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FG, ASUU strike: Need for truce

It is no longer news that with the continuous disagreement between the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU) particularly, government owned, students of such tertiary institutions have been home for upward of about six months. This is definitely not good for the students, parents/guardians and the educational system generally.

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On bandits threats to Buhari and el -Rufai

It is no longer news that Nigeria has been battling with banditry in the country. At the same time, it is not surprising to many Nigerians that the terrorists have extended their abduction threats to President Buhari and el Rufai. This twist in events could not be far from the fact that the Federal government has kept mum even over celebrated abductions carried out like the Kaduna bound train abduction.

Barely 24 hours after terrorists threatened to abduct President Muhammadu Buhari and Kaduna Governor Nasir el-Rufai in a viral video, troops of the Guards Brigade were ambushed by armed bandits in Abuja resulting to three soldiers being killed. The situation has thrown residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) into a panic.

The same group of terrorists also threatened to kill some of the passengers and sell off others as slaves. A serious threat by every standard that Mr President and Nigerians should not take lightly. Unfortunately, the statement by the President's Senior Assistant on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu threw caution to the wind. At such precarious times, he was instead patting his principal on the back instead of proffering solutions. He said the President had done the needful for the Armed Forces and was waiting on them to deliver to Nigerians.

The happenings within Bwari area of Abuja shows that the terrorists are actually within the location and could possibly carry out their plans of attacking the Law School in Bwari as was allegedly reported. Report had it that the Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, Guards Brigade, Captain Godfrey Abakpa, confirmed that soldiers were attacked by suspected terrorists but were repelled successfully. Is that enough efforts?

The video, which showed the terrorists flogging the male captives while the women and children amongst them wept, elicited outbursts, especially by some relatives of the victims. The angry and worried relatives vowed to occupy public properties in Abuja over what they described as government's tardiness in freeing their loved ones.

The Presidency said "security forces are not relenting" in their efforts to defeat criminal elements yet terrorists activities is on the rise. Most Nigerians do not sleep with their eyes closed nor would like to travel like they used to for fear of the unknown.

Yet government has out rightly refused the bombing of the hideouts of bandits, knowing also that it could lead to the deaths of their victims.

Suffice it to say that though the security forces are not relenting, they lack the hardware to perform their duties responsibilities and what the nation expects of them. Therefore should they allow the President and el Rufai to be abducted? It would be a huge slap and shameful to the country which claims to be the giant of Africa.

No wonder the Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG) faulted the Federal Government over the country's grave security situation, lamenting glaring failure on the part of government to address the growing national threats. What is happening today in Nigeria is a huge embarrassment not only to this government but all Nigerians at home and in diaspora.

Government cannot afford to watch her citizens suffer and deliberately refuse to protect their lives particularly in the current situation. It must rise to the occasion and do its constitutional responsibility of protecting its citizenry. Anything short of this is unacceptable.

NEWS

Bauchi records Monkeypox outbreak, no cause for alarm -Rilwanu

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauch

The Executive Chairman Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Dr Rilwanu Mohammed, has announced the outbreak of monkeypox in the state.

Dr. Rilwanu made the disclosure while speaking with Journalists recently in Anguwan Galadima, Tirwun shortly after flagging off OBR for the month of July.

"Yes, there is an outbreak of monkeypox in Bauchi, one person has been diagnosed with the disease while 2 others are still under close observation, as suspects of the disease for now"

"The victim is not from Bauchi State, he came from Adamawa State, he is presently receiving medical management at one of the facilities. We will not allow him to go until we are satisfied with his condition".

"Unlike Cholera where you have to wait for about 15 cases before you declare an outbreak, with just one confirmed case, you can declare an outbreak of monkeypox" Rilwanu explained.

He assured that his Agency in collaboration with other stakeholders in healthcare

delivery services are working round the clock to ensure that the disease did not spread beyond what it is at present.

"Our surveillance has been reinvigorated to ensure that suspected cases are immediately dealt with. Bauchi State is a gateway to the North-East subregion, we are therefore at alert to ensure that no suspected case of monkeypox goes unnoticed" He added

The Chairman of the agency appealed to the people to immediately report to the nearest health facility any symptoms of the disease for effective medical management which he said the disease requires for now.

He explained that symptoms of monkeypox, includes Fever; Headache;

Muscle aches and backache; Swollen lymph nodes; Chills and Exhaustion.

Adding that respiratory symptoms such as sore throat,



Ehanire

nasal congestion, or cough are some of the symptoms while rashes, pimples or blisters that appear on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus.

Trafficking: NAPTIP partners Facebook, U.S. centre

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in collaboration with Facebook and the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, United States, have concluded plans to set up Amber Alert Nigeria.

Amber Alert Nigeria is an emergency response system where Facebook sends alerts to targeted Facebook communities to help find missing children in Nigeria who may be undergoing exploitation.

Mr Nduka Nwawene, Benin Zonal Commander of NAPTIP, said this during an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Saturday in Calabar, while commemorating the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (WDATIP).

According to him, the system will soon come on stream to help in the fight against human trafficking.

WDATIP 2022 is a day set aside to raise awareness of the plight of victims of human trafficking and to promote and protect their rights against grave human rights violation, with the theme, "Use and Abuse of Technology".

Nwawene said the partnership became necessary to introduce high level technology in the fight against trafficking in persons because traffickers had also stepped up in the use of technology to facilitate the illicit trade.

"Today, we see that technology helps in the recruitment of victims all over the world through online dating platforms where personal information of people are readily available via the social media.

"It has also enabled the posting of fake job adverts, scholarship and recruitment to nonexistent football clubs abroad.

"So, we are also using technology in no small measure to impede human trafficking activities by creating awareness to a large section of the society and also giving them the opportunity to report cases to NAPTIP easily," he said.

According to the commander,

consent was no issue and that even when a person submits his or herself to be trafficked, they are treated as victims by the agency because they may have been deceived.

He said these victims might not be told that they would be exploited or the level of exploitation they would face, as many of them come back with diseases like HIV, pregnancies while some are even killed.

He said NAPTIP was doing a lot to ensure that victims were given a warm welcome and protected in the shelters of the agency as soon

Emirates to cut flights to Nigeria August 15

Due to its inability to repatriate its blocked funds from Nigeria, Emirates Airlines is planning to cut its operations from Dubai to Lagos from 11 per week to 7 per week, starting from August 15th, 2022.

Emirates is one of two flag carriers of the United Arab Emirates. The other being Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways.

The International airline plan was contained in a letter addressed to the Honourable Minister of Aviation, Federal Ministry of Aviation, dated July 22, 2022.

Explaining further, the airline stated that they tried to stem the loss by proposing to pay for fuel in Nigeria in Nairas, which would have at least reduced costs; however, this request was denied by the supplier.

"This means that not only Emirates revenues accumulating, we also have to send hard currency into Nigeria to sustain our operations. Meanwhile, our revenues are out of reach and not even earning credit interest.

"Your Excellency, this is not a decision we have taken lightly. Indeed, we have made every effort to work with the deputy governor of the CBN in May and followed up on the meeting by letter to the Governor himself the

as they were rescued from their traffickers

"I however use this opportunity to tell the state governments and Nigerians in general that the Federal Government cannot do it alone, we all need to be vigilant and not sacrifice our children on the altar of making money by exploiting them.

"State governments need to take ownership and complement the efforts of the agency in taking care of victims when they are rescued and taken to shelters in their states," he said. (NAN)


following month. However, no positive response was received. Meetings were also with Emirates own bank in Nigeria and in collaboration with IATA to improve FX allocation, but with limited success", Emirates stated.

Earlier, aviation experts had warned that if urgent steps were not taken to work out a mechanism to clear the existing backlog of trapped funds of foreign airlines and prevent subsequent build up, such funds may hit \$300 million in the second quarter of 2022.


With the increasing buildup of foreign airlines trapped funds, it is increasingly becoming more difficult for some of the carriers to access funds through their banks at official rate.

Although, the foreign airlines had resorted to the black market to source forex at a point in time.

Meanwhile shortage of foreign exchange in the country has been attributed to be one of the major reasons why foreign airlines are unable to repatriate the blocked funds out of the country, a situation that had forced airline operators to seek for alternative means of raising funds.



With
**Katdapba
Y. Gobum**
On Sunday



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"To be fair, the military is overstretched beyond its limits. They are ill-equipped as their fighting power has been described as less than what the insurgents have. While many had thought the helplessness of the Nigerians should bring us back to the drawing board as well as deploying so much resource to execute the war. There are more questions than there are answers".

TO be fair, Nigerians have since been dissatisfied with the way the issue of insecurity has been handled here. We are in a state of war and Nigerians are not speaking except a few of those that believe we have got to the stage that something urgent must be done.

Wherever we turn to, one form of criminality has not only reared its head, it has spread in more areas than one and causing colossal that its protagonists had envisaged. We are indeed heading to the stage that it may likely be consumed if the right actions are not taken by government.

There is no need to wait until the worse of the situation hits us. There are sufficient and credible voices which have risen to condemn the continuing scenario; while advising for options that should be taken which could resolve the predicament. Such voices have been reprimanded and reported to have been invited for questioning by the security (?). They should not be silent; they are credible enough to be listened to.

Whatever that is, we have a difficult situation at hand. However we view it all of us are not safe in the country that has defended itself from terrorism several years running. The military has suffered the heaviest casualties; this is not to forget the humongous amount of money that has been sunk to buy equipment to be deployed for use in combating terrorism.

We cannot forget in a hurry how government officials turned that into personal use. Some of them are still facing charges; while many others could well be on their way to be incarcerated on account of sleaze. It is reason enough that some of our countrymen think are of the opinion that the number of Nigerians waiting to steal from government tills are more than those who may have been caught or even escaped the searchlight.

It should no longer be seen as politics to be asked to declare an emergency on security; even as others see it as not the solution to the current debacle. It is beyond

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Those who do not see the situation as disturbing, what other name can we refer to them? It is not a joke in a difficult situation able to consume all of us including those who created the Frankenstein monster for which we are all slaves waiting to be saved. There is a palpable fear which has gripped communities across the land. Whoever is safe has not thought of the hellish situation we have been put into. We can only expect a reprieve if the security agencies are adequately funded to prosecute the war. That is what they have continuously asked for years running.

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Let us make Nigeria safe for all



partisanship as it is a matter of concern for all who value the existence of the country. The responsibility of securing Nigeria is for all of us to be engaged in.

To be fair, the military is overstretched beyond its limits. They are ill-equipped as their fighting power has been described as less than what the insurgents have. While many had thought the helplessness of the Nigerians should bring us back to the drawing board as well as deploying so much resource to execute the war. There are more questions than there are answers.

'Evidently, the national security architecture has collapsed like a pack of cards in the face of rampaging terrorist who are emboldened by their belief and the apparent helplessness of the Nigerian Army to curtail them.

'The pertinent questions begging for answers now are: How could the insurgents have superior fire power than an established army like Nigeria's reputed for international peace-keeping operation in the past? How could they have superior intelligence than the Nigerian Army? How come the government has not been able to track their source of funding and block it? What exactly has gone wrong with the polity? Is there any hope for the embattled nation called Nigeria?'

As it has been observed severally, 'indeed, we cannot rule out official complicity and negligence, insidious collusion, lack of will power, incompetence, lack of patriotic zeal in this matter, all boils down to failure of governance, mediocrity, misconception of role, corruption and abuse of office. There is the ethical dilemma of sectional interest and general interest. Our present government seems to pander of sectional interest as against public interest and that accounts for the escalation of insurgency and terrorism', so says one Hajia Hadiza Mohammed.

The nation has been told that the

sum of N198.84 billion has been released to the military to prosecute insurgency war from 2019 till date by the federal government, while on the funding of Operation Lafiya Dole in Maiduguri is claiming that they have a shortfall of N50 billion as requested. It is doubtful if any progress will be made if the army is not supported with funds.

As at the time of writing this piece on Friday, April 30, 2021, the president was holding a crucial meeting with security chiefs and other top government officials which included Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbajo, National Security Adviser, and General Babagana Monguno among others. It was not concluded; hence it was shifted to Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

Nigeria is not fighting a conventional war with any country today but the security situation calls for urgent and revolutionary/innovative measures because, as President Muhammadu Buhari himself has said, "we cannot continue like this." Like drones, spy planes are expensive. But there are already existing facilities that can perform the same function as spy planes without fear of discovery or being shot down and then sparking off a diplomatic row.

What stops the government from insisting that the issues that have been raised and which are thought to be sufficient grievances by those involved in some of the criminalities be examined. For instance, the issue of marginalization has been raging for decades; and it does appear it has been treated as a non-issue as well as several issues. What can be gleaned from all of these is that, time has come for the state to be restructured. For long, sufficient reasons have been adduced for that, yet the state keeps running from pillar to post while the states are being burnt; while lives and properties are destroyed with reckless abandon. The people can't ask for less; they feel what they are going through.

A few month ago the Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom was on national television and as well as a Senator was also seen on the floor of the Senate shedding tears on account of what has been going on in the nation. In the case of Ortom, he spoke as he stood before

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The pertinent questions begging for answers now are: How could the insurgents have superior fire power than an established army like Nigeria's reputed for international peace-keeping operation in the past? How could they have superior intelligence than the Nigerian Army? How come the government has not been able to track their source of funding and block it? What exactly has gone wrong with the polity? Is there any hope for the embattled nation called Nigeria?

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corpses which were cut down by terrorists.

As many have asked: Is there anyone in charge here? We have a government that may have been feeling inebriated for certain projects which have been executed over the years; but those cannot make Nigerians lose their voices not to speak. It is speaking that we can make progress as a nation.

Those who do not see the situation as disturbing, what other name can we refer to them? It is not a joke in a difficult situation able to consume all of us including those who created the Frankenstein monster for which we are all slaves waiting to be saved. There is a palpable fear which has gripped communities across the land. Whoever is safe has not

thought of the hellish situation we have been put into. We can only expect a reprieve if the security agencies are adequately funded to prosecute the war. That is what they have continuously asked for years running.

Even though some members of the National Assembly have spoken, many others are still sitting on the fence. They feel the war is being fought in far away Afghanistan; it is at our door steps, and the doors may not be opened when they descend on us. But God forbid that we get to that. The grim situation will need their intervention, and quickly too as the signs for a failed state are indeed staring us in the face.

There have been suggestions to invite the international community to help us. While that may be a welcomed development, the question to ask is: Internally, what have we done to engage ourselves to stem the tide? Haven't the elite been accused a lot of keeping quiet in the face of evidences that we are on the precipice? Have they not been the ones engaged in orchestrating others into doing things which tend to divide us? Don't they know that we have since taken the road to Armageddon? If they know that we are on the brink of falling into the pit, pray, tell us. What they have done to stop the slide?

'The sad reality', as one Obinna Nwosu recently noted, is that 'God is speaking to us in actions now; God may have lost his patience and is putting samples of illustration for clarity and yet folks live in clubbed indifference and aloofness chasing and dreaming conquest. The precipice is looming'.

Even President Muhammadu Buhari himself declared that "we cannot continue like this," while making reference to the recent abduction and release of 333/ 334 students of Government Science Secondary School, Kankara in Katsina State. As soon as they were released, 'the students were surprised with a presidential visit. Encouraging them to concentrate on their studies and put the abduction behind them, Buhari used the opportunity to express his grave concern about security in a country under his watch'.

The situation is grim. If you are not worried about it, several Nigerians are. It is shameful that 'we have people who have used this to run a proxy government for their own benefit and our elites are aware and have sworn an oath to be silent'. The time to save Nigeria is now; let's not wait until it is late.

Note: This material was published some time back. On account of the fact that certain indices have continued to abate, it is important we republish it without editing.

It is hope that government will take conscious effort to arrest our drift as many Nigerians have continued to lose their lives without let. As much as it is expected, Nigerians would want a situation where the drift will be addressed.



Irresponsible parenting and the victims plight

DURING my secondary school days, I used to know a girl, a year my junior who looked all wrinkled and a little bent. She looked so much older than her age that she had very few friends. Girls avoided her and labelled her as wicked due to her looks. It was not until I came close to her that I thought differently. Nevertheless, this young girl housed in an old body had to deal with inferiority complex all her years in school.

And what was her problem? This lady had begun cultivating a very big farm since she was just a child. She did too much laborious job for her age coupled with the fact that her nutrition was poor.

At one point, she preferred school to her home because as she said, 'at least I can rest and eat 3 square meals.'

Ten years down the line after leaving school, I met her and I could barely recognize her. She looked younger than she looked while in school. By that time, she was a certified nurse and married. Her looks testified against her parents.

I used to have this friend who used to resume school late after each holiday. As we advanced in class, it started having negative impact on her education. Any time she resumed school, there was always a lot of notes to copy, and make-up tests to write. The burden was too much on her and it started telling on her grades.

Unable to sit and watch, one fateful day, I asked her why she never resumed the first week of resumption until the 3rd. She looked at me sadly and explained that every time school resumes, her younger sister and herself have to get a cite that will employ them to work as mason's assistant, supplying the mason with mixed cement and or blocks. It was very tasking but they had to do it to enable them pay their school fees.

“**While in school, she used to top her class. She also had big plans for herself until she found herself in that hopeless village. One day, a pick up van came to offload goods in the village. This lady vowed that she must find a way to get into the pickup van. That was what she did.**”

In the case of my cousin, it was either she embraced burkutu business wholeheartedly or she remained an illiterate who would be married off to the first suitor that came for her hand in marriage.

Ladi was schooling in a private secondary school in Bukuru. Her only problem was that her school was quite a distance from their home. She lived with her elder sister at Angan Rogo because she had lost her parents when she was still a baby. Anyone familiar with Jos knows that that it is quite a distance. Ladi was lucky, her sister always paid her school fees but that was all. She would not lift her finger to do anything further. That meant Ladi had to trek to school any day she was going to school.

The school had to give her double promotion for her trouble to reduce the years of stress. The school authority knew that Ladi had to roast corn or cook it and sell to enable her buy books and take care of transportation whether to or from but not to and fro. Ladi's uniform was an eyesore because she could not afford to buy uniform. That meant Ladi's education was very tasking to her.

Jummai lived with her aunt in Jos to help out with house chores and the children. However, her aunt had no respect for her niece's education. Jummai was a regular late comer. She came to hate school because it was synonymous to beatings and punishment. After her primary education, she dropped out. Today she is a petty trader and regrets ever leaving school.

A very good friend developed a kind of hatred for her father because after her primary education, he forcefully married her off to a total stranger. The man was a crude villager who didn't even change his lifestyle for his bride. They ate once in a day then take off to the farm with a jug of gruel. It was only God that kept her grand pa husband from deflowering her. She was an unwilling bride and was just 12 years old. Maybe he was saving her for the future.

While in school, she used to top her class. She also had big plans for herself until she found herself in that hopeless village. One day, a pick up van came to offload goods in the village. This lady vowed that she must find a way to get into the pickup van. That was what she did.

The above lady realized her dreams and became her family's shining star and solution to their problems. The list is endless. It includes parents who send their children into prostitution, those that deny them their rights, those that abuse the children in any way, etc.

The family has failed in its duty to mold the character of the younger members of the society

We need to retrace our steps or the future of our children will be bleak.

NEWS

DG hails proposed NYSC Trust Fund Scheme

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

BRIG. Gen. Muhammad Fadah, Director General, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has hailed the proposed establishment of NYSC Trust Fund, as the scheme is capable of empowering corps members to become self reliant and employers of labour.

He called for strong support for the scheme to come on board and make positive impact on the lives of corps members in view of the alarming unemployment situation in Nigeria.

The NYSC DG made the call during the swearing-in ceremony of the 2022 Batch 'B' Stream II youth corps members posted to Kogi at the NYSC Orientation Camp in Asaya, Kabba Local Government Area.

Represented by the NYSC Coordinator in Kogi, Mofoluwasho Williams, the DG said "already the NYSC Trust Fund has reached an advanced stage of legislation."

"This Trust Fund, when established, will help the smooth operations of the NYSC Scheme especially in addressing the challenges of infrastructure and providing start-up capital for corps members."

"It's a clear fact that white-collar jobs are no more readily available, which calls for corps members to inculcate the strong desire to be self reliant and employers of labour."

"As you are now in camp, I encourage you to avail yourselves of the opportunities for self employment offered to you through the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED)



Fadah

Programme. "You're expected to choose from any of the areas and make yourselves available for the training," he said.

Fadah strongly charged the corps members to maintain high level of discipline and enthusiasm by complying with the camp rules and regulations.

He said, "You must continue to distance yourselves from cultism, drugs abuse and other social vices to be responsible in contributing your quota to nation building as patriots."

The DG also cautioned them against using social media for spreading fake news, fueling hatred through hate speeches and other negative purposes.

While advising them to use social media for the promotion of national unity and development, Fadah charged them to the security conscious

at all times and report any suspicious character or activities around them.

He said, "One of the objectives of NYSC is promotion of national unity and integration, hence, your deployment away from your states of origin and your assemblage here from diverse ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds."

"This policy will not only offer you the opportunity for a broader understanding of the country, but also entrench the culture of working together in an atmosphere filled with friendship, peace, harmony, and a shared vision of a great and prosperous Nigeria," he said.

Our Correspondent reports that a total of 1,200 corps members posted to Kogi, were led by Justice Esther Haruna in taking their oaths at the colourful swearing in ceremony.

Philanthropist hails music maestro's expertise, ingenuity

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A Philanthropist and President of Enemona Foundation, Gabriel Onoja, has praised Abigail Omonu's ingenuity and expertise in her Igala gospel music describing her as a pride to the Igalak kingdom and Nigeria at large.

Onoja while celebrating with the Igala gospel music minister, Abigail Omonu who was recently signed as its ambassador on the occasion of her birthday, urged her to sustain her success story in the gospel music business.

He said the renowned songwriter, producer and singer, Abigail Omonu has been a source of blessings to millions of Nigerians for the past twenty four years since she started her public music ministry in Igala land.

Gabriel said, "On your birthday, I am joining family, friends and fans all over the world to celebrate with you, an iconic performer, for using your voice in spreading the gospel for more than twenty four years of the total life you have lived on earth."

According to the statement which reads in part, "I am using this auspicious occasion in extolling you for your dedication to soul winning, preaching of the gospel of Jesus

Christ, mending broken marriages through your music and counseling younger Christians, which has transformed many lives, and left an indelible mark on them, including myself."

Describing the "Agaba Idu" music crooner as a phenomenal singer with spiritual tact, Gabriel acknowledged her contributions to his own spiritual and moral development since he met her, her support as ambassador to Enemona Foundation and the motherly roles she has played in his life, especially in time of anxiety.

Onoja said he shared the joy of another age with the singer, her husband, fans, other family members and friends, while acknowledging the inspiring influence of her many songs which are practically like national anthem among churches and even Muslim communities across Nigeria.

In another development, Executive Director of Enemona Foundation, Mr. Williams Illah also affirmed

that Abigail, "the multi-talented artiste" holds a special place in Nigeria's music history, starting out with the "Agaba Album" which contains songs that have remained evergreen in Nigerian homes and churches.

Mr. Illah congratulates Abigail whose songs on marriage and family life has he said has remained philosophical and touch on love, kindness, loyalty, unity, peace and togetherness in family and marriage life.

The Executive Director lauded the singer staying power on the stage, with such poetic and soulful inspirational tracks in over twenty albums that have attracted many view and reviews on apps and tubes, engaging the social media for long period.

The Foundation's president Williams Illah prayed that the music maestro will continue to enjoy good health and more inspirations for sonorous tunes in the years ahead even as she turns twenty five years on stage in September.

SUNDAY POLITICS

CAN expresses dismay with APC'S desperation

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

THE Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna State chapter, has expressed dismay with the desperation of the All Progressive Congress (APC) presidential candidate in getting the support of whoever in the name of Christian(s) as the 2023 general elections draws closer in the country.

Responding to questions from journalists, the state chairman of CAN, Rev. John Joseph Hayab noted that a recent publication of an alleged group of Christians named, "Progressive Christian Clerics, North-West Zone" has shown how the APC presidential candidates are so desperate in getting the support of Christians in the country not minding the genuineness of the person, group or organisation.

It will be recalled that some person's under the auspices of Progressive Christian Clerics, North-West Zone said they have thrown their weight behind the Muslim-Muslim ticket fielded by the All Progressives Congress (APC), Presidential flagbearer, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and they encouraged Christian faithfuls to ensure brotherliness, hence their decision to support the Tinubu/Shettima ticket.

According to the group its membership cuts across 19 northern states including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. They stated that Nigerians should be more concerned about electing leaders with capacity to tackle daring security challenges and economic problems militating against the country's progress rather than issues of religious and ethnic sentiments. This was contained in a statement issued by its zonal chairman, Reverend Moses Bitrus of Arise and Shine Prophetic Ministry Kaduna.

But Rev. Hayab while denying the presence of the zonal chairman and group, said, "I have lived all my life in Kaduna and as a Minister of the gospel, I have been opportuned to interact and know most of the Pastors in Kaduna. To the best of my ability, I don't know the name of the zonal chairman nor the existence of a group like that."

He added, "It is a pity that with the desperation of the APC presidential candidates to convince Nigerians that they are being supported by the Christians in the country, it will definitely attract non-existent group of people in the name of Christians claiming to support their candidacy in



Okoh

order to milk them. "If the Christians were important, I strongly believe they would have been consulted and carried along in the struggle of the presidency by the APC in nominating the running mate to its presidential candidate. Using names, groups, organisations that are alleged to be Christians will not change the reality of what CAN is talking about."

He explained that the Christians in the country know the difference between their genuine leaders from opportunist parading as Christian groups.

Christian genuine leaders would continue to speak out against divisive actions in the polity of the nation so that

generations yet unborn will have a peaceful and united country.

He added that anything that is not in the interest of all Nigerians irrespective of any difference, CAN would not support it but will completely distance itself from such things that are meant to separate and cause suspicion, disharmony and hatred among the good people of Nigeria that desire the best from the leadership of the country.

According to Rev. Hayab, CAN would continue to preach peace, love and unity among its followers, believing that that is the only way they could live in peace without any form of suspicion but togetherness

Lawmakers oppose bill to establish NVRI Gombe

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Senate Committee on Agriculture has held public hearings on 7 bills including the one seeking to establish the NVRI Gombe.

Key stakeholders at the public hearing roundly opposed the Bill seeking to establish another NVRI in Gombe.

The Minister of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mahmood Abubakar expressed objection of the ministry to the Bill saying it seeks not only to duplicate the functions and mandate of NVRI Vom but will further deplete the constrained financial state of the institute.

The minister commended NVRI Vom for doing well in vaccine production and other veterinary products and also submitted that provisions of the Bill contradict clear provisions of the ARCN (Amendment) 2021 Act recently accented to by Mr. President.

The Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) equally opposed the Bill. Prof Sharubutu of ARCN spoke against proliferating Research Institutes and in particular, NVRI. He said the global trend and best practice is to have one national strong and well-funded institute. He therefore, urged Senate to deploy its power of appropriation

to strengthen the capacity of NVRI Vom to effectively deliver on its mandate to the nation.

The DG NVRI Vom spoke against the Bill for the same reasons advanced by the FMARD & ARCN and canvassed for increased funding by the Senate. She said the institute



Lawan

LABOUR Party's House of Assembly candidate for Zungur, Galambi and Miri Constituency in the Bauchi State House of Assembly, Hon. Elisha Yakubu has promised to initiate legislation towards enhancing educational system as well as youth empowerment if elected in 2023.

The Labour assembly candidate who made the promise while addressing newsmen shortly after a town hall meeting with the National Executives of the party in Bauchi recently, said the aim of the meeting was to unite all the party members to speak with one voice before the commencement of campaigns.

Hon. Yakubu who commended the state and the national leadership of the Labour Party for giving him the opportunity to contest under its umbrella, promised to come up with strategies that will move the party forward.

Speaking on the presidential candidate of the party, His Excellency Peter Obi and his running mate, Senator Datti, Hon. Yakubu pointed out that their track record of achievements is enough credentials to convince all Nigerians to vote them in 2023 regardless of party, ethnic or religious inclinations.

Hon. Yakubu explained that his aspiration for the position was borne out of his strong desire to rekindle the collapsed educational system for the younger generation and also to contribute his quota to the development of the constituency in all sectors.

"As a youth, I do not claim that I have all solutions to all the problems bedeviling our constituency, but I have that determination to create an enabling environment for teachers to carry out their statutory duties", he said.

According to him, by doing so, the students would be motivated into the citadel of learning.

"I will also incorporate my

LP's House of Assembly candidate prioritises education

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

fellow youths into the political kingdom as one of the ways to salvage this country, for we have no other country apart from Nigeria", the House of Assembly aspirant proudly said.

Hon. Yakubu said, as an ordinary Nigerian, he has embarked on several humanitarian services to ease the workload of parents and also motivate students to better their lives.

Some of the humanitarian services rendered according to him include provision of free school bags to various schools within and outside his constituency. He promised to lift more burden off parents if elected.

Hon. Yakubu who Solicited for support from the party faithfuls and the constituents, said he would embark on several community projects to generate funds towards subsidizing

enrolment fees for students and support the welfare of men and women in Zungur, Galambi and Miri constituency.

"It is axiomatic to say that the educational system is the only sector that can diversify the country's economy when it is prioritized. I believe that if the society must experience development and modernisation, it must begin from the educational system that is of good quality which will in turn, lead to political stability", he said.

While describing education as the 'Mother' of all professions, Hon. Yakubu regretted that education has been surviving on 'life saving machine' due to the lackadaisical attitude of key stakeholders which has impacted negatively on the country's economy.

"It will be a waste of funds and resources if we continue to build infrastructures without funding the sector to produce patriotic citizens to sustain it", he said.



Abure

LP receives 700 decampees in Yola

From GYANG PAM, Yola

critical stakeholders that is FMARD, ARSC, NVRI Vom, etc against the Bill and see it as the voice and position of Nigerians.

Senator Gyang also informed the hearing that the Bill attracted lots of apprehension from the host state of Plateau, viewing it with suspicion having the possibility of relocating the institute from

the state.

Senator Gyang concluded by saying that the Senate should, given the clear and unequivocal stance and opposition of the government and stakeholders against the Bill, be so guided in its final resolution on the Bill in keeping with the essence of convening the public hearing.

THE Governorship candidate of the Labour Party (LP) in Adamawa State, Engineer Umar Mustapha has commended the resilience of the people of the State to identify with the party.

Mustapha who is the Otumba of Ekiti Stated recently at the occasion of receiving about 700 decampees mostly from the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) in Yola.

Speaking at the occasion, the Otumba said all parties were jittery of the Labour Party because of the achievements of its presidential candidate, Mr. Peter Obi.

According to the governorship candidate, it is on record that Mr. Obi is the only Governor who had at the end of his tenure as

Governor, left behind over N70 billion Naira and over N150 million dollars from his predecessor.

Umar Mustapha said some Governors are busy building structures that are not meaningful to the people and so he is set to correct such anomalies.

Leader of the decampees, Hajiya Mariam Sale revealed that they were in support of the LP because of its plans for the people.

She then handed the decampees to Mr. Nicolas Christopher the state chairman of the party who equally formally handed them to the Otumba of Ekiti, Engineer Umar Mustapha.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Nigerian youths fast becoming political mavericks

In the last few weeks, the question on the lips of every Nigerian has been who will win the 2023 presidential election. Nigerian youths, in particular, are now actively in tune with the goings-on in the country. On the other hand, most politicians are hoping to score cheap political points by sensitizing Nigerian youths on the need to exercise their fundamental rights as citizens, writes GIDADO YUSHAU SHUAIB.

MY notion of democracy is that under it, the weakest shall have the same opportunities as the strongest. Western democracy, as it functions today, is diluted fascism. True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below, by the people of every village." – Mahatma Gandhi

I came face to face with this pulse while dissecting issues surrounding the 2023 elections during a new TV program hosted by myself and the founder of CEOS network, Alli-Bob Cinwon, titled "Let's talk about Nigeria's next president." Also, as I walked round Ilorin, Kwara State where I had gone to meet the APC Senatorial Candidate for Kwara Central and Turaki of Ilorin, Mallam Saliu Mustapha, during the Sallah break, I observed that everybody was talking about politics.

It is trite to say that the recently concluded governorship election in Osun State is a litmus test for the incoming 2023 elections. The gusto and candour exhibited by the Osun electorate to uproot an incumbent governor speaks volumes about what will transpire in the 2023 elections. Many pundits interpreted the Osun defeat to mean that many Nigerians are tired of the ruling APC. Others were however quick to dismiss this assumption, claiming that a crack within the APC led to the fall of the party in the state.

The purveyors of this assumption cited the rift between Interior Minister Rauf Aregbesola and Governor Gboyega Oyetola as the reason for the defeat.

Across board, INEC voters' registration is increasing and queues are growing in registration centres, despite growing insecurity and hunger in the land. Recent statistics by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) revealed that the total number of fresh registrants for Permanent Voters Card (PVC) stands at 10,487,972, while completed registration was 9,455,198 (90.1%).

Out of these figures, 3,314,169 (31.5%) were done online, while the physical registration was around 6,141,029 (58.5%). According to the statistics, youths between the age of 18 to 35 accounted for 6,698,446 (63.8%) of the new registrants, while People Living with Disability (PLWD) were 71,998 (0.68%).

Thanks to many political tink tanks who are earnestly working towards ensuring that Nigerians have not only a say but a stake in deciding who holds political offices in the next regime. It is on record that the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), for instance, did a lot to mobilise youths to get their PVCs so they could actively participate in the forthcoming elections. These prospective voters are having their eyes fixed on the centre – the presidency – from which governance majorly precipitates to the grassroots. These Nigerians are so eager to know who eventually occupies the number one seat out of the many contenders we now have.

Nigeria has 18 registered political parties but 16 parties are in the race for the presidential seat. However, 4 out of these 16 political platforms have dominated discourse, majorly due to their popularity in terms of membership and the personalities (candidates) bearing their flags. This



is in no way suggesting that the other parties do not have a large membership base or popular candidates, but the major platforms dominating discourse are the All Progressives Congress (APC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Labour Party (LP) and African Action Congress (AAC).

These five political parties and their forerunners all stand good chances of winning the much-coveted seat, mainly because many Nigerians are yearning for a change in the country's state of affairs.

One of the many reasons behind this yearning for change includes the ongoing industrial action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). Since February 14, the university lecturers are on strike and the federal government has yet to

accede to their demands.

What this means is that Nigerian university students have been at home for five months. It is only natural that the situation will make students angry, hence their resolve to channel their energy into political activities to change their destiny.

Another reason for the sudden desire for change includes a bleeding economy. The Nigerian economy is currently in the doldrums. Nigerians are seeing their purchasing power dropping daily amid rising inflation and a national currency that cannot hold its own against the dollar.

Insecurity is another big problem Nigeria is facing today and young Nigerians are bearing the brunt. A lot of young people in the country have been victims of banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, and terrorist attacks in the last few years. Millions of hard-

earned money have been paid as ransom to free kidnap victims who were abducted either on their way to school, NYSC camp or even in their places of work.

The recent off-season elections in Ekiti and Osun show that votes now count so young Nigerians have developed confidence in the country's electoral system. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System, an electronic device designed to read Permanent Voter Cards and authenticate voters, has also helped in boosting the confidence of voters.

Perhaps the most important is that Nigerians are tired of recycling leaders. Young Nigerians are now resolute in voting in 'able-bodied' leaders who have age and experience on their side to be able to deliver the dividends of good governance.

At any rate, Nigerians should go into the 2023 elections with unity of purpose, taking away all shades of primordial sentiments and ephemeral desires. Only electing competent leaders will guarantee a united Nigeria.

The elected leader must believe in the indivisibility of the country, just as the electorate, too, must provide their support towards actualising the set objective.

Finally, it is foolhardy to assume or suggest that any single leader can unite Nigeria without commensurate efforts of citizens to the cause. To unite Nigeria, there is a place for leadership, and there is a place for followership. Overall, uniting Nigeria involves Nigerians from all strata.

SUNDAY POLITICS

The South-West and the emerging politics of religion

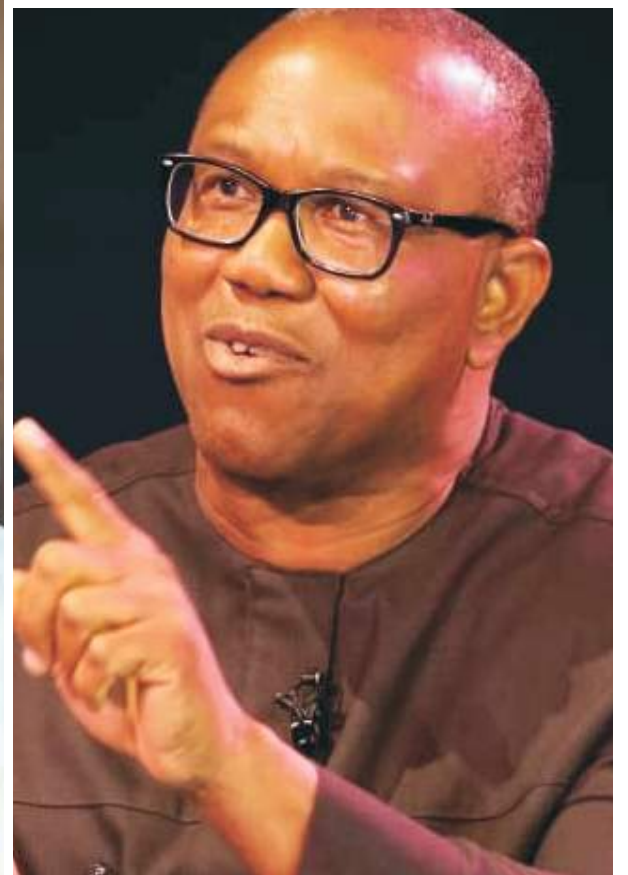
Religion has always been manipulated for political ends, especially in Northern Nigeria. Islamic religious groups "have become one of the veritable tools of political mobilisation in contemporary African democratising societies including Nigeria", said Musa Kabir Umar of the Department of Political Science, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina. NOSA IGBINADOLOR writes.



Tinubu



Atiku



Obi

ABDULLAHI Tanko Yakasai, leader of Northern Young Professionals for Tinubu, in an interview with Arise TV in June, said only a Muslim-Muslim ticket would appeal to predominantly Muslim states of the North to garner votes for victory for the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress.

"Majority of the states in the North are predominantly Muslim," he had said. "I think we have only three that are predominantly Christians, Taraba, Benue and Plateau states. Out of the 19 Northern states, the majority are Muslims and why are we shying away from the fact that our party needs those votes. We need to gather those votes to get the presidency come 2023; that is the number one thing."

Earlier this month, Rabiu Kwankwaso, presidential candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party, said northerners would not vote for Peter Obi, Labour Party's presidential candidate.

"What I am telling you is, if anybody now from the South-East under this circumstance becomes the presidential candidate of our party or any other party, the implication is that the activities and many other issues underground, northern voters will certainly go for their northern candidate in another party," Kwankwaso had said in a Channels TV interview.

When politicians from the North use the word 'northerner' within the context of political mobilisation and electioneering, they tend to mean Northern

Muslims from the North-West and North-East.

Ahead of the 2023 elections, the South-West, which has for years been sheltered from the religious politics that dominates Northern Nigeria, is now seeing the emergence of politics of religion in the region.

It was the Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka who noted the difference between Yoruba religion and the other major world religions, namely Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, which he described as claiming "spiritual monopoly" and "creating a dismal example."

Soyinka described religion as the "handmaiden of acts of violence" when people fail to recognise that spiritual truths can be captured in many religious constructs and that universal truth is too varied to simply be captured in one system.

Late British sociologist and historian of religion, J.D.Y Peel, said: "The Yorubas have a sense of themselves as being exceptionally tolerant of religious difference - and now particularly of having harmonious relations between Islam and Christianity."

The region, according to academics Insa Nolte, Clyde Ancarno and Rebecca Jones' in their 2018 anthropological research on inter-religious relations in Yorubaland, "has not experienced sustained religious conflict, unlike other multi-religious societies elsewhere in Nigeria and beyond. Members of different religions interact with one another frequently, often on an everyday basis."

The 2023 presidential election will further interrogate the

socialised relationship between religion and politics in Nigeria. In the South-West, it will bring to fore the chasm that has been created not with the emergence of Bola Tinubu as the ruling party's presidential candidate, but a rift generated by his choice of a fellow Muslim as running mate.

"Expecting Nigerians to ignore geo-religious sentiment and vote for the best candidate would be naïve in a country where a third of the country's states have implemented Sharia law," The Africa Report said.

Wole Olaoye, a public commentator, in a November 2021 treatise, had lauded the religious tolerance in Yorubaland. "It is understandable that some people from a background of religious acrimony may find the Yoruba brand of tolerance strange," he said.

According to him, unlike in other parts of Nigeria, Islam in the South-West is part of the progressive movement, not stuck in the middle ages.

In October 2021, the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), a Lagos-based organisation, insisted on a preference for a Yoruba Muslim president.

"It is our belief," Ishaq Akintola, the founder of the organisation, said, "that Yoruba Muslims need federal might to eliminate or at least scale down the tornado of oppression and the Tsunami of anti-Muslim sentiment that pervades the South West. Only a Yoruba Muslim president who knows what has been happening can do this effectively. Who feels it knows it."

In May, Muhammad Mansur



Kwankwaso

Aliyu, MURIC's chairman in Sokoto State, urged Muslims in the South-West to register to vote, and vote to make a point.

He said: "Our brothers in the South who are facing persecution on a daily basis must allow their number to count by ensuring that they obtain their voters' cards. Muslims constitute the majority in a place like the South-West but unfortunately, they are still facing oppression today because they have not been leveraging their majority status."

"The opportunity has now come. Go all out and get your voter's card. Your voters' card is your weapon of liberation. A majority population that fails to vote is, technically speaking, a

minority. We, therefore, urge you to spare no efforts in getting your voters' cards in readiness for the 2023 general election.

"We are looking forward to an election that will reveal the true picture in the region. A majority of people that has been turned into a minority due to their apathy for politics must wake up from its deep slumber. We must stop the stereotyping, the segregation, the religious apartheid and the hijab paranoid."

For perhaps the very first time in the South-West, the people of the region are being drawn into making political choices based on their religious beliefs.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

GOVERNOR LALONG MEETS COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY GROUP

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong recently met Coalition of Civil Society Group at his official residence, Government House Rayfield, Jos



Governor Simon Lalong (with mic) responding to some issues raised at the meeting



Spoke persons of the group, Comrade Gad Peter Shamaki (standing) delivering the message on behalf of the group



Comrade Steven Daniel Aluko (left) and Prof. Para-Mallam listening keenly to the speech by Governor Lalong



Plateau State Governor, State Government officials and the Coalition of Civil Society Group on the Plateau in a group photograph

Photos: DANLADI DUK

NUJ PPC CHAPEL SWEARING IN OF NEW EXCO

The Nigeria Union of Journalists, Plateau Publishing Corporation Chapel recently sworn-in newly elected executive council of the chapel at the corporation's news room, Jos



Mr. Paul Jatau, NUJ, Plateau State Council Chairman (standing) making some remarks



Mr. Fwenji Goar and Henrietta Gonzuk PPC Chapel Credential Committee members at the swearing in ceremony



New NUJ, PPC Chapel, Mr. Israel Nanjul Lar (left) flanked by members of his EXCO taking the oath of office being administered by Barr. Nenrot Thomas



Mr. Jabbe Detawo, Assistant Secretary, NUJ (left) with Mr. Ezekiel Izang of NUJ State council at the swearing in ceremony

Photos: JOHN LAR

PLENARY at the Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA) commenced last week as members resumed from the short recess embarked earlier to enable them partake in the recent concluded primaries. As the lawmakers welcomed and congratulated each other, it did not seem to matter who lost or won. One thing was evidently clear, they were all happy to see one another. The icing on the cake was when the House Majority Leader Hon. Na'anlong Gapyil Daniel called everyone a winner, even as he described the election as free, fair with no violence whatsoever recorded. After the exchange of pleasantries, it was then time to settle down to the day's legislative business.

The session began with a motion on adjournment moved by the Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency Hon. Na'anlong Gapyil Daniel, calling on all to support the state Executive Governor Barr. Simon Bako Lalong in the quest to becoming the vice presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC). For the lawmaker, the motion was necessitated by the need to draw the attention of the national body of the APC to consider the executive governor of Plateau State as running mate to Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu, who is the party's presidential flag bearer. On why Lalong should be considered, he said there is no other person more qualified as his antecedents speak for itself and is there for all to see.

To further buttress his point, Na'anlong likened Plateau State to a mini Nigeria, adding that Jos as a cosmopolitan city is home to people from different walks of life, and from the different ethnic groups of the country. In his view, Plateau is probably the only state in the North Central that is known to accommodate people from the different tribes and religions. And for Lalong to have been able to still govern the state after all the challenges it has gone through shows his capabilities as a good leader. Worthy of mention are his track record and achievement in restoring peace and unity amongst all residents and citizens of Plateau.

Throwing more light on the motion, the House majority leader has this to say: "There is the need to have a leader that will represent the interest of the different people, bringing them together to discuss the way forward for our great country Nigeria. If we can give it to His Excellency Simon Lalong, he is most qualified because he has done perfectly well. You can see his passion, his desire for people to dwell together as one. That is the kind of leadership that is uncommon, that is the kind of leadership Nigeria needs in order for us to have a peaceful nation. We need leaders who will not come with the colour of religion, a leader that will see everyone as his own and that is what our governor has been demonstrating. He is indeed a team player which Tinubu needs as his vice".

Members in their various contributions while supporting the motion, also unanimously agreed to lead the campaign as they one after the other reeled out Lalong's antecedents and why he is most qualified to be picked as vice president of the APC presidential candidate. First and foremost,

they noted the significant role being played by Lalong as Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum (NGF). Recall that it was the NGF, through the influence of Governor Simon Lalong as chairman that made it possible for the presidency slot to go to the South. Secondly, the lawmakers agreed that due to Lalong's initiative and pro-activeness, the Plateau State Peace Building Agency was birthed and subsequently passed into law by the state assembly and today, is instrumental to the peace being enjoyed in the state.

Also during plenary, the PLHA passed for first, second and third readings a "Bill for a Law to Amend



PLHA plenary: Support for Lalong tops agenda



the Plateau State House of Assembly Funds Management Law" which may also be cited as the Plateau State Legislative Funds Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022. This bill seeks to amend Sections 3, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 42, 46, 51, and the second schedule of the Plateau State legislative funds management law 2021 by replacing the funds management board with a funds management committee.

This is as a result of a conflict between the law and Section 109(1) (e) of the 1999 Constitution which prohibits serving members of any House of Assembly from being a member of a commission, board or any other body established by the said constitution or any other law. Also, the bill seeks to reconcile the official designation of the heads of Administration and that of Finance and Supplies of the House. What is the justification for this, one may ask?

Firstly, Section 103(1) of the Nigerian Constitution provides that, a House of Assembly may appoint a committee of its members to serve for any special or general purpose as in its opinion, it would be better regulated and managed by means of such committee, and may also

by resolution, regulation or otherwise, as it thinks fit delegate any functions exercisable by it to any such committee. Secondly, is to harmonize the official designations of the two departments of the House as highlighted above in line with its conventional practice.

As the lawmakers deliberated extensively on this bill, even going as far as giving it an accelerated hearing by suspending Order 13 Rule 3 of the House rules, they arrived at the conclusion that an amendment to the assembly fund management law is indeed apt and timely and will no doubt conform with obtainable legislative best practices. The bill was thereafter, permitted for passage through a motion moved by the House majority leader to the committee of the whole for proper scrutiny. As the House reverted back to plenary, it was passed for third reading as it awaits its eventual passage into law.

Last but not the least for the day's agenda was a notice of motion calling on the Plateau State House of Assembly to resolve to adopt the legislative calendar for the fourth session of the ninth assembly in the fourth republic, as contained in the schedule to this motion commencing from the 1st June, 2022 and ending on



the 9th June, 2023. According to the 1999 Constitution as amended, the House of Assembly shall seat for a period of not less than one month each in a year. In view of this, the Ninth Plateau State House of Assembly

commenced its third session on the 28th of June, 2021.

Therefore, there is need to set up and adopt a resolution for the fourth session of the legislative calendar commencing on June 14th, 2022 and ending on June 9th, 2023.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Adamu



Ngige

FG, ASUU strike: Need for truce

If is no longer news that with the continuous disagreement between the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU) particularly, government owned, students of such tertiary institutions have been home for upward of about six months. This is definitely not good for the students, parents/guardians and the educational system generally. VICTOR ALI

IT is not in doubt that education is key to development, science and technology. Hence, its importance need not be overemphased. From primary to tertiary level, education plays a crucial role in shaping the entire society. According to the World Bank, "Tertiary education is instrumental to fostering growth, reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. A highly skilled workforce with lifelong access to a solid post-secondary education, is a prerequisite for innovation and growth."

As important and vital as education is in the modern world, it ought to be given the necessary and desired attention. Right from the nursery, primary and secondary, culminating in the tertiary institutions, any government that is desirous of impacting on its people which in turn will propel development in the society for the betterment of the

generality of everyone, must prioritize educational development in all its ramifications. Anything short of this is an invitation to disaster.

The founding fathers of the Nigeria could be said to have tried in providing education infrastructures, personnel and mass mobilisation of students for admissions into these institutions. Indeed, it would go down in history that the first generation universities in Nigeria, some of which were renamed after the demise of their founders—Ahmadu Bello university (ABU), Zaria; University of Nigeria (UNN), Nsukka, University of Ibadan (UL), Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Ile-Ife, amongst others that came much more later were symbols of organizational skills and subsequently, centre of excellence.

But in the past four or so decades and with proliferation of higher education

institutions everywhere to cater for the people (students), the fortunes of that citadel of learning has since nose-dived. Nigerian universities which used to be ranked amongst the best in Africa, if not in the world, have become a shadow of themselves. Infrastructural structures decay is an eyesore, quality of academic output is abysmal, remuneration of lecturers and their affiliates tertiary institution workers, have constantly become subject of intense debate, controversy and disagreement.

Funding of public tertiary institutions, particularly public universities have been a major bone of contention between the Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU) and the government. From the complain of lack of funding, under-funding and or outright fraud in the entire system, these public universities and other tertiary institutions; seem to be on the path to extinction. Of course, with the advent of privately-owned universities and other tertiary institutions the rich but mighty can afford the exorbitant fees paid and what about the poor folks?

In the last decade, one can conveniently and comfortably say that, Nigerian students in public tertiary institutions have comfortably lost, in cumulative terms, at least three sessions. The obvious

questions to be asked by discerning minds are: What worth is the student who has stayed that long at home without seeing the four walls of the classrooms? Can such a student really defend his or her certificate if such a student eventually graduate? What value will such a student add to the society?

Because of the important nature of tertiary institutions, indeed, education generally should be accorded the outmost priority. Writing recently under the topic: **"Road to Anarchy: ASUU, Labour and Solidarity Protest"**, a policy and leadership expert, Dakuku Peterside, succinctly, captured the worrisome situation thus: "ASUU has been on strike for over six months and there seems to be no end in sight of the action."

"ASUU is demanding that the government fulfil's the agreement it entered into in the past, increase lecturers, salaries and provide funding for higher education in Nigeria. These demands aim to improve the quality of education and quality of living of University, lecturers". He went further to state that, "historically ASUU is synonymous with strike action in Nigeria, and for decades they have been making demands entering into agreement with government which the government reneges in frequently leading to industrial actions".

"This has been a recurring decimal in our higher institutions for over four decades, and it has defied all government's solution and does not seem to be exacerbating soon. ASUU-government brouhaha is endangering the future of our youths whose education is truncated with the concomitant effect of producing half-baked graduates or the students spending more time than necessary to complete their degrees".

To say that the present scenario is pathetic, is stating the obvious. While ASUU's demands are legitimate, however, one looks at it, government action's, inactions or outright reneging of agreements reached calls to question its sincerity of purpose. For crying out loud, how can a government enter an agreement with a very critical sector of the society since 2009 and refuse to implement same? At this moment; both the students, parents or guardians are stretched and stressed to the limit with all the socio-economic repercussion inherent in it.

It will not be out of place to hypothetically assert that, while some of the students might have joined criminal gangs for want of something to do, the girls equally too, might have joined the league of

Continued on page 31

NEWS

Three governors attend court of Appeal president son's burial

By PALANG KASMI

IT was all tears, flow of comforting words and memorable tributes Friday at Shendam during the burial of the son of Nigeria's Court of Appeal President, Justice Monica Dongaban-Mensem.

The son of the Jurist, Prince Paeke Shepnaan Dongban had died in his sleep on July 23, 2022 at age 38, and the memorial mass took place on Friday 29th July 2022 at St. Peter Clevers Catholic Church Demshin, Shendam Local Government Area of Plateau State, attracting friends, associates, family and sympathisers who came to pay their last respect.

Among dignitaries that attended the mass were Governors Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu of Kebbi State, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, Jigawa State, Abubakar Sani Bello, Niger State, Acting Chief Judge of Nigeria, Justices of the state and Federal Courts, former Jigawa State Governor Saminu Turaki, Former EFCC Boss Nuhu Rubadu, Bishops, politicians, and officers from the public and private sector.

Speaking at the funeral service, Governor Simon Lalong said the death of Prince Shapnaan is a painful experience for not only the immediate family, but the entire State as he was one of the young professionals that the State groomed for national service.

He commiserated with the parents of the deceased His Royal Highness Miskoom David Isa Dongban, the Long Dorok of Dorok Chiefdom and Hon. Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem whom he said have had to bear another tragic death of a son having experienced similar loss of his brother 10 years ago.

He urged them to accept the demise of their son as the will of God and take comfort in the time they shared together as well as his contributions to the family, Plateau State and Nigeria during his years on earth.

Kebbi Governor, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu and Chairman Progressives Governors Forum who represented Nigerian Governors Forum (NGF) said from the numerous tributes flowing at the Church, Paeke was a son that had made his family proud.

"On behalf of all the Governors of Nigeria, accept out deepest condolences and God's comfort over the loss of your son", he said.

While praying for God's comfort to the family, he said death is an inevitable end of man that spares no one no matter how young, old or highly placed and prayed for the repose of Paeke's soul.

Hon. Justice Jummai Sankey, Representative of the Acting Chief Justice said the entire Nigerian Judiciary shares in the Dongban family's moment of pain.

In his tribute, the Long Gamai of Shendam, Miskoom Martin Shaldas II



Lalong

representative of the Plateau State Traditional Council of Traditional Rulers said they are devastated by the loss of Prince Paeke Shapnaan of the Dorok Chiefdom who has been called to glory. He consoled their colleague, the Long Dorok and his entire family, assuring him of their support and prayers.

In his homily, Rev. Fr. Paul Miapkwap said death is

inevitable and as such the demise of Prince Shapnaan should not be seen as unusual despite his young age since it has been ordained for all to die one day.

He reminded the people to always consider death in their activities as no one knows the day or hour he will die just like Shapnaan who has gone to be with his maker.

He also consoled the family

of the deceased asking them to continue to put their trust in God who is the maker of all humanity and has called home Shapnaan to a better place of rest and comfort where there is no pain and sorrow.

Representative of the Catholic Bishop of Shendam Most Rev. Philip Davou Dung said the demise of Paeke is painful but as believers in Jesus Christ, there should be total submission to the will of God.

He said the church will continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Prince Shapnaan as well as comfort for his family.

There was also tributes in honour of the late Paeke from his workplace, family, and friends all describing him as a jovial, accommodating and hardworking young man.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD Newspapers reports that earlier on Thursday evening, a wake-keep mass was held at the St. Monica's Catholic Church Jos in memory of the deceased.

The Late Paeke until his demise worked with Nigerian Maritime And Safety Agency (NIMASA) and is survived by a wife and daughter. His remains was later laid to rest at the family compound in Demshin, Shendam Local Government of Plateau State.

Inflation: Workers seek salary increase

FOLLOWING the increase in the pump price of petrol, some federal and state civil servants have appealed to both governments to increase workers salaries to reduce their hardships.

The workers, who spoke to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in separate interviews on Friday in Katsina, said the appeal was necessary because prices of goods and transportation had also skyrocketed.

Malam Abdullahi Balarabe, a Federal Government worker in Katsina, said that following the

hike in fuel price, prices of goods had also doubled.

Balarabe said what he normally bought for N200 was now being sold for between N300 and N400, adding that this was constituting a serious challenge to low earning civil servants.

"As you know, despite the increase in the pump price of fuel and the increase in the prices of foodstuffs and other goods, our salaries have remained the same.

"Before the current increase in prices, the salaries of many of us could not even sustain us

to the next salary day. Some of us spend our salaries on payment of credits," he said.

Mr Edwin Michael, also a federal civil servant, said that he had to park his vehicle to walk to office because some of the fuel stations sold petrol for more than N184 a litre.

"We are appealing to the Federal Government to do everything possible to increase workers salaries to cover the deficit in our monthly take-home.

"If I now go to the market with my salary I don't think it will be enough for me to buy what I used to buy before the current increase in the prices of goods," he said.

Also, Malam Adamu Ibrahim, a state civil servant, said that the situation was beyond description, adding that only God could intervene.

He said that his salary as an office assistant could hardly sustain him for the month. Ibrahim also called on the state government to increase the salaries of its workers, especially those at the lower grades.

A visit by NAN to the Katsina Central Market showed that traders had increased the prices of foodstuffs and other goods.

Malam Isma'il Garba, one of the traders, said the increase in the prices of goods was due to the hike in transport fare.

NAN reports that a litre of fuel now sells for between N184 and N220 in petrol stations in the state. (NAN)



Folasade



Protest in Jos over closure universities

THERE was massive turnout of workers and students to protest in Jos, Plateau state capital on Tuesday over the prolonged closure of Nigerian universities.

It would be recalled that Nigerian university workers have been on strike for more than five months over non- implementation of agreements between the Federal Government and university unions.

The solidarity protest organised by Nigerian Labour Congress in conjunction with the Trade Union Congress (TUC), was in solidarity with university unions

Plateau NLC chairman Comrade Eugene Manji who addressed the workers before the commencement of the procession, said that organise labour would not fold it hands and watch a situation that affect every Nigerian.

Terrorists attack Brigade of Guards

TERRORISTS on Monday struck in Abuja and ambushed the Guards Brigade, inflicting serious injuries on the elite force.

A signal on the attack reads that the law school in Bwari may be targeted for attack.

The primary duty of the Guards Brigade is to provide security for the nation's Federal Capital Territory(FCT), Abuja ,especially the Presidential Villa. Security sources said that the troop were ambushed on the Bwari- Kubwa road while on a routine patrol, while the wounded soldiers were evacuated to a military hospital.

Impeachment saga:APC moves to stop PDP lawmakers

ALL Progressive Congress (APC), leaders on Thursday began moves to avert the impeachment threat against President Muhammadu Buhari by the People Democratic Party(PDP),federal legislators over worsening insecurity .

It was gathered that the impeachment plot by the opposition Senators and House of Representatives members were part of the bigger agenda to outsmart APC in 2023 poll.

The PDP lawmakers have issued a six-week ultimatum to the President to resolve the security challenge or face impeachment.

APC National Secretary, Senator Iyiola Omisore who dismissed the threat, said that the impeachment process is political.

Amusan breaks wold record

Congratulatory messages continue to pour in for Nigeria's Tobi Amusan, following her record breaking performance at the just concluded World Athletic 100m hurdles Championship in Oregon.

The latest accolade for the Nigerian World Champion came from the former world record holder in the event, Kendra Harrison

Harrison via a tweet on Tuesday, on her verified Twitter handle hailed Amusan's feat and said she was happy that the record was broken by a Nigerian.

WAEC hikes fee to N18,000

HEAD, Nigeria National Office of West African Examination Council (WAEC),Patrick Areghan, said that there has been a marginal increase of WAEC fee because of the country's spiral inflation. Speaking at a marking centre in Abuja Friday, Areghan said each candidate now had to pay N18, 000 as against the N13, 950. He said the conversion of naira to dollar today was a misery and that the upward review of fees was necessary to enable the Council to render its services efficiently to the Nigerian child. "Th ere has to be that marginal increase to enable us to do better services. Th e examiners are now happy as we're able to increase their marking fees through this marginal increase. The money actually went for the payments of examiners to enable us to satisfy them so that they can do the job better," he explained.

Compiled by HOSEA NYAMLONG

SUNDAY FEATURE

Baba Peter Gonto Foundation: A legacy to defend

On 31st December 2021, Zaar sons and daughters from all over the world, top government officials, traditional rulers, Emirs both from far and near including representatives of other ethnic nationalities all gathered in Bogoro Local Government Area of Bauchi State to celebrate one of the icons and dogged freedom fighters for the liberation of the minority ethnic nationalities in the area and the entire Middle Belt region. BULUS GAMBO writes

THIS philosopher who stood vehemently against all acts of suppression, injustice and subjugation of the susceptible minorities forfeiting his entire life for the course of this struggle is no other than the late sage, Baba Peter Gonto of blessed memory. Prior to this august and epoch making event which witnessed the gathering of like minds; innumerable educative and enlightenment programmes were held to exhilarate the recollections of the people of the area partnering to the ideological principles of the late Baba Gonto, which calculatedly was and still is for the progress of these suppressed minorities.

For the entire natives and as it shall continue to remain so, but for the repudiation of Baba Gonto, most of the minorities of the area would still have been perhaps clenched in absolute enslavement with nothing to show for it as far as their pursuit for their socio-economic and political, liberation and advancement was and is still concern. Many of these minorities would still have been but pragmatically a shadow of themselves.

Born in 1882, Gonto despite his painful demise decades ago, still remains without any contradiction the symbol of struggle for not only the Zaar ethnic group but other ethnic groups within the Middle Belt region. The antecedents of this unique detribalized man of high repute has continued to reflect on the indigenes of his domain for decades and many more to come after he transited to be with his ancestors. To God be the glory, but for the efficacious crusade of Baba Gonto, darkness would have overshadowed the land by now.

Today, every Zaar man wherever he finds himself including other ethnic nationalities whom the late sage stood for are always grateful to have had such a father figure who laid a solid foundation for the prosperity of the people of both Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa Local Government Areas and even beyond. Indeed, without mincing words, Baba Gonto lived a praiseworthy life not only worthy of emulation but also that which has continued to portray his people as very industrious, intelligent and super productive as promise-keepers. Thus, the entire people of Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro Local Government Areas are always proud to have had Baba Gonto following his transparent leadership qualities which cannot be contested anywhere in the world.

Baba Gonto was one man who was fair to all and very aggressive in the quest for the unification of the entire citizens of his area irrespective of their religious and or ethnic differences. Despite the huge challenges Gonto faced however, all that occupied his mind during his historical lifespan on earth was how he could make issues count in the act of governance for the minorities of Southern Bauchi and beyond. For him, humanity needs to be fair to all and nobody should be discriminated based on his tribe, numerical strength and or faith. Gonto's slogan was inherent in his ideology which encapsulated the reality of the fact that human beings ought to be treated equally. His habit of giving and supporting the cause of humanity also made him stand out in the crowd.

For instance, in the book titled **Vision and Courage Personified,**



Prof Bogoro

the Life and Times of Baba Gonto authored by Dr. Saleh Dauda, the scholar connotes that the Zaar people are defined as, "an amalgamation of people with diverse dialectic background, who by an ingenious process of socio-cultural assimilation have integrated into one ethnic nationality, bound by an unwavering determination to remain united in focus and pursuit of happiness" to this people Baba Gonto provided leadership. He believes in three cardinal things for his people as pivotal to the dignity of man; freedom, education and empowerment. He was the first educated Zaar man. Other tribes with direct links to the statesman are Mbat, Ayah (Boi), Tapshin and Bijim.

Indeed, Baba Gonto therefore stood for all the marginalized people and as an educated man himself also ensured that his generation next were familiar with what was ahead of them. The philosopher was also so emphatic on the prospect of his people and knew that without decent education, they would not be able achieve total sovereignty from the egregious impediments militating against them. For Baba Gonto, without education, no minority group would be able to help itself and the community to overcome contemporary challenges of the century.

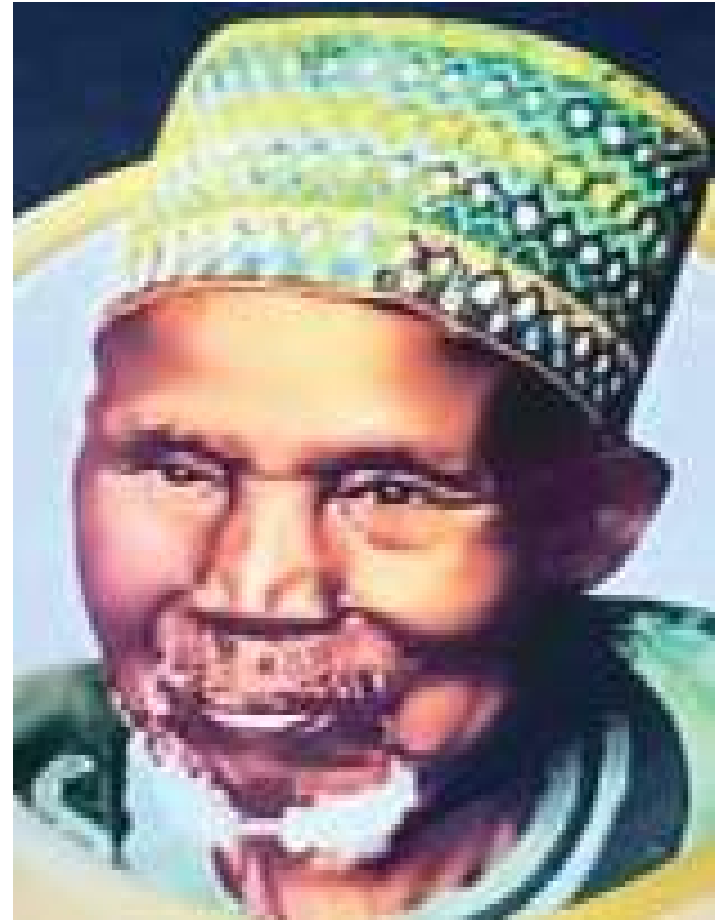
Over the years and since the passage of this great sage to the great beyond, the Zaar nation has relentlessly taken their fate in their hands. So also other ethnic nationalities which the unfriendly political system of the caliphate has continued to marginalize unabatedly. This unfortunate incidence has continued to reshape the intellectual thoughts of the natives towards self-preservation and self-reliance in consonance with the thoughts of their founding fathers. As years roll by, some stakeholders of the area lucky to have attained greatest in their chosen careers and or endeavors

have consistently tried to assist other vulnerable ones fulfill their dreams back home. Many prominent sons and daughters of the area have not forgotten the need to proliferate the late sage's ideology for the sustainability of the struggle of the neglected people of the area.

Thus, the Baba Gonto Foundation, a brilliant brainchild of the former Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, (TETFund) Prof. Suleiman Bogoro was no doubt established to sustain the great work of the sage for the benefit of the people. This foundation is also intended to provide several skill acquisition programmes so as to keep the youths of the area busy and enterprising rather than becoming traumatically dependent.

As minorities in Bauchi State, it is evident that the people of Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa Local Government Areas amongst other places in the Middle Belt region have been left behind wallowing in the midst of several excruciating challenges. This development is consistently evident in the Human Development Index statistics which speaks volume of the depreciating status of human development and constant degradation of our educational sector. As is the case elsewhere in the country, the economic wellbeing of the people of Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa is nothing to write home about. Though the area is classified as one of the hotbeds of unique civilization and an area which produced the first Prime Minister of Nigeria, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, successive administrations have not given the area the attention it deserves.

Therefore, to help improve the socio-economic status of the susceptible in the area, the former Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro decided to hastily intervene the problematic disposition of the people and create an enabling environment for them to prosper through the acquisition of



Baba Gonto

awareness creation and skill acquisition programmes. The Gonto Foundation also aspires to providing scholarship backing for many financially strapped youths of the area.

Interestingly, the objectives of the establishment include fostering the spirit of unity and understanding with the sole aim of promoting love, peace and unity in the society, inculcating the spirit of peaceful coexistence amongst members and help the less privileged in the society. The foundation also hopes to support, promote and enhance the economic, educational and business activities of the youths, widows and the less privileged and also create awareness and sensitize the youth on gains of peace and development, promote enlightenment and sustainable protection of the rights of women and children. The foundation is resolved to also providing skills for drop outs through vocational trainings.

Considering the relevance of such a Non-Governmental Organization to the development of the society, it is pragmatically hopeful that all and sundry would accept its objective which is intended to better the society. Consequently, Prof. Suleiman Bogoro must be commended for the efforts he has continuously put in place to help transform the youth and vulnerable minorities of the area. His fundamental vision for the people of the area has on several occasions witnessed such selfless societal contributions which has certainly continue to be a pace-setter for others to emulate. To match words with action, the Former Executive Secretary of TETFund disclosed during the occasion of the dedication of the foundation that the N25 million-naira prize money to be given him as the first annual awardee for the inaugural version of the Nigeria **Prize for Leadership** last December 12th 2021, but he was indisposed would be channeled to the project. Consequently, arrangements are still on to present

the award alongside the prize money of N25 million to him soonest which he had categorically promised that it would be devoted into the foundation's anticipated obligations. What this means is that while other NGO's go cap in hand begging for resources to kick-start any project as such, Bogoro has offered to put this amount into the programme so as to save the pioneer staff from any avoidable stress.

This gesture has proven that Prof. Suleiman Bogoro is another Baba Gonto epitomized following his antecedents as a selfless leader who has continued to be interested in the affairs of his people. But for the fear of God and Prof Bogoro's zeal to transform many vulnerable people of the land and even beyond, he would have chosen to remain aloft like many other Nigeria leaders who despite blessed by God has chosen to keep their wealth for themselves and their siblings. This has however not been in the character of Prof. Bogoro who like Baba Gonto feels any open door is an opportunity for him to bless and provide opportunities for many people. Bogoro has continued to remain blessed because he has continuously blessed and supported many vulnerable citizens of this country.

Even though not many are still on the same page with Prof Suleiman Bogoro particularly when it comes to his developmental achievements, just like Baba Gonto, a pocket few of such cynics must not be allowed to truncate transformational ideas which would help broaden the horizon of the area in a more definitive manner to the outside world. The minority citizens of the area who know the value of this developmental programmes must defend it in its entirety for the sake of their future generations.

In this regard, the people of the area must embrace this foundation which in no distant time would begin to offer various skills and support for the youth who are determined to sustain the ideological philosophy of the late Baba Peter Gonto for the sake of future generations.

SUNDAY FEATURE

Intrigues that shape political culture in Nigeria

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

Political party: Is the key and recognized platform for mobilization; they are registered for a purpose such as electioneering and politics in general. However, within a political landmark, several interests that reflect the inclination of the actors such as socio cultural, religious, godfatherism, etc, often play fundamental roles in evoking or abetting tension. At the pre-election season, the intrigue of how political parties select EXCO, emergence of delegates, etc, for primary elections are conducted in the spirit of brinkmanship. During general elections, conflicting interests kindle the fire of protest voting patterns, anti-party techniques, and other ultra combative means of survival amongst the divided interests. Politics is a convergence of fault lines; as actors use political platform to contest but use religious, ethnic, clannish, and sometimes unassuming attachments to magnet votes. This justifies the fact that politics does not operate in a vacuum. But the way and manner it is implored determines the magnitude of the uncertainty it often generate. So politics in Nigeria has taken a shape whereby party "A" is not only competing with opposing party platforms but also battling with internal rife to the extent that party faithful could be seen supporting an opponent due to contradiction within. This is a complex dynamics. In Zamfara state, for example, the governor that won in 2019 was later disqualified resulting in swearing in of the closest rival. This happened as a result of flawed primaries. This has become a precedent but every political party works hard to evade victimhood in this regard.

Constituencies : Some burning and persistent fault lines have come up as a result of historical factors that accompanied how constituencies were carved. For example, in some places, a local government is a federal constituency that produces a sole representative all by itself while at some corresponding places, it takes up to five or four local governments to produce a representative of the same capacity. In the same manner, it takes some number of districts to make up a zone to produce a chairman or house of assembly member when zoned to them while within some constituencies one district take a zone all by itself. This has generated a sense of imbalance and animosity among contending divides with agitation for restructuring.

Rural- Urban fault lines: In most Nigerian settings, the rural-urban migratory trend has drawn the line between the literate versus the illiterate. Basically, this is due to the fact that the rural settings lack social amenities almost completely. This is why even a city uneducated can claim to have an edge over the rural dweller who is more schooled. For political reasons, most city dwellers conduct their party registration and voter card registration at home or in the villages. At those villages, they become the local champions with less competition in terms of number of elites. Moreover, there is the extent to which a non indigene will be allowed to exercise political rights in a far-flung city. At the villages, even less influential personalities can carve a niche for himself by having so much attraction by the poor villagers who are easy to be funded or taken care of. Therefore, most of them are the godfathers who determine who aspires for what or which posts. They return to the villages during elections to either deliver their units as a way of maintaining integrity for appointment or subsequent consideration for expression of interest.

Rich versus poor dynamics

There are rural poor and urban poor. But all of them are willing tools in the hand of the rich men. As said, the rich class includes the retired permanent secretaries, military generals, contractors, political office occupants and



Mahmood

their appointees, contractors, among others. There are also those to be tagged as "acting bigmen" because they are not rich enough but are mere agents of the rich men. The traditional rulers in the villages and slums of these days may have also been drawn from the cities or those who influenced their emergence and still sustaining them on the throne belong to higher class, as insurance or immunity. This, too, eases the aspect of shoving influence down to the least paupers. In the villages, where the poverty rate is high, cheap gifts are enough to magnet them or whet their appetite for some urban related gifts are enough to sway them. In reality, the difference between the rural and urban guys may just depend on the exposure based on access to facilities and not really something much.

Majority/ minority fault lines: Nigeria has been divided majorly into three regions belonging to three major ethnic groups such as the Igbo, Yoruba and the Hausa/Fulani. Based on this arrangement, these three are considered the owners of the country and rotate the presidency amongst them. Any other person that gains access to the seat of power does so by mistake or as commandeered by any of these blocs. That was how Goodluck Jonathan became the president of Nigeria when President Yar'adua died. Jonathan expressed that he was frustrated because the foundational power equilibrium does not include Ijaw, his minority ethnic extraction. Sen JD Jang from the Berom ethnic minority of plateau state in the regional configuration has expressed how north has been appropriated as personal fief of the Muslims whilst the south has either the Igbo or Yoruba. That is how many minority groups have been dismembered from the Nigerian project. It was following inter regional competition that issues like census results became factors of conflict at the early stage of the independence. Jonathan too could not have become the president if he were not from the Niger Delta where oil exploration takes place which constitutes the mainstay of the Nigerian economy.

on the consideration for service to humanity are fewer than resource control proponents. That is why the atmosphere has always turned complex. It is agreed that resources are limited in proportion to peoples' needs but same can turn to mere excuse to perpetuate ineptitude and intrigues. This study subscribes to the stance that there are the ruling and the ruled classes in the society. The conflict between the classes has been there for ages and all attempts to undermine their potency to cause conflict are germane in studying conflict situations. What seems to blur the clear view of the dividing lines between the upper and lower classes is the existence of other ubiquitous fault lines, elevated to downplay real contestations. In Nigeria, the fault line intrigues seem to be palpable by the day as calls for restructuring become louder by the day. And objection to restructuring as a panacea to the conflict ridden situation is also in itself an expression of the dynamics of fault lines dichotomy. In Nigeria, the class expression is not based on individual's economic status only but also on competition between the regions.

For example, there are zones that are believed to be in control of the resources through political monopoly against other zones. Admittedly, there are the wretched ones across board but elites manipulate to scuttle any general course of action against the ruling class. For example, when the southern leaders begin to agitate for power sharing because the list of leadership has been in favour of the north, the northern leaders would not hesitate to appeal to their commoners to resist the agitation of the southern leaders. Ironically, the commoners of the north cannot be incorporated into leadership without class consciousness that is palpable amongst them. At the same time, when the power is zoned to the south, only the political leaders of the zone can feature or sponsor whoever they like but never to be acquired on a leveled play ground in a color blind dimension. So, an extreme variant of paupers have emerged who are hypnotized to believe that provided power falls within their zone, it doesn't matter whether it better the economic condition of the masses or not. In this context, the fact that the masses are willing tools in the hands of the ruling class is plausible as shown in their inactions and deliberate ignorance. Fault lines have caused so much pressure in the Nigerian polity. People were born and found themselves as men, women, youth, ethnic group and geographical landscapes. But emancipation for a particular group does not necessarily mean that all of them take over the leadership position at the same time.

Managing the Fault Lines

Politics has been viewed by many people in different ways. Some view it as service to humanity while others view it as medium to control resources. Those

In as much as someone must lead at a particular moment, there must be attempts to see justice in display in the continuous sharing of the seat and distribution of resources. Nonetheless, pressure cannot be avoided in any dynamic society and landscape. Change in awareness, population distribution, educational achievements and needs of the constituents must be utmost. The problem with Nigerians seems to be that they eye greatness within short time but fear change. They discuss change in a dramatic approach but drag foot upon implementation. This is because the masses are not involved in decision making irrespective of ethnic sensitivity which serves as albatross to active mobilization.

Gone are the days that fear of secession was attributed to the Igbos. Currently, virtually all geopolitical zones are on an experiment; a sort of litmus test for an independent state. The implication is that the centralized system will be overstretched in containing with all the voices of dissent. Nonetheless, religion and ethnicity have remained endemic and unless attention is shifted from those perspectives, hope is still at distance. So government must speak out on local government autonomy, delineation of local constituencies, independence of judiciary, independence of INEC, devolution of power – power sharing, state creation, good governance, among others. Above all, the masses must understand that power belongs to them and must muster a collective effort to cause change that will make power unattractive by working against the incentives of the executives and legislators or making them more accountable. Ironically, the past seems to be better than the present which implies that moving forward is towards doom. Luckily, the work promises that since the top-bottom hope has been dashed, the bottom top complementary philosophy is still an option. Leadership is crucial and must be defined differently from ruler-ship so that the movement goes collectively. Elections cannot be ignored on this note also because there is also the aspect of cost implication occasioned by the complexities we face with election matters. The masses must understand where they fit in to complement the leadership in governance. It is the considered opinion of the author that primordial cleavages such as religion, ethnicity, economic class, historical inclinations, among others, must be replaced by trade unionism, youth solidarity, student unionism, women fraternity, professional guild, etc, in tandem with the current trend. The actualization of these desires the involvement of the masses to hasten the process. Therefore, the defunct endars movement which was epitomic must be perfected where the points are germane.

Concluded.

"Nigeria has been divided majorly into three regions belonging to three major ethnic groups such as the Igbo, Yoruba and the Hausa/Fulani. Based on this arrangement, these three are considered the owners of the country and rotate the presidency amongst them. Any other person that gains access to the seat of power does so by mistake or as commandeered by any of these blocs. That was how Goodluck Jonathan became the president of Nigeria when President Yar'adua died. Jonathan expressed that he was frustrated because the foundational power equilibrium does not include Ijaw, his minority ethnic extraction. Sen JD Jang from the Berom ethnic minority of plateau state in the regional configuration has expressed how north has been appropriated as personal fief of the Muslims whilst the south has either the Igbo or Yoruba. That is how many minority groups have been dismembered from the Nigerian project. It was following inter regional competition that issues like census results became factors of conflict at the early stage of the independence."

It is another season. Another political season. We are all registering for our PVC and feverishly gearing up to cast our votes for our candidates of choice. Nothing has changed for our politicians. It is the same political promises and demarketing of political opponents. "I will do this, and I will do that if you vote for me". Who promises hep? Mscheew!

We are all divided along political and geographical lines. Very soon the debates on our television and radio will overwhelm us and we will all become sentimental and mental about our candidates to the point of fighting and killing one another. That is Nigerian Politics. Can we ever demand for better than this as electorates? The choice is ours. A society that venerates money over integrity, credibility, accountability, and good service will be stuck with poor leadership. If you do not start demanding for what you want, do not complain about what you are given.

Nigerian politicians in their majority, have acquired the reputation of "promise breakers". For decades, Nigerian politicians have been promising and failing and I think that it is the fault of the electorate. In this country, accountability and responsiveness is not deliberately required of any person who wants to lead. Money is the political currency. When the piper fails to deliver, we start to complain. As long as we do not demand for more and political positions are for the highest bidder, we should not complain.

An election is a contract. I will vote for you, and you will keep your campaign promises for which I am voting for you. However, Nigerian politicians behave like con men or mischievous recalcitrant lovers. They make all the promises in the world and as soon as they get what they want from us...boom!! they ghost us! Ghosting is modern day English for dumping a lover. Nigerians need to start holding their politicians where it hurts so that they do not take off after we finish giving them our votes. This ghosting has happened one too many times. It is an age-old political practice where the politicians talk baloney and we sheepishly and stupidly clap for them. We have always let them get away with it to the point where anybody who has money can come and "toast" us and sweet-talk us into voting for him or her and then disappear into his political might. No one can talk to him or her. It is his way or the highway. These 419 loves must stop! Who promises hep?!

Nigerians, do not only register for your PVC O! Make your demands and have then well spelt out in a contract between you as a people, and the candidate who wishes to represent your constituencies. I am not talking about political parties. I am talking the candidate. Enough of this hide and seek love. It either the politician wants to be happily married to his constituency or her constituency or we ghost him or her! Simple. Everybody, put your cards on the political table. All talk and no action must stop!

The Americans have a saying: "What is in it for me?". Ask your candidate: "what is in it for our constituency"... and this is not talking money. Do not sell your vote and expect the politician not to steal your money. If he gives you money, he will take money meant for your electricity and your roads. It is a financial transaction. If you want integrity. You must show integrity so that you will have the justification to hold your politicians "where the sun don't shine" when they goofs. We must be serious as a people and address what needs to be addressed!

Ticket

It is appalling to see that political parties can sell their tickets for what ever amount they deem fit as a way of excluding those who cannot afford them. Money is not a qualification for leadership. One can have all the money in the world without any leadership skills. Money and power do not translate into leadership skills. As such, the electorate has the duty of calling out INEC and all political parties who create a financial hurdle by making their political tickets expensive. I doubt if any youth can afford one hundred million naira yet they have a right be a part of the political race. What have Nigerians really done about this? Our political choices have been narrowed due to the financial hurdle and if this is not addressed, it will be a precedence that has come to stay.

There should be a law to guide INEC and our political parties on cost of political tickets and a law to back it up. In fact, political tickets should not be sold. Leadership skills can be learnt but they cannot be bought or sold. So, also integrity and credibility. No amount of money can buy these. It is time for us to check our value system. We cannot continue to sell our birth and constitutional rights and then complain of poor Leadership. Money and Power are not equal to accountability, hard work, credibility and self-sacrifice. This is what we want to see in our leaders and yet we allow for financial hurdles to weed out potential good leaders.

In this day and age, the world is moving forward. Any political party that does not take into account the interest of the youth and women should be ignored. Ghost them too! Are we going forward or backward? We continue to do these things that take us no where and grumble in our closets. Nigerian politicians cannot create a better future for our children if we continue to prioritize money and power over leadership skills and integrity.

Manifesto and agenda

Like I said, our television screens will soon be overwhelmed by political debates. These debates and the promises therein, often end as soon as the candidate wins his or her election. The staccato of promises, often rehearsed, often soulless and lacking in substance, will assailed us and like always, we will get sentimental and mental and fall for these

The emptiness of political promises



empty promises. When the politician achieves nothing, we are heart broken. Why do we continue to do this to ourselves? Why are we always emotional when we should be rational? It is not enough to massively register our PVC. We need to start demanding more of our political candidates and INEC. For example, I do not understand why an election in a polling unit gets cancelled when violence erupts there? The election should simply be rescheduled. This is because politicians often would find ways to create chaos where the support for their candidacy is very weak. This type of wuru wuru law and similar ones should be done away with.

Furthermore, during campaigns, Nigerians should demand more of their candidates. In this day and age of advancement, we are still comfortable with the under-educated and the illiterate being in charge of our lives. Nigerians are well known for their expertise all over the world and yet these are the same Nigerians who do not get involved in the process of who decides our destiny.

In the same vein, it is not enough to go to a political rally and dance to music, eat and drink and be merry. That has to stop. Climbing drums and podiums and drumming up our emotions has to stop. We have to stop dancing and drinking at campaign and demand to know the rationale behind any candidacy. Let the politician proof his mantle by demonstrating what he can do, why and how. My people say that one should not let one's stomach overwhelm one's brain. I agree. Electorates, what say you, Yeh or Nay? Your destiny is in your brain, your lips and hands and not in your stomach. Not in your mouth and stomach O! No chop your destiny and the destiny of your children and grandchildren.

The candidate must use his campaign platform to demonstrate to the electorate and convince us as to why he is the best candidate. Political marketing is mandatory. It is an interview, and the electorate is the interviewer and the employer. We are head-hunting. He has to tell us, with facts and figures, the track record of his achievement in whatever domain and community he is coming from. In fact, there should be a Power Point presentation by the candidate (on a large screen), of his agenda and manifesto at the campaign ground. He or she should be ready to answer at least fifty questions. The candidate at every level, should be able to identify at least five problems in his constituency and give us the strategy for solving these problems. He must also tell us how he intends to raise the revenue for these tasks. He must give us a timeline within which he intends to solve each problem and finally, he should sign a document, an agreement with the people he wishes to represent. The agreement should contain all the forgoing and more.



wife and/ or parents. In fact, members of his clan. This is because we need to know them. We need to know the type of family he or she comes from and their value system. They must join him or her in taking responsibility for his leadership so that when he or she is goofing and we cannot talk to him, we will find his uncle or his wife or husband and give them the bad feedback to give him or her. In my opinion, these are the first beneficiaries of any form of political corruption or progress. If family can take responsibility, they will take the responsibility of advising their son, daughter, father or mother against bad leadership.

A political party is a platform. It is not a family. It is the lack of commitment on the part of politicians and their families that has put us in this mess. In the days of yore, great leaders such as Awolowo, sowed good seeds. Awolowo's children are honoured today wherever they go because of his good leadership. Awolowo's family placed a premium on good leadership and good name. He did not bring shame to his family.

Let us be having shame in this country. Some Nigerian politicians know how to not-have-shame. If they have their families involved, maybe they will think of the future of the name they will leave behind for their sons and daughters as opposed to money in swiss accounts and foreign investment with tax payers money, that they will all leave behind in their old age when, it is time to go back to their maker.

Make we dey get small shame na! Shame is a good thing. That is what will stop a politician from putting his hands in the cookies jar while sneering and smirking at us with impunity. If you are a thiefing politician, please note that it is tax payers money and you are a thief. A common thief, not a corrupt politician, not an embezzler. All those fancy names help to uplift your person. If you are a thiefing politician, you are a thief and that is what the electorate should call you. Remember that if you have a family, the electorate will always remember you when they see them and will refer to them as the children of a thief. A thief is a thief. Whether he or she is stealing bread to eat because the politician has impoverished us or whether he or she is cooking our books and padding our budget. Let the electorate start to call a thief a thief to encourage our politicians to do better. Shame a thief today, ghost a thief today. It is a civic duty because he or she will realize that political office is service to the people and not a business venture.

Electorates, if we do not change our value system, we will suffer. That money you are collecting now is the future of your children and grandchildren. Make no mistakes about it. Your PVC will count for nothing if you vote for a political businessman who gives you money for your vote. The sale of your voice to delegate should also stop who. In fact, scrap delegates...Wisdom and not longer-throat please. Do not believe empty promises or sell your PVC. Who promise hep?

In conclusion, let the electorate know that a candidate must be made to understand that they are the ones we are doing a favour by giving him the opportunity to serve and he must take the oath of accessibility and accountability. If any empty barrel of a politician comes to sweet talk us, no substance, no integrity, no credibility, no track record of achievements, no blueprints of strategies as to how he or she will move us from where we are to the to a better country, please let us have the courage to refuse to dance to his or her empty barrels and empty promises. All hail Nigeria, get your PVC, choose your political servants wisely and defend your votes peacefully. And for those who think that this is Nigeria and things will never change, change begins with you. It begins with the question "Who promise hep?"

Our votes and the results

After we finish registering for our PVC, the next thing is to find out how we can protect our votes. We can register all the PVCs we want. If we continue to allow "abracadabra hopis copis", we will have ourselves to blame. How do we keep our polling units safe? How do we ensure that we receive materials and officials in record time? How do we maintain the peace in our polling unit?

In addition to this, I want to also say that anyone who aspires to come to your constituency must climb that podium with his

WE left off sharing life changing thoughts from James 4:7 where the Spirit of God tells us in that wonderful scripture; **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** Precious friends, the devil is not to be tolerated but he is to be resisted. Wherever you see him in manifestation, the Bible instructs us as children of God to resist him.

Now God will not tell you to do anything that He has not anointed or authorized you to do. After you embrace the word of God, submit yourself to the authority of His word and then you can rise up in faith, resist the devil and he will flee. And we know that one of the primary manifestations of the devil here is the spirit of fear or we can say he manifests himself through the spirit of fear.

So resisting the devil is resisting the spirit of fear. You cannot successfully stand against, resist or oppose the spirit of fear except you know how fear manifests itself. You cannot do that except you are able to identify how the spirit of fear manifests itself. The spirit of fear manifests itself through thoughts, ideas and suggestions. It is so important for us to understand this because many people in an attempt to operate in the spirit or fight spiritual battles, are unsuccessful or fail because they do not understand what to look out for and what to do.

So in this business of resisting the spirit of fear which the bible commands us to do, we understand that fear manifests itself through thoughts, ideas and suggestions. Please understand that your mind, your thought life or the world of your thoughts is the gateway to your life. The Bible says the life of a man does not consist in the abundance of things that he possesses.

If that is true, then what does the life of a man consist of? The life of the man consists in what the man thinks. Proverbs 23:7 says; **For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.** This is a very important truth you must understand that your mind is the gateway into your life. The life you live is dominated by your thoughts.

Both God and Satan are trying to rule in your thought life and the one that wins rules your life. I like the way the great woman of God Joyce Meyer said it; wherever the mind goes, the man follows. Another great man of God Dr. Mike Murdock said this; "Your life will always go in the direction of your most dominant thoughts". What is going on in your mind; what you are thinking about is what will eventually dominate your life.

Satan seeks to dominate your thought life, to take your life

where he wants it to go; to a place of wasting and destruction. God is also interested in your thought life. He wants you to give Him access to your thought life so He can control your thought life; to move you into His world of blessing, preservation, protection and abundant provision.

Thoughts are very important and in this matter. We have to

1 Peter 5:8, it says **Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.** Your adversary is the one that is arrayed against you. Why a roaring of a lion? Nature has shown us that whenever a male lion roars, it induces fear that paralyzes its prey. In a group or pride of lions, you typically find a



Fear not, trust God (18)



your mind and mental attention from God. The moment you enter into panic mode, you start voicing those thoughts out in fear and you start acting in fear not realizing that you have authorized the devil to steal, kill and to destroy in your life.

Satan has no power but the power you yield to him through fear. If you understand his tactics and refuse to yield to the spirit of fear, you will shut the door to him. The truth is Satan uses the power that God has given you against you when he gets you to panic and to yield to that spirit of fear.

Friends, that is the operation of the spirit of fear but the good news is that you do not have to yield to it. Resisting the devil is resisting those thoughts, resisting those ideas and saying no to those suggestions. Saying I refuse to think that way, I choose to believe my God; I choose to believe the salvation He has kept for me. I choose to believe that He is bigger than anything that can come against me.

I choose to believe that He is able to provide for me, He is able to protect me, to defend me and my family. He is able to preserve me. No matter what is going on in this world, I choose to believe that God is bigger. You see, when you yield to God, you authorize Him to operate in your life and when you yield to the devil, to those thoughts, ideas and suggestions of fear, you authorize him to function in your life.

Friends, this is good gospel news but the truth of the matter is that if you are not a child of God, you will not have access to His covering. You will not have access to His abilities, authority and His power. If you are not a child of God, the good news is that you can become one today. The Bible says in Acts 2:21 **And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.** John 6:37 Jesus said **whosoever cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.**

Today, come to Jesus, hide in Him. Become a child of God and then all of God's resources; His authority, His power, the name and the blood of Jesus, all these weapons that have been given to us to enforce the defeat of the devil will become available to you. Praise the Lord!

understand and reckon with the fact that it is through thoughts, ideas and suggestions that the spirit of fear seeks to manifest in our lives and take control of our mind. You are the owner of your mind and the owner of your thoughts. You must take control the thoughts that you think.

Know that as a free moral agent, God has authorized you and given you authority over your thought life - over the things you think. You may not be able to control every thought that goes through your mind, but you can decide which thought will remain there just as you may not be able to stop a bird from flying over your head, but you can stop it from landing on your head and building a nest there. This is the authority that God has given you.

The spirit of fear seeks to dominate or seize control of our lives by taking over our thinking. The devil has already been defeated by Jesus as we see in Hebrews 2:14-15 but he seeks to control the life of the believer through thoughts, ideas and suggestions. In fact, the power of suggestion is the devils greatest power. Outside of that, he has no power and it is through the power of suggestion that fear seeks to rule and control our lives.

dominant male, many female lions and various levels of cubs in the process of growth. Now when they go to hunt, you find that it is the female lions or lionesses that go out.

The females are the aggressors that go out to hunt but they do not have the roar.

”**Both God and Satan are trying to rule in your thought life and the one that wins rules your life. I like the way the great woman of God Joyce Meyer said it; wherever the mind goes, the man follows. Another great man of God Dr. Mike Murdock said this; "Your life will always go in the direction of your most dominant thoughts". What is going on in your mind; what you are thinking about is what will eventually dominate your life.**



INTERNATIONAL

Macron, Prince Salman had talks on crude prices



French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman shake hands at the Elysee Palace in Paris recently.

ENERGY was the main topic on the agenda between French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, during talks in Paris seen as a diplomatic rehabilitation of the de facto leader of the Saudi kingdom.

Aides to the French president had indicated ahead of the talks on Thursday that Macron would urge Saudi Arabia to increase its oil production to help bring down crude prices, reiterating a request made by United States President Joe Biden during a visit to Riyadh earlier this month.

A statement by the presidential office on Friday made no explicit reference to oil or gas, but said Macron had "underlined the importance of continuing the ongoing coordination with Saudi Arabia with regards to the diversification of energy supplies for European countries".

With Russian oil and gas supplies either unavailable to European Union nations due to sanctions or being withheld by Moscow, European countries are desperately seeking alternative sources of fossil fuels.

Saudi Arabia is one of few countries worldwide with the capacity to increase its output.

The French statement said that Macron and MBS also discussed food security amid fears of famines caused by the loss of Ukrainian grain, and agreed to work "to ease the effects" of the war in Ukraine.

"The President and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia underlined the need to bring an end to this conflict and intensify their cooperation to ease the effects in Europe, the Middle East and the wider world," Macron's office said.

The two leaders also discussed the war in Yemen. The French president commended what he said were efforts by Saudi Arabia to "find a political, global and inclusive solution under the aegis of the United Nations and expressed his hope that the truce continues", the statement said.

MBS on Friday thanked French President Emmanuel Macron for the "warm reception".

"As I leave your friendly country, it gives me great pleasure to express to your Excellency my deepest gratitude and appreciation for

the warm reception and hospitality accorded to me and the accompanying delegation," bin Salman wrote in a message posted by the Saudi foreign ministry.

The de facto leader of the oil-rich nation is being courted again after being shunned by Western leaders following the killing of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents inside Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

Macron and Biden both attracted criticism from rights groups for their rapprochement with the kingdom.

Biden fist-bumped MBS in a gesture that was seized on by

critics, while Macron shook hands on the steps of the Elysee Palace as he welcomed the prince.

"He's shaking the hand of a long time of man whose hands are covered in blood," senior left-wing French MP Alexis Corbiere told BFM television on Friday.

The killing of Khashoggi was described by a United Nations probe as an "extrajudicial killing for which Saudi Arabia is responsible". US intelligence agencies determined that MBS had "approved" the operation that led to Khashoggi's death.

Hatice Cengiz, who was about to wed the journalist when he was killed, said on Thursday that she was "scandalised and outraged that Emmanuel Macron is receiving with all the honours the executioner of my fiancé".

Allies of the French president defended the meeting as a demonstration of "realpolitik" - putting practical needs above principles in foreign policy.

Public services minister Stanislas Guerini, a close ally of the president, told Europe 1 radio on Friday that the role of the president was "to protect the French people" and that he believed that service had been carried out.

Protests against military administration paralyse Guinea

OPPOSITION groups say at least one person was killed and several injured in clashes with police after plan for peaceful rally was blocked.

Protests against Guinea's military government and its handling of plans to return to democracy have brought the capital to a standstill, with organisers saying one person was killed.

The National Front for the Defence of the Constitution (FNDC) said one person died after being hit by a bullet in the Conakry suburb of Hamdallaye, and that several others had been injured during the protests on Thursday.

The FNDC is an influential political coalition that called for the demonstrations last week to condemn the military's "unilateral management" of a return to civilian rule after it seized power in 2021. The former ruling Rally for the Guinean People and the National Alliance for Change and Democracy, another coalition of parties and associations, also called on their supporters to join the demonstrations.

Authorities had previously banned the rally, and have not confirmed the death.

The public prosecutor on Thursday ordered immediate legal action against the organisers.

The FNDC has accused the military leaders of "systematically refusing" to establish a "credible dialogue" to define the terms of the transition.

Colonel Mamady Doumbouya was sworn in as interim president last October after leading the coup against President Alpha Conde, whose attempt to extend his hold on power for a third term sparked widespread anger. Doumbouya said his administration's mission was to "refund the state" by drafting a new constitution, fighting corruption, reforming the electoral system and then organising "free, credible and transparent" elections.

On Thursday, ECOWAS regional bloc chair Umaro Sissoco Embaló said he had recently convinced the military to hasten the return to democracy.

"They had proposed 36 months, but we succeeded in convincing them," he added.

But Ousmane Gaoual Diallo, a Guinean minister and spokesperson for the transitional administration, told the AFP news agency that "neither the government nor the presidency confirm this information about the duration of the transition in Guinea".

The Boulevard du Commerce, a

UKRAINIAN Embassy in Beirut says cargo vessel carrying stolen barley docked in the port of Tripoli recently.

A Syrian cargo ship, sanctioned by the United States and carrying what Ukraine says is stolen barley from the country, has docked in Lebanon, the Ukrainian diplomatic mission in the Middle East nation has said.

According to the Ukrainian Embassy in Beirut, the cargo vessel Laodicea docked in the port of Tripoli, Lebanon's second-largest city, on Thursday.

The embassy told the Reuters news agency that it suspected the ship was carrying 5,000 tonnes of barley and 5,000 tonnes of flour.

The US Department of the Treasury sanctioned the Laodicea in 2015 for its affiliation with the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad.

Ukraine has accused Russia of plundering grain and steel from its territory since Moscow invaded the country in late February in what Russia calls a "special military operation". The embassy in Beirut did not elaborate or say how the barley was purportedly stolen from Ukraine.

Syrian ship carrying 'stolen' Ukrainian grain docks in



The Ukrainian embassy in Beirut says it suspected the ship, which docked in Tripoli port, was carrying 5,000 tonnes of barley and 5,000 tonnes of flour

Marine Traffic, which monitors vessel traffic and the location of ships on seas, also confirmed the ships docking in Tripoli on Thursday.

The Laodicea was initially heading to Tartus Port in Syria, and was expected to arrive there earlier this week.

It was unknown why it had rerouted to Lebanon, and whether or not it is offloading the cargo here.

Earlier on Thursday, Ukrainian Ambassador Ihor Ostash met Lebanese President Michel Aoun and

warned the Lebanese leader that buying stolen goods from Russia would "harm bilateral ties", according to the embassy statement.

Kyiv had previously praised Lebanon for condemning Russia for its war on Ukraine.

Ukraine has promised to export wheat to Lebanon, currently experiencing a crippling food security and economic crisis.

Lebanon's economy minister Amin Salam told Reuters that the country's customs authority and its agriculture ministry were following up on the issue.

Salam had said earlier on Thursday that severe bread shortages in Lebanon would be eased this week by new wheat imports, but did not say where they were coming from.

A customs official and shipping source told Reuters that the Tripoli port had not offloaded the ship due to suspicions it was carrying stolen goods.

"Nothing was taken off of the ship - as soon as we got the information, we stopped everything," the customs official said.

slammed as a "parody".

The group condemned the "solitary and authoritarian conduct of the transition" and its "serious attacks on fundamental rights and freedoms".

Three FNDC leaders were arrested on July 5, provoking violent demonstrations that were some of the first since the coup.

All three were released after being found not guilty of contempt of court over comments they had posted on social media criticising the prosecutor's office and the military-appointed parliament.

Russia accuses Ukraine of killing PoWs with HIMARS system

RUSSIA accuses Ukraine of killing PoWs with HIMARS system

Moscow says Ukraine killed 40 prisoners in an attack conducted with the US-made rocket system, a claim Kyiv denies.

Russia has accused Kyiv of striking a jail holding Ukrainian prisoners of war in separatist-controlled eastern Ukraine, killing 40 detainees including some who had defended Mariupol's Azovstal steel plant.

The Russian defence ministry said a HIMARS missile strike hit a pre-trial detention centre in Olenivka, in the separatist-held region of Donetsk, overnight on Friday.

"Forty Ukrainian prisoners of war were killed and 75 wounded," the ministry said in its daily briefing, adding that the centre held fighters from the Azov battalion.

Those troops had surrendered earlier this year after a three-month siege of

Mariupol's steelworks and were transferred to Russian-held territory.

Eight employees of the detention centre were also injured, Russia said.

Kyiv has denied having conducted a strike on the prison.

Russian television showed that appeared to be destroyed barracks and tangled metal beds, but no casualties could be seen.

Moscow claimed that the attack was a "bloody provocation of the Kyiv regime" designed to discourage Ukrainian troops from laying down their arms.

"This egregious provocation was carried out to intimidate Ukrainian servicemen," the defence ministry said.

The Kremlin has played up the influence of the Azov battalion, claiming that its members are neo-Nazis.

Azov formed as a volunteer battalion in 2014 to fight Russian-backed forces and has since then been integrated into the Ukrainian

army. The group claims to encompass a range of political views, but some of its leaders are known to hold far-right ideas.

Legislator Leonid Slutsky, one of Russia's negotiators in stalled peace talks with Ukraine, in May called the evacuated combatants "animals in human form" and said they should receive the death penalty.

"They do not deserve to live after the monstrous crimes against humanity that they have committed and that are committed continuously against our prisoners," he said.

The United States has sent M142 HIMARS to war-torn Ukraine as part of a \$700m security assistance package for Ukraine that also included helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, tactical vehicles, spare parts and more.



Military-led authorities ordered immediate legal action against the organisers of Thursday's rally in Conakry, Guinea

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine's shadow army resisting Russian occupation

As Ukraine's military steps up its strikes on Kherson, hinting at a new offensive to recapture the region, there is another force working alongside. They are Ukraine's shadow army, a network of agents and informers who operate behind enemy lines. . Sarah Rainsford writes.

OUR journey to meet the resistance fighters takes us through a landscape of sunflower yellow and sky blue to Mykolaiv. The first major town on Ukrainian-controlled territory west of Kherson, it has become the partisans' headquarters on the southern front.

Driving through military checkpoints, we pass giant billboards showing a faceless, hooded figure alongside a warning: "Kherson: The partisans see everything." The image is designed to make the region's Russian occupiers nervous and boost the morale of those trapped under their rule.

Shortly before this war, Ukraine bolstered its Special Forces in part to build and manage a resistance movement. It even published a PDF booklet on how to be a good partisan, with instructions on such subversive acts as slashing the tyres of the occupier, adding sugar to petrol tanks or refusing to follow orders at work. "Be grumpy," is one suggestion.

But Sasha's team of informers have a more active role: tracking Russian troop movements inside Kherson.

Sasha describes his "agents" as Ukrainians "who have not lost hope in victory and want our country to be freed".

Working alongside Sasha are a team who fly drones into Kherson to spot targets for the military. Civilians, not soldiers, all are volunteers and they fundraise on social media to pay for their expensive kit.

The man in charge cultivated decorative plants before the war, but Serhii tells me he joined the fight to free the south after seeing the bodies of civilians executed in Bucha during the Russian occupation there. "I couldn't just stay at home after that," he says.

The task he chose instead is extremely dangerous. His team of four get shelled by the Russians every single time they go out, though no-one has been killed. "I know to some extent it's a matter of chance," Serhii shrugs, and breaks into a soft smile. "But at least if it happens to me, then I will know it was for a cause."

Serhii joined the resistance in the south after the massacre in Bucha. The partisans are fighting to prevent Russia's hold over Kherson becoming permanent: to block a referendum that Moscow appears to be planning to stage. Russia has already introduced the rouble and its own mobile phone networks to the region and is pumping its propaganda from state-run TV channels into Ukrainian homes. Local journalists have either fled, or gone to ground.

The acting head of the region, Dmytro Butrii, now exiled to Mykolaiv and a small back office protected by sandbags, insists that a vote on joining Russia would be a sham, a "total fake" and unrecognised by any "civilised" government.

These days, that wouldn't matter much to Moscow.

For Russia, the region is strategic: it's the source of water for Crimea, which it annexed illegally in 2014, and the last section of a much-discussed 'land bridge', or stretch of territory that links Russia-proper to



Ukrainian resistance fighters use drones to spot targets for the military

the peninsula.

Some locals have switched sides to help the Russians. So Sasha's team are building a database of those "collaborators", using information from the inside. "It's so that no one can claim later that they were with the resistance," he explains.

But it's also for intimidation. Partisans are encouraged to stick threatening posters outside the collaborators' homes with designs that include the person's face and a coffin, or a "Wanted" poster offering big rewards for their death. The activists then photograph the results to send to Sasha. There has been a spate of assassination attempts against those who've joined the Russians. A blogger was shot, an official in the Russian-installed administration was killed and others have been injured in car bombs. The most prominent figures to switch sides now wear body armour as a matter of course. The men I meet all say they have nothing to do with the attacks, but they have no sympathy either.

"Other than the word traitor and scum, I have no other words for them," Sasha shrugs. "They're our enemy."

Vladimir Putin still claims his invasion of Ukraine is a "liberation" operation but in Kherson, his troops rule through force and fear.

Since Russian forces occupied the region in March, hundreds of people have been detained, many of them tortured. Some have disappeared, unheard of for weeks. Others have been discovered dead or returned to their relatives from Russian custody in body bags.

Sources inside the city describe soldiers patrolling the streets and buses stopped at random for everyone inside to be checked. The slightest hint of support for Ukrainian rule, as little as a message or photo on your phone, can get you arrested.

Every time Oleh smiles in the mirror, the gaps in place of his teeth are a reminder of the beatings he endured by his Russian interrogators. He tells me they also broke seven ribs - three still haven't mended. His name is not really Oleh, but he's asked me not to reveal his identity.

A member of the resistance, he witnessed the torture of another prisoner, Denys Mironov, who then died in Russian custody.

Oleh talks in chilling detail about what happened after 27 March when he and Denys were snatched from the street: he describes constant beatings in the first hours involving electric shock, suffocation and death threats. He's sure his interrogators were from the FSB security service.

At some point, his spirits fell so low that he contemplated ending his life, even attacking a guard so they would shoot him.

A month earlier, when the Russians invaded, Oleh and Denys had joined the territorial defence, Ukraine's volunteer army. But much of the military melted away with the first explosions and Kherson's remaining forces were quickly overwhelmed. So the men became partisans, working against the Russians from the inside. Another partisan I met described helping Ukrainian forces escape in boats across the Dnipro when they were surrounded - and stealing weapons from the Russians. "I'll tell you the rest when we win," he laughs when I press him for more.

Denys, a 43-year-old with a wife and son - and a fruit and veg business before the war - began driving a bread van around Kherson, handing out food and scouting for intelligence as he went. He and Oleh were also collecting weapons, preparing to join the battle to liberate Kherson as soon as Ukraine launched the counter-offensive that everyone expected.

Instead, the two men were detained and tortured.

I asked Russia's FSB to explain

what happened to these men and others. They didn't respond.

It was the middle of the first night before Oleh saw Denys again, and by then he could barely walk and was struggling for breath. Even so, the guards beat him some more. "They hit him in the groin, then the face, then two men with batons took down his trousers and started to beat him near his kidneys," Oleh says, recalling how the tape holding a bag over his own head had worked loose enough for him to see.

On 18 April the men were transferred to a facility in Crimea and the next day, Denys was finally taken to a military hospital where Oleh was sure he would recover.

The first Denys Mironov's family knew of his death was over a month later, when he was returned to Ukraine as part of a body swap.

Many people left Kherson for safety soon after the Russians seized control. The government in Kyiv recently urged others to evacuate, warning that a military operation to retake the region was imminent. But getting out isn't easy.

Russian officials limit the number of vehicles crossing the frontline and only permit one route into Ukrainian-controlled areas, the road that heads north to Zaporizhzhia. Multiple military checkpoints on the way make it a no-go for Ukrainian men of fighting age. Even women and children face waiting weeks for places on free evacuation buses, or an exorbitant fee for a place in a private car.

But hundreds still flee each day,



Serhii joined the resistance in the south after the massacre in Bucha

tumbling off buses or unfolding themselves from crowded, stuffy cars just before dusk into a supermarket car park that doubles as a reception area for those forced into exile in their own country. The adults look exhausted, the children's smiles are timid, as if they're not quite sure whether they're safe yet. Steam gushes from beneath the bonnet of a blue Lada like it's about to explode. After security checks, volunteers offer food and clothes and, for some, there are tearful reunions with waiting relatives.

We can't travel into Kherson now it's occupied, but the mood in this crowd reveals plenty about life there. Even on Ukrainian-controlled soil, people are wary of what they say. "Will the Russians see this?" some of the new arrivals want to know before I film or even record them speaking. Others shake their heads as I approach, and turn away from my microphone.

As night begins to fall, and more vehicles pull in, a man admits that his own family are running from more than the missiles. "We know people are disappearing, it's true," he tells me, without giving his name. "In Kherson, you don't go out in the evening."

The danger from shelling has increased in recent days, on both sides of the southern frontline.

In Mykolaiv the days usually start with explosions from 4am: down south, the Russian launch sites are so close that the warning siren only goes off after the first missile hits. One morning, sheltering in our hotel basement, I counted at least 20 explosions in the city, some close enough to shake the building. Once the curfew lifted, we found a nearby school in ruins, the playground swings blanketed in the thick grey dust of the collapsed sports hall.

The ruined regional administration building in Mykolaiv

But Ukrainian attacks have also increased, both in number and impact, as more powerful weapons supplied by the West have made it to the region and are making a difference. Residents in Kherson city have recorded multiple strikes on Russian ammunition depots. Bridges across the Dnipro, including the Antonivskiy, have also been hit multiple times, disrupting Russian supply lines.

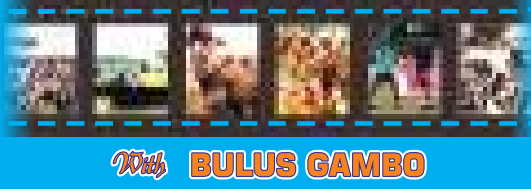
The push to retake Kherson could be approaching.

Sasha believes many of those who have remained in the city are ready to stay and fight; those I've spoken to say support for Russian rule is minimal and the searches, detentions and beatings in recent months have shrunk that still further.

After his own brutal experience in Russian custody, Oleh is already back on the southern front to fight for his hometown, alongside Ukraine's partisan army.

"They can take the land, but they can't take the people," is how he puts it. "The Russians will never be safe in Kherson, because the people didn't want them there. They don't like them. They won't accept them."

SOURCE BBC



Hunxho rules the rap world

Three months after the release of "Street Poetry," Hunxho is back with "Xhosen," his second project of 2022. The self-proclaimed street poet is clearly showing no signs of stopping, so get familiar with the Atlanta-bred artist with our exclusive interview.



COUNTLESS up-and-coming artists dream of landing a guest verse from a prominent artist in hopes that one high-profile feature will propel them into the mainstream. However, as the Hip-Hop community has witnessed over the last handful of years, co-signs from major-label artists can only do so much for a burgeoning career. Perhaps that's why rising Atlanta rapper Hunxho is working as if he didn't kick off 2022 with an invaluable look from his fellow hometown artist 21 Savage on "Let's Get It (Remix)." Rather than waiting for people to catch onto their hard-hitting collab, Hunxho has decided to keep pushing forward, and today he returns with his second project of the year.

Just three months after releasing *Street Poetry* — which featured guest appearances from the aforementioned *Savage Mode II* artist, NoCap, and 2ndTrenchBaby — Hunxho has already reloaded the clip and dropped off *Xhosen*, a personal nine-track project that is dually named after his son and inspired by the bubbling 300 Entertainment artist's outlook on life.

With the release of *Xhosen* today, now is the perfect time to get acquainted with the 22-year-old artist. Despite his near 100k followers on Instagram and nearly two million monthly listeners on Spotify, Hunxho is still a newcomer in the music industry, and beneath his subdued demeanor is a very passionate and intriguing individual.

A self-proclaimed street poet, Hunxho is also an old soul, a community mentor, and a father of one, and in an exclusive interview with *HNHH*, Hunxho discussed everything from his upbringing in Atlanta and the recent passing of Lil Keed to the symbolism in his "Fight" music video and the importance of being a present father.

Learn more about Hunxho, and why he feels like he's chosen, in our Q&A below.

Tell me about yourself to start. Where are you from?

I'm from Atlanta, the Eastside of Atlanta. I'm from Glenwood to be exact, but Second Avenue my hood. That's where I started to find myself at. But as a kid, I came up on Glenwood.

How has growing up in Atlanta shaped you as a person and as an artist?

It ain't even really me growing up in Atlanta, it's just me finding my own way. I had to figure out a lot by myself. I had a mom in the house, but I really didn't have no pops in the house, so a lot of stuff I had to teach myself. Like, there ain't too much a mama can teach you.

So, was there anyone in the city that might have influenced you artistically or had music that really connected with you?

Nah, not for real, but I ain't gon' hate, I listen to everybody. Everybody who makes good music, ya know, Imma listen to them from time to time. But ain't nobody influenced me.

I wanted to ask about the significance of the way your name is spelled. We got the "X" instead of the "C" so I was wondering if that was a style thing or if there's a story behind that.

I came up with it when I was young. When I was young, I was probably like... I'm 22 now, I came up with it when I was like in 6th grade. So, you asked about the "X" in my name right? It's a long story, man. It was around the time when folks were gangbanging hard, you know what I'm saying. The regular Huncho might be spelled "huncho," but around that time I was spelling everything with a "x," but then I just stuck with it.

Since you got out of jail a couple of years ago, what have you been doing to take your career to the

next level?

Everything. I be everywhere I got to be — like, everywhere I need to be. Anything that will help me elevate, I be doing it. From the 'lil shows to the big shows to... I'm not gonna lie, traveling over with my fans. My music, I be making more music. Being more locked in just to elevate my craft like, it's a lot.

When did you get with 300 and what led to your signing with them?

It was either last year October or November, I can't really remember. But really, all the labels were reaching out to me, but I really liked 300. 300 was the most genuine. I was talking to all the labels and had them in my head like who I wanna go with. They really the only ones who didn't sound like robots, you feel me? Everybody else who I was talking to sounded like robots, all were saying the same sh*t.

"But really, all the labels were reaching out to me, but I really liked 300. 300 was the most genuine. I was talking to all the labels and had them in my head like who I wanna go with."

Earlier this year you dropped *Street Poetry* with the big 21 Savage feature, so tell me how the top of 2022 has been treating you.



I mean, it's been treating me good but I always feel like I'm still grinding. I ain't ever tryna get comfortable where I'm at because I made it. I'm still growing, still grinding.

When did you start working on this new project? Was it right after *Street Poetry* dropped?

I couldn't even tell you. I can't even really remember when it started because I make so much music. I don't even really remember exactly when I made these songs. But mostly everything is new, everything is recent.

I was told the project was named after your son. So, tell me more about *Xhosen* and what being a father means to you.

I named the tape *Xhosen* probably because I feel like I'm chosen, you feel me? A lot of stuff be happening in my life that will tell me that I'm chosen. That's one of the reasons I named my son Xhosen. I spell it the same way the tape spelled — his name spelled like that on his birth certificate. Like it came up like my name, Hunxho, so I just made his name Xhosen. Sometimes they call me "Xho" and they call him "Lil Xho." Both are actually spelled the same way.

"I named the tape *Xhosen* probably because I feel like I'm chosen, you feel me? A lot of stuff be happening in my life that will tell me that I'm chosen. That's one of the reasons I named my son Xhosen. I spell it the same way the tape spelled — his name spelled like that on his birth certificate."

It means a lot to me, a whole lot. I wish I had my dad in my life growing up. I always told myself I couldn't be like what my daddy was to me to my kid. I always gotta be there. When we were growing up, my momma's side always stressed the importance of family. Family meant a lot, so we were real close. All the men on my momma side, they all in their kids' lives — ain't none of that going on. They all in their kids' lives, their nephews, and nieces. My uncle was more like a father figure to me when I was growing up 'cause my daddy wasn't.

Continued on page 26

Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

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



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

Candy Darling



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

Free Woman



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

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

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

Continued on page 26

EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Relationship

Rekindle romance in your marriage regardless of age

By SYLVIA SMITH

Leading men are either tough guys, men's men who avoid romance at all costs, or romantic virtuosos who go out of their way to romance the woman they want.

But what about everyday guys? What about men like your husband? Most men don't fall into either of those extremes. Men like and appreciate romance just as much as women, though sometimes their definition of romance differs. And men absolutely shouldn't take on the role of being the only one to do romantic things in any relationship.

If you want to show your guys some romance, try out one of these ten easy ways to be romantic with your husband.

1. Tell him what you love about him

Hearing what you love about him is affirming for your husband. Take a moment every day to compliment him. Do you love the way he always makes you laugh? Do you admire how driven he is in his career? Does he make the best marinara sauce you've ever tasted? Tell him! Make regular, genuine, compliments part of your day.

Get touchy feely

No, we don't mean sex (though that's fun too). Make touch a regular part of your life together. Hold his hand when you walk down the street, or give him a shoulder or foot rub when you're relaxing on the couch together. Just tucking your arm around him or giving him a hug or a kiss on the cheek connects you both and promotes intimacy.

Go out on a date

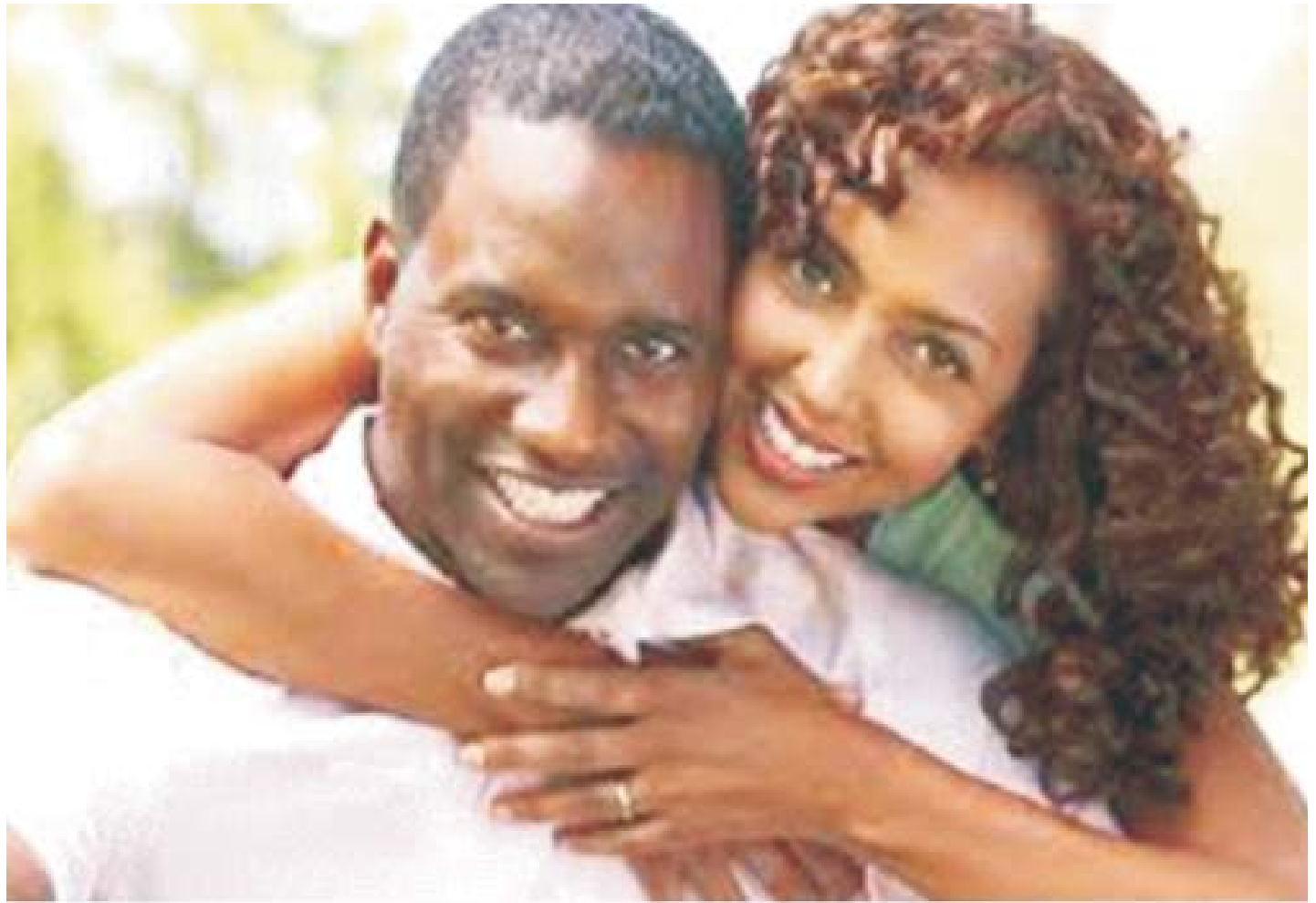
When you're married, it's all too easy to forget about dating. It's time to rekindle that flame – going out on a date is a sure way to romance your husband. Arrange a sitter for the night and decide on a venue for your date. Get out and see a show or eat out. For added romance, get ready separately and meet at the venue, just like you did at the beginning of your relationship.

Send a love note

Write him a note designed to put a smile on his face. Whether it's sweet or saucy, x-rated or funny, write something you know he'll love. Slip it into his briefcase or lunch bag, or tuck it inside the book he's reading. It's an easy, sweet surprise, that will make him feel appreciated and romanced.

Have an adventure

Having an adventure together is a great way to put a little spark back in your relationship. Is there something your husband loves to do, or has always wanted to do, like skiing or learning a new language? Is there a place you've always said you'll go together, or a



restaurant you keep meaning to try? Now's the time to do it. Take a night or weekend and have a little adventure of your own – doing something new and fresh makes your relationship feel new, too.

Encourage a guys night out

Guys need time with their friends just as much as you need girls' time. Watch the kids for the night so he can head out with his

friends. If you know there's an event coming up that he wants to go to with his guy friends, encourage him to go for it. He'll love that you support his right to a little guy time.

Give him time to relax

Does he always cook dinner or take out the trash? Do one of his chores for a night and let him have the time to himself. Perhaps he's stressed about a work

project, or has been working extra long hours. Show you care with a foot rub, a cold beer, or doing some extra things round the house to support him till things calm down.

Get your endorphins pumping

There's nothing quite like getting out and getting active. Regular exercise is good for your health – do it together so you can bond and enjoy each other's

company at the same time. Go for a jog in the local park, try out ice skating or tennis, or grab some friends for a game of frisbee. You'll feel great and the time together will add some romance to your relationship.

Wear something he likes

Now it's not the 1950s and we're not suggesting you start dressing just for your man. There's something to be said for wearing something you know he loves, though. He'll love what he sees, and he'll appreciate that you took the trouble to wear it for him. So next time he mentions he loves the way you look in that dress, or that you look so cute in that button down shirt, take note and wear it the next time you do something together.

Flirt in secret

A little secret flirtation is fun and naughty, and the perfect way to romance your husband. Send him a saucy text in the middle of the day. Lean in over coffee or during grocery shopping and whisper sweet nothings in his ear. If you're out to dinner or at a show, write something just for him on the napkin or ticket and pass it to him – a suggestive secret that you only you share will quickly fire up the romance.

Being romantic to your husband makes him feel loved and appreciated and adds sparkle to your relationship no matter how long you've been married. With these easy ideas there's always time for romance, so why not try one today?.



EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Common causes of loneliness in a relationship

By **ALLIE TICKTEN**

DID you know that loneliness can occur even if you're in a relationship? Just because you are married or dating someone doesn't exclude you from the possibility of feeling lonely. What are the main causes for loneliness in a relationship and what are some ways you can deal with it?

Is it normal to feel lonely in a relationship?

Feelings of loneliness can happen to anyone and at any point in their lives, in or out of a relationship. If you're feeling lonely in a marriage or relationship, it may be time to consider the reasons why and recognize the signs of a lonely relationship.

What are the signs of loneliness in a relationship?

Loneliness is a sense of feeling disconnected, isolated, and disengaged from others. In terms of loneliness in a relationship, these feelings would apply to your spouse or partner. Feel lonely even when you're in the same room with them? Feeling lonely during an evening of watching TV with your significant other is not the same as feeling lonely all the time. Ongoing feelings of disconnection and disengagement from your partner may be the sign that you're in a lonely relationship.

What causes a lonely relationship?

Here are some of the factors that can lead to feeling lonely in a marriage or relationship:

- **Intimacy fizzles:** Some relationships just lose their spark. If you feel a loss of connection and affection, you may be left simply going through the motions. Intimacy plays a big part in getting deeply connected. Without this connection to your partner, you may begin to feel a sense of isolation and separation, which may lead to feelings of loneliness.

- **Incompatibility:** Couples who get together and ultimately find they are not compatible may end up in a dead-end relationship. Resentment, intolerance, impatience, and unhappiness can replace what was once possibly a blissful existence. If you end up in a relationship like this, loneliness could be among the emotions and feelings that bubble up to the surface.

- **Distance and physical**



- **separation:** When a spouse or partner is away for long periods whether due to military service or work, the physical separation may lead to one or both partners suffering with loneliness.

- **Health problems:** Feelings of loneliness may occur in relationships where a spouse or partner is dealing with a chronic illness, battling a serious disease, or is even hospitalized.

- **Emotional issues:** Issues like substance use and depression can introduce loneliness into the relationship. It's important that your health

care provider, a therapist, or counselor is engaged. They can help address all factors of the relationship, including the causes and effects.

- **Physical or emotional abuse:** Any kind of abuse in a relationship can certainly lead to loneliness, but it can also lead to depression, substance use, and injury, as well. If there is abuse occurring now or in the past, please talk to your health care provider, a counselor, or therapist about it.

What can you do if you are feeling lonely in a relationship? **If you're feeling like you're all by yourself in your relationship, consider**

these tips:

- **Talk to your partner or spouse:** It's important to let them know how you feel. You and your partner or spouse may be able to work together for the good of the relationship. For example, maybe it's time to plan a weekend getaway, or a date night. Even a walk in the park together could help relieve a sense of loneliness. Carve out even a small chunk of time to focus attention on each other.

- **Spend some time among friends or family:** Just because you are lonely in your relationship, doesn't necessarily mean you feel lonely when you're among

friends or loved ones. If the company of others helps ease your lonely relationship, then make plans to do things with others. See if these moments of connectedness can help ease your feelings of loneliness with your partner or spouse.

- **Talk to a couples' counselor:** It may be that your relationship just needs some TLC. If your partner's willing, some therapy time with a couples' counselor may help you and your partner explore what could be contributing to loneliness in the relationship or marriage. A therapist may even suggest ways to work past it.

- **Get involved outside your relationship:** Maybe spending less time around your spouse or partner can help ease feeling of loneliness and actually help the relationship. Volunteer opportunities, hobby clubs, running, biking, and workout groups, are all possible ways to focus your energies elsewhere and bring enjoyment to your life, outside the scope of your relationship.

There are many other tips to try if you're working on overcoming loneliness.

If you're struggling in a relationship that seems lonely, tending to your emotional and physical health is important. Only you know whether the relationship is worth it. Find ways to communicate with others—your partner, friends, family.





Reality Bites

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Are we building or breaking friendships?

ACCORDING to the United Nations, our world today faces many challenges, crises and forces of division such as poverty, violence, and human rights abuses among many others that undermine peace, security, development and social harmony among the world's peoples.

"To confront those crises and challenges, their root causes must be addressed by promoting and defending a shared spirit of human solidarity that takes many forms, the simplest of which is friendship".

The UN says through friendship by accumulating bonds of camaraderie and developing strong ties of trust, we can contribute to the fundamental shifts that are urgently needed to achieve lasting stability, weave a safety net that will protect us all, and generate passion for a better world where all are united for the greater good.

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

The resolution places emphasis on involving young people, as future leaders, in community activities that include different cultures and promote international understanding and respect for diversity.

In Nigeria today, the country faces a high level of insecurity caused by insurgency and terrorism, with high levels of ethnic and religious mistrust and divisions which is negatively influencing the upcoming 2023 elections.

To mark the International Day of Friendship the UN encourages governments, international organizations and civil society groups to hold events, activities and initiatives that contribute to the efforts of the international community towards promoting a dialogue among civilizations, solidarity, mutual understanding and reconciliation.

The International Day of Friendship is an initiative that follows on the proposal made by UNESCO defining the Culture of Peace as a set of values, attitudes and behaviours that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by addressing their root causes with a view to solving problems. It was then adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1997.

Actions to promote a Culture of Peace according to the UN includes fostering a culture of peace through education,



promoting sustainable economic and social development, promoting respect for all human rights, ensuring equality between women and men, fostering democratic participation, advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity, supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge, promoting international peace and security and showing the power of love and kindness.

According to lifehack.com, kinds of friends we need to have as individuals, that can build our growth in life include the following:

A Brutally Honest Confidant
There's certain situations in life where we need to hear the harsh truth. That's what the brutally honest confidant is for. If you're in a rocky relationship and everyone's telling you that it's perfectly normal that you're back with that special someone for the 8th time in the last 2 years, the brutally honest confidant is there to yank your rose-colored glasses off and tell you, "Enough. Stop with all that break-up-and-get-back-together drama. You deserve better." Friends are supposed to be honest with each other. If you find someone who is brutally honest with you (in a constructive way), then hold on to this person! People like that are hard to come by these days.

A Wise Mentor

Jesse Jackson once said, "Never look down on someone unless you're helping them up." If you have someone smart, inspiring, and

admirable in your life who practices this philosophy, you're extremely lucky. We all need a friend who inspires us to be better people without making us feel inadequate. Plus, being around such a person will challenge us to better ourselves every day. The wise mentor in your life doesn't have to be someone who shares the same occupation or hobbies with you. It's simply someone who's a few steps ahead of you in life and has enough wisdom and patience to guide you in the right direction. It can be anyone a colleague, a friend who's beyond their years, or an older neighbor, as long as

you look up to this person and want to be more like them.

A Friend From a Different Culture

The last thing you want to be described as is someone who's stuck in their own ways. If everyone had a friend from a different culture, the world would be a much better place. Being in a cross-cultural friendship allows you to explore customs, values, and traditions outside of your own culture. Sometimes you might even adopt new ways to do things. Be careful; don't befriend someone just because they're from a different culture. No one likes to be a token friend. Instead,

keep your mind open, and if you come across someone you click with who just so happens to be from a different culture, make the effort to learn about their customs, values, and traditions while getting to know the person on a personal level.

A Polar Opposite

We humans are hard-wired to get together in groups and attack outsiders, the human pack mentality, if you will. If you only develop friendships with others who follow the same beliefs, customs, and values as you do, chances are you're somewhat detached from the rest of the world, and you're more likely to perpetuate stereotypes on anyone who holds a different world view from you.

Instead of constantly surrounding yourself with like-minded people, try to break out of your comfort zone and befriend people who hold opposing views. They will help open your eyes to different world views and you'll learn to accept people who don't see the world exactly the way you see it.

A Friendly Neighbor

These days, a lot of people don't know their own neighbors. It's a shame, because some neighbors can be the nicest and most helpful people ever. If you're on a vacation, and you suddenly realize that you forgot to lock the front door, you can call up your trusty ol' neighbor and ask them to head over to your house and lock it for you. Nice dependable neighbors who have each other's backs are a dying breed, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't introduce yourself to the new neighbors across the street!



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Help your child avoid picky eating

By **ALLIE TICKTIN**

MEALTIMES with a little one can be stressful. As a parent, it's easy to feel defeated when your child refuses everything green, or anything that is not animal shaped. I often have parents come to me completely defeated after feeding their toddler nothing but snack foods for days, because they simply refuse to eat anything else.

As an occupational therapist, helping parents understand their little ones' eating preferences is one of my favorite things to do. I love teaching parents the most effective ways to expand their child's diet from the beginning.

Here are ways to avoid picky eating:

Play with food before eating it.

As a child is still learning about the world and exploring new textures, a new food can be overwhelming. It is vital that, before expecting our little ones to eat a new food, we first allow them to explore that food. Get messy! Talk about the texture, smell, color, size and temperature. Then get creative!

Never force feed.

This is a big one. Force-feeding your child can create a negative relationship with food, even into adulthood. Contrary to your goals, it may actually lead your child to eat even fewer foods. It can also lead to poor self-regulation around food. We want children to be able to learn how to control how much they eat and develop a healthy relationship with eating. Force-feeding will do the complete opposite! So, don't force feed, never use the phrase "eat it," and avoid bribing your child into taking a bite.

Let your child be in control.

This one is hard for many parents. Food is personal for everyone, including children. When children feel out of control, they become behavioral and may refuse all foods, often even highly preferred ones. To avoid this, always give your child a few choices during mealtime. Offer carrots, cucumbers or broccoli and let your child choose. Try to always include one preferred food in those choices.



There will be times when they choose nothing, and it's important to be okay with that sometimes. As hard as it seems, the best thing you can do is to accept that that is where they are on their journey that day and move on. Don't make a big deal out of it and they won't either.

Make food a social activity.

Sitting down and having mealtime as a family is important. Whenever possible, try to sit down at a table to have a meal with your family. Food is an important part of every culture, and it is very social. It's important that parents model good eating patterns for their children - and family meal time takes pressure off the child to eat because everyone is enjoying the food.

Offer a variety of foods to your child.

It is easy to get into a routine and feed your little one the same foods each week, but this often leads to picky eating. Mix it up and try new flavors each week. This will help prepare your little one for a balanced diet in the future.

6. Never use food as a reward.

It's easy to offer a child their favorite cupcake in exchange for getting dressed, but using food - and especially foods loaded with sugar - as a reward is a slippery slope. It not only creates unhealthy eating habits, but may also lead to overeating in the future, because children learn to reward themselves with food as they get older.

Introduce foods multiple times.

If your child does not like the food on the first try, it's okay - keep trying. It is completely normal for a child to reject a food when it is first introduced. In fact, it can take anywhere from 10-20 times just seeing a food before a child will try it. Don't give up and keep introducing new foods. Just remember, do not force your little one to eat the food; let them try it when they are ready. Your job is just to keep putting it on the table.

Let them get involved in cooking.

It's not always easy to build in the time (or deal with the mess), but allowing a child to be involved with mealtime prep not only fosters a sense of achievement,

but it helps children understand and trust what is in the food that they're eating. When kids are involved in the cooking process, they are much more likely to try new foods.

Keep mealtime fun.

Mealtime can often become stressful with a heavy focus on making sure that our little ones eat a fully balanced diet. This puts a ton of unneeded pressure on our little ones and makes mealtime more difficult. Keep conversation light during mealtime and make it fun! Talk about your child's favorite play activities, ask about friends, and laugh at the table. Eating should be fun!

Allow your child to refuse

foods.

Yes, mamas... it is okay to spit food out! We never want our children to feel like they have to finish a food if they try it. It is extremely important that kids know, if they decide to try a food, they do not need to finish it. They can even spit it out if they don't like it. Some kids simply will not like certain foods and that's okay! As adults, we also have our food preferences. If your child refuses outright, start by asking if he or she will allow the food on their plate without any pressure to eat it. They may still refuse (and that's okay!). To start, just having it on the table is enough.



BUSINESS WORLD

Big data in an emerging digital economy

The popular saying often attributed to the British historian and politician, Lord John Edward Acton, that 'power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely' is indeed a truism. Despite the popularity of the saying, absolutism seems to be what is subtly obtainable in almost every part of the world, even in places that lay claim to liberalism. TOLU OLAGUNJU writes.

THE approach, however, has never been as effective as when the essence of authority is mutually understood and responsibilities are appropriately shared. The best of leaders upgrade the abilities of their followers and then shed responsibilities to ensure efficiency and potential maximisation.

Decentralisation of authority is therefore not only practicable but has become inevitable, particularly in the emerging world of all-round connectivity, massive availability, and unprecedented access to data that underpins knowledge, intelligence, decision-making, among others that define authority.

The axiom, knowledge is power means when knowledge is readily available and massively accessible, people are automatically empowered. While knowledge was held in hierarchies, and certain natural limitations like space, time, access, and capacities in the past; massive availability and ubiquitous access to data has, however, changed this reality.

The world is now running a data, information, and knowledge economy. In short, decentralisation of power structures in all ramifications has become inevitable in almost every aspect of life because of the unprecedented availability and access to data.

Data is the raw material of information, knowledge, and various forms of intelligence.

It is the source of every factual or statistical evidence necessary for knowledge identification, structuring, standardisation, and indisputably, knowledge authorisation. Data is in no way a recent phenomenon but has always been around in various forms domiciled in every entity.

In short, it is ubiquitous, and as old as creation or perhaps precedes it. What is new about data is its massive availability, speedy accessibility, hyper connectivity, the volume that characterises it as 'big', and the seemingly inexhaustible storage capacity of cloud technology. The possibilities embedded in big data are ordinarily unimaginable.

Data is widely and rightly regarded as the 'new oil', perhaps the most sought after in the emerging digital economy where technically everyone and everything speaks and by implication produces more and more data per second.

Data is the most important ingredient in accurate decision-making and statecraft. For instance, it is practically impossible for a state to exist without a hands-on awareness of the status of things and events in and around its environment.

The word 'state' is closely related to the words 'situation', 'circumstance', 'condition', 'status' or 'statistics' which involves the process of extracting status out of data. This means the status, as in the state of things or events in and around an

environment, and the data from which it is derived are inseparable.

Awareness of 'status' or 'the stand or situation of things' is the basis of intelligence whether in the military, market, business, finance, politics, culture, or more personal intelligence like emotional, social and the like that seem to be gaining wide popularity in recent time, particularly alongside the emergence of the digital economy of all-round connectivity where self-awareness and creativity are requisites for survival.

Big data is redefining the structures of leadership. Massive availability of data is not only promoting the reign of inclusivity in the decision-making process but has necessitated the rise of 'soft power' in leadership and diplomacy.

Mutual access to information, for instance, is gradually positioning effective communication, mutual understanding, and agreement above coercion and manipulation as obtainable in 'hard power'. In essence, with the emergence of the data, information, and knowledge age, decentralisation has become inevitable, particularly because intelligence that underpins power structure is a natural product of data.

Although held down by the limitations of time, space, access, and capacity in the past, data is now generally ubiquitous and widely accessible. Therefore, any system that naturally strengths in ignorance, exclusivity, manipulation, and coercion is technically heading for a wreck in the emerging digital world of ubiquitous access and hyper-connectivity.

There are obvious indications of decentralisation and restructuring alongside the emerging reign of big

BIG DATA



data particularly in modern technological designs, educational and organisational structures, security architectures, and generally in the decision-making processes.

For instance, the emerging web 3.0 technology, that is, the third generation of internet technology also regarded as the web of data or semantic web of meaning and universal intelligence is designed, structured and built on decentralised technology.

Emerging web 3.0 is far beyond platforms, content generation, search, and connectivity as in the previous two genres of web 1.0 that was designed to be read only as in e-mails, and web 2.0 designed to be user-generated content (UGC) and highly interactive as in social media platforms.

Decentralisation powers emerging technologies like blockchain, the internet of things (IOTs), Artificial intelligence (AI), smart cities, decentralised finance (DEFI), and automation among others in their category.

Alongside these technologies is the rise of technical and social listening and modularity in the production process that prioritised dematerialisation, reusability, 'demediation', and ease of detachment.

There are also signs of decentralization in the emerging nature of work that is far more flexible while permitting work-life balance, access to personalities, creativity, and maximisation of individual potential unlike the waterfall approach of the past.

While decentralisation might indeed be a challenge to culture and establishments, it, however,

does not imply disintegration or isolation, but rather a systematic connection in essence that guarantees general effectiveness and individual potential maximisation.

Besides, the world has never been as connected and interactive as it is right now in the digital era of all-round connectivity where people and things are super connected and hyper-interactive.

No doubt, human nature tends to naturally resist change which often seems impossible until it becomes inevitable. Changes due to massive availability and access to data with the decentralisation effects are, however, closer to us than we can imagine.

For instance, the global campaigns for and extensive acceptance of democracy, open governance, inclusivity, freedom of information (FOI) among others are targeted at decentralisation, and massive data generation to sustain it.

However, while the destabilising consequences of decentralisation might be inevitable; effective and transformational leadership is to the rescue. Most importantly, leadership in the emerging digitalised world must be smart and creative enough to promptly and effectively align resources as needed.

It must be mature enough to accept ingenuity, and autonomy while managing diversity. It must be secured and confident enough to allow openness, access, and effective communication.

It must be understanding enough to focus on essence and meaning while managing the differences in approach and representation. It must be disciplined enough to

prioritize excellence, standard, and ethics.

Data is not an end in itself but a means to an end; which are insight, mutual understanding, and accuracy in decision making. Achieving this end, however, requires intentionality and deliberate education that is focused on technical skills development, critical reasoning and creativity. In essence, the current era of wide availability and access to data requires certain kinds of education that prioritise essence, meaning, and systematic understanding rather than superficial absorption of information deprived of critical reasoning.

In summary, creativity, ingenuity, standardisation, mutual understanding, positioning, effective communication, collaboration, accountability, empathy, and trustworthiness are some of the most valuable traits of leaders in the emerging digital world of hyperconnectivity, decentralisation, inclusivity, dematerialization, and democratisation.

The demands of decentralisation will be more on leadership; the effectiveness of leadership and authorities in the emerging digital world will be tested solely on leaders' ability to utilize individual freedom, structural autonomy, and ingenuity in building a workable society. Most importantly, leadership in the emerging digital world is universal, beginning with the individual in the form of self-leadership.

Source: BusinessDay.

BUSINESS WORLD

MAN urges FG to remove VAT on AGO

THE Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) has urged the federal government to remove the 7.5 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) on Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) also known as diesel, until the international supply system is normalized.

The president of the association, Engineer Mansur Ahmed, made the appeal while speaking at the association's 25th joint Annual General Meeting recently in Kaduna.

He says, "Government should remove the 7.5% VAT on the AGO pending the normalisation of the international supply system and quickly resolve the complexity surrounding the seamless implementation of the eligibility customer initiative to enable manufacturers to take advantage of the standard electricity."

The president who was represented by the Chairman, Bompai Kano Branch, Alhaji Sani Saleh, called on government to urgently convene a strategic meeting with key operators in the Nigeria economic space to deliberate and craft a national strategic response to the disruptive impact of the ongoing Russian-Ukraine war on



Adebayo

the global supply value chain and its debilitating impact on the economy.

"We believe that this will help to identify viable options to ameliorate the impact of the disruption, agree on ways to assuage other pain points on the business environment, activate innovative solutions to familiar and emerging macroeconomic and infrastructure challenges and generally point the director for resilience in the economic ecosystem.

"The government should prioritise allocation of foreign exchange to the manufacturing sector and that the CBN should direct commercial banks to transparently and diligently process forex

applications by manufacturers. It is also important to improve the time taken to clear container/cargo at the ports to reduce the various port charges and remove demurrage for unduly delayed clearance."

The association also called on the government to prioritise allocation of foreign exchange to the

"Nigeria to benefit from joining Open Government Partnership"

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari recently received a delegation from the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Support Unit, led by the Chief Executive Officer, Sanjay Pradhan, during which he itemized the benefits Nigeria has derived from joining the transparency body in 2016.

AUTHORITY in charge of the Comptroller General of Customs (CGC), Strike Force Team A, said it recovered over N3.14 billion from dubious importers in Lagos in the last six months.

It disclosed that it was able to realize the said sum through issuance of Demand Notice (DN) following the discovery that dubious importers were involved in short payment of duties payable to the government.

The coordinator of the CGC Strike Force Team A, Mohammed Sani Yusuf, made this disclosure at a press conference held yesterday in Lagos.

Yusuf notes that N3.14bn accrued to the federal government would have been lost, but for the vigilance and uncompromising disposition of officers in the team in the discharge of their duties.

According to him, N1.808bn was made in the same period in 2021 and that it shows an increase of

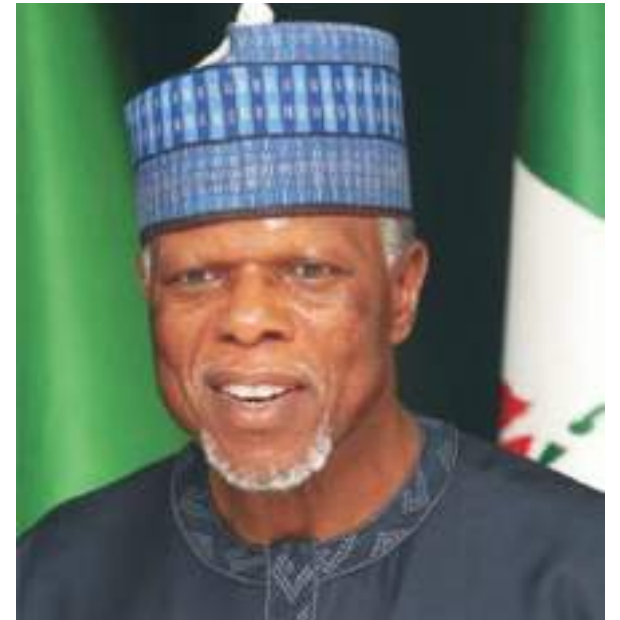
Customs recovers N3.14bn from Lagos importers

N1.332bn representing about 73 per cent of the revenue increase.

"I want to use this opportunity to reiterate that our efforts for the second half of the year are already invigorated and we shall ensure that smugglers and enemies of

our economy have no hiding place within our area of responsibility."

He reminded the importers, agents, haulage operators among others to always comply with the import and export prohibition list and guidelines.



Ali

Oil sector contribution to GDP will decline

THE Federal Government has made projected that the oil sector's contribution to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will decline to 5% between 2023 and 2025.

The expected GDP figure is a drop when compared to the 5.19% contribution of the oil sector as of the fourth quarter in 2021.

This was disclosed in a draft copy of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2023-2025 presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, while addressing

State House Correspondents on the outcome of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting.

Ahmed said that in the draft document of the framework, the assumed crude oil price for 2023 is \$70 per barrel, 2024 is \$66 per barrel and \$62 per barrel for 2025, with an estimated production rate of 1.69 million barrels per day for 2023 and 1.813 million barrels per day for 2024 and 2025.

"We have also projected on the nominal GDP, that the size of Nigeria's economy

will rise up to N225.5 trillion with 95 per cent of this contribution by the non-oil sector while the oil sector will contribute only five per cent.

"And some steady increase from 2024 to reach up to N280.7 trillion in 2025. This means that Nigeria continues to retain its position as the largest economy in Africa."

It will be recalled that Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS) had in its data released earlier in February 2022, said that the oil sector contribution to the Nigerian economy declined to 5.19% at N1.055 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2021, down by 3.68 basis points, from the 5.87% contribution in

the corresponding period in 2020.

The same data also showed that the country in the fourth quarter of 2021 recorded an average daily oil production of 1.50 million barrels per day (mbpd), lower than the daily average production of 1.56mbpd recorded in the same quarter of 2020 by 0.06mbpd and lower than the third quarter 2021 production volume of 1.57mbpd by 0.07mbpd.

As a result of pipeline vandalism and increased crude oil thefts, oil revenue and oil sector contribution to GDP have declined over the years.

World bank tasks FG on data protection law

THE World Bank has tasked the federal government to enact a data protection law as soon as possible.

The global bank's Country Director to Nigeria, Shubham Chaudhuri, made this known at a two-day Policy Dialogue on Nigeria's Data Protection law in Abuja.

Chaudhuri, who described digital identification as key to unlocking the potentials of nations. "Digital identification is key to unlocking the potential of

nations. A data protection law is very critical for Nigeria. Nigeria's potential for a digital economy is high. We are hopeful that Nigeria will be able to enact a data protection and privacy law soon."

The Minister for Communication and Digital Economy, Professor Isa Ali Pantami, described data protection as very important for the country.

He said, "Data has become a highly sought commodity and more people are concerned about how their data is stored,

Action Plans on the Open Government Partnership.

"By next month (in August), I will sign the third Action Plan, which is in the final stages of development. I am eager to sign the document so that we can continue to sustain the progress of reforms that we have recorded in the past six years of implementation."

Speaking further, the president outlined some of the successes that the country has recorded since it began to implement the Open Government Partnership in 2016 as follows:

"Our budgeting processes have become more open, citizens-centred and participatory. In accordance with the objective of fiscal transparency, all stakeholders, including the public are involved in the country's budget-making process, have access to the details of our budgets, and have opportunity to make

input into it. As proof of our progress, Nigeria was ranked among the best-improved countries for transparency in the latest global Open Budget Survey.

"We have made significant progress in the beneficial ownership transparency in Nigeria. We produced a roadmap of Beneficial Ownership Reporting in 2016. By December 2019, we established Africa's first Beneficial Ownership Register in the extractive industry. In 2020, we amended our laws to expand Beneficial Ownership Reporting to all sectors of the economy.

"We are currently building a robust national Beneficial Ownership Database, which will be deployed to combat global criminal activities including illicit financial flows and terrorism financing. We are equally convinced the Beneficial Ownership disclosure policy will support our domestic resource mobilization."

President Buhari said that as a government, "We are encouraged that, at the last OGP Global Summit in Seoul, South Korea, Nigeria won the OGP Impact Award for our commitment and progress on Beneficial Ownership Transparency.

"As part of our commitment to sustain the progress, I have just approved Nigeria's membership of the Beneficial Ownership Leadership Group."



Ahmed

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

How entrepreneurship affects the economy

Entrepreneurship is a blanket term related to starting a business. Howard Stevenson of Harvard Business School, for example, has defined entrepreneurship as the "pursuit of opportunity beyond resources controlled," considering it as a kind of managerial approach rather than a specific time, like a business's creation, or a specific person within a business, such as its founder. SHOBHIT SETH writes.

WHILE there are some complicating factors to the relationship between entrepreneurship, economic growth, development, and welfare, discussed below, the increase in economic growth from entrepreneurship is considerable. It is not, however, a magic bullet, and as discussed below broader economic conditions outside of entrepreneurship are important in determining whether economic growth occurs.

Entrepreneurial efforts have forced new social, political, and economic changes, holding out the promise for new innovations that will address intractable social problems such as climate change and structural racism. Notably, however, the results can vary, sometimes not creating as much social justice or positive development outcomes as initially promised.

Key Takeaways

- Entrepreneurship refers to the "pursuit of opportunity beyond resources controlled."

- Entrepreneurship has become increasingly socially conscious, taking stock of the impact of entrepreneurial activity on societal issues and tending to view the possibility of addressing those issues as an important function of entrepreneurship.

- The impact of entrepreneurs on economic growth is overall positive, though it may be more mixed than its proponents realize with evidence pointing towards widely different results within different sectors of the economy.

- The evidence of how effective socially-conscious innovations have been at solving the issues they tackle historically has been mixed.

Entrepreneurs and economic growth

Innovation and entrepreneurs undeniably contribute to economic growth and they are a particular area of concern for policymakers.² However, scholars say that the economic growth offered by entrepreneurship can be exaggerated.³

Growth from entrepreneurial activity doesn't occur evenly across sectors of the economy. Studies of economic growth have pointed towards an apparent paradox where productivity growth has been "at best modest in recent years," despite the pervasiveness of innovation, entrepreneurs, and innovation ideology. According to research from the National Bureau of Economic Research, this is because innovation affects industries very differently, meaning that it has a large impact on the growth of some sectors of the economy but not across all sectors.⁴

While generally positive, the link between entrepreneurship and improving welfare is also complicated, influenced by factors such as regional population, entrepreneurship density, and the specific industry in which the entrepreneurial activity is taking place, according to reviews of the scholarly literature.⁵

"Necessity" entrepreneurship vs. "opportunity" entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship can fall into the categories of "necessity entrepreneurship," which is caused by the lack of other opportunities, or "opportunity entrepreneurship," which is driven by an apparent business opportunity.

If entrepreneurial activity is a signal that the economy isn't creating enough jobs or wage opportunities, as in necessity entrepreneurship, it may even be connected to slow economic

growth or lagging economic development, scholars say.⁶

Inequality and economic growth

Some studies have also suggested that economic growth may be correlated to an increase in overall inequality in certain circumstances. In the US, for example, scholars say that income inequality and economic growth have been linked since the 1970s.⁷

Stages of economic development

The level of economic development of a country will affect whether entrepreneurship will lead to greater economic growth.

It seems as though the relationship between economic growth and entrepreneurship may be U-shaped, according to the economist Zoltan Acs. In countries in the early or middle stages of economic development, economic growth is negatively connected to entrepreneurship; the two are positively connected in highly developed economies, a trend that emerged in the second half of the twentieth century.

In the twentieth century, fueled by the decline in manufacturing and the shift towards a service economy, industrialized market economies in later stages of economic development—like the United States and areas of western Europe such as Germany and Sweden—were able to benefit greatly from entrepreneurship, Acs' writings have indicated.⁸ Those countries saw a rise in the amount of entrepreneurship, starting in the 1970s, which reversed the previous trend of those economies which was towards larger firms and less self-employment as workers tried to get high-paying managerial jobs with large firms.

Other factors may be relevant as well. Scholars point out that the US, in particular, has benefited from a large and competitive domestic market, a highly developed financial system, and a high level of long-term government support for basic science.

For developing countries, on the other hand, entrepreneurship isn't a panacea to growth. A study of 74 economies across a six-year period concluded that less developed countries should not base their economic policy on "generic

entrepreneurship" if they desire to stimulate economic growth. The authors argue that focusing on programs that develop human capital, take advantage of economies of scale, and entice foreign capital are more effective in leading to economic growth.⁹

Italy may provide an additional example of a place where high levels of self-employment have proved to be inefficient for economic development. Research has shown that Italy has experienced large negative impacts on the growth of its economy because of self-employment.¹⁰

Entrepreneurs and social progress

With concerns over sustainability, inequality, and social impact generally, many entrepreneurs have become more intensely interested in the social consequences of their economic activity.¹¹ In particular, the rise of social awareness among entrepreneurs has led to many attempts to use entrepreneurship to create a more just and sustainable world. Since the protests over the death of George Floyd, entrepreneurs have also looked to combat systemic racism through their work.

Social entrepreneurship, which has been around as a concept since the 1950s, has become increasingly common. It describes a category of entrepreneurship that attempts to both make a profit and solve societal problems. It has become a way of pushing for social change within the social justice and entrepreneurial frameworks, but it differs from the typical nonprofit model in that it pursues both profits and socially desirable ends simultaneously.

Societal impact

That businesses ought to consider and deeply care about their impact on society, in general, has not always been an uncontroversial point. Economists in the 20th century like Milton Friedman, for example, famously argued that businesses should rather focus solely on their duty to improve returns to shareholders.¹⁴

Innovations in investing

In investing, socially responsible investing (SRI) and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria

have promised to spur on more socially conscious results especially as regards sustainability, while other innovations look to address the root causes of societal problems.

Although, neither are without their controversies. ESGs, for instance, have caused skepticism from some investors, including former chairman of the board of visitors for Japan's Government Pension Investment Fund, Eiji Hirano, who has warned of the risk these investments may bring. SEC Commissioner Hester Pierce has commented that she believes mandating ESGs would violate the agency's authority and could also "undermine financial and economic stability."

Upsides and downsides

From the perspective of social justice, which prizes a world with equal rights and access to opportunity, the reliance of the economic system on entrepreneurship presents both upsides and downsides.

Theoretically, socially conscious entrepreneurship offers the opportunity to generate solutions for marginalized communities, and the motivations for social entrepreneurs around the world tend to come from a genuine desire to uplift communities and to fix serious problems.

Entrepreneurship (construed broadly), then, offers the opportunity to catalyze creative solutions to long-standing problems, promote research, and energize social change. However, it's important to note that sometimes attempts to solve the underlying structural problems lead to murkier results. The dual motives of profit and social good can sometimes clash, as the example of microfinancing in India reveals.

Microfinancing's mixed legacy

Some of the innovations that were initially praised as radically effective for creating positive social change have not lived up to their billing. Microfinancing, for example, was once popular in international circles but is now seen as having a more limited impact on eradicating poverty, sometimes even increasing indebtedness.¹⁶ The practice may have also led to a series of suicides for farmers in Andhra Pradesh in the

2000s.

The connection between inequality and economic growth, discussed above, also clouds the picture of using entrepreneurship to drive societal solutions.

What Is entrepreneurship?

Entrepreneurship is a broad term that encompasses a lot of definitions. The definition given by Howard Stevenson of Harvard Business School defines entrepreneurship as the "pursuit of opportunity beyond resources controlled," which implies some creativity in the approach to generating innovations.

Why is entrepreneurship important for social justice goals?

Traditional arguments hold that entrepreneurship allows new innovations to occur, ensuring that resources are efficiently used within the market. This article focused more on the association between social justice goals and entrepreneurship and therefore emphasized the role of societal benefit in innovative changes. Towards that end, entrepreneurship (construed broadly) allows for creative solutions to long-standing problems, promotes research, and energizes social change.

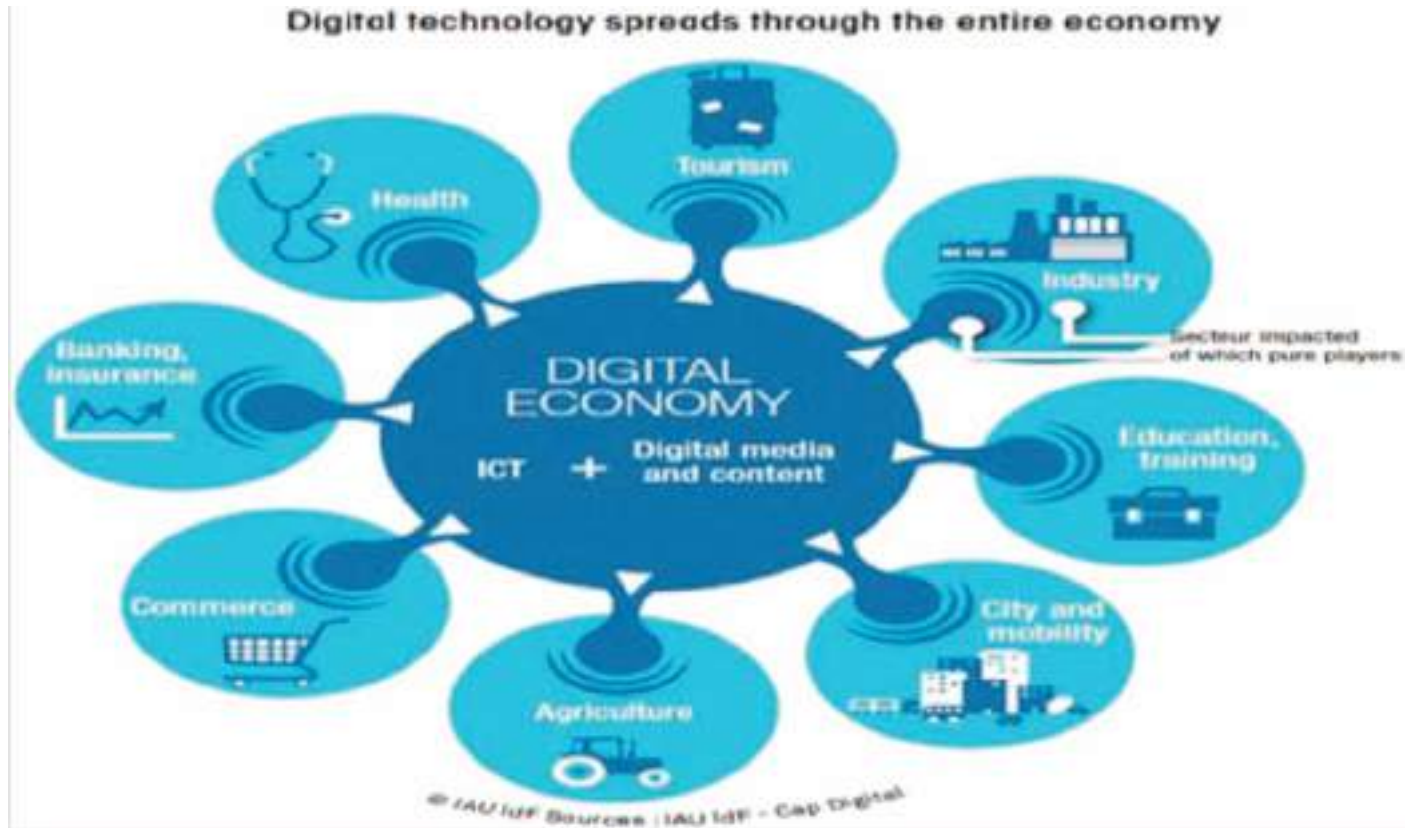
What's a social entrepreneur?

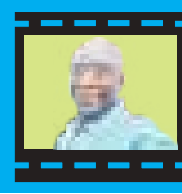
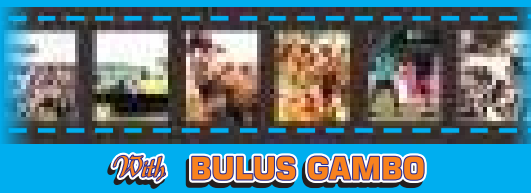
A social entrepreneur is someone who launches a business not just to make profits but also to address some larger social issue. They are interested in promoting social good.

The bottom Line

Entrepreneurship presents an important aspect of the current economic model, especially in post-industrial economies like the US where the "knowledge economy" and platform-driven companies, often relying on specific inventions or "disruptions," have captured large shares of the market.

The relationship between entrepreneurship and economic development is important to understand for policymakers and business owners. Understanding the benefits and drawbacks of entrepreneurship allows a balanced approach to nurturing entrepreneurship to be taken, which can, if handled correctly, result in a positive economic and societal impact.





With **BULUS GAMBO**

Hunxho rules the rap world

Continued from page 18



How has rap been different since becoming a dad, like the hours you spent in the studio have probably decreased or something. But how has that transition been?

I mean they ain't decrease. I spend time with him, but not as much time as I should. I'm working so I can start making my own schedule. I'm tryna to get to where I gotta be to make my own schedule, you feel me? So, I can see him every single day of the week.

What can listeners expect the vibe of this project to be?

It's some pain sh*t. It's some turnt sh*t, slow sh*t, some club sh*t, you got all kinda sh*t. So, I mixed up, you're gonna feel it for sure.

Who all is featured on *Xhosen*?

Not no rappers. You can expect WanMor. They a singing group, and they on my first tape. I had this sing for a minute. I really wasn't gonna put no features on the tape at all, but I was around one day and I heard something that should be on the song. I had just recently seen them singing on Instagram, so I had called the label and was like, 'I got to get WanMor on the intro to my tape. It would be a perfect fit.' I told them what and how to do it, but they did it in their own way. They're on the first song on the tape.

You dropped the video to "Fight" earlier this month, and it really intrigued me. There was a lot of Black Panther and boxing imagery in there, so can you explain some of that for the viewers who may not know what the vision was?

I mean the vision is really simple — fight. I really just wanted to give them some hard visuals. I don't like regular videos. I'm not tryna say that I'm like past that, but I am tryna take it to the next level. I came up with the idea for "Fight," and I hit up Marko Steez because I know he could bring it to life.

It's crazy that you're 22 and thinking about putting Black Panther imagery in your visuals.

I'm young, but I got an old soul. I don't even ride to modern-day music. I listen to old-school music. I like listening to real music, this sh*t done changed so much. This sh*t ain't nothing like it used to be. I listen to old music, so I could still get that feel. I listen to real music.

You dropped "1,2,3" today and you started rapping like (I keep that...) like you kind of sound like Lil Keed, you kind of give us some Lil Keed vibes. I was wondering if that was intentional. I know that y'all were label mates. I was wondering if that was homage?

Nah, I just be rapping.

Got you. Just been playing with your voice more?

I definitely be trying to work my voice.

What other things have you been doing in the studio to take your music to the next level?

Everything. When I hear a beat, the beat gonna tell me exactly what to do. As soon as I hear the beat. I'm tryin something different on every song but my voice, my flow, what I'm saying, how I'm putting it together. All that matters.

So, you freestyle?

Yeah, but I ain't gonna really say freestyling. I don't write, I punch in. It ain't no straight freestyle that just go boom-boom on some Meek Mill sh*t.

Since you are from Atlanta, I'm sure that you've felt it in the air. Our Hip-Hop scene is down bad right now with everything that's been happening. Since Lil Keed was on 300 with you, I was wondering if y'all had a relationship prior to his passing?

Yeah, we had recently just got that relationship. We already knew about each other, like we were already familiar with each other because Yak Gotti's like my big

brother. But me and Keed had linked up on our own sh*t. We had been locked in ever since, you feel me? We had officially gotten in the studio together in LA for a writing camp or something like that. We had locked in and made a song. When I had left LA and went back to Atlanta, he was calling me and telling me, "I gotta get you on my tape." But he ain't ever stopped calling me after that. Like, we were always talking after that.

"Me and Keed had linked up on our own sh*t. We had been locked in ever since, you feel me? We had officially gotten in the studio together in LA for a writing camp or something like that. We had locked in and made a song. When I had left LA and went back to Atlanta, he was calling me and telling me, "I gotta get you on my tape." But he ain't ever stopped calling me after that. Like, we were always talking after that."

How did the news of his passing hit you? I mean, that sh*t was f*cked up. But that's anybody though. But now, it was extra messed up. At first, when we got in the studio together, he wasn't even just in the studio by himself, he had his daughter with him. I was just thinking about that like, 'Damn.'

The first time I linked up with him, he had his daughter with him, and then the second time I linked up with him, I had my son with me.

In a recent Instagram post, you said you had to change your ways because you couldn't let your son not have a father. I also saw on the Dirty Glove bastard interview that you were talking about leaving the streets to transition to music as a career. In what ways has your life changed since you chose the art over your past?

My life changed a lot, it is definitely really different to me. It ain't that hard adjusting, but it's different though. Everything used to be "Go, Go, Go!" in a different kind of way, but now it's "Go, Go, Go!" on the music. It's like I'm working towards something. Back then when I was in the streets, I was just working for that night. Make some money that night or that second, but now I'm working for the future to be the biggest I can be, to go as far as I can go.

I also wanted to ask you, I know you didn't mean to have this mentorship Zoom background up here, but it's up. It caught my interest, so can you tell me about that?

So, it's called Next Level Boys Academy. It's a mentoring program. I got in the program because I got this case in like 2019, so boom. When I got out of jail, I ended up getting a lawyer, like before I signed, I had my lawyer. After a minute of working with him, he told me, "You should really get in this program, this Next Level Boys Academy." So, he holla'd at a dude and he told me to give him a call. So, I gave him a call and he told me to come up to his office. I came up to his office, we chatted it up, and he asked me questions. He ain't just accepting everyone in the program. He accepts who he really thinks needs to be in the program. But also, my judge liked this program, so my lawyer was telling me to get in. But after I got in, I started to like it for myself. No old men, no one telling you what to do — you talking about some real sh*t, what's really going on. But when I caught my case, they were tryna offer me 7 years, they were tryna offer me 7 to 20 years in jail. They ended up letting me do it in the program because this program really saved people. I ain't gonna lie, it's like 30-40 more people like me that the judge told them they need to go to the classes and stuff instead of going to jail. This is a trusted program.

When I get to where I'm going, I'mma invest all the way in it. We need to get more people involved — it's really life-changing.

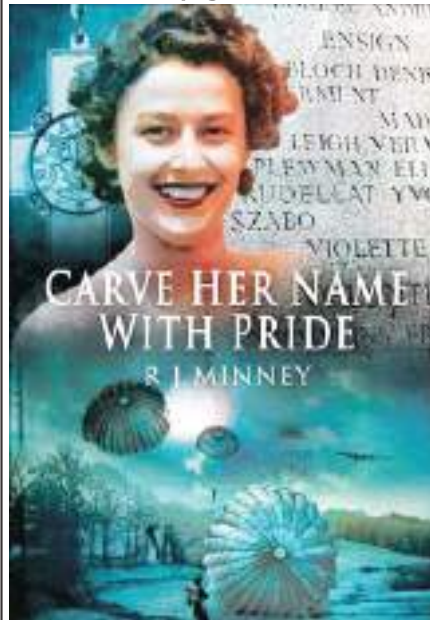
That's really cool. Well, you got *Xhosen* coming up. I assume that since this is your second project of the year, you won't be letting up anytime soon, so what else can listeners expect for the rest of 2022?



Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

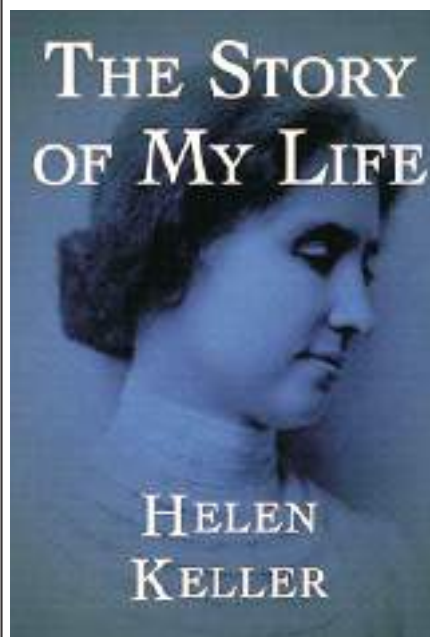
Continued from page 18

Carve her name with pride



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

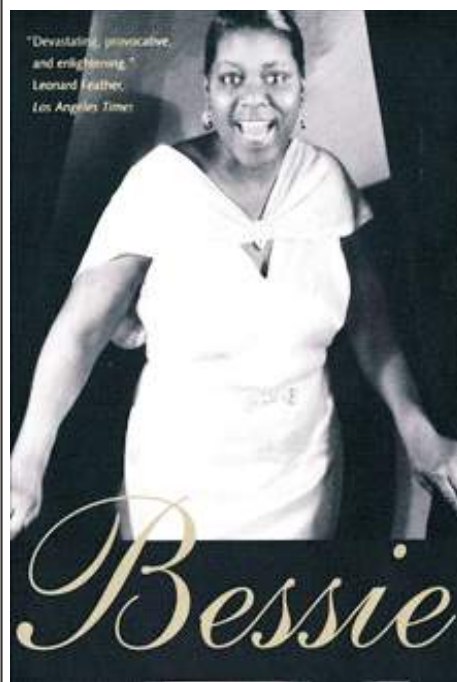
The Story of my life



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

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

Bessie



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

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

To be continued

PLATEAU STATE POTATO VALUE CHAIN SUPPORT PROJECT


**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES-FIRMS)**

COUNTRY: Nigeria

NAME OF PROJECT: Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project

TRAINING OF ADP EXTENSION AGENTS

Financing Agreement reference: **2100150037297**

Project ID No.: **P-NG-A00-008**

1. This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No. AfDB 75-0/18 of January 26, 2018.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria/Plateau State Government *has received* financing from the *African Development Bank* toward the cost of the Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for this *loan* to payments under the contract for Training of ADP Extension Agents in Plateau State.
3. The services under this assignment include conducting training to enhance the capacity of ADP staff extension agents toward better service delivery along the Potato Value Chain.
4. The Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The Consulting Firm shall have at least six (6) years' experience in agricultural extension work, field demonstration establishments, agricultural pest control and management, agricultural marketing and storage and farm management. It should have a record of minimum three (3) projects of comparable nature in the agricultural sector. The Consultant will also demonstrate the availability of the following key personnel with relevant experience as follows;

Team Member	Minimum Requirements
Team Leader Agricultural Extension	He/she shall have a minimum of MSc Degree in Agricultural Extension, Agriculture or related field with at least 8 years' experience as a Consultant in training Donor agency beneficiaries and or staff.
Agronomist	He/she shall have a Master of Science (MSc) Degree or Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy with at least 4 years' training experience.
Marketing Specialist	He/she shall have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Marketing or any related field with a minimum of three (3) years' working experience.

5. Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.
6. The assignment will be undertaken in 6 non-consecutive working days over a period of 2 weeks and the estimated starting date is **August 2022**.
7. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be **Least Cost** in accordance with the Procurement Policy for Bank Group-Funded Operations (Policy), October 2015, which is available on the Bank's Website at <https://www.afdb.org/en/projects-and-operations/procurement/new-procurement-policy/>. Please, note that interest expressed by a Consulting Firm does not imply any obligation on the part of the Government to include it in the shortlist. Only the shortlisted consultants will be contacted.
8. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours of **8:00am – 4:00pm Local Time**.
9. Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by mail,) not later than **14th August, 2022** at 4:00 pm Local Time and mention '**Training of ADP Extension Agents**'.

Thomas G. Muopshin
Project Coordinator,
Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project,
C/O Plateau Agricultural Development Programme
P.M.B. 2119 Dogon Dutse,
Jos, Plateau State Nigeria
Tel. +2348036187940
E-mail: plateaustatepotato@gmail.com

PLATEAU STATE POTATO VALUE CHAIN SUPPORT PROJECT


**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES-FIRMS)**

COUNTRY: Nigeria

NAME OF PROJECT: Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project

**TRAINING OF FARMERS/PRODUCERS ON
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP)**

Financing Agreement reference: **2100150037297**

Project ID No.: **P-NG-A00-008**

1. This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No. AfDB 75-0/18 of January 26, 2018.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria/Plateau State Government *has received* financing from the *African Development Bank* toward the cost of the Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for this *loan* to payments under the contract for Training of Farmers/Producers on good Agricultural practices (GAP) in Plateau State.
3. The services under this assignment include conducting training for Farmers/Producers in order to improve their capacity in potato production, storage and marketing geared towards better income and improved livelihood.
4. The Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The Consulting Firm shall have at least six (6) years' experience in agricultural extension work, field demonstration establishments, agricultural pest control and management, agricultural marketing and storage and farm management. It should have a record of minimum three (3) projects of comparable nature in the agricultural sector. The Consultant will also demonstrate the availability of the following key personnel with relevant experience as follows;

Team Member	Minimum Requirements
Team Leader Agronomist	He/she shall have a minimum of MSc Degree in Agronomy, Agricultural Extension or related field with at least 8 years' experience as a Consultant in training Donor agency beneficiaries and/ or staff.
Agricultural Extension	He/she shall have a Master of Science (MSc) Degree or Bachelor Degree in Agricultural Extension or related field with minimum of 4 years' working experience.
Entomologist	He/she shall have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Entomology with at least 4 years' training experience.
Marketing Specialist	He/she shall have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Marketing or any related field with a minimum of three (3) years' working experience.

5. Consultants may constitute joint-ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.
6. The assignment will be undertaken in 7 non-consecutive working days over a period of 3 weeks and the estimated starting date is **August 2022**.
7. Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be **Least Cost** in accordance with the Procurement Policy for Bank Group-Funded Operations (Policy), October 2015, which is available on the Bank's Website at <https://www.afdb.org/en/projects-and-operations/procurement/new-procurement-policy/>. Please, note that interest expressed by a Consulting Firm does not imply any obligation on the part of the Government to include it in the shortlist. Only the shortlisted consultants will be contacted.
8. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours of **8:00am – 4:00pm Local Time**.
9. Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by mail,) not later than **14th August, 2022** at 4:00 pm Local Time and mention '**Training of Farmers/Producers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)**'.

Thomas G. Muopshin
Project Coordinator,
Plateau State Potato Value Chain Support Project,
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NEWS

Bandits abduct minors, nursing mothers, others

From JOHN FWAH
Kaduna

LATEST reports on bandit attack in Keke B Community in Millennium City, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State indicates that nursing mothers, under aged children, families were among those abducted when they stormed the community.

Reports say, the bandits stormed the community at about 9pm on Monday night, July 25, when residents were indoors as a result of the torrential rains.

An eyewitness, Muhammad Salihu said, the bandits, operated unchallenged, as they moved from house to house.

"Many of us were still outside when the bandits attacked because it was quite early, around 8.30pm. They came in large numbers, shooting sporadically and brandishing weapons," he narrated.

"They broke into people's houses one after the other and kidnapped the occupants. One person, a motorcycle mechanic, was able to escape from the kidnapers, but they went away with 36 residents."

An eyewitness said that residents of the area were all indoors as a result of the rain which started as early as 7 pm.

"Nobody expected anything only to hear the sound of gunshots. It was then we discovered that something was amiss," he said.

According to Yakubu Isa, a resident of the area, "we now discovered that many of the residents including nursing mothers and two-year-old baby were missing at home."

"Residents of the area are now taking stock of casualties as you can see we are just compiling names. Many of the residents have been abducted."



Alkali

It was further gathered that the Divisional Police Officer and his team with other security agencies had visited the area to assess the situation while normalcy had been restored in the area as well as

other surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, one Safiyanu Abdullahi said, four of his relatives, including a mother and her three children were among victims kidnapped by the bandits.

Nigerian scholar wins inaugural American LEADS Conference Award.

From AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

THE American Chemical Society, has selected Kogi State-born University of Ibadan (UI) Alumnus, Dr Ekundayo Samuel to participate in the American Chemical Society Lasting Encounters between Aspiring and Distinguished Scientists (LEADS) Conference. The American Chemical Society, is arguably the world largest scientific society. Dr Samuel disclosed this while speaking with Our Correspondent on the feat.

participants including 4 Nobel Laureates selected from a large pool of scientists across the globe. According to him, the participants who are a mix of undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and early career professionals, spent three days in company of renowned industry and academic leaders, including Nobel laureates Fraser Stoddart, Jennifer Doudna, David MacMillan, and Roald Hoffmann. Dr Samuel joined the highly esteemed chemists, scientists, professionals, and

From MATHEW JWANTU,
Minna

THE decline in the allocation of funds to the educational sector as a proportion of the total state budget in Niger State is becoming a thing of concern, the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund, (UNICEF) has said.

Michael Banda, the Senior Education Manager, UNICEF Field Office Kano and Girl Education Project (GEP3), disclosed this at a three-day media dialogue on Girls' education.

According to him, the dialogue is to sensitize the media on the importance of girls' education and ignite the function of a media coalition for girls' education for sustained media advocacy on education.

He stated that the GEP3 project is being implemented in Bauchi, Kano, Kastina, Niger, Sokoto and Zamfara states with the assistance of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK.

Mr Banda explained that paradoxically the total budget for the state from 2017 to 2021 for education was increasing, but the funds released to the sector were declining.

In his presentation on Niger State Ministry of Education Budget

Niger budget for education worries UNICEF



Adamu

Performance, Francis Elisha, the Education Officer, UNICEF Field Office Kaduna, disclosed that in 2017, N5 billion was allocated to education and only N1.7 billion was released, representing 35 per cent.

He said in 2018, about N5.4 billion was allocated and only N439 million

was released and in 2019, about N3.1 billion was allocated and only about N199.8 million was released.

Mr Elisha added that in 2020, about N426 million was allocated to the sector and only about N55.4 million was released while in 2021, N4 billion was allocated with only about N591.5 million released.

According to him, the total budget released in 2017 was 35 per cent; in 2018, it was 8 per cent; in 2019, it was 6 per cent; in 2020, it was 13 per cent while in 2021, it was 15 per cent.

He said that there was a need for the Niger State government to do more in the allocation and release of funds to the educational sector. He said that the GEP3 project had helped in increasing girls' enrollment, retention, completion and transition at the basic educational level.

Mr Elisha disclosed that the annual school census of 2020/2021, showed that the gender parity index for Niger improved from 0.65 in 2012 to 0.79 in 2021. He pointed out that the project made an impact as more girls were enrolled in school.

Also speaking the Commissioner Ministry of Education, Bauchi State Dr. Aliyu Usman Tilde described the project as a very good achievement that GEP 3 education has brought a lot of joy to the people of Bauchi state. The stress that for this, "we are very grateful for that and as I told you earlier we are ready to sustain the Project and to keep the project moving after the close-out of the project."

"But if we are lucky, and they see the reason to extend the project from GEP3 - GEP 4, we would further appreciate that because the impact is there on the ground for everybody to see. We remain grateful to UNICEF, and we hope that this kind of partnership would continue to flourish between the Bauchi State Government and UNICEF", he stated.

Adamawa NLC embarks on ASUU solidarity protest

From GYANG PAM, Yola

ALL labour unions in Adamawa State protested against what they said was the failure of government in handling the Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU) strike

over non implementation of their rights.

In Adamawa State, thousands of workers were at the Labour House where the NLC state Chairman, Comrade Emmanuel Fashe addressed them.

Fashe narrated how negotiations between

ASUU and government collapsed as a result of lack of sincerity on the part of government.

According to the NLC Chairman, he was delighted at the turn out of workers adding that the essence of the protest was to show solidarity to ASUU and students who are forced to be stranded at home.

He appealed to all the workers and students who turned up for the protest to be peaceful as they go about the co-operation and understanding.

Our Correspondent disclosed that, the protest march took them round some major streets and ended with the NLC delivering a letter to the state Governor.

The Head of Service, Amos Sunday Edgar used the opportunity to announce that workers should use Thursday and Friday to update their PVCs.

Nobel Laureates for networking, self-reflection, career exploration, mentoring, and technical discussions from July 18 to 20, 2022, in Hamilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., United States of America. The medical doctor was selected based on his passion for chemical sciences, commitment to using biochemistry to address larger societal challenges, and dedication to continuous personal and professional development.

During the event, his team which presented a project plan that addresses the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) emerged as one of the best two.

All expenses and incidentals were covered for all attendees. Dr Ekundayo Samuel is a mentee of Prof. Oyeronke A.

Oduola of the Department of Biochemistry, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dr Samuel is the current Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association, Nigeria, a one-time University of Ibadan Scholar, and a 2017 Commonwealth Split-site Ph.D. Scholar to the University of Bath, U.K. He was recently awarded the 2020 prestigious leadership

Banditry: Tambuwal commiserates with Tureta LG residents

From ANENE AIKE,
SOKOTO

SOKOTO State Governor, Rt. Hon. Aminu Tambuwal on Friday, commiserated with victims of banditry in Duma village in Tureta local government area of the state.

Tambuwal, who led a team of security personnel and other government officials on a condolence observed Juma'at

prayers where special prayers were offered for the repose of the souls of the victims.

Bandits attacked the village on Wednesday night and killed at least 28 persons even as they rustled livestock and kidnapped some locals still in their captivity.

A resident, Garba Mailambu said that the bandits rode on motorcycles and were firing

indescribably resulting in some deaths as some fleeing residents drowned when they dived into the nearby river for their life.

Another resident said the bandits forced the abducted persons mostly youths to lead the rustled livestock out of town just as they demanded for large quantities of petrol as ransom to release those abducted.



Wabba

NEWS

JOWASCO trains staff on power and interest programme

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Jos Water Services Corporation (JOWASCO), has trained staff on power and interest project through Consultancy Services for Plateau State Institutional Technical Assistance (ITA) and Organisational Technical Assistance (OTA) for Plateau State Urban Water Supply Project.

This took place recently at the conference hall of the Jos Water Services Corporation (JOWASCO) where all Heads of Departments, representative of WASH Media, WASH Initiative and Non-governmental Organisation (NGOs) were participants.

Speaking shortly after the training, the Acting Managing Director of JOWASCO, Mrs. Stella Buge, disclosed that the programme was organised at the instance of consultants who are currently here to train them on Organisational and Institutional Technical Assistance of Urban Water Project.

Represented by her Personal Assistant and Project Admin and Human Resources Officer of the Plateau State Urban Water Project, Mr. Stephen Mamwan Mankilik, the MD said. "The idea is that, in the course of our interaction with them for the past few months, they have gone round to interact with people in communities where our water works have been situated.

"They have come to see that some of these people have power, but they do not have interest in what we are doing. Some of them have the power and also have interest in what we are doing while others have low interest, but



Buge

have the power. So, the idea behind this training is for us to identify those stakeholders according to their power and interest", she highlighted.

Earlier, the Gender and Community Advocacy Specialist for Engagement of Class for the programme, Mrs. Rucky Nzeikwe, commended the participants for their excellent presentations saying, "engaging them brought some issues to fore that we did not know it will come out. So, they were really able to identify those stakeholders that have interest and power.

"The only way forward now is to bring out the communication plan and share with them and as soon as we do that, we will identify the communication message based on that message and start communicating with stakeholders properly to be able to influence change. This is because right now,

JOWASCO is undergoing reform processes", she disclosed.

One of the participants, Mr. Antipas Gabriel, described the training as worthwhile and important. She said "today, this training as far as I am concerned has made people to know their different levels of whether they are low, medium or high level of communication because without communication they will not understand you".

Also, the Procurement Officer of the project, Mrs. Edwina Katman Puepet said. "This workshop is quite a mind changing workshop for us to be able to translate what we have been taught over the week. What they are trying to do is to change our mindsets from the core civil service attitude to a corporation and our ability to communicate with communities, our stakeholders.

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE Global Affairs Canada funded intervention, MEDA Nigeria WAY Project has reiterated their commitment to providing technical support to Bauchi State Agency for Sustainable Microfinance in the implementation of the Agency's ongoing Microfinance Institution Building Programme for Poverty Reduction (MIFIN) in the state.

This was disclosed by the visiting Senior Director, West Africa, MEDA Programs, Pierre Diégane Kadet (Ph.D), during his visit to the State Microfinance Agency recently.

Dr. Kadet explained that MEDA Nigeria WAY Project is excited on it's collaboration with the Agency saying that, "as MEDA Project in the State is time bound, it is always a welcome development to see government and other partners keying into what was started by others. This is inline with the sustainability plan of our project in Bauchi State".

The Senior Director, who was accompanied by MEDA State Programme Manager, Mrs. Grace Forseng and other management officials, further expressed his optimism on the ongoing MIFIN Programme of the Agency. The director stated that MEDA Project in Bauchi State will share some of it's approaches, lessons learnt and challenges with a view to having the agency learn these approaches and ways on how to mitigate some of the challenges encountered during MEDA's Project Implementation.

Dr. Kadet also commended Bauchi State Government for demonstrating the political will and also creating the enabling environment for the successes so far recorded under the ongoing MEDA Nigeria WAY Project.

In his response, the Director General (DG) of Bauchi State Agency for Sustainable Microfinance, Alhaji Muhammad Nura Dan'madami thanked the Regional Director of West Africa MEDA

MEDA to provide technical support to Microfinance Agency.



Mohammed

Programmes and the MEDA State team for the visit which he described as timely and historic.

The DG informed the visiting team that the agency was established by the Bauchi State Government to coordinate the activities of Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) and other community based financing entities in relation to supporting Small and Medium Scale Enterprises and group based cooperatives, with a view to reducing poverty among vulnerable groups in the state.

Dan'madami further informed the visitors that since his assumption in office as DG, the agency had carried out an extensive study on how Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) carry out their activities in relation to community/group based financing of petty businesses.

He pointed out that the study had revealed series of challenges that have reduced such MFIs to almost non-performing entities, thus negating the primary objective of setting them up, which was to support rural based community groups in their efforts to grow and sustain their petty enterprises.

According to the DG, the major challenges of such MFIs are lack of technical capacity to run the MFIs, non availability of capital for loans, over bloated overhead costs and also reaching out to the hard-to-reach communities.

"It is against this background that the agency designed a programme known as Microfinance Institution Building Programme for Poverty Reduction (MIFIN)", Dan'madami said.

The DG of the Agency informed Dr. Kekat and his team that MIFIN programme is aimed at strengthening the capacity of microfinance institutions and member based groups with a view to establishing linkages for a viable and sustainable microfinance system. He stressed that, "the ultimate goal of MIFIN programme is to enhance access of the economically active poor to finance for improved business

productivity and poverty reduction".

While commending MEDA for their interest in the activities of the agency, Dan'madami said the Agency also saw a window of opportunity in collaboration with MEDA Project and quickly reached out to them. He pointed out that, "Already the Agency has signed an MoU with MEDA for technical support and transfer of knowledge on how the Project has been implementing it's programme, which has recorded tremendous success in Seven (7) LGAs of the State".

He said the agency intends to pick up from where MEDA stops and also upscale it across the entire 20 LGAs of the state, using some of the existing group based structures established by MEDA.

He said that though the challenges are huge, but with MEDA's years of experience in triggering group based financial structures and existing collaboration, the agency hopes to learn and build on that before the exit of MEDA Project in the state.

"This collaboration will translate into up scaling the already established MEDA's member based groups in the 7 LGAs of the State you are intervening, by replicating same across the 20 LGAs of Bauchi State". Dan'madami said.

The DG said that he hopes MEDA, under the signed MoU, will train MIFIN staff on the MEDA's adopted model and also provide project implementation support, while the agency on its part will manage the existing MEDA clients for financial inclusion linkages, up scaling and sustainability."

The Director General disclosed that MIFIN program is targeting at least 100 beneficiaries in each of 323 wards of Bauchi State.

"The programme will be implemented in the 323 wards spread across the 20 Local Government Areas, with an estimated 807,500 poorest of the poor and vulnerable groups that includes: women, youth and persons living with disability", Dan'madami confirmed.

Wammakko is a father, political leader

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

THE Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Abubakar Chika Malami, SAN, has described the Chairman Senate Committee on Defense, Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko,

Sarkin Yamman sokoto, as a father and political leader.

Malami spoke recently when he visited Senator Wamakko at his Gawon Nama Residence

Sokoto for Sallah homage.

The Minister informed the Senator that, he was on transit to Abuja and deemed it impetive to call on Senator Wamakko as a mark of respect and loyalty according to tradition.

Malami further explained that, "he came to Wamakko to rejoice with him as their political father, leader and distinguished senator".

He expressed happiness on the caliber of people seen at Senator Wamakko's residence that came for similar Sallah homage.

Minister Malami thanked Senator Wamakko for the Condolence message extended to him over the demise of his four childhood friends who died last week Thursday in a ghastly car accident on their way to Kebbi state from Abuja for Sallah festival.

The Minister thanked Senator Wamakko for the reception accorded him during the visit.

Earlier, while receiving the Minister and his Entourage, Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko expressed shock over the death of Minister's

- MALAMI

friends.

The Senator described the deceased persons as humble, friendly and respected individuals, saying that, a huge vacuum had really been created by the demised of the Said close associates of the Minister.

Senator Wamakko prayed to almighty Allah to forgive the deceased all their sins and give the Minister the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

The senator used the visit to congratulates the Minister as he added a new wife into his family last week.

He thanked the Minister for the visit and prayed Allah to take them back to their destination safely.

Special prayer for the repose of the departed Souls was offered by Mallam Bashir Gidan Kanawa during the visit.

The Minister was accompanied on the visit by the former Deputy Governor of Kebbi State Alh. Bello Dantani Magaji, Executive Director Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority, Alh. Faruk Madugu among



Malami

NEWS

Forum sues for effective reportage of humanitarian intervention

From DORCAS PANKYES
Abuja

A two-day Communications Consultative Forum to chart a course towards effective reportage of humanitarian interventions undertaken by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development is underway at the Nigeria Army Resource Centre Abuja.

The Communications Consultative Forum themed 'Building Effective Communication Strategies and Competencies through Partnerships in the Humanitarian Space' is being convened by the Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq to brainstorm with Stakeholders, partners and communications experts on ways of strengthening communications activities of the Ministry and all humanitarian actors in Nigeria.

Minister Umar Farouq stated in her address, that Humanitarian crisis, disasters and social issues were complex in nature and therefore required the adoption of a coherent, cohesive and coordinated approach to tackle the communication complexities to multiple players and the public.

"In view of the important nature of the mandate of the Ministry as the arm of Government that is directly involved in the socio-economic well-being of millions of Nigerians, the need to continually deploy effective communication strategies and scale such engagements cannot be overemphasized. This will ensure that the impact of the Ministry's interventions in the lives of those who receive them are properly projected and communicated through consistent interface and connection with Nigerians. It also provides opportunity for feedback that is valuable in improving the programmes and interventions.

"It is with a view to improve communications to ensure better understanding of the Ministry and its mandate that this Consultative Forum is being organized.

"The Communication Strategy to be developed is not intended to duplicate or replace any Partner/Stakeholders or existing communication, media or advocacy activities or tamper with their brand identity. Rather it will identify strategic ways that joint communications can help each to achieve their vision and the community achieve their collective vision and goals."

Minister Umar Farouq also praised the media for playing a critical role in communicating programmes, interventions and activities of the Ministry.

Welcoming the participants, the Permanent Secretary Dr Nasir Sani-Gwarzo mni, NPOM who was represented by the Director, Legal Department, Mr Garba Haganawega said



Farouq

that effective communications will ensure that the tremendous work being done by the Ministry is properly communicated to the public.

"The vision to set up a communication strategy is to improve the communication of programmes and interventions of the ministry. This also includes the role of partners and stakeholders in executing the goals and objectives of providing immediate relief and durable solutions for those affected by humanitarian crisis."

One of the resource persons, Major General Ibrahim Muna Yusuf who presented a paper titled 'Counter Insurgency Operations; The Utility of Strategic Communications as a Non-Kinetic Approach' commended Umar Farouq for the ministry's support to humanitarian efforts in the North East, especially the movement of humanitarian relief items to Nigerian refugees in the Lake Chad Islands.

"The mandate of the military

FG set to commence 3rd NAP development process

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, in collaboration with UN Women has convened a two-day stakeholders' engagement to review Nigeria's 2nd National Action Plan (NAP) and commence the 3rd NAP development process using multi sectoral approach within the framework of Women Peace and Security (WPS) in Nigeria (phase II).

This came in press statement signed by the Communication Specialist, UN Women, Faith Bwibo, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital Thursday, shortly after a National Stakeholders Consultative workshop for the development of Nigeria's 3rd NAP on Women, Peace and Security held in Abuja.

The workshop according to the statement, was to create an opportunity for stakeholders to review the normative framework that sought to ensure that women's needs, voices and perspectives to prevent, resolve and recover from conflict and build sustainable and enhanced peace.

The Communication Specialist, said, "it is in light of the above that the Federal

anywhere there is conflict, is to facilitate the work of the humanitarian community. We are also mandated to create a conducive atmosphere to enable the humanitarian community to do their job which also makes it easy for us to do our job".

He urged the media to always down play activities of insurgents by not giving them the platform to air their views and also called on stakeholders in the media to promote the achievements of the military in the fight against insurgency instead of criticizing them.

Discussions and ideas from this forum are expected to lead to the development of a Communication Strategy that will serve as a guide for effective communication for the Ministry and all actors in the Humanitarian space in Nigeria.

Participants were drawn from partner MDAs and organizations, CSOS, Security Agencies and other stakeholders.

Ministry of Women Affairs, in collaboration with UN Women convened a two-day stakeholders' engagement to review Nigeria's 2nd NAP, including a summary of key results, best practices, challenges and lessons learnt.

"They also adopted a roadmap for the development of Nigeria's 3rd NAP, including emerging issues, priorities and strategies to enhance implementation, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and learnings and Set up a 10-Member Technical Working Committee (TWC) for technical support, guidance and advice for the development of Nigeria's 3rd NAP inaugurated.

"Nigeria's 2nd NAP covers 2017-2020, and the government is obliged to develop the 3rd NAP which is long overdue. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs is set to commence the 3rd NAP development process, using a multi-sectoral approach, with support from UN Women, within the framework of a Programme on Women Peace and Security in Nigeria (Phase II), funded by the Government of Norway", Bwibo disclosed.

It would be recalled that, in response to the need to address WPS issues in the

From ABBAS GUNGURA,
Bauchi

A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), known as Rahma Women Development Programme has urged governments at all levels to invest in empowering women farmers in Agricultural activities to get ride of poverty in Society.

Rahma, a popular Bauchi-based NGO in collaboration with Women Economic Coalition (WEC), urged Bauchi state government to empower women in Agriculture to reduce hunger in the society.

Hajiya Binta Adamu stated this on behalf of the coalition during an advocacy visit to the state Ministry of Agriculture recently in Bauchi.

According to her, funding programs on women's empowerment would increase agricultural productivity.

Hajiya Binta reasoned that the support of women empowerment in agriculture was associated with higher levels of productivity, change and efficiency in the society.

She explained that women's empowerment really improves development and shows a positive correlation between gender equality and economic growth.

Hajiya Binta appealed to the state government to ensure increased budgetary allocation and prompt release of funds for women economic empowerment programmes on Agriculture.

She urged the state government to disseminate and simplify the budget to the

NGO urges Govt to empower women in Agriculture

understanding of citizens to mobilize participation in its processes.

In her contributions, the State Coordinator, Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED) Mrs. Pharis Obidah, explained that the Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) project was implemented by Rahma Women Development Programme with the support of PAWED.

Adding that WEE project will make a positive impact on the lives of women in the state

and the country at large.

"WEE project is being implemented in collaboration with Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development PAWED," she said.

Also speaking at the occasion, Dr. Chiroma Malle, Director Human Resources, State Ministry of Agriculture who spoke on behalf of the Ministry, assured the NGO of the state government's support during implementation of the WEE project in Bauchi State.



Bala

UN women reviews Nigeria's second NAP

From DORCAS PANKYES,
Abuja

A national stakeholders consultative workshop for the development of Nigeria's 3rd NAP on women, peace and security was convened in Abuja to create an

opportunity for stakeholders to review the normative framework that seeks to ensure that women's needs, voices, and perspectives to prevent, resolve and recover from conflict and build sustainable peace is enhanced.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, unanimously passed by the Security Council on 31st October 2000, is the first of several Resolutions on "Women, Peace and Security" (WPS). The ground-breaking resolution builds on a body of international human rights laws and legal instruments. It recognizes that armed conflict impacts women differently from men and demands the protection of women and girls during armed conflict and post-conflict situations.

In response to the need to address WPS issues in the Nigerian context and build on global momentum, the federal government of Nigeria launched its first and second NAPS on 27th August 2013 and May 2017, respectively and the policy document was developed through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, with support from UN Women, European Union, and DFID's Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP).

According to the statement, the five pillars of the 2nd NAP were: Prevention and Disaster Preparedness; Participation and Representation; Protection and Prosecution; Crises Management, Early Recovery and Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Partnerships-Coordination and Management respectively.

However, the opening ceremony featured special remarks by the Hon. Minister of Women Affairs, H.E. Dame Pauline Tallen (represented by Mrs. Christiana Oliko, Acting Director) and UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Beatrice Eyong (represented by Mr. Peter Mancha, Programme Specialist).

and DFID's Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP). The five pillars of the 2nd NAP are: (i) Prevention and Disaster Preparedness; (ii) Participation and Representation; (iii) Protection and Prosecution; (iv) Crises Management, Early Recovery and Post-Conflict Reconstruction; and (v) Partnerships-Coordination and Management.

Over time, the NAP localization has gained stakeholders' support, hence, the development and implementation of State Action Plans (SAPs) in 15 states. These are Adamawa, Bayelsa, Borno, Bauchi, Benue, Delta, Nasarawa, Gombe, Kaduna, Kano, Kogi, Kwara, Plateau, Rivers and Yobe states. The above is in addition to annual budget allocation for SAP implementation by some state, several functional WPS groups and networks were established, including WPS Networks, Women Mediation Networks, Women Peace Mentors, Media Networks and HeForShe Networks of Male Gender Champions, thereby increasing local ownership and support for the WPS agenda.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Wabba



Osifo



Osadeke

FG, ASUU strike: Need for truce

Continued from page 10

women of easy virtue. It is also a known fact too that, the ordinary (poor) Nigerian can ill-afford to pay the tuition fees of his children in private higher institutions. Hitherto, his saving grace remains, higher public tertiary institutions. And now, the death knell seems to be sounding. Come to think of it, it takes an extraordinary student to stay at home for almost one academic session and yet the society expects a tangible academic output from such a student. Nigerians don't seem to know to the fullest, the Federal Government-ASUU imbroglio that has become protracted. It reminds one of the old saying, "when two elephants fight, the grass suffers".

"Even at this," according to Paul Jatau, in his **Random Musing** column (**THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, Wednesday, May 11, 2022) "ASUU and the Federal Government have not seen the need to sheath swords, come to a round table and sincerely find a way forward for our education and the future of the children who have already been branded "lazy youths". Both parties to all intent and purposes, fail to grasp the implications of their recalcitrance on the future of our country.

"They are so engrossed in fighting for the immediate that the dangers posed by their actions seem to escape them.

Indeed, both parties are oblivious of the lessons of history which would definitely haunt them tomorrow. On the other hand, the arrogance exhibited by those who represent government must be checked. We cannot expect thugs whose values are questionable to lead a process that is meant to grow our society".

Indeed, in this unending disagreement between the Federal Government and ASUU, everyone becomes a loser and the nation suffers for it. Dakuku Peterside also noted that, "in this disagreement, it is crucial that ASUU comes to the table with an open mind ready to take any cause of actions that will make all parties winners in the pursuit of quality education".

Hear him: "ASUU must see the reality of our economic circumstances - the government is struggling to pay salaries and we literally borrow to finance government activities. Our revenue to debt service ratio has moved from 95 per cent to 116 per cent. The implication is that all our income is not enough to service our debts. Crude oil theft have reached an embarrassing crescendo, and the government is spending billions of dollars yearly to fight insurgency, bandits, terrorists and secessionists all over the country. The global crisis of post-COVID-19 pandemic and the debilitating

effects of the Russian-Ukraine war have created energy and food crisis world-wide".

He (Dakuku Peterside) however, added that, "there is also the counter-narrative that a government that spends about N42 billion yearly to maintain the several aircraft in the President fleet, spends 70 per cent of its budget on recurrent expenditure and allow wastage in the management of the economy cannot in good conscience say it cannot fund education, I can rightly paraphrase John F. Kennedy to put this in proper perspective "if the pursuit of learning is not defended by the educated citizens (leaders), it will not be defended by all".

And what is to be done? With government seeming insolvency, something must give way. ASUU itself, as a body of researchers must take the lead in this direction. Though, increase in salaries of lecturers is important to the survival of the system, funding to my mind, seems to be at the centre stage. Inadvertently, ASUU is not looking at this direction.

According to Paul Jatau, "Evidently, also, ASUU has refused to explore new grounds to help fund education. If private universities can strive and succeed without subventions from government, it is thus possible to find ways and means of surviving in an era

with leaders who seem to care less about the future".

And for Dakuku Peterside, "ASUU, as a body of researchers must come to the table with bouquet of innovative ideas on university funding that will rely less on government, students fees payment models, university industry alliance, private sector driven convergence and University entrepreneurship to boost the funding of our tertiary institutions".

ASUU can advocate for a joint government and university student loan arrangement that may give a lasting solution to Nigeria's university funding issues. Academics are great researchers and I firmly believe that it behoves on them to come up with the best formula for solving university funding crises that will permanently eliminate ASUU strikes.

Though the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) did its bit by organizing nation-wide protest in solidarity with ASUU, on

Tuesday 26, July and Wednesday 27, July, 2022 more needs to be done. Men and women of goodwill, honour and valor should do the needful by adding their voice(s) for this disturbing impasse to come to an end. The educational welfare of the students is of paramount importance to the nation. Nothing is too much to put in the system so as to make it more functional, productive, dynamic and conducive. It is indeed sad that, Nigerians who can afford it, have been sending their children to neighbouring countries for studies. For a country that prides itself as "the giant of Africa" and for a nation that hitherto had some of the vibrant, pace-setter universities in the African continent, the present turn of events is worrisome, shameful and unacceptable. All hands must and should be on deck to salvage the ugly trend.

"Though the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) did its bit by organizing nation-wide protest in solidarity with ASUU, on Tuesday 26, July and Wednesday 27, July, 2022 more needs to be done. Men and women of goodwill, honour and valor should do the needful by adding their voice(s) for this disturbing impasse to come to an end."

METRO-FOCUS

Coloured hair, the new trend in town

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

THE Nigerian youth includes citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, aged from 18–35 years and are being characterized as ambitious, enthusiastic, energetic and promising.

They are considered vulnerable in society because of the rapid pace of change they are experiencing at this time in their lives.

Again, youths are involved in fashion today, which has the ability to change and shape their lives through its personal connection to the society. We all have to wear clothes and every piece of design that might come in the name of fashion, creativity, style to make us different and attractive in the public.

Fashion is not just about wearing trendy and stylish clothes, but it has a deeper meaning than that. It holds a very important place in our lives and makes us complete and unique.

Recently, METRO FOCUS observed a new trend of dyed coloured hair style amongst youths and adults in our society today.

The dyed hair fashion has taken a new dimension, shifting from the natural hair colour which is black, to a coloured hair in the name of fashion or life style.

Medical report has indicated that people who dye their hair regularly may have a higher risk of cancer, especially bladder cancer and breast cancer. Hair dye contains certain chemicals that have been held responsible for these diseases or related to.

On this note, METRO FOCUS engaged some youths within Jos North Local Government Area, to sample opinions of persons who have dyed their hair in different colours for certain obvious reasons.

Amongst people interviewed were Emmanuel Ajani, popularly known as skills, a computer operator and resident of Angwan Rukuba, Jos.

He wears dyed hair, because that is what distinguishes him among his friends, football mates, while on pitch. He plays for Plateau Homers Football Club (FC), Jos.

Ajani shared his views that he had no idea or information about the side effects of dying hair. He does it for fun and style. He changes the colour of the dye on monthly basis, spending almost N2,000 in a month including other expenses for maintenance of the hair style.

A saloonist, in Nassarawa Gwong, Rifkatu Sarki who had worn coloured hair for more than a year, said that she has found a new hair style as a saloonist.



This hair style has made me look different and unique among others. It is very attractive and many people want to wear it. "About 50 customers of her both male and female have patronised her business from January to date, because of the way they want to look".

"The dyed hair is in different colours, depending on individual choice and how long they want to wear it some want it for a short period of time, while some want it for a long period of time. And the price range from N500 and above, depending on the customer pocket". She added

METRO FOCUS gathered that women Hair, is the crown and glory of every woman. Fashionable women are ever looking for ways to enhance their looks. And like every other fashion, hairstyles are dynamic and changes from time to time.

Recently, both men and women have started to either

dye their hair in unbelievable colours or use unnatural-coloured wigs. You find them wearing such colours like pale pink, deep purple, electric blue, turquoise, emerald green, ruby red, and grey on their heads. Other colours include silver, grey, platinum, blonde, silver, violet, and even green.

A mother of 4 children, who refused her name to be in print said that coloured hair style have a way of adding glamour to fashion and personally as a beautician, I love to go with what is trendy. Fashion has no boundary, age or limit.

She expressed that all what you need to do, is to find the colour that matches your skin colour, your outfit for the day or the occasion you want to attend

A recent report from a medical expert, Prof. Folahan Adekola of the Department of Chemistry, University of Ilorin, has warned that dying hair increases risk of cancer.

He noted that hair dye

formulations contain chemicals known as Yombo-fitta and Yombo-tumtum, which are freely sold in Nigerian markets.

He explained that research reveals the presence of highly toxic metals such as lead and arsenic and other carcinogenic compound in the dyes.

Adekola pointed out that given the widespread use of hair dye products, even a small increase may have a considerable public health impact.

"The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) reported that hairdressers and barbers are at increased risks of bladder cancer due to exposure to these chemicals," he added.

The chemists suggested that it was important to therefore eliminate human exposure for sustainable development in the country

Indeed, fashion is part of our daily life and it changes with time, events etc. It is suggested that many

approaches to a revolution of fashion ranging from clothes, foot wears, bags, jewelries and so on, need to be done in a proper way that would not affect life negatively.

Unfortunately, today many people who love to wear coloured dyed hair don't know the side effects of such fashion that would endanger their lives, if care is not taken.

Studies have shown in Africa that about 700 people die with cancer every year, while 1.1 million new cases are discovered every year, let alone the entire figure in the world.

In Nigeria, medical experts have warned that the burden of cancer in the country is getting worse and increasing, as statistics show that about 10,000 cancer deaths are recorded yearly with 250,000 new cases.

Fashion is good, but caution should be adhered to with some style in fashion. It is said that only the living celebrate life, not the death.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG RECEIVES UNICEF, BAUCHI FIELD OFFICE

Governor Lalong (left) exchanging views with the UNICEF Country representative in-charge of Bauchi Field Office, Dr. Tushar Rane



Governor Lalong (left) exchanging views with the UNICEF Country representative in-charge of Bauchi field office, Dr. Tushar Rane



L - R: Hon. Noel Dongjur, Chief of Staff Government House, Commissioner of Police, Batholomew Onyeka and Hon. Dan Philip Hirkop, Commissioner, Higher Education



A cross section of Senior Officials of Government during the UNICEF visit



Governor Lalong, Dr. Rane and others in a group photograph



Dr. Rane (right) presenting some UNICEF programmes to Governor Lalong of Plateau State



A cross section of Government functionaries during the visit



UNICEF Dr. Tushar (middle) delivering his courtesy call message



Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner, Information (left) in a handshake with Dr. Tushar Rane

Photos: DANLADI DUK



Road Runner
Michael Agada
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SAFER TOGETHER

The dirty dozen

THESE are basically drivers' behavior and attitude that are often prone to road traffic crash.

They include:

Tailgating

This is a dangerous habit and should be avoided at all times regardless of your haste. Many motorists do not realize that at 60 mph, it takes an average vehicle between 120 and 160 feet to stop. You won't stand a chance if you are travelling at speed and the car in front of you stops suddenly. If you are being tailgated or bullied into driving faster by a vehicle behind you, allow it to overtake you at the earliest opportunity. Life has no duplicate. Take no chances.

Stopping and Yielding

Stopping for a red light or stop sign is one of the most basic rules of driving. A red light or stop sign means you stop completely. Amber means slow down. If you have the time and distance to brake when the light changes to amber, do so. A yield sign also means what it says. It doesn't mean go faster, come to a complete stop or muzzle your way into traffic.

Poor Indicating:

We've all driven behind someone who suddenly decides to make a right or left turn without indicating. Chances are it caused you to slam on your brakes. Likewise, on dual carriageways or expressways, many drivers see no reason to indicate when changing lanes. This, to say the least is suicidal. Failure to indicate your intention clearly to other drivers and road users cause crashes, so get blinking.

Plain Bad Manners

This includes a multitude of sins familiar to us all such as cursing, obscene gestures, excessive honking, loud stereo, refusing to merge, failure to give way and not allowing people to exit from side roads. Courtesy and consideration make driving safer and more enjoyable. If you think about it, courtesy and consideration for others is the most logical way to keep traffic moving smoothly.

Yellow Boxes

Entering a yellow box when you know you are not going to clear it, is a cardinal sin in driving. It is not only a selfish but equally an inconsiderate behaviour that really gets on the wick of other drivers. You are also likely to be on the receiving end of every curse and obscene gesture there are from the drivers you are blocking. A lot of crashes are caused by traffic trying to swerve around protruding cars thereby cause traffic gridlock at the yellow box.

Ignorance

This trait in a motorist can be fatal. Ignorance of the law, it is often said, is not excusable. Make sure you know and adhere to the road rules as well as road signs and markings. Don't forget to obey the stipulated speed limits on all categories of roads.

Overtaking

Keep right except to pass. Before overtaking, make sure you indicate well in

advance and avoid overtaking two or three vehicles at once. A good tip is to be sure that you can see both headlights of the car you have just overtaken before moving in again. This is to avoid cutting sharply after overtaking.

Going Too Slow

This may not be a crime per se but it sure is a major stress factor for other road users. It also causes motorist to take hazardous chances in a bid to pass the slow-moving car at the earliest possible opportunity. It is important to keep up with the flow of traffic wherever you are.

Lane Hopping

Lane hoppers cause other motorists to be hopping mad, so don't be a road hog! Stay in your lane, don't ride in the centre lane, driving from side to side, zigzag through traffic, bully your way into another lane or hog the fast lane. When changing lanes, look before you leap because even with your mirrors adjusted properly, you can't see everything.

Mobile Phones /Use of Phones While Driving (UPWD)

It is dangerous to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving. Use of phone includes: making or receiving calls, texting, chatting, Facebooking etc. drivers should find a safe location to stop before taking or making calls. Use of phones while driving is outlawed in Nigeria and attracts severe sanctions.

Roundabouts

When leaving by the first exit, the driver should enter roundabout in the right-hand lane. Signal a right turn and leave in the exit. If you require the second exit again, enter in the right lane, however do not signal until you pass the first exit. Then signal right and take your turn. If you require a subsequent turn from the roundabout, enter in the left-hand lane and signal left. As you pass the exit before yours, signal and when appropriate, move to the other lane and leave at your required exit.

Concentration and Observation

These two are closely linked. It is necessary to see not only what is immediately in front of your vehicle (foreground) but in the far and middle distance too. It is important to see, not only what lies around, but to assess potential dangers and act in accordance. This includes such details as observing road surfaces and how they may impact on your driving.

All drivers should understand road signs and markings and obey them. Again, it is not enough to have seen the signs, you must adjust your driving accordingly. Remember: there are four main headings: warning signs, Regulatory signs, Informative signs and Road markings.

NOTE:

Common driving errors like these are dangerous and sometimes, even deadly. Start being aware of how you drive and take no chances with bad driving habits. Safe motoring.

NEWS

Chairman, NERC tasks consumers on knowing their rights

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

CHAIRMAN of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Mr. Sanusi Garba, has explained that it has become important for consumers to know their rights and obligations in the sector, hence the ongoing, nationwide, public enlightenment programme.

Recently, NERC and the National Orientation Agency (NOA) signed an agreement to collaborate in this exercise aimed at sensitizing Nigerians on the working of the power sector.

Garba said the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), was critical because the commission was mandated by the power sector law to protect consumers in the electricity industry.

Represented at the event by the NERC commissioner, legal, licensing and compliance, Mr. Dafe Akpeneye, the chairman stated that as a sector that is very technical, it is important that consumers understand how it is managed.

"Our sector requires a lot of sensitisation and we are meeting with NOA because we know that we cannot do



Garba

the sensitisation on our own. We have a very large country with a population of over 200 million people in 774 local government areas.

In his comments, the Director General of the NOA, Mr. Garba Abari, admitted that there is a huge trust gap in the sector which needs to be urgently bridged.

He stressed that the issue

of electricity has dominated national discourse despite the efforts the government has put in to address the problems.

It would be recalled that NERC recently signed an MoU with the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) on resolving consumer complaints.

COCIN Academy celebrates speech, prize giving day

By JIDAUNA DARING

IT has been asserted that the pillars on which children always lean on as they journey through the path of life in education rest squarely on both parents and teachers.

Feature Editor of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** JOS, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima made this assertion in her capacity as a Guest Speaker during the Speech and Prize Giving Day of COCIN Academy Nassarawa Gwong, Jos, the Plateau State capital, on Friday.

Mrs. Yarima who presented a paper titled; "Cordial Relationship Between Parents and Teachers for a Sound Education of the child", commended the organizers for putting together this historic event, particularly for choosing such an interesting topic which would go a long way to address some of the issues faced in schools.

She said parents and stakeholders have a greater role to play towards moulding the children to become better persons in life. She pointed out that some of the hurdles facing a child though enormous could be tackled when proper strategies are put in place through pragmatic determination.

Mrs. Yarima noted that some of these children are subjected to hard labour, especially at home which has distracted their attention from learning. She added that teachers on their part should stop bullying and

molesting the children to avoid fear that can be traumatic towards their total well being in society.

The guest speaker explained that there are many problems militating against cordial relationship between parents and teachers in schools, if the truth must be told. She stressed that many parent even amongst educated one have not prioritized their children's education amid the contemporary challenges presently faced in Nigeria.

She maintained that, to achieve the desired results, all hands must be on deck towards transforming the educational sector by helping these children before we all fail in this mission. She called on both federal and state governments to come to the assistance of particularly mission owned schools considering their roles in building children to becoming responsible leaders of tomorrow.

Mrs. Yarima urged all to continue praying for the children and advised them where necessary for the betterment of the society. According to Yarima parents and teachers should in their best ability make children their friends - so as to understand at what part they can be of help to them.

In his remarks, proprietor of the school, Rev. Cletus Gwam described the occasion as a glorious day celebration and commended the board members and teachers for sustaining or

keeping the school alive despite challenges faced as a result of insecurity within the community and beyond.

Rev. Gwam said that the labour of the teachers would never go in vain and told the graduants that foundation has already been laid for them, adding that what is left for them to do is to build on it, and also charge the pupils to always read hard. He added that plans are in top gear to establish secondary section of the school so as to continue promoting education sector as a church in the state and beyond.

Earlier in her remarks, Head Mistress of the school, Mrs. Christiana Fom expressed delight and thanked parents, guidance and all invited guests for gracing the occasion. She said that the school has been moulding good character students who are doing excellently well in the society. From urged the graduants to be good ambassadors of the school wherever they find themselves in the society.

SUNDAY STANDARD reports that the event featured song presentations by pupils, presentation of poems, memory verse, and dedication of the school album by the proprietor, presentation of choreography and presentation of gifts/certificates among others.

NEWS

Insecurity: Enenche, Obi, worshippers pray for Nigeria

THE Presidential flag-bearer of the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi and other dignitaries on Friday night joined worshippers as the Senior Pastor, Dunamis International Gospel Centre, Dr Paul Enenche, Abuja led the congregation to pray for peace and security of the country.

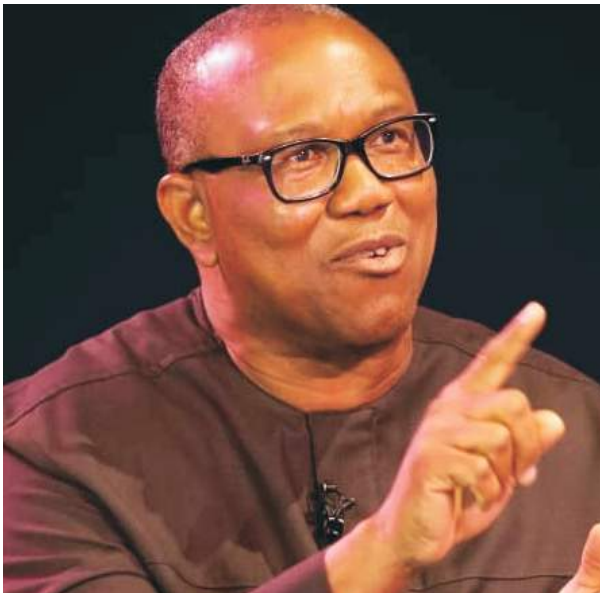
Thousands of worshippers had thronged the church for its Mid-Year Praise and Worship Night, to seek the face of God over the state of security and other challenges facing the country.

Notable among personalities at the programme were Gov. Emmanuel Udom of Akwa Ibom and Mrs Edith Okowa, Wife of Delta Governor and Vice Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Also in attendance were the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Yakubu Dogara and South African High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Thami Mseleku amongst others.

Enenche, while praying for the nation, said that Nigeria was at war with the forces of hell and prayer was a potent weapon to defeat them.

Reading from the book of Numbers 10:9-10, he prayed for the rebirth of the nation and a new Nigeria and prayed that the nation would not go down.



Obi

The pastor urged Christians to continue to pray for the peace of the country.

as 'Glory Sanctuary' was filled to the brim.

The church programme, which is a special praise and worship night tagged, "Judgmental Praise" drew gospel music ministers from across Nigeria and beyond.

Among the gospel artists that attended include Nathaniel Bassey, Chioma Jesus, Buchi, Frank Edward, Mercy Chinwo, Owie Abutu, Dusin Oyekan and many in-house music ministers.

Enenche and his family also ministered in songs as well as the Lords Trumpeter.

The major highlight of the programme was intermittent prayer for the nation and praise and worship to God.

NAN observed that the

church maintained a security system that carried out thorough checks on both vehicles and pedestrians entering the premises.

There were layers of security checks from the gate while the main entrance of the auditorium have two baggage scanners where all bags were screened.

Some worshippers who spoke with NAN alluded their decision to come for the night event to their belief that God is the ultimate protector of man. A worshipper, Mr Mike Johnson, said he did not expect people to turn out for the church programme because of the fear of insecurity in FCT in recent times.

He said he refused to give

in to fear and believed that no evil could triumph in the presence of God.

"Yes there is tension in the city and many people are afraid but the children of God should not be afraid of evil because fear is the greatest enemy of man," he said.

Another congregant, Mrs Comfort Onjeh, said that she never at any point entertain such fear of insecurity while planning to attend the programme.

Onjeh urged Christians to pray more instead of being afraid of what the enemies of the country were doing.

She urged the government and the security agencies to do their best in addressing the situation so that citizens could feel safe and move freely.

Kaduna Governor renames structures/roads after individuals

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

KADUNA State Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, approved the renaming of 28 structures/roads after individuals who have served in various capacities in the state.

The governor announced this at the unveiling of renamed public buildings and roads at various locations within Kaduna Metropolis.

He said, it was to honour them and pay a well-deserved tribute to them. 26 of these structures/roads are within Kaduna Metropolis, one in Zaria and one in Kafanchan. Governor el-Rufai also described the exercise as an

opportunity to appreciate history. Speaking at the event, he said, "our government started the policy of street naming and house numbering to make it easy for letters to be delivered taxis and buses to take people to their home this has been implemented in the last few years," he said.

The governor said that the urban renewal programme has added agencies to achieving further results in this and they have continued to do that.

"We use this as an opportunity as a chance to honour those who have served this state and our country or humanity at large.

"Honouring those who have served is an obligation every set of leaders holds to those who came before, sometimes sudden and unexpected event make it impossible to pay deserved tributes in their life times. "But it is important to seek to honour people and their service when they are still around, preferably when they are no longer in their offices, this exercise is also an opportunity to respect history and to clarify street names," he said.

Governor el-Rufai sighted Waff Road which was named after West African Frontier Force as part of history of Kaduna, therefore, the name



el-Rufai

of the street has been reverted back from Muhammadu Buhari Way to Waff Road and extended right to the end of road to cover the little space that was called Kashim Ibrahim Road up to the cemetery.

Explaining further, he said, "Muhammadu Buhari Way is now the road that links from former Zaria Road to Ahmadu Bello Way Stadium, Waff Road now is the name of the street that starts from NEPA Roundabout and extends to the end of the road, including what was called Kashim Ibrahim Road before.

"We have decided to recognize the service of the first and only governor of the Northern Region, Sir Kashim Ibrahim by naming Sokoto Road that links Kashim Ibrahim House as Kashim Ibrahim Road. He noted that the event is the first stage, "we are naming several public buildings as Kaduna State Secretariat - Maccido Dalhatu House, renamed Malam Maccido Dalhat, he was the second Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and Head of Service (HOS) of Kaduna State between 1975-1979".

The Ministry of Health building was renamed as Dora Akanya Maude Miller House, to recognize the first and longest serving Commissioner of Health, also, the only female member of the North Central State executive council. "As part of the foundation she has laid in Kaduna State, the state has a female deputy governor and out of seventeen commissioners in the state executive council, nine are female and only eight are men it is all the foundation she has laid. "Consequently, the administrators building, where the administrators of Kaduna historical occupied us their office, and we are naming that Magajin Gari, Sambo House. "He was the first administrator of the Kaduna

Local Authority Government and the same time the first district head of Kaduna before the appointment of administrators and I am very pleased to observe that the father of the Emir of Zazzau, late Magajin Gari Nuhu Bamali was once the administrator of Kaduna Capital Territory Authority as well".

He further said the Kaduna Investment House was named as Mohammed Namadi Sambo Complex. "He is the only person from Kaduna State to be the vice president of Nigeria, it is the highest ranking Kaduna State citizen to achieve high political office, he was also once governor of Kaduna State where he has some great ideas, some of which the state is still implementing. "Kaduna State Public Procurement Authority (KDSPPA) renamed as Barnabas Yusuf Bala Complex, late Architect Barnabas Yusuf Bala a.k.a Bantex served as former Chairman Kaura Local Government and Deputy Governor of Kaduna State 20152019. "As well as College Road along Sardauna Memorial College, unguwan Dosa, after now known as AVM Usman Muazu Road, former military governor of Kaduna State. "Zaria Administrative office - Sir Sharwood Smith House was renamed as Sir Bryan Sharwood Smith a.k.a Mai Wandon Karfe, who was the last colonial Governor of Northern Nigeria and District Officer of Zaria when the Emir of Zazzau Ibrahim Kwasau died in 1936.

Kaduna State High Court, Mohammed Lawal Uwais Complex was renamed as Chief Judge Mohammed Lawal Uwais, who was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria from 1995 until 2006 and a former Chief Judge of Kaduna State. The governor added that his administration will continue to recognize those that have served the state as this will encourage young people on how this great people -served.

Change of Name

HABU	DACHELEM
I, formerly known as HABU VONGKUR , now wish to be known and addressed as HABU VONKUR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DACHELEM ALICE , now wish to be known and addressed as DACHELEM ALICE TOBIAS . Date of birth is 26/10/2000 . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
SILAS	MULLAK
I, formerly known as SILAS KUMKUR , now wish to be known and addressed as SILAS EZIKIEL KUMKUR . Date of birth is 2/1/1999 . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MULLAK PARFA NDAM , now wish to be known and addressed as MULLAK PARFA . Date of birth is 10/1/1999 not 18/6/1996 . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
YOHANNA	IBRAHIM
I, formerly known as YOHANNA YILKOPBA FWENSHINEN , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA BALA YILKOPBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ABRAHAM, KAMSHIWE GOMBIJI , now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM, SITJI KAMSHIWA . Date of birth 15/01/1990 not 7/12/1983 . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
LACHAK	DAVID
I, formerly known as BARAU PONMAN MAMVEN , now wish to be known and addressed as LACHAK PONMAN GANA . My correct date of birth is 7/7/1986. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DAVID AMOS GWAKBONG , now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID GWAKBONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

Public Notice

PRINCE PONFA MIRI FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part 'C' of the Company and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

NAMES OF TRUSTEES:

1. Miri Prince Ponfa - Chairman
2. Wiggins Toyin - Secretary
3. Fabong Jemchang Yildam - Trustee
4. Gulloma Abdullahi Mohammed - Trustee
5. Daser Retnan Solomon - Trustee

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

1. We are determined to educate, mobilize and revitalize a global partnership for sustainable development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in a particular need of the poorest and most vulnerable.
2. To carryout community development and ensure a sustainable development in such communities without any form of violence.
3. We are determined to ensure that all human beings enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives through economic, social and technological empowerment.
4. To create awareness on how to end poverty and hunger in all forms, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential in a healthy environment.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Sign: Secretary

SUNDAY FEATURE

Clean environment, waste disposal management in Nigeria

Most people admire a clean looking, beautiful and artistically pleasing environment. They want to show case themselves in the best scenes during photoshoots, videos, businesses, parties and adverts but in reality they live in a dirty environment and won't put efforts to create a clean environment. JANET MARK writes.

It is no longer news that Nigeria is top on the list for open defecation and now gaining popularity as a country that is known for dirt. This is as a result of the massive littered leathers, wraps, dust, unclean water, unwanted disposables etc around our public areas like the markets, airports, hospitals, churches, hotels, government parastatals, and even private organisations.

Almost everywhere you go in Nigeria, the theme is literally the same; it is either the unpleasant sight of over pouring filled trash bins, to human faeces and cattle dungs, urine stench and other endless list of unexpected waste within this cycle.

The big question is; can a clean environment in Nigeria be possible?

A clean environment is not just one that looks 'clean' but more importantly healthy. It must consist of safe food & water supply, proper waste disposal, clean air and absence of pests such as flies, cockroaches and mosquitoes. As 'cleanliness is next to godliness', so is 'cleanliness ultimately next to healthiness.

Improper waste disposal are wastes like pure water leathers, other kinds of leathers, papers, wraps and packages that are not properly disposed are part of what makes an environment dirty and unhealthy.

Burning of bushes, grasses, dirt, plastics or any other material is considered illegal. In some countries, it constitutes a great health hazard to the environment through the smokes that emanates from it, left over pieces and carcasses and that spread into the air.

In Nigeria, some unsafe methods used to process foods like garri, egusi, palm oil, suya, cassava etc expose the food to flies, diseases and germs which contributes to unhealthy environment.

The rate at which Nigerians litter the streets they live and walk on is quite alarming. This is due to lack of consciousness in properly disposing waste among the general public. Faeces and urine from both humans and animals make the streets untidy.

We live in a society where people don't care about their environment; they litter, openly defecate, go about their day-to-day life, transact business and even consume food in a very dirty and unhealthy environment. This is due to their nonchalant or 'I don't care attitude'. To some people 'it doesn't matter, and to others, as long as the refuse dump is not inside their houses, it's neither their responsibility nor problem.

Some people are unaware of the long-term consequences of living in an unhealthy environment since it is a very negligible issue until there is a major or visible threat to their health. They are not conscious about their surroundings, hygiene, sanitation, or even a good scenery just for inspiration.

This occurs when people don't think a dirty environment is a problem at all, hence they live comfortably without taking any action to keep their environment healthy and clean. Because there is no foresight, we build our houses without accessible road



network, waste disposal system, sewage etc

Effects of an unclean environment

- Pollution,
- Psychological effect,
- Short life expectancy,
- Sickness, infections and bacteria.
- Unhealthy practice that is being passed down from one generation to another

Hinderances to a clean environment include

Corruption and embezzlement of funds which have hindered the efforts of leaders or good minded citizens who have tried to put up initiative to solve the problems of waste disposal in Nigeria. Since there is no accountability of funds allocated for this purpose, the state of the country gets worse in this regard.

Sometimes the people in charge of treating the environment are unwilling to put in the work to help enhance and improve the state of the environment.

One of the problems we are faced with in the country today is little or no safe food packaging, we struggle with many products, how they are processed, sold or packaged.

Unrecycled waste occurs as a result of improper waste management or lack of recycled waste which poses a serious hazard to the environment. Poor mentality and lack of foresight has blinded a lot of Nigerians and also hindered them from beautifying or taking care of the environment they live in.

Lack of planning gives birth to people

building houses, do businesses and worship in a place with no plan as regards to where their waste is properly disposed.

How do we keep our environment Clean and healthy?

With the rising trend of people drinking purewater and throwing the leathers on the streets, to the increasing number of herdsmen roaming their cattle on the streets and leaving them to defecate on public roads, to matured adults and children peeing and dumping refuse on the streets, one may begin to wonder if a totally clean environment in Nigeria is actually possible. Below are some ways that this problem can be minimised, prevented or solved.

Among the many things we can do to keep our surroundings clean and healthy, one of the simplest things is to adopt the 'no littering rule'. If every citizen can decide to stop littering the streets, a neat looking environment can definitely be possible. Also, since every household generates wastes, we can avoid throwing our waste everywhere. Garbage pollutes our environment, especially the plastic bags, purewater leathers, and other kinds of refuse. A designated place to properly dispose our waste should be considered when living in an environment.

We can decide to recycle our waste and reduce our waste by using eco-friendly bags for shopping instead of the leathers we use to buy our goods every time we shop. This can be achieved through leather free days as leathers are one of the commonly used refuse that contributes to environmental hazards

and takes years to decay.

We can set up or volunteer for cleanups in our communities by extending already existing or new initiatives that promote environmental sanitation and hygiene outside our schools, prison walls, churches, and NYSC.

Public awareness and education needs to be taught at all levels religious houses, social gatherings and family units so as to develop the habit of maintaining a healthy and clean environment in our children, parents and citizens.

We can imbibe the culture of cleanliness and adopt systems used in clean and well-developed countries like Japan, Singapore in our country.

The government should enforce laws and rules that guides and also reprimands people for destroying the environment, littering and damaging the environment.

We can enhance the face of our environment by planting flowers, plants, trees that will help beautify the environment. This will also help in clean air and build q consciousness in the minds of people towards creating a beautiful environment.

We can donate to the right organizations or support courses that promote clean and healthy environment. This will encourage people with passion who are already making efforts to improve the environment.

It is paramount that we fumigate our environment periodically in order to get rid of insects, mosquitoes, pest that affects our health. We should also cut and clear bushes around us to prevent dangerous reptiles from inhabiting our environment.

- Maintaining a clean environment helps to keep diseases away, keep us safe and foster the healthy growth and development of both children and adults in the society.

- A clean environment reduces dirt and dust, resulting in better indoor air quality.

- It Improves safety and lessen the spread of germs and diseases.

- Keeps and prevents pests away, beautifies our environment, improves our image as a country and inspires the mind and improves our mentality.

In conclusion,

Keeping our environment clean, safe and healthy is key to our existence and survival of life on planet earth. We can reduce pollution, preserve our biosphere, protect endangered species, and also help preserve the earth's natural resources if we start maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

We can join hands together and make Nigeria the kind of country we've always wanted it to be only if we start making conscious efforts and taking simple actions like the steps listed above.

In a growing society, the state of cleanliness of a society represents the ind set, mental health and wellness of the people. Let's join hands to make Nigeria a better place.

SUNDAY SPORTS

Chelsea's complicated history with transfer heists

CHELSEA have endured a frustrating 2022 summer transfer window so far, with Sevilla defender Jules Kounde the latest high-profile player to slip from their grasp.

The Blues have suffered their fair share of disappointment in the market over the years - but have also hijacked a couple of deals themselves.

GOAL reported that Kounde had been a priority target for Chelsea as Thomas Tuchel aims to reinforce his back-line following the departures of Antonio Rudiger and Andreas Christensen, but he has ultimately chosen to head to Camp Nou instead of Stamford Bridge.

The west London outfit are not used to rejection, but there have been a few other occasions when they've missed out on top talent after coming so close to finalising a transfer. On the flip side, Chelsea have also pulled off the trick of hijacking a deal or two themselves.

Arjen Robben (PSV to Chelsea)

Back in the summer of 2004, a 20-year-old Arjen Robben was one of the hottest properties in European football after a bright start to his career at PSV.

Manchester United moved quickest for the Dutchman, and he was due to sign for the club after visiting their training ground, but Chelsea swooped in at the last minute to gazump their rivals.

The Blues saw a £12 million bid for Robben accepted, over double the fee United had offered, and he was then integrated into Jose Mourinho's ranks. The winger played a key role in Chelsea's title 2004-05 and 2005-06 title triumphs before leaving for Real Madrid in 2007.

John Obi Mikel (Lyn to Chelsea)

Chelsea actually pulled off one of the most famous transfer heists of all time back when they snapped up Nigerian midfielder John Obi Mikel from Norwegian outfit Lyn Oslo.

Manchester United had announced Mikel as a new official signing in April 2005 and he was even presented to the media at a press conference, only for the Blues to claim that they had already reached an agreement with Mikel's agent.

A long-winded legal battle ensued, and some 14 months later Mikel was unveiled at Chelsea, where he went on to win two Premier League titles and the Champions League.

Willian (Anzhi Makhachkala to Chelsea)

Chelsea beat another Premier League rival to a top signing in 2013 as they managed to tie up a deal for Anzhi Makhachkala midfielder Willian.

The Brazilian initially completed a medical at Tottenham ahead of a reported £30 million (\$37m) move, but



Kounde

Abramovich personally intervened to convince the player to head to west London instead of the north.

Willian signed a five-year contract at Chelsea, and ended up staying through to 2020 after establishing himself as a key member of the first-team squad, with a total of five trophies collected during his time at Stamford Bridge.

Raphinha (Leeds to Barcelona)

Fast forward to the current transfer window and Chelsea's luck in the transfer market has changed rather drastically for the worse.

The Blues set their sights on Leeds United winger Raphinha following another impressive individual campaign for the Brazilian winger in 2020-21, and **GOAL** confirmed that they were willing to pay up to £55m (\$67m) for his services.

Leeds officials were initially eager to accept, but Raphinha had previously agreed to personal terms with Barcelona and always had his heart set on a move to Camp Nou.

Chelsea turned their attention to finalising a deal for Manchester City attacker Raheem Sterling instead as Barca went on to confirm the signing of Raphinha on July 15.

Matthijs de Ligt (Juventus to Bayern Munich)

Chelsea registered their interest in Matthijs de Ligt after it became apparent that he was seeking a way out of Juventus -

where he struggled to live up to expectations following a big-money move from Ajax in 2019.

The Blues were also ready to fork out a sizeable fee for the Netherlands international, but ended up dropping out of the race when it became clear that he preferred a move to Bayern Munich.

The German champions officially landed De Ligt in a €77 (£64m/\$77m) deal on July 19, with Chelsea forced to go back to

the drawing board with regards to defensive targets.

Jules Kounde (Sevilla to Barcelona)

Chelsea focused much their efforts on Kounde after missing out on De Ligt. The Frenchman came close to joining the Blues in prior windows and the club maintained contact with Sevilla thereafter in the hope of reaching an agreement this summer.

The Premier League giants

offered £55m (\$67m) for Kounde, who even lined up Romelu Lukaku's old house to live in following the striker's return to Inter on loan, but Barca ultimately broke their hearts once again.

After missing out on another key target Tuchel is running out of time to complete his squad ahead of the new season, but will hope for a change in fortune with plenty more suitable options still on the market.



Tuchel

SUNDAY SPORTS

Mosimane endorses Banoon's transfer to Qatar SC

FORMER Al Ahly coach Pitso Mosimane has endorsed the transfer of Morocco defender Badr Banoon from the Egyptian giants to Qatar SC.

Goal said that, the South African tactician has termed the player a 'top quality centre-back' after he ditched the Cairo Red Devils for the Doha-based side.

The 28-year-old finally completed the move to Qatar after back and forth between the two clubs and Mosimane, who coached the player during his two years at Al Ahly, believes the Middle East club is getting a quality player.

"This is a top quality centre-back. Proved himself at Fifa Club World Cup and Caf Champions League stages," Mosimane said of Banoon via a social media post on Thursday.

Banoon joined Al Ahly in November 2020 from Raja Casablanca and established himself at the club with Mosimane trusting him in key matches.

He was involved in the 2020 Fifa Club World Cup when Al Ahly finished third following victory against Brazilian side Palmeiras and also featured in the Caf Champions League matches where the Red Devils claimed the title last year before relinquishing it to Wydad Casablanca in 2022.



Mosimane

Mosimane departed from the club soon after the 2-0 defeat to Wydad but he seems to still have an eye on those he left behind.

Reports indicate that Banoon's transfer will cost Qatar SC \$2.5 million with \$500,000 in add-ons. The transfer seemed to have fallen through early this month after it was reported that the two clubs had failed to reach an agreement.

Banoon returned to action in May after being absent since January due to Covid-19-related complications and later an injury sustained while on national team duties.

Al Ahly have made a huge profit from the player they signed just two years ago for a reported \$500,000 and

Banoon leaves the club after making 52 appearances in all competitions while scoring four goals.

He won the 2020-21 Caf Champions League, two Caf Super Cups and the 2019-20 Egyptian Cup during his spell with the Cairo giants.

Banoon will be the third African player at the Doha-based side which already have Nigerian forward Anthony Okpotu and Egypt U19 midfielder Saif Aboutrika. Spanish midfielder Javi Martinez, formerly of Bayern Munich and Athletic Bilbao, is the star name of the team.

Qatar SC will be hoping to improve on their ninth-place finish of last season in the 12-team.

SUPER Eagles midfielder Kelechi Nwakali played his first game since the 19th of January in Ponferradina's 2-1 loss to Valladolid.

Newsnow said that, Nwakali was having a decent run with Huesca in the Spanish La Liga 2 last season until January when he attended the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon with Nigeria.

Days after the Super Eagles were knocked out by Tunisia in the round of 16, Huesca announced that Nwakali had not returned.

Nwakali and Huesca were involved in a constant back and forth. The former Arsenal man accused the club of trying to stop him from going to the AFCON, but they denied his claims.

However, the 24-year-old signed for another Spanish La Liga 2 side Ponferradina in June.

Nwakali played his first game for the club as they took on Valladolid in a preseason friendly.

The Nigerian midfielder started the game, but his side soon quickly fell behind as

Nwakali returns to action after 190 days hiatus



Nwakali

Sekou Gassama opened the scoring seconds into the game.

Nwakali was taken off at halftime. But it did not help matters, as Joaquin Fernandez doubled

Valladolid's lead ten minutes into the second half.

Jose Naranjo's 65th-minute was the only consolation for Nwakali's side as they fell to a 2-1 defeat, their first in the preseason.

Osimhen bidding to break Yekini's record

NIGERIA international Victor Osimhen is upbeat that he can break or even surpass Rasheed Yekini's Super Eagles record.

Goal said that, the striker

has been in stunning form for the Super Eagles and is keen on eclipsing the Super Eagles legend's goalscoring mark.

Legendary Yekini is the country's leading goalscorer of all time with 37 strikes from 58 international appearances, with Segun Odegbami (23 goals) and Yakubu Aiyegbeni (21 goals) occupying the second and third positions.

Having found the net on four occasions against Sao Tome and Principe in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifying game in June, Osimhen moved to ninth on Nigeria's top goalscorers' list - having found the net on 15 occasions from 22 outings since his senior debut against Togo in 2017.

On his potential to match the 1993 African Player of the Year, the Napoli star told Naija Footballers as per Pulse Sports.

"I used to say it before, it will be a big shoe to fill. But I think with the kind of quality I possess and the kind of determination I have acquired in my career, I think I can break it or even surpass it."

"It won't be easy and that would make me the greatest Nigerian striker ever. We have the likes of Rashidi Yekini, Obafemi Martins,

Odion Ighalo, and the rest of them.

"But now I believe now it's my time, it's my turn and I think I can utilise it very well."

As it stands, Osimhen is 22 goals shy away from Yekini's mark and former Ajax star Tijani Babangida told **GOAL** that the Lagos-born forward has all it takes to eclipse the first Nigerian to score a World Cup goal.

"Rashidi has done so much for the country and that is why his goal record stands to date, but this is a challenge for younger players like Osimhen," Babangida told **GOAL**.

"Everything is possible because this is sports where records are always broken, so why can't Osimhen break Rashidi's record? It is possible."

"However, he must do more to ensure this is achieved. Normally, Yekini's record is something that should motivate Nigerian strikers to put in more effort and aim at."

Barring any fitness concerns, Osimhen would be aiming to add to his goal tally when Jose Peseiro's men square against Guinea-Bissau in September's Afcon qualifier in Abuja.



Osimhen

Nigeria's camp erupts in excitement as Amusan arrives

MEMBERS of Team Nigeria were, yesterday, thrilled by the presence of two of the country's brightest hopes for medals at the ongoing Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Tobi Amusan and Ese Brume.

Newsnow said that, Team Nigeria's Coordinator in Birmingham, Yusuf Ali, has expressed delight over the arrival of the World Championships medallists, who were among the last batch of the country's athletes to

hit camp.

Ali said Amusan and Brume, who won gold and silver in the women 100m hurdles and women long jump respectively, were expected to take little time off to rest but they are in Birmingham already.

"It is a surprise and

good team spirit for us to have them this early because athletics events starts next week. That they chose to come here is a demonstration of their readiness to excel at the Commonwealth Games as well. We are happy because this will also motivate others to do well," Alli, who was a year older yesterday, said.

Fresh from Oregon, United States of America, Amusan and Brume arrived the Birmingham (CGB) Games Village camp in the early hours yesterday to a rousing welcome by officials and athletes alike.

Amusan, the world record holder and recently crowned world champion in the 100m hurdles and long jumper, Brume, are favourites to clinch gold in their different events as they did at the last Commonwealth Games they were part of.

Athletics experts and coaches in Team Nigeria camp believe the positive energy and momentum of both Amusan and Brume will boost the



Team Nigeria

SUNDAY SPORTS



Norrie

Norrie willing 'to make many sacrifices'

CAMERON Norrie is willing "to make as many sacrifices" as it takes to become men's world number one.

BBC SPORT said that, the Wimbledon semi-finalist, 26, is currently 11th and was a place higher earlier this year.

British number one Norrie has been training in France for the US hard court season, his favourite surface.

"Physically I can improve, my serve, my return, my volleys - all of my game. I'm still hungry. I still want more," Norrie told BBC Scotland.

"I'm going to make as many sacrifices as I can to give myself the best chance to become world number one and that's the goal for me."

"Obviously, a long way to go. I believe I have the level and commitment to give myself the

best chance." Norrie had never gone beyond the third round of a Grand Slam until Wimbledon this summer, where his run was ended by eventual champion Novak Djokovic.

The final major of the season, the US Open, gets under way in New York on 29 August.

"I have just been working on a new things and leaving Wimbledon obviously with a lot of confidence and a lot of first experiences for me," he explained. "It was a lot but it was good fun and I really enjoyed all of it."

"My favourite surface, the US hard courts and the US summer - it's my best chance. I'm going to have to keep improving and keep playing at this level to have a chance."

"There's no reason why I

can't be up there with those top boys."

South Africa-born Norrie's Scottish father is a Rangers supporter and the tennis star hopes to take in a game at Ibrox in September during Great Britain's Davis Cup finals in Glasgow.

"If the dates line up, I'm definitely down to go," Norrie added.

"I'll try and pull (Davis Cup captain) Leon Smith along to a game. He's a big Celtic fan. I'm pretty sure he'll refuse but we'll see."

Commonwealth Games: Asher-Smith withdraws

ENGLAND'S Dina Asher-Smith has withdrawn from the Commonwealth Games with a "light hamstring strain".

BBC SPORT said that, Asher-Smith pulled up with the injury while competing for Great Britain in the women's 4x100m relay final at the World Championships on Monday.

She had won bronze in the 200m at the event just a few days before and she needs "a few days off" to protect the minor problem.

"[There are] no major issues and nothing to worry about," she said.

Asher-Smith came third in the 200m at the Commonwealth Games on

the Gold Coast four years ago.

She also won gold as part of the England 4x100m relay team.

"I feel good but I am in need of a few days off," she wrote on Instagram.

"But due to the short turnaround between the end of the Worlds and the start of the Commonwealth Games in a few days time, I'm going to have to withdraw."

Asher-Smith spoke of her personal and physical pain after winning bronze in Oregon.

The medal came after her Olympic campaign in 2021 was wrecked by a hamstring injury, followed by the death of her grandmother - who she was especially close to - earlier this year.

"I was so excited to race in front of a home crowd and all the British fans," Asher-Smith added.

"It is going to be such an amazing competition and I know that Team England will do you all proud."

Asher-Smith will be hopeful of competing in the European Championships, which begin on 15 August.



Asher-Smith

HENRIK Stenson says he does not feel he "gave up" Europe's Ryder Cup captaincy by choosing to join LIV Golf.

BBC SPORT said that, the Swede, 46, was appointed in March but 127 days later he was stripped of the captaincy for joining the controversial Saudi-backed series.

The former world number two planned to continue as captain so "I don't feel like I've given it up".

"I made every arrangement possible here to be able to fulfil my captain's duties," said the 2016 Open champion.

"I've had great help here from LIV to be able to do that. And still, the decision was made that I was to be removed."

"I'm obviously disappointed over the situation. But it is what it is, and yeah, we move on from there now."

Stenson has made five Ryder Cup appearances as a player and was vice-captain to Padraig Harrington for last September's record defeat by the USA.

He spoke to Ryder Cup Europe officials before deciding to join LIV and asked if he was aware he would definitely be stripped of the captaincy, Stenson replied: "We had discussions and I informed them of the decision to go and play in LIV tournaments."

"They had a short period of time where they were kind of discussing or debating if what was going to happen, and I was informed of their decision

Ryder Cup: Stenson does not feel he 'gave up' Europe captaincy



Stenson

shortly after."

England's Luke Donald will replace Stenson, who makes his LIV debut this weekend at Trump Bedminster, the third event of the inaugural LIV series.

England's Lee Westwood has also joined the LIV series but is set to play on the DP World Tour next month at The PGA Championship, which is a qualifying event for the 2023 Ryder Cup.

Compatriot and fellow LIV player Ian Poulter successfully appealed against being banned from playing at the Scottish Open earlier this month and both he and Westwood have called for clarity on whether they will be eligible to play in the Ryder Cup.

"I would hope that the

European Tour [DP World Tour] would make a decision sooner rather than later," said Westwood, who has made a joint-record 11 Ryder Cup appearances for Europe.

"It's only fair for everybody whether they play on the LIV Tour or on the European Tour, or on the European Tour and the PGA Tour, to know where they stand as soon as possible."

He added: "No decision's been made on qualification for the team and my future, or any of our futures playing the European Tour."

Fellow Ryder Cup veteran Poulter said: "I think the criteria is in three weeks' time, we start qualifying, but we still don't have a definite answer to what that is going to actually look like."

Hall two adrift of first-round leader Choi



Hall

under 66.

BBC SPORT said that, Hall posted seven birdies and one bogey at Dundonald Links, where pacesetter Hye-Jin Choi of Korea covered her last five holes in five under.

"I'm really happy and enjoying playing links golf again," said Hall, the 2018 Women's British Open champion.

Gemma Dryburgh's 69 has her tied 18th and highest of the five Scots involved.

Hall, 26, added: "Everything was pretty good - didn't really miss a shot and managed to hole some good putts."

"Any time in the morning you know that you're probably going to have the easiest conditions and I tried to take advantage of that."

Despite the afternoon starters bearing the brunt of heavy rain that left standing water on the Ayrshire course, Hall's Solheim Cup partner

Celine Boutier and former world number one Lydia Ko flourished to shoot 65 and join American Lilia Vu in second place - one shot behind Choi.

England's Bronte Law and defending champion Ryann O'Toole of the USA are four shots off the leader.

World number one Jin Young Ko is in a group, including England's Charley Hull, tied for 32nd place after shooting a one-under-par 70.



Osimhen's siblings speak on player's millions debt saga

TWO of Victor Osimhen's siblings have risen to his defense concerning the accusations from their sister Esther Osimhen and her husband Osita that the Nigerian striker owes them up to 210million naira.

Osimhen's brother-in-law Osita Okolo worked with his former agent William D'Avila to seal his transfer to Napoli in 2020. However, Osita alleged that the Super Eagles striker asked to borrow the proceeds from the deal with the promise that he would return the money.

But Osita said that Osimhen refused to return the money, leaving him financially unstable.

Nonetheless, two of Osimhen's siblings Esther and Andrew have risen to the striker's defense. They revealed that the 23-year-old has been the shining light in the family, helping them financially since his rise to stardom.

"Osita has been speaking a lot of jargon, but he can't say all those things to my face,"

"There were some things that happened as far back as 2016. I was in Germany with my brother(Osimhen), but Osita was the one that orchestrated my return to Nigeria.

"I had issues with Osimhen because of Osita's deceit, we didn't speak for one year. But the thing is Osimhen's success started with me. I sacrificed a lot for all my siblings because I'm the oldest.

"But God used Osimhen to bless us all. But it would be so ungrateful for one person



Osimhen has been in the middle of a back-and-forth between his siblings, but he seems to have numbers to back him

to say another person is not doing the needful.

"From 2016 till date, Osita's wife (Esther) has received millions of Naira. Even Osita has made a lot of money through Osimhen.

"I know all about the money that Osita is talking about. Osita's wife Esther was very close to my brother.

"She said she's suffering, but she is the cause. When they received their first millions, she and her husband went to buy two cars immediately.

"I used my own money to buy my own house. Osimhen never told anyone how to use the money he gave them, so there's no reason for anyone

to blame him for their misfortune.

"Osimhen bought Osita a car and gave him €10,000. I heard about it, but I didn't say anything because I want progress from him too.

"Osita was with Osimhen in Italy, but I never went to Italy. I'm here running things on my own. All these things do not freak me.

"Osita is blackmailing somebody that brought him to the limelight. He is not Osimhen's manager, he just

checked documents and served as his representative occasionally.

"Osimhen left me, but I never complained. Osita has no cause to blackmail my brother everywhere, it is unacceptable.

"Esther has collected nothing less than 40million naira from Osimhen. What did they use that money to do?

"I have confirmed that Osita bought a house. He went to meet a lawyer, but the lawyer refused to take up

the case because Osimhen did nothing wrong.

"Osita once said that he was only after the money, and he didn't care about Osimhen's career. That was why Osimhen sacked him, Osimehn chased him away,"

"People like to rubbish Osimhen's name, saying he doesn't help. But his best friend is in Chicago at the moment all thanks to him.

"Osita forged my brother's signature on the power of attorney and he's going to

face a lawsuit.

"Osita forged 'D'Avila's signature. He has been spoiling Osimhen's name, but I promise that he will go to jail.

"He has done a lot of damage to my brother. He has stolen from my brother, unremitted funds, we have proof.

"We are seven in number, six to one. When Osimhen gives us money, he gives it equally," Andrew concluded.

Meanwhile, 'Osimhens other sister Blessing shared her own side of the story.

"When I heard the story from Osita and my sister(Esther), I was not surprised. Everything they said is false.

"Esther begged me to beg Osimhen to allow her husband(Osita) to work with Osimhen. Then I told her that she and her husband had to do the right things.

"Esther agreed. Then when Osita started working with Osimhen, she told me that Osita was bringing money to us, and we would not lack anything.

"Even before Osita started working with Osimhen, we were already receiving millions because of Osimhen, the first time in our lives.

"When Osimhen got his first pay, he said he was going to lift us from poverty, and he got a house for our dad in Magodo.

"Osita lied that he stuck with Osimhen through thick and thin. But the only thing Osita did for Osimhen was 17,000 naira that he gave him money as a flight ticket." Blessing said.

Tobi Amusan hits Birmingham for Commonwealth Games

OLUWATOBILOBA Amusan has headed to Birmingham for the Commonwealth Games after she brought glory to Nigeria at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon, United States of America.

Amusan won the 100m hurdles in Oregon, becoming the first Nigerian to win gold at the world championships as well as breaking a six-year record following a 12.12s in the semi-finals race.

Arriving at Birmingham on Friday, Amusan was welcomed by Sunday Dare, Minister of Youth and Sports Development.

Dare, however, expressed his delight with the achievements of Amusan, reminding her that she has written her name boldly in history.

"You have made Nigerians happy and the country stands firmly behind you and other athletes too.

"Thank you for your brilliant performance and for displaying the Nigerian spirit," Dare told Amusan.

He urged her alongside

other athletes to remain focused on the task at hand in the Commonwealth

Games in Birmingham.

Team Nigeria will begin its journey to triumph in the

Track and Field event of the Commonwealth Games from Monday.



Sunday Dare receives Tobi Amusan in Birmingham

WORLD SEARCH Answer the clue and search for the word

B	U	H	J	I	N	I	K	E	Y	F	B	C
K	I	T	G	O	K	H	G	P	H	Q	I	I
B	A	R	S	H	I	M	W	D	E	H	R	D
L	L	F	F	R	Y	B	X	R	A	M	D	S
G	I	E	N	D	E	C	B	O	L	T	I	A
J	U	S	D	S	C	R	V	G	O	U	E	E
O	A	S	P	U	R	S	Z	B	C	Y	W	R
S	P	L	Z	O	X	W	E	A	H	T	L	E
H	Y	B	T	W	G	N	K	Z	B	F	J	R
U	V	I	E	R	R	A	M	N	Y	Q	V	F
A	O	M	E	A	J	K	D	X	X	S	V	N
U	L	P	T	Q	J	M	T	I	N	B	R	O
Z	S	X	U	R	P	E	O	I	V	W	A	B

- Mutaz Essu.....(7) Qatar high jumper
- Deji.....(4) former Nigerian sprinter
- Patrice.....(6)Crystal Palace Manager
- David.....(5) West Ham Manager
- Usein.....(4) Fomer Jamaican sprinter
- Didier.....(6)Former Chelsea striker
- George.....(4)The only world best footballer from Africa
- Anthony....(6)Nigerian/British boxer
- Golf Peg (3)
- Rashidi.....(6) Nigeria's first world cup scorer
-Jo (8) Former Super Eagle handler
- Two under Par in golf (6)
- San Antonion basketball team (5)

By IBRAHIM T. LOT