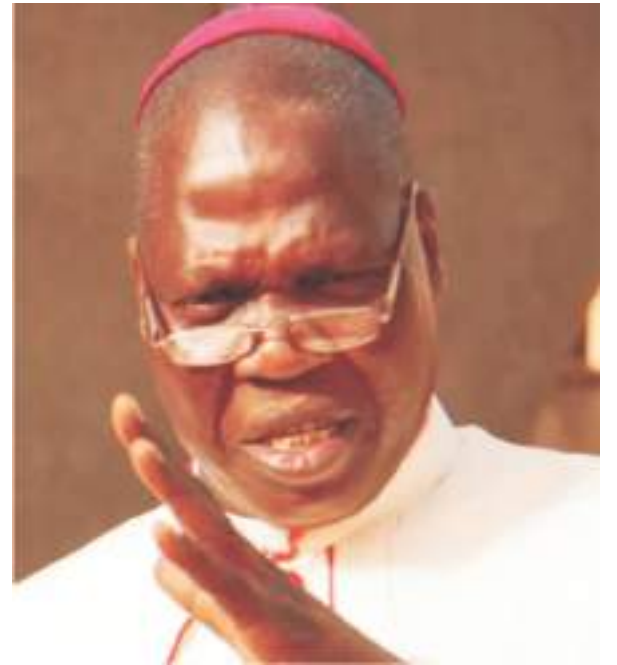
Late Rev Fr Vitus Vaishima Borogo, 50, was killed on Saturday June 25, 2022, at Kujama farm, Kaduna State, while his brother CY Borogo was kidnapped by his abductors.

About 700 Catholic priests from far and near attended the funeral Mass while the congregation occupied every available space in the church premises clad in black attire.

The journey from the church after the Mass took another 30 minutes as the priests march pass in two line formation while the remains of late Father Borogo was wheeled behind in slow but emotional pace.

In his address, Catholic Archbishop of Kaduna, Most Rev Matthew Man-Oso Ndagoso said that Nigerians are prisoners in their own country because of persistent attacks and killings in Nigeria.

He said, Nigerians were traumatized and at the stage of loosing hope, lamenting that some Nigerians have no reason to live again because of the way things are going on in this



Ndagoso

country, he added. "I feel devastated, it is so painful that within one year I have buried 3 priests who died in the hands of this bandits, the most painful one was late Fr. Aketeh whose burial took place last three weeks without his corpse".

He said, "over my 60 years of age we have not seen it this bad as it is now, even during the civil war it was not bad as it is now. Something is wrong with leadership of this country, we live in confusion in this country".

"We no longer have tears in our eyes because the source of our tears have dried up because of constant crying. We have also lost our voices because when you talk nobody listens, you cry nobody hears your cry, but we will not loose hope, one day God will wipe our tears. Ndagoso advised that

government should recruit young people who are willing to safeguard this country, to defend their land.

adding that there are so many millions of young men who are willing to defend their land.

He further said "any politician who can not secure Nigerians should not vying for any political position, it is better the person withdraw from the race".

On his part, the Vice Chairman of the Indigenous Priests of Kaduna, Rev. Fr Joseph Gandu called on the government to secure lives and property of Nigerians, maintaining that it is their social responsibility.

He noted that nobody have any right to kill one another, adding that human beings are major assets of this country before any other assets, he said.

Industrial court nulli fies CSP dismissed

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

NATIONAL Industrial Court of Nigeria has nullified the dismissal of Chief Superintendent of Police, (CSP) Adamu Abare by the Nigeria Police Force.

The Nigeria Police Force had in 2019 dismissed Abare from the Force over alleged misconduct but the Industrial Court ruled that the termination of Abare's appointment was done illegally.

Our correspondent who covered the court sitting virtually, reports that the presiding Judge, Justice Rakiya Haastrup of NICN Sokoto Division, ordered the Police authorities to reinstate the claimant, Abare, with his entitlements.

In the suit No NICN/SK/08/2019 Between CSP Adamu Damji Abare -VS- Police Service Commission & ORS, Justice Rakiya Haastrup revealed that Abare was not given due hearing before the termination of his appointment with the force.

Haastrup stressed that aside been an infringement on the fundamental rights of Abare, his dismissal was devoid of civil service established rules.

Parts of the judgement reads: "The jurisdiction in the allegations is vested in the

court and it can't be usurped by any administrative tribunal.

"The reason is simple, where there are allegations of fraud and forgery the matter is beyond the power of an administrative panel, it has been pronounced by the court of law and it requires judicial processes.

"In this case, the respondent was accused of misconduct amounting to criminal offence, the circumstance the trial court and courts of appeal rightly found the respondent should not have been tried by the ordinary court before his dismissal from employment.

"There is nothing before me to show defendant resorted to the court of law to determine criminal allegations before the claimant before reaching the decision to dismiss the claimant," she said.

She added that, "The claimant was entitled to a fair hearing but was not given one. On this ground alone, I must declare his dismissal null and void, I so move.

"The claimant will be entitled to reinstatement. The claimant, a Chief Superintendent of Police, is entitled to remain so, following the order of this court restating the claimant, this is without prejudice to the claimants promotion.

"The claimant is entitled to

his emoluments, entitlements and other privileges as applicable to e until his appointment is lawfully terminated.

his rank in the service of the Nigeria Police Force until his appointment is lawfully terminated.

"It is the judgement of this court that the defendant, their agents shall pay the claimant all accrued salaries, emoluments, benefit from March 27 2019 when claimant was removed from office", the court ruled.

Abare, a Chief Superintendent of Police prior to the termination of his appointment was on grade level 12, step eight with net pay salary of N170, 000.



Alkali

Change of Name

MAHAMMED	JOHN	LEKMUT	LAWAL	OKOYE	MRS.ANOZIE
I, formerly known as DANTALA DANBOYI , now wish to be known and addressed as MAHAMMED IBRAHIM . Correct date of birth is 24/04/2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as JOHN TUWOT LONGSHEN , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN TUWOT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as WATMA NKWAP , now wish to be known and addressed as LEKMUT WANYEM LUKA . Correct date of birth is 26/09/1992 not 23/06/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MURTALA ABDULKAREEM , now wish to be known and addressed as LAWAL MURTALA ABDULKAREEM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as OKPOKO SALOME EKENE , now wish to be known and addressed as OKOYE SALOME EKENE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MBAEJE GLORIA ELOCHUKWU , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ANOZIE GLORIA ELOCHUKWU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
BULUS	DANJUMA	OKWUDIRI	ALIYU	ELIAS	RUKAIYA
I, formerly known as BULUS GWOM JIK , now wish to be known and addressed as BULUS YAKUBU JIK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DANJUMA ALICE , now wish to be known and addressed as DANJUMA ALICE AVURAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as SUNDAY VICTOR , now wish to be known and addressed as OKWUDIRI VICTOR . Correct date of birth is 20/11/1996 not 20/11/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR AISHA , now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU AISHA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ELIAS PEACE TAKA , now wish to be known and addressed as ELIAS PEACE KPANJA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as RUKAYYA SULEIMAN MOHAMMAD now wish to be known and addressed as RUKAIYA SULAIMAN ABDULLAHI . All former documents remain valid, Access Bank. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
LAWAL	GEOFFREY	DAMOUS	HOSEA	MARKUS	DAMOUEL
I, formerly known as LAWAL MUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as LAWAL MUSA SULEIMAN . Correct date of birth is 18/5/1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as BULUS SHANGLIP IBRAHIM M. , now wish to be known and addressed as GEOFFREY SHANGLIP JWANTU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DAMOUS MATHEW , now wish to be known and addressed as DAMOUS MATHEW DABOU . Correct date of birth is 06/05/2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as HOSAIH ROSE LOHVEN , now wish to be known and addressed as HOSEA ROSE LOHVEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MARK JULIUS , now wish to be known and addressed as MARKUS JULIUS BEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as DAMAR BELINDER NAANSWAN now wish to be known and addressed as DAMOUEL BELINDER DAMAR . All former documents remain valid, Access Bank. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
PATRICK	TAWAI	WILLIAM	ISA	SALE	ADAM
I, formerly known as OBADIAH MIZEM , now wish to be known and addressed as PATRICK MIZEM OBADIAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PATRA PAKSIIN TAWAI , now wish to be known and addressed as TAWAI PATRICK PAKSIN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as WILLIAM RITJIMWA PATIENCE , now wish to be known and addressed as WILLIAM RITJIMWA SONGKAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR ISA , now wish to be known and addressed as ISA GARBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PAM USMAN SALLEH , now wish to be known and addressed as SALE USMAN PAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as JIBRIN MURTALA , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAM MURTALA JIBRIN . All former documents remain valid, Access Bank. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
SUNDAY	JAN	DAFWAT	<h2 style="margin: 0;">NEWS</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">NAF set to partner with NMDC</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">By EZEKIEL DONTINNA</p> <p style="margin: 0;">NIGERIA'S Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshall I. O. Amao, has promised to partner with the Management of National Metallurgical Development Centre Jos, Plateau State and asked them to get ready for the process of signing M O U, when the report was submitted to seek approval.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">This was contained in press statement signed by Head, Press and Public Relations NMDC, Jos Sunday Eweama, and available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau state capital Thursday when the Chief of Air Staff visited the Centre.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">The Chief of Air Staff who was represented by Director, Research, Development and Consultation, Air Marshall Nnaemeka Ilo, said, the team was in NMDC Jos, on a fact finding mission after reading so much about research and developmental strides taking place in the agency.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">He disclosed that, with the R and D equipment and expertise in place he saw that the Centre would have no option to recommend the Centre for partnership with NAF as a way of giving the background for the need to partner with relevant civil establishment like NMDC.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">NAF boss, added that, they were so passionate about ensuring that the Force explore local materials and expertise through collaboration with other organs of the Armed Forces and tasked the management of National Metallurgical Development Centre to get ready for the process of signing M O U when the report was submitted for approval.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">He said, "with proper understanding between the him, DG/CE NMDC, Air Force Research Centre, Kaduna, Nigeria would soon be recorded among the committee industrialized states thereby reducing humongous amount of money spent on the importation of materials and expertise which could be sourced locally".</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Earlier, the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of National Metallurgical Development Centre Jos, Engr. Prof. Linus Asuquo, has trumpeted the indispensibility of collaboration among government agencies in order to realize the aims and objectives of Presidential Executive Order 5.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">The NMDC boss, who was represented by the Director, Research Development and Consultancy Services of the Centre, Dr (Mrs) Dorcas Joseph, disclosed that, President Muhammadu Buhari, on February 5, 2018 signed into law Executive Order 5 which was primarily aimed at Planning and Execution of Projects, Promotion of Nigerian Content in Contract and Science Engineering Technology.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">He, said, "we all know how China transformed itself from a third world country to first world country through f Executive Order 5, Nigeria will astronomically shift from a crawling third world economy to a competitive and enviable global economy".</p> <p style="margin: 0;">domestication of its local content legislation. With deliberate and conscientious collaborations among government agencies through the implementation of Executive Order 5, Nigeria will astronomically shift from a crawling third world economy to a competitive and enviable global economy".</p> <p style="margin: 0;">The DG/CEO revealed that, NMDC under his leadership despite minimal funding has been transformed from a moribund stage to a more lively and attractive Research and Development Centre especially in the areas of infrastructural development, procurement of R and D equipment and collaborations with relevant Agencies.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Meanwhile, Dr. Joseph, who was leading the Team on facility tour at the Centre, informed the Guest that NMDC as a Research and Development Centre has all it takes to industrialize the country if properly funded.</p>		
I, formerly known as OBADIAH HOPE PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY HOPE KWENG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PANSHAK GOTOM JOEL , now wish to be known and addressed as JAN GOTOM JOEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as SIMON PANKAT AYUBA , now wish to be known and addressed as DAFWAT PANKAT SIMON.. Correct date of birth is 12/12/1995 not 01/01/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.			
MARK	JOSHUA	ZACHARIAH			
I, formerly known as S INNOCENT DANYARO KORMKYES , now wish to be known and addressed as MARK DALLET SHILAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as LOUBUT TANKO NANDAP , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSHUA NANVEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ZACHARIAH ELIJAH SALEH , now wish to be known and addressed as ZACHARIAH ELIJAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.			



BASSA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL PLATEAU STATE

NOTICE FOR SALE

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

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

Any interested persons, organisation or institution wishing to purchase the said properties, should contact the management of Bassa LGC.

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

Signed:
Director Budget and Planning,
Bassa LGC.

AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!

The Divisional Police headquarters Nigeria Police Force Rantya Plateau State Command is notifying the general public that the underlisted unclaimed items are due for public auction.

The items are as follows:-

1. One accidental Boxes Bus with Reg. no XT. 990 LSK.
2. One accidental Mercedes Benz 200 with reg. no. CH 864 LND
3. One bag of Nails
4. Four scrap Desk top Computers
5. One Scrap 14 Inch TV
6. One scrap Jincheng motor cycle and bicycle
7. One scrap freezeer, Blanket, Bed sheet and curtain.
8. Two electric cable wire.
9. One sewing body machine and some scraps items

Date: 10th July, 2022.

Therefore, anyone with proof of ownership can come and claim the items within seven days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED
Alh. I. I. Marafa (Auctioneer)
for: Dansoho Usman and Co
08036261848

SUNDAY FEATURE

Afo tribe and fertility myth

By BEATRICE OKOH, SIDI MAMMAN MARYAM

NASARAWA State was created October 1st, 1996 from the [today neighboring] Plateau State.

It is bounded in the North by Kaduna State, in the West by Abuja Federal Capital territory, in the South by Kogi and Benue State and in the East by Taraba and Plateau states.

A network of road exists within the state, linking all the rural areas and major towns.

The state has thirteen Local Government areas. And it has agriculture as the mainstay of its economy with the production of varieties of cash crops throughout the year.

Afo is a group of people who live in the low plains of Nasarawa State.

According to Oxford English dictionary, FERTILE/FERTILITY; State of being productive. That which can produce babies, young animals, fruits or new plants. ANCESTOR is a A person in one's family who lived a long time ago.

Infertility simply means the inability for a man or woman to have or produce the cells and environment that are essential for the conception and delivery of a child. The issue of infertility has been in existence since time immemorial. We can see that in biblical days, woman like Sarah, Hannah and Rebecca to mention but a few were infertile. Due to this reason they called upon the highest power to heal them and bless them with children which he did.

In traditional Nigeria Society, fertility is believed to be spiritual i.e. the gods are assigned the responsibility for human, crop and animal fertility. These gods are usually represented in carved wooden



figures, stones, rivers, shrines etc It is also believed that our ancestors are still living within us and presiding over the affairs of their loved ones and entire community so ,in times need i.e. people who are unable to reproduce consult and appease the ancestors to bless them with children..

AFO

Afo is a group of people who live in the low plains of Nasarawa State. These people are given into agriculture and

rearing of livestock as a means of livelihood. Like some people in different parts of the world, they were also faced with the issue of infertility among their women. Infertility, as is common in most parts of Africa, is unacceptable as the women will not be allowed to participate in some communal festivity / occasions and will be disregarded by the community because it is believed that the women or her family had sinned against the ancestors. Her husband will also be treated with contempt and not assigned important roles in the society. As a result of this, women sought the help of their ancestors to help them out of their predicament and in this case AFO FERTILITY FIGURE

AFO FERTILITY FIGURE

Afo fertility figures are mythical female ancestors of the tribe .They are wooden objects which are carved out as mother and child or children and is usually in a seated position. The mother is depicted with big / elongated breast which is given suck to a child.

Sometimes the object is seen carrying another child on her back. This depicts fruitfulness i.e. the woman will be blessed with many children. The figure also has linear scarifications on the face, hands, bust, and back which is the tribal mark of the people. The seated position depicts prestige and honor for the woman as any woman in the community who is blessed with children is highly respected.

These objects are kept in shrines and consulted through

the AYA festivals where men pray for increased fertility in the lives of their wives and also make gift offerings of money and food to the ancestors.

As earlier mentioned, the issue of infertility has been in existence since time immemorial and cuts across various tribes and cultures. Based on this, different cultures have adopted various means of addressing this through the help of the ancestors. Examples are

1 OSUN OSOGBO PICTURE

The deity of Yoruba land is believed by the devotees to give children to the infertile.

Thus, there's an annual festival celebrated in Osogbo, Osun State where women from various walks of life come to seek children by sacrificing and drinking the Seleru water. The emblem of the Osun cult is the Blue Youruba Segi Beads worn by the devotees.

OGBOM PICTURE.

This is a full figure headdress worn in the Ogbom dance which is known among many regions in eastern Nigeria.

ALA PICTURE is the earth goddess who plays a very important role in human and agricultural increase? The Ogbom head dress a is used during a dance in honor of ALA.

In conclusion, it could be said that there are similarities in our culture, citing that of Ogbom, Ala and Osun Osogbo. Okoh, Sidi are of the National Commission for Museum and Monuments.

the help of a chief priest who makes sacrifices on behalf of the woman and then gives her a solution which could be a concoction to drink or rituals to perform. After some time the woman will conceive and give birth to a child or children who will be given names to honors the ancestors [AFO].

It is believed that this figure is brought out to the village square once in a year during



SUNDAY SPORTS



Oshoala

Oshoala launches football academy in Nigeria

SPANISH Femini Barcelona striker Asiat Oshoala has announced the launch of her football academy in Nigeria in partnership with Nike Football and International Women Win. Newsnow said that, Oshoala had humble beginnings, starting her career at Mushin-based club Robo stars. However, she rose to recognition after her exploits at the 2014 Under-20 World Cup where she won the best player award. She then moved abroad a

year later, joining English side Liverpool. Since then, Oshoala has never looked back. The Super Falcons star has made over 100 appearances for Barcelona. Two seasons ago, Oshoala became the first African woman to win the Champions League. Also, she was the highest goalscorer in the Laliga femini last season. However, besides from the great things she is doing on the pitch, she is also doing wonderful stuff

outside the pitch. The 27-year-old announced has announced the launch of the Asiat Oshoala football academy via her social media page. Over the years, Oshoala has shown interest in empowering young girls, especially footballers through her foundation and competitions. She has a competition 'Football4girls' which she organizes every year with the aim of creating opportunities for young girls.

CAF Awards: Mane, Salah on 30-man list

FORMER Liverpool teammates Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah have both been named on a list of 30 nominees for the Confederation of African Football's (Caf) Men's Player of the Year award for 2021-22. **BBC SPORT** said that, Mane, who joined German champions Bayern Munich last week, had the upper hand over Salah at international level in recent months, with Senegal beating Egypt in the Africa Cup of Nations final in February before winning their 2022 World Cup play-off tie the month after. The Senegalese is the last man to have been crowned Africa's best, back in 2019 -

when Nigeria's Asiat Oshoala won the women's prize - since when the awards have been cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. At club level, Mane and Salah, both 30, won the FA Cup and League Cup in England last season but narrowly missed out on the Premier League title before the Reds lost 1-0 to Real Madrid in the European Champions League final. Salah, who has claimed the prize twice, ended the club season with a share of the Premier League Golden Boot, along with Tottenham Hotspur and South Korea striker Son Heung-min. The Egyptian won both

awards from the Football Writers' Association and the Professional Footballers' Association. Algeria's Riyad Mahrez, a Premier League winner with Manchester City, is also prominent on a list where two of Africa's traditionally weaker nations, The Gambia and Comoros, have rare representation - in the shape of Musa Barrow and Youssouf M'Changama - after fine Nations Cup debuts. African champions Senegal have the most nominees on Caf's list with four others joining Mane - Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, Leicester City midfielder Nampalys Mendy, Saliou Ciss and

Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy has thanked former trainer Petr Cech for trusting him, before wishing him the best in his new challenge.

Goal said that, the Senegal custodian has wished his mentor the best after the moments they had at the Blues.

The former goalkeeper announced he will be leaving the London-based team where he has been serving as the technical and performance advisor since June 2019.

The former Czech custodian was working closely with the Senegal international and played a major role in helping the West African develop his game. The Lion of Teranga appreciated the time the two worked together at the club.

"I want to thank you for all the moments, all the training and all the learnings we have shared together," Mendy posted on his official Twitter account.

"Thank you for your trust. I wish you a brilliant future in your upcoming challenges."

I wish you a brilliant future in your upcoming challenges.

The former goalkeeper became the latest

I thank Cech for trusting me

- Mendy

prominent figure to sever ties with Chelsea as they usher in a new era - with chairman Bruce Buck and transfer boss Marina Granovskaia having already confirmed their departures.

"With the club under new ownership, I feel now is the right time for me to step aside," Cech said in his exit speech.

"I am pleased that the club is now in an excellent position with the new owners, and I am confident of its future success both on and off the pitch."

Boehly, chairman and co-controlling owner, added:

"Petr is an important member of the Chelsea family."

"We understand his decision to step away and thank him for his contributions as an advisor and his commitment to the club and to our community. We wish him the best."

Cech was signed by Chelsea from Rennes in 2004 and went on to last more than a decade, before a shock move to Arsenal in 2015.

However, he left in 2019 for a management role with the Blues before he recently opted to quit.



Mendy

Chelsea launch external investigation into bullying claims

CHELSEA'S new owners have appointed an "external review team" to investigate allegations of bullying at the club.

BBC SPORT said that, a New York Times article claimed conditions in one department led to "toxic workplace culture".

It said former employee Richard Bignell took his own life in January, with the coroner's report linking it to "despair following the loss of his job".

Chelsea will now "investigate the allegations that have been made under previous ownership".

In a statement, the club's board, who took over last month, added: "The club's new board believes strongly in a workplace environment and

corporate culture that empowers its employees and ensures they feel safe, included, valued and trusted."

"Initial steps have been taken by the new owners to instil an environment consistent with our values."

Bignell was described by the club as a "much-loved" and "very popular and hugely respected member of the wider football and sports broadcasting family".

The new board added: "Our heart goes out to Richard's entire family. His passing has been deeply felt by his colleagues at the club and across the football community."

"Upon learning about the circumstances, [the] new ownership has proactively reached out to Richard's family through their counsel."



Salah and Mane won the FA Cup and the League Cup with Liverpool last season



Chelsea

SUNDAY SPORTS

Winner to get \$80, 000, in Abuja Marathon

THE Abuja International Marathon will debut on December 17, 2022, according to the organisers of the event.

Newsnow said that, speaking at a press conference in Abuja on Tuesday, the Project Coordinator, Femi Abegunde said the Abuja City Marathon will kick off with 60 elite runners from all over the world.

According to him, foreign athletes will be joined by the local runners for the \$80, 000 (N48,800,000 at the parallel market rate of N610 to 1\$) prize.

He said, "The 42-kilometre race will begin from the City Gate through the interesting parts of the FCT and end at the Eagles Square, with 60 runners (local and foreign), as the winner will go home with \$80,000. "The desire to create an Abuja international Marathon is to showcase the City, attract investors, boost tourism and the economy like it is done in other world commercial cities like London and New York.

"Our desire is to create a Marathon that can compete with the best anywhere in the world. Abuja is like a beautiful shop, which is closed. This could have even been on since 2021 if not for the Pandemic that ravaged the world."

Also speaking during the press conference, the Media Head, Olukayode Thomas said Nigeria and the FCT will benefit more from the programme, through the visitors that will through the country.

"The event goes beyond prize money as hotels, restaurants, taxi drivers, retailers of goods and other business owners will benefit a lot."

He disclosed that New York Marathon alone attracted more than \$400 million into the economy. He said the prize



Dare

money may not be more than \$1 million but it brings more than \$400 million every year.

He said prizes will be given to the best coverage among the media, before and during the event in 11 categories.

In attendance at the event were the Managing Director of

the organising company, Unicentral, Ogunfumioloro Suzana; a representative of the National Assembly, Senator Ayo Akinyelure; a representative of the FCT Minister, Lucas Istafanos, and a host of others.

Hope rises for women's relay, France suffers setback

A window for hope may have been opened for Nigeria's women's 4x100m relay team to be part of the party at the forthcoming Oregon 2022 World Athletics Championships. This comes after their initial exclusion from the race due to Blessing Okagbare's additional one-year drug suspension by World Athletics.

Newsnow said that,

on Monday evening, many athletics-lovers got a rude shock, as the additional one-year ban on Okagbare knocked off all individual and relay results she was involved in from June 13, 2021. The decision pushed Team Nigeria's women 4x100m relay team down to 17th position. This allowed Canada to take the last qualification spot in the women's 4x100m relay line up in Oregon.

world record.

The record came on his second attempt and bettered by 1cm his previous outdoor best, set in Rome in September 2020.

The 22-year-old Olympic champion holds the overall world record of 6.20m, set at the world indoor championships in Belgrade in March.

On the outdoor record, Stockholm-based Duplantis said it felt "quite amazing... but really wasn't that much of a surprise for me".

"There's better things that I can do," he added. "I felt really good jumping today but it wasn't like I did everything so perfect that I don't think I can do any better."

"It's extra special when you're jumping on the track where you train. I live about 10 minutes away so you want to defend your home territory first and foremost."

Elsewhere, Brazil's Olympic bronze medallist Alison dos Santos won the men's 400m hurdles in a world-leading time of 46.80.

India's Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra threw a national record of 89.94m, but still finished behind Anderson Peters of Grenada (90.31m).

Kida rallies support for D'Tigers as World Cup qualifiers resume

Engr Musa Kida has advised Nigerians home and abroad to rally behind the D'Tigers as they resume their FIBA World Cup qualifiers on Friday against Cape Verde.

According to **Newsnow**, while giving this charge, the Nigeria Basketball Federation President said the support of Nigerians is key to the morale and performance on and off the court as they target finishing strong in Group A.

"We must all come together as Nigerians to support the team so that we can advance to the next round. I am in touch with the team. The mood in camp is high because the boys are ready to make the country proud".

"All the players on the team are Nigerians representing the country. Reactions have trailed the list. These reactions have been noted. These are players that the technical crew believes can get the job done during this window and we must give them our full support".

The NBBF boss assured fans and stakeholders that the federation would leave no stone unturned to ensure that

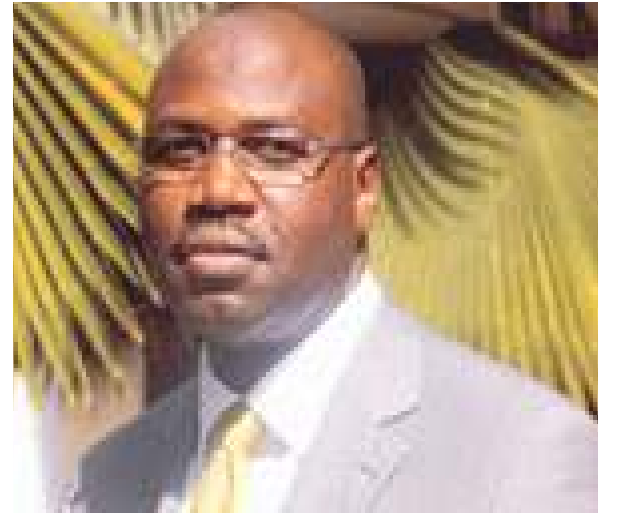
D'Tigers book a ticket to the next FIBA World Cup.

"We are one of the best teams in Africa, we have to be at the world cup. As a federation, we will do everything within our power to deliver the world cup ticket".

He thanked His Excellency,

President Muhammadu Buhari, and the Honorable Minister of Sports, Sunday Dare for their continued support.

Nigeria sits atop group A with five points from three games. The top three teams from each group will advance to the second round.



Kida

Hope rises for women's relay, France suffers setback

However, a new twist occurred, yesterday morning, as one of the countries on the qualified list, France, was said to have suffered a setback.

An official of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) told The Guardian yesterday that France women's 4x100m relay team was 'depleted.'

"We just got this news that France women's 4x100m relay team is depleted, and may not be able to attend the championships in Oregon. As things stand, our women's 4x100m relay may be in Oregon in July."

The AFN official did not expatiate on the nature of 'depletion' suffered by the French team, but he explained that the ban

on Okagbare may no longer stop the Nigerian squad.

"The additional one-year ban on Okagbare only affected results she was involved in our relay team from June 13, 2021. The ban did not affect past results of our women's 4x100m relay team. That is why Nigeria is occupying the 17th position on World Athletics' list. If France is depleted, then Nigeria is in for Oregon 2022 and that is a good news for Team Nigeria."

The Guardian recalls that officials of the AFN were in joyous mood on Wednesday following confirmation that the country has officially qualified for two other relay events, including the men's 4x100m.

Apart from the Men's 4x100m relay squad, Nigerian athletes will also compete in the 4x400m Mixed Relay, a ticket they secured a year ago during the Olympic Games in Tokyo with a time of 3:13.60 seconds.

The quartet of Favour Ashe, Godson Brume, Alaba Akintola and reigning World U-20 champion, Udodi Onwuzurike, stormed to a season's best time of 38.35 seconds at the just concluded National Trials in Benin City, Edo State, to pick the 4x100m ticket to Oregon.

The winning time saw Nigeria leapfrog South Africa into the 16th position, which is the last qualifying spot for the World Championship slated for July 15 to 25 in the United States.

Asher-Smith edges 200m win ahead world title defence

GREAT Britain's Dina Asher-Smith held on to claim a morale-boosting 200m win in the Diamond League on Thursday.

BBC SPORT said that, the 200m world champion, who will defend her title in Oregon next month, was a surprise second to Daryll Neita over 100m at the UK Championships.

But Asher-Smith, 26, ran 22.364 seconds in Stockholm to edge out Switzerland's Mujinga Kambundji (22.367).

Lorraine Ugen was GB's other winner in the Swedish capital, with a season's best of 6.81m in the women's long jump.

That was enough to finish

ahead of Ukraine's Maryna Bekh-Romanchuk (6.76m) and Sweden's Khaddi Sagnia (6.74).

Denmark's Ida Karstoft (22.90) was third in the women's 200m, as Asher-Smith claimed her first win over the distance in 2022, having previously come third at the Diamond League events in Doha and Rome.

Fellow Tokyo 2020 medallist Keely Hodgkinson came second in the women's 800m, with Kenya's Mary Moraa winning in a time of one minute 57.68 seconds.

Hodgkinson, the 2021 Diamond League champion, ran 1:58.18, while Australia's Catriona Bisset was third in 1:58.54.

With Olympic champion Marcell Jacobs a late withdrawal for the 100m, Britain's Reece Prescod also had to settle for second place after running 10.15, with South Africa's Akani Simbine taking the win (10.02) and Jimmy Vicaut of France third (10.19).

Olympic champion Armand Duplantis gave the home crowd something to cheer as the Swede won the men's pole vault with 6.16m - an outdoor



Asher-Smith



Nigerian 4x100m relay team

SUNDAY SPORTS

WAFCON 2022: Group A preview

By JANINE ANTHONY

AFRICA'S four qualifiers for next year's Women's World Cup will be decided at the tournament, which culminates with the final on Saturday, 23 July.

Here, BBC Sport Africa runs the rule over Group A, which include hosts Morocco, Senegal, Uganda and debutants Burkina Faso.

Group A fixtures

Saturday, 2 July: Morocco v Burkina Faso (Rabat)

Sunday, 3 July: Senegal v Uganda (Rabat)

Tuesday, 5 July: Burkina Faso v Senegal, Uganda v Morocco (Rabat)

Friday, 8 July: Morocco v Senegal (Rabat), Burkina Faso v Uganda (Casablanca)

Morocco

Can hosts Morocco go all the way to the final on home soil?

Appearance: 3rd Best finish: Group stage (1998, 2000)

Coach: Reynald Pedros
Captain: Ghizlane Chebbak

Fifa ranking: 77 Nickname: Atlas Lionesses

Back at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) after a 22-year absence and eyeing a maiden Women's World Cup spot, Morocco have their status as host nation to thank for their automatic qualification.

The North Africans appeared at the first finals in 1998, when they had their best run - amassing four points and their only win to date (a 4-1 victory over Egypt) - but missed the knock-out stages on goal difference before falling away after their second trip to the finals in 2000.

In 2020, a four-year women's football development programme was introduced, one that helped AS FAR - who contribute over half the squad - become zonal champions before winning bronze in last year's Women's African Champions League.

The side has also been boosted by the 2020 arrival of French coach Reynald Pedros - a two-time European Women's Champions League winner with Lyon - who has hit the ground running, enjoying a 12-match unbeaten streak against African sides.

The 2020 North African champions have played a host of games in the past year, stunning Cameroon in September at the 2021 Aisha Buhari Cup where they also beat Ghana and Mali among others.

They have an admirable array of talent including AS FAR duo Sanaa Mssoudy and Ghizlane Chebbak (daughter of former men's international Larbi Chebbak), and Dijon midfielder Salma Amani, who boasts 18 years of experience in



Burkina Faso are one of four debutants at this year's tournament

Europe.

Burkina Faso

Appearance: Debutants

Best finish: n/a

Coach: Pascal Sawadogo

Captain: Charlotte Millogo

Fifa ranking: 138 Nickname: The Stallions

Burkina Faso are the best-ranked of the four nations debuting at WAFCON this year and arrive with a squad where all but two players are based on home soil.

Not the first team that comes to mind when one thinks of Africa's strongest football nations, the Stallions - aided by some big-name absentees - are nonetheless among the finals' best eight sides according to the Fifa rankings.

Following his impactful takeover in November, coach Pascal Sawadogo - the founder and handler of multiple cup winner Etincelles - will rely on

captain Charlotte Millogo, star striker Juliette Nana, 21, and Morocco-based Limata Nikiema to cause a stir.

Having shone for Belarus' Neman Grodno with 22 goals in 25 league games, Nana will be one to watch in a side who knocked out Benin (5-2 agg) before sweeping past Guinea-Bissau (7-0 agg) to reach their first finals.

Senegal

Appearance: 2nd Best finish: Group stage (2012)

Coach: Mame Moussa Cisse

Captain: Safietou Sagna

Fifa ranking: 89

Nickname: Teranga Lionesses

After 10 years away, Senegal are back on the continental stage and looking to improve on their sole previous showing in 2012 when they scored none and conceded seven.

After beating Liberia in the first round of qualifying, the Teranga

Lionesses upset none other than Mali, who had reached the 2018 WAFCON semi-finals, to ensure their second appearance.

The qualification via a penalty shoot-out rewarded Senegal's investment in the women's game, with the nation also recently reaching the final round of the African qualifiers for the Under-20 Women's World Cup.

After taking charge in early 2020, Mame Moussa Cisse - excelling this time, after a failed attempt to qualify in 2016 - will be counting on France-based trio Safietou Sagna, Marseille playmaker Awa Diakhate and Nguenar Ndiaye.

Domestic Senegalese women's football has been growing recently, with last season's double winners, US Parcelles Assainies (USPA), providing eight of the squad, including striker Hapsatou Malado Diallo, who is

just 16.

Uganda

Appearance: 2nd Best finish: Group stage (2000)

Coach: George Lutalo

Captain: Ruth Aturo

Fifa ranking: 156

Nickname: Crested Cranes

The East African nation may be the second lowest-ranked team in the competition (156th), but they reached Morocco after shocking Ethiopia before being gifted a return ticket thanks to Kenya's withdrawal.

In what will be their second WAFCON appearance, but a first in 22 years, the Crested Cranes will be guided by experienced coach George Lutalo.

He took over as manager last September and edged them past the Ethiopians on penalties - a result ultimately good enough to take them to WAFCON and one which came weeks after crashing out early after being invited to the 2021 Cosafa Women's Cup.

Lutalo, who handles local league side Onduparaka, has proved his mettle and his charges enter on a high after winning the Cecafa Cup just weeks ago, beating fellow WAFCON debutants Burundi 3-1 in the final on home soil on 11 June.

Overseas-based players like Finland-based goalkeeper Ruth Aturo, Kazakhstan Women's Cup winner Fauzia Najjema, just 18, plus Rita Kivumbi and forward Violah Nambi, based in Sweden and Austria respectively, will be key to a positive display.



Senegal pulled off an upset to qualify ahead of fellow West Africans, Mali



Super Falcons to get \$1m if they win trophy

AFTER the start of the 2022 African Women Cup of Nations in Morocco, the African soccer governing body has revealed the price money for the winner,

After skipping the 2020 edition of the competition due to the outbreak of coronavirus, the biennial tournament will commence on Saturday.

Twelve qualified teams including Nigeria's Super Falcons are already in Morocco for the continent biggest women soccer fiesta.

The football body announced that the eventual winner will go home with a whopping sum of \$1 million and the trophy.

Super Falcons who won the last edition got \$200,000 for their efforts in 2018 and CAF under Patrice Motsepe has decided to increase the money in order to motivate the players.

Nigeria are poised to defend their Women's Africa Cup of Nations title and also secure a World Cup place as the top four finishers will qualify for the 2023 finals in Australia and New Zealand.

The Super Falcons have won 9 of the previous 11 tournaments and are favourites to triumph again in Morocco but should still face challenge from the likes of Cameroon, South Africa, and Zambia.



the national team.

"We are very prepared and we know how important this competition is.

"We are going to retain our trophy as we have new players who are blending well with the old players.

"We are looking forward to winning it for the 10th time. "Lifting the trophy will be a dream come true for me.

"It will be something I won't forget in my career.

"We know other countries will be fighting against us and we will work extra hard to keep the trophy.

"It won't be easy but we are up to task."

The 12 teams in the

competition are divided into three groups of four with the top two in each group plus two best third-placed finishers advancing to the knockout stages.

Hosts and world number 77 Morocco are back after a 22-year absence from the competition to make a third appearance.

Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Uganda are set to meet them in group A and are ranked 89th, 138th, and 156th in the world.

Cameroon, Zambia, Tunisia and Togo make up group B while group C sees South Africa, Burundi, and Botswana join Nigeria.

Equatorial Guinea, the only other team to win the tournament, will not appear at the 2022 edition after losing 7-3 on aggregate to Tunisia in the second qualification round.

The Nzalang Femenino were triumphant in 2008 and 2012 after beating South Africa in both finals.

Morocco will begin proceedings in the opening match tomorrow against Burkina Faso at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium in the capital.

The only other venue at the competition is the Stade Mohammed V in Casablanca and is set to welcome Cameroon and Zambia on July 3 for its first game.

Meanwhile, Super Falcons players have denied a statement credited to the team supporting the Third Term Agenda of the incumbent Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) President, Amaju Pinnick,

BSNSports.com.ng can report.

In different interviews cut across the team, four players who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity distanced themselves and expressed their dissatisfaction with the Captain, Onome Ebi and Asisat Oshoala for not representing the interest of the team but decided to delve into politics of the game.

In the interviews, the players unanimously and vehemently denied backing the 3rd agenda of Amaju Pinnick.

"I am very dissatisfied in Onome and Oshoala." An European based player told BSN Sports from their Camp in Morocco.

Corroborating, another player requested for the evidence of their 'unanimous agreement' for Pinnick to stay on.

"If truly we unanimously agreed to back Amaju Pinnick Third Term Agenda, then they should show the

whole World the evidence, whether signed or by communication. My brother there was nothing like that."

Investigating further, another European based player pointed accusing fingers at the Head Delegation, Aisha Falode, "We all knew what happened. It was the head of delegation that masterminded everything. It was like a rude shock when we read the news on internet. Instead of Onome and Oshoala to discuss about increment of our match bonus because we will play more matches now than ever, both of them were allowed to be used as political tool."

"We have concluded among ourselves to use the opportunity to tell the NFF through the President about the increment from \$3,000 match bonus in the group stage to \$4,000 and \$4,000 they have been paying for the knockout stages to \$5,000. Pinnick had already promised the team in Ghana

that the federation will be paying the same match bonus the Super Eagles receive for Super Falcons." A gentle looking player corroborated.

Another player said, "And you believe that story? How can we support the Amaju Pinnick led NFF under whom we protested twice before getting our money. We have really suffered under this NFF. They contributed a lot to our inability to qualify for the 2020 Olympics."

When contacted, head of delegation, Aisha Falode spoke with BSN Sports for 12 minutes from Morocco but demanded not to be quoted, stating that the conversation 'is unofficial.'

The Super Falcons are in Morocco to defend their title they won in the African Women Cup of Nations. The nine-time African champions will Open their campaign against their African bitter rivals, Bayana Bayana of South Africa.

FIBA WCQ: D'Tigers coach reveals reason they lost to Cape Verde

STAND in coach of Nigeria's D'Tigers Alan Major has revealed reasons behind the team's defeat to their counterpart from Cape Verde, BSNSports.com.ng has gathered.

Cape Verde on Friday defeated D'Tigers by 70-79 points in the opening game of the 3rd window of the 2023 FIBA World Cup

qualifiers. During a post-match reaction, Major said Cape Verde took more points from the turnovers.

"They had 16 points from our turnovers and 11 second-chance points from 16 offensive rebounds. These are some things we can clean up, but I do like the effort. We fought back and had the lead, but we

gave up a big put back to Williams Tavares.

"Congratulations to Cape Verde, they played well. They got a cushion on us at halftime.

"I thought our guys did a great job by fighting back to take the lead towards the end of the match, but you know in a game like this, you do not have much margin for error," he said.

WORLD SEARCH Answer the clues and search for the word

E	K	S	H	M	J	W	I	L	L	I	A	M
I	L	P	E	A	K	S	R	B	M	T	S	A
S	J	G	E	L	K	A	N	E	M	I	T	L
M	O	R	R	I	S	C	I	U	O	V	E	A
A	I	E	H	P	T	B	D	E	P	F	N	I
N	K	E	G	R	Q	R	Y	D	A	X	O	K
E	U	C	A	B	G	A	N	F	T	U	C	A
A	V	E	S	E	B	I	H	N	R	W	L	K
C	L	A	J	X	Z	M	D	P	I	C	A	N
M	O	R	O	C	C	O	Q	T	C	S	F	M
Z	R	Y	S	Q	V	H	O	B	E	C	O	A
L	J	N	E	Y	G	P	B	F	A	N	X	Z
A	I	B	R	A	H	I	M	O	V	I	C	A

- Clues**
- 1. Sandy.....(6) American Polevaulter
 - 2.Mihambo (7) German long jumper
 - 3. Sadio.....(4) Liverpool/Senegal striker
 - 4. Host country of the 2022 Africa women's Nations cup
 - 5. Musa.....(7) Nigeria's head tennis coach
 - 6.Troost-Ekong (8), Super Eagles captain
 - 7.Pesiero (4) Super Eagles coach
 - 8.Motsepe (7) CAF president
 - 9. Where the Olympics started (6)
 - 10. Plateau....(5) Jos based basketball team
 - 11. Nigeria's Junior national football team (9)
 - 12.Warriors (8) Maiduguri football outfit

By IBRAHIM T. LOT