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**Wike**



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## Fuel subsidy stays for now

**The Federal Government says it has no plan to remove fuel subsidy at this time, because such action would lead to chaos and instability in the country.**

Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed, who made

this position known during an interview with Reuters, noted that other countries were introducing measures to help citizens cope with high oil energy prices, adding that Nigeria will not be an exception.

"When you consider the chaos, the social

disharmony and instability such an action of abolishing subsidies would facilitate, is it worth it? I don't think so", Mohammed said.

Oil price hit its highest level of \$123.7 per barrel in 14 years, and there are fears in government circles

**-FG**

that the country may surpass its monthly fuel subsidy budget.

Experts are of the view that Nigeria may not be able to maximise the benefits of rising oil prices because of the fuel subsidy burden.

As of 2021, when crude oil price averaged \$62 per barrel, the federal government spent a whopping sum of N1.2trn subsidising petrol.

In January, February, March and April of this year, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd incurred N210.38bn, N219.78bn, N245.77bn and N271.58bn for payment of fuel subsidy respectively, giving a total of N947.51bn during the four-month period.

*Cont'd on Page 2*

**Lagos residents consume N4.5bn food daily** *-Sanwo-Olu*

**G**OVERNOR Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State says residents of the state consume about N4.5 billion worth of food daily just as he reiterated commitment to food security.

Sanwo-Olu said this at the opening ceremony of a two-day zonal sensitisation workshop with the theme: 'Implementation of Food Systems Transformation Pathways in Nigeria 2022' on Monday in Lagos.

The workshop was organised by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning in collaboration with Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture and Lagos Ministry of Economic, Planning and Budget. NAN reports that Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Ekiti are participating with Lagos as a coordinating state for the South-West geopolitical zone.

The Governor, represented by Mr Sam Egube, Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, said the state had decided to take the bull by



**Sanwo-Olu**

the horn in guaranteeing food security for people with different agricultural and food value chain.

According to him, Lagos has a rich history of economic growth and transformation.

"Although it covers only 0.4 per cent of Nigeria's territorial land mass, making it the smallest in the country.

"It accounts for over 60 per cent of industrial and commercial activities.

*Cont'd on Page 2*

**Insecurity: We must defend ourselves** *-Akeredolu*

**O**ndo State Governor Rotimi Akeredolu has reiterated his stand on the need for his people and Nigerians to defend themselves against insecurity.

He said that might be the way to tackle the fight off the menace.

Speaking as a guest on Channels' Television Monday, Akeredolu, who doubles as Chairman of the Southwest Governors' Forum, also said the present security architecture of policing in Nigeria was not commensurate to prevailing security challenges in the country.

Akeredolu, who weighed

the consequences of only option left for governors directing their people to carry weapons, said doing so remained the

Nigerians to fight those criminal terrorising the society.

He said: "Well, Governor Matawalle's view might be extreme, but when you are pushed to the wall, there's nothing much you can say.

"Our people cannot afford to lay back; we are not lazy people; we are indomitable people and we must fight these people back and whosoever has the upper hand will survive.

"We must be alert when we see strange people around us. We have put more men on the streets and patrols everywhere using Amotekun and the



**Akeredolu**

*Cont'd on Page 2*



**Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari acknowledging cheers during his departure from Lisbon, Portugal to Nigeria recently.**  
 Photo: STATE HOUSE PRESS, ABUJA

## News

# Fuel subsidy stays for now

Cont'd from Page 1

-FG

President Muhammadu Buhari had recently approved an increase in the estimated provision for Premium Motor Spirit subsidy for 2022, by N442.72bn from N3.557trn to N4trn.

The World Bank had last month estimated that the increase in global price of crude oil will push the fuel

subsidy budget of the federal government from the current N4trn to about N5trn by the end of this year.

The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, had also last month, expressed concern that the fuel subsidy regime was

hurting Nigeria's ability to service its debts.

The Finance Minister called on Nigerians to understand that fuel subsidy was causing a massive fiscal burden, saying a situation, whereby the federal government borrows for consumption was wasteful.

She lamented that investments that were needed to be made in oil and gas sector are being delayed and deferred to a later time because of the huge fuel subsidy burden.

## Insecurity: We must defend ourselves

Cont'd from Page 1

lesson we have learnt is we can't afford to run away, we must face these people.

"I've told traditional rulers that we must get ready to defend our people and our land, we can't fold our hands; when these people come to you, you must fight back!"

While hailing the establishment of the Southwest Security Network (SWSN) - Amotekun corps, Akeredolu however, lamented the outfit's limitations.

He said: "Yes, we are happy with Amotekun. But, we do know its limitation, which has been caused by our perverted federalism; something is definitely wrong with the federalism we are running.

"We can't keep running with one command of police from Abuja and think

we can police this country properly. Why don't we run state police?

"Amotekun is faced with limitations on which arms to carry and the people facing us are carrying powerful ammunition."

The governor said that except something was quickly done, the state chief executive may be forced to get ammunitions for their people.

Akeredolu said: "If care is not taken, governors and other governments will be forced to get ammunitions for their people to fight back because there is no other way to fight this problem.

He noted that the state is castrate and totally powerless, hence the governor added that the answer was creation of state police.

The governor said: "What

-Akeredolu

we need to do is to get our priorities right and what we should prioritise as a nation today is state police and let the state police be well armed.

"The states should spend money on their police and have a duty to defend their people. The National Assembly has a duty to take this law out of place.

"The police are currently over stretched! There's no other solution but state police."

Speaking on the Owo attack, Akeredolu said the state government was yet to make headway.

"We are yet to make headway but we are still on their trail, we have recovered the vehicles they used and the phones and we have handed over to security personnel", Akeredolu said.

Cont'd from Page 1

Lagos is a coastal state and has an extremely limited arable land space and home to about 21 million people.

"Its residents consume about N4.5 billion worth of food daily and 50 per cent of beef produced in the country, running into several billions in other trading activities with markets cutting across all the local government areas in the state," he said.

He called for joint collaboration among South-West geopolitical zone to implement the Food Systems Transformation Pathways 2022. Sanwo-Olu added that improving the food systems would influence positive changes and as well, address multiple challenges being experienced in the country. He said that the state agriculture roadmap was a deliberate effort to develop the sector by way of interventions from the public and private sector, international technical and donor organisations.

"As a state government, we will continue to provide infrastructure and incentives to support all private sector initiatives where required. "History has shown that any society that is unable to

## Lagos residents consume N4.5bn food daily -Sanwo-Olu



Sanwo-Olu

provide food guarantee, its security is open to abuse and utmost danger," he said.

The governor commended the efforts of the Federal Government on its efforts to ensure that the food systems summit, in conjunction with the United Nations, is developed.

He urged all participants at the workshop to show commitment by sharing ideas and opinions on the selected programmes slated to kick-start implementation. Mr Mathias Schmale, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations, commended the Federal Government for its efforts toward sustainable food systems in the country.

Schmale, who was represented by Mr Isiaka

Ibrahim, UN Coordinator in Lagos, reiterated that the UN would continue to work with government and as well strengthen collaborations with all stakeholders in support of this transformational journey.

Mrs Olusola Idowu, the National Convener/Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, said an implementation team made up of key stakeholders had been constituted to develop an implementation plan.

Idowu noted that the workshop provides an opportunity to present and discuss the identified priority actions selected for implementation from January 2022.

## Army resolve to stop proliferation of small arms

THE Nigeria Army has restated its resolve to checkmate the proliferation of small arms and light weapons across the country.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. - Gen. Farouk Yahaya, made this known at a media parley in Owerri on Monday, as part of activities marking the 2022 Nigeria Army Day Celebration (NADCEL).

The NADCEL, an annual event held on July 6, is aimed at showcasing the commitment of the Nigeria Army as a professional responsive force.

Yahaya, who expressed worry over the possession of arms by non state actors and non licenced individuals, said the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light weapons is working tirelessly to stem this tide and we are achieving positive results, as our border troops continue to re-strategise and stay many steps ahead of the culprits. We warn all financiers of these light weapons to desist forthwith or have the law to contend with. It's quite a challenge, but we're facing it head-on", he said.

He, however, assured Nigerians that his troops would always stick to the professional rules of engagement and respect for human rights, in line with the core values of the Nigeria Army.

as the Force would "leave no stone unturned in fishing them out."

Yahaya also called for concerted efforts by Nigerians to report suspected unlawful possession of firearms to the appropriate quarters.

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## PDP moves to appease Wike

TO save the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from plunging into another crisis, the party has moved to appease Governor Nyesom Wike of River State over the choice of his Delta State counterpart, Dr Ifeanyi Okowa as its presidential running mate in 2023.

Governor of Benue State, Samuel Ortom and former governors Jonah Jang of Plateau State and Ayodele Fayose of Ekiti State have been most vocal over moves that the PDP should make following the emergence of Okowa as running mate to the party's presidential candidate.

This is as the chairman, Board of Trustees of the

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Walid Jibrin, announced, Sunday, the formation of a reconciliation committee headed by presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

The first assignment of the committee, according to Walid, is to visit Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State, who he described as a responsible and very obedient member of PDP who tremendously assisted in the building of the party.

Walid, in a statement made available to newsmen, maintained that as soon as Atiku and party chairman, Iyorchia Ayu, returned to the country, the process of reconciling all

agrieved members would commence with Atiku as head of the committee.

The BoT chairman listed members of the committee as himself; Atiku, Okowa, Ayu and his National Working Committee members; representative of the BoT; the 13 governors of the PDP; former governors; former ministers of PDP extraction, some party zones across states and geopolitical zones.

Walid also called for restraint among party members over the choice of Delta Governor, Ifeanyi Okowa as the party's vice presidential candidate.

He particularly enjoined the members to shun divisive, unorthodox comments capable of running down or making members leave the party.

The statement read, "We view with great concern and great sense of feeling the various recent comments coming from some of our PDP members and some prominent Nigerians on the choice of Chief Okowa, the Governor of Delta State as the vice presidential candidate, by the presidential candidate,

Alhaji Atiku Abubakar of our party, PDP, the biggest party not only in Nigeria but the whole of Africa.

"All the comments and various submissions are very normal in any political set up in Nigeria with PDP being the strongest and most prominent party that has all potentials to form government in 2023.

"But, we must come back to our senses by all our members and all responsible and respectful Nigerians by giving total support to the party to enable it form government by holding all political positions in Nigeria in 2023.

"It is, therefore, very necessary that when our presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar and our national chairman, Senator Iyorchia Ayu return to Nigeria very soon from abroad, the following must be done immediately:

"A very important visit must be undertaken to Governor Wike comprising the following group:

"The above committee should be headed by the presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar."



Wike



# Business & Economy

## Inflation, unemployment, bad policies widen income inequality

*The World Bank Nigeria's Development Update for June 2022 predicts an additional 7 million Nigerians to fall below the poverty line of \$1.9 per day. This will add to the already existing 83 million extremely poor Nigerians, bringing the total figure to 90 million misery-living, squalor-busted and economically hopeless citizens by the end of 2022. ALIKOR VICTOR writes*

If these figures come by, they will represent over 45 percent of the Nigerian population and create an economic atmosphere of crisis, hunger, starvation and potentially worsening existing insecurity.

Economic planners and drivers have lost touch with the economy. The economic compass of Nigeria is missing, and the country is regressing at a record speed. Even though global economies are experiencing challenging times in a post-COVID-19 era that caused several supply chain disruptions, rising inflation and the recent Ukraine-Russia war, Nigeria's challenges are unique and self-inflicting. Inflation at 17.7 percent, record unemployment rate of 33.3 percent and poorly implemented and misconstrued economic policies are clear proof of an ailing economy.

Nigeria's present economic reality threatens to erase the middle class from its economic structure. Inflation has drastically reduced household income and purchasing power to an abysmally low level. The market prices for food items, household items and consumables increase weekly.

Families with larger sizes will find it more challenging to maintain a food routine than a year ago. The minimum wage of N30,000, which nearly 70 per cent of the thirty-six states have struggled to pay, remains the same. There are rising job losses due to disinvestment in the petroleum sector, higher production and operating cost for firms in Nigeria and a risky investment climate due to poor business policies from the government.

This will reduce household consumption and saving, potentially posing a huge threat to business survival and creating an economic distortion in Nigeria's business environment. This would lead to an expanded income gap between the rich who can afford and survive the present economic reality



Buhari



Ngige

and those who will struggle to fend for themselves. These indicators are not healthy for an economy that is greatly hoping for rapid economic growth and development.

Subsidy payments for petroleum products would have been removed if Nigerians had faith in the government re-investing these funds into real sectors, infrastructural development and social welfare programmes.

Still, proven examples of corruption and looting have made Nigerians resist several calls and appeals by the government and development institutions like the World Bank and IMF for fuel subsidy removal, even as it appears unsustainable at the moment, given Nigeria's present economic state and outlook. The Nigeria social investment programme is another good policy with a terrible implementation, monitoring and evaluation model.

Unfortunately, the programme created in 2015 to reduce poverty, and unemployment, increase school enrollment, assist SMEs' growth, and access to funding has become a

conduit pipe for corruption. There is no available and verifiable data on the number of beneficiaries, how they were selected, who they are and an assessment of the impact on the supposed beneficiaries. There have been cases of school feeding for children during the lockdown, even when schools closed down due to COVID-19.

There is evidence of non-payment for N-power stipends to beneficiaries and loans for agricultural programmes. The conditional cash transfer has continued to generate questions on the process and sustainability of the project, even though more than N3 trillion has been spent on this programme in the last six years with no tangible outcome. While the government is investing heavily in these programmes, more Nigerians are getting poorer, implying an underlying problem.

Nigerians are spending more as government impact is hardly felt in nearly all sectors of the economy. Citizens provide private sources of power for themselves, pay more indirect taxes, provide private security,

and use private health care services and schools (for those who can afford it), as government-owned infrastructures and facilities are deplorable and underfunded mainly due to corruption.

The income gap between the poor and rich has widened in Nigeria, especially with general elections billed for next year; governance has been abandoned in pursuit of personal political ambitions, while some have resorted to looting and maladministration in anticipation of a change in leadership by 2023.

According to W.W Rostow's five stages of growth, where Nigeria is believed to be in stage two (pre-conditions to take-off), Nigeria might revert to stage one (traditional society) before the end of 2023. Therefore, an urgent and serious effort must be channelled to improve the living standard of the ordinary Nigerian through purposeful and inclusive policies and political will to see a new Nigeria.

Source: BusinessDay.

**"Still, proven examples of corruption and looting have made Nigerians resist several calls and appeals by the government and development institutions like the World Bank and IMF for fuel subsidy removal, even as it appears unsustainable at the moment, given Nigeria's present economic state and outlook. The Nigeria social investment programme is another good policy with a terrible implementation, monitoring and evaluation model."**



# Business & Economy

## Revenue generation major fiscal constraint of FG - DMO

THE Debt Management Office (DMO) says revenue generation is a major constraint of the Federal Government and impacts the country's debt situation negatively.

Patience Oniha, director-general of the DMO, said this in an interview in Abuja recently.

According to Oniha, systemic resource mobilisation has been compounded by recent economic recessions.

She said that the most viable solution to the country's challenge remained to grow revenues and plug all leakages, as cutting expenditure was not a viable option.

She, however, said that several measures were being taken by the Federal Government under the Strategic Revenue Growth Initiatives (SRGI) to improve revenue and fiscal prudence.

"These measures include improving the tax administration framework, including tax filing and payment compliance improvement.

According to her, it also includes evaluation of the



Oniha

process and policy effectiveness of fiscal incentives.

Oniha said that the Federal Government was also taking measures to identify and plug existing revenue leakages to enhance tax compliance and reduce evasion.

"To further enhance independent revenue

collection, the government aims to optimise the operational efficiencies and revenue generation focus of government agencies."

"Introduction of new and further increases in existing pro-health taxes, like the excise on carbonated drinks" will also enhance revenue generation, she said.

A director at the Treasury Single Account (TSA) department, Mr Sylva Okolieaboh, has replaced Chukwuyere Anamekwe as the acting Accountant General of the Federation (AGF).

Earlier in May, Anamekwe was appointed to oversee the accountant general's office amid a probe into allegations of N80 billion fraud linked to Ahmed Idris, the former AGF who was suspended by the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs Zainab Ahmed.

However, a few weeks ago, reports emerged that Anamekwe was under the radar of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over corruption allegations, a possible reason why he has been replaced.

Meanwhile, the federal government has begun hunting for a substantive accountant general.

In a circular titled: "Commencement of the process of appointment of a substantive Accountant-General of the Federation", the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (HoCSF), Mrs Folasade Yemi-Esa, directed the permanent secretaries to forward details of eligible

## FG appoints Okolieaboh as acting AGF



Okolieaboh

directors on Grade 17 to her on or before 4:00 pm on Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

Additionally, the circular stated "Those who have attained the position of Substantive Director (Grade 17) on or before January

1, 2020 and are not retiring from the service earlier than December 31, 2024 are eligible to participate in the selection process while officers undergoing disciplinary proceedings are excluded".

## Naira falls further as dollar liquidity shrinks

ON Monday, Naira, Nigeria's currency

depreciated further at the official market known as the Investors and Exporters (I&E) forex window following the dollar shortage, traders said.

After trading on Monday, the naira lost 0.18 percent as the dollar was quoted at N425.75 compared to N425/\$ closed on Friday, data from the FMDQ indicated.

Most foreign exchange market dealers who participated in the auction on Monday maintained bids at N413.40 (low) and N444 (high).

The daily market turnover declined by 39.7 percent to \$47.56 million on Monday from \$78.86 million recorded on Friday.

In February 2022, activities at the investors and exporters' window slowed, as revealed by the lower foreign exchange turnover. The average foreign exchange turnover was US\$0.111 billion in February 2022, a decline of 10.7 per cent, compared with US\$0.125 billion in January 2022, indicative of reduced liquidity at the window, the Central Bank's economic report stated.

At the parallel market, popularly called the black market, the local currency closed at N615 per dollar, the level it was last week.

The Overnight (O/N) rate at the inter-bank remained unchanged at 14.00 percent, while the Open Repo (OPR) decreased by 0.17 percent to close at 13.83 percent as against the last close of 14.00 percent.

A report by the FSDH Research noted that the

Treasury Bills secondary market closed on a negative note on Monday with the average yield across the curve increasing by 38 bps to 5.73 percent from 5.35 percent on the previous day. Average yields across the short-term, medium-term, and long-term maturities expanded by 103 bps, 13 bps, and 14 bps, respectively. NTB 8-Sep-22 (+277 bps) maturity bill witnessed maximum selling pressure.

Also, the Open Market Operation (OMO) bills secondary market closed on a negative note on Monday, as the average yield across the curve cleared higher by 42 bps to close at 5.77 percent from 5.35 percent on the previous day. Average yield across the short-term maturities expanded by 207 bps.

However, the average yields across medium-term and long-term maturities remained unchanged at 5.18 percent and 5.79 percent, respectively. OMO 16-Aug-22 (+207 bps) witnessed selling pressure.

"The Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) inflow that came in late Friday should boost demand early this week, albeit mild as system liquidity level remains tight, hence yield might turn bullish. Thus, we advise investors to trade cautiously and take advantage of attractive bills across the curve along with offers from Corporates," analysts at Afrinvest Securities Limited said.

## IFAD urges farmers to sustain value chain initiative

THE International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has urged farmers and investors in Niger State to sustain its Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) when it winds up in 2024.

Dr Mathew Ahmed, the State Programme Coordinator, made the call in Minna, while inaugurating a one-day dialogue among VCDP farmers, investors, processors, off-takers and

financial institutions.

Ahmed said that farmers under the IFAD-VCDP would be left on their own in the next two years to continue with the programme.

"This meeting is part of sustainability strategy as the VCDP intervention will end in December 2024.

"We are working hard to ensure that when the project ends, the Commodity Alliance Forum (CAF) will continue to

drive the process on their own and the farmers will continue to leverage on the credit facilities available with the financial institutions and investors.

"If you look at our guide, it says we should wean a farmer after supporting him for two years.

"Therefore, what we can do is to broker a relationship between the farmers, financial institutions, off-takers, individuals or companies who want to support them so that they can sign a contract on how to pay back," he said.

He advised the partners who want to support farmers with capital and inputs to always contact the State VCDP Office for proper documentation and contract agreement to avoid default.

"Any investor must ensure that the farmers you are supporting are credit worthy," he added.

The programme coordinator said that the VCDP was to encourage investors to support farmers with inputs such as fertiliser, improved seeds, herbicides among others.

He explained that the farmers would in turn pay back in kind after harvest, instead of cash.

Similarly, Mrs Elizabeth Yisa, VCDP, Marketing



Bello



## Business & Economy

# Digitalizing Nigeria's waste to wealth

**Over the years, the global application of technological tools for entrepreneurship engagement in waste management has been gaining thus becoming a top agenda item. ZEENAT O. SAMBO writes.**

THE recent invitation of Trashpays Services, a Nigerian waste management services startup, to the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum (WUF 11) taking place in Katowice, Poland between 26th and 30th June 2022 aimed at discussing inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable urban future has re-emphasized the need for more awareness of driving the use of technology to achieve waste management in Nigeria.

Trashpays Services has earned commendations for its immense support and contribution in training and organizing workshops on waste to wealth entrepreneurship programmes, and teaching women on ways of recycling waste matters into profitable resources.

Thus, the use of Information Technology as a tool in converting waste to wealth entrepreneurship goals has become a great initiative that the federal government and stakeholders need to integrate more households, businesses, and industries into the system.

E-waste also referred to as digital rubbish, is unwanted electronic products or any electronic equipment that has been discarded. On the other hand, those unwanted products discarded by society are called solid waste, thus requiring a proper disposition and management.

According to the United Nations, the quantity of e-waste has increased from 20 to 50 million tonnes per year since 2000. The report forecasted that the numbers will more than double by 2050 to reach a staggering 111 million tonnes per year.

In Nigeria, about 1.1 million n of e-waste is generated annually. As a result of the inability to manage such items, 75 percent of it is laying verge thereby causing hazards.

E-waste management in Nigeria includes waste collection, separation, transfer, treatment, recycling, and final disposal, as well as public information campaigns and awareness training which is facilitated by the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme.

With EPR, producers assume significant financial



**Abdulahi**

and/or physical responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products. To ensure that the EPR scheme remains resilient, manufacturers, assemblers, importers, and distributors contribute to the non-profit E-waste Producer Responsibility Organisation of Nigeria, to ensure shared responsibility and funding for e-waste processing and recycling.

Nowadays, technology is transforming waste management in many ways. With this, waste is being turned into energy, precious metals are being recycled, route efficiency is being improved, and new collection and disposal technologies are being developed to meet up with the huge waste materials that need recycling.

Electronic and solid waste causes significant pollution and environmental degradation when improperly handled and disposed of. However, they still have numerous benefits when properly managed and recycled into valuable substances, and raw materials, as well as creating opportunities for economic growth.

Among the innovative technologies used in waste management are smart waste bins, waste level sensors, AI recycling/waste sorting robots, garbage truck

weighing mechanisms, solar-powered trash compactors, and modern landfills powered by eco-friendly, sustainable technology.

For instance, Fascinate Technologies a startup that introduced the smart waste bin in Nigeria ensures effective waste collection that helps to minimize improper waste disposal, prevent environmental pollution, and the spread of diseases, and promote a greener and more eco-friendly environment.

Meanwhile, smart waste bins are designed to automatically sort recyclables into separate compartments using artificial intelligence. This process helps recycling companies to be able to filter waste and refine it into new goods for consumption and reuse.

**"Thus, the use of Information Technology as a tool in converting waste to wealth entrepreneurship goals has become a great initiative that the federal government and stakeholders need to integrate more households, businesses, and industries into the system. E-waste also referred to as digital rubbish, is unwanted electronic products or any electronic equipment that has been discarded. On the other hand, those unwanted products discarded by society are called solid waste, thus requiring a proper disposition and management. According to the United Nations, the quantity of e-waste has increased from 20 to 50 million tonnes per year since 2000. The report forecasted that the numbers will more than double by 2050 to reach a staggering 111 million tonnes per year."**

carefully and properly organized, they will serve as sources of livelihood for unskilled workers.

Again, since recycling allows valuable materials to be recovered, reused, and protects earth's resources, this, in turn, provides enormous opportunities for innovation and creativity in business models for sustainable solutions.

It is worrisome to learn that youth's engagement in recycling waste has been undervalued by many because of the dirty image associated with waste reuse. But unknowing to many, the recovery of valuable materials from waste is enough for further investment when properly handled.

Due to technological advancement, polythene bags, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), bottles, and even paper can be recycled by companies that recycle plastic waste into semi-processed raw materials for plastic manufacturers and low-density polyethylene (LDPE) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) into plastic resins or pellets.

Therefore, it is vital for the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to encourage waste management startups/companies, environmental management agencies, and other relevant agencies, and other relevant private and public sector stakeholders to raise awareness and enlighten more youths to harness the endless opportunities that are yet untapped in this sector.

In effect, more waste recycling companies will emerge to convert waste into wealth to achieve a stable economy and improve the well-being of the people.

**Source: BusinessDay.**

## Politics

# Bogoro LGA commits millions to capital projects

By  
**EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

THE council Chairman of Bogoro Local Government Area, Hon. Iliya Habila, has disclosed that over Seventy million Naira (#70m) has so far been committed for execution of various capital projects with some at half completion status which were the council's flagship projects.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Local Government Information Officer, Mr. Gomna James, and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently.

The statement listed some of the capital projects to include: Construction of box culvert at Banram - Gamu road and L/Sara road, Grading of road at Bogoro- Yola road and L/Sara and Renovations of primary Schools. At Molmol, Gizaki, Vingam, Gyaran Giji and Bazanshi respectively.

Others include, renovation of a block of 4 offices at Bogoro Local Education Authority Secretariat, renovations of the open market stalls at Boi and Gobbija market, Drilling of 7



**Habila**

new hand pump boreholes at Bogoro, Bar, Boi, Gambar, Dazara and Dutsen Lawan wards in that order.

The projects also included the rehabilitation of forty (40) hand pump boreholes across the 13 wards of the local government area and land acquisition for cattle market at

Monday market junction accordingly.

However, the Council chairman appealed to the citizens of Bogoro Local Government Area to give them their support in all the various communities for the smooth execution of the projects for their benefit.

THE Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello, has expressed satisfaction over projects executed across the state.

The Governor made the statement while addressing newsmen at Kogi State Specialist Hospital Lokoja, shortly after he inspected some projects executed by contractors across the confluence city.

"Exactly at this spot, precisely in October last year, I interviewed the contractor handling this hospital, and I did express my dissatisfaction over the quality of job that was being executed.

"Today, June 30, 2022, I have come back to inspect the same job again here at Kogi State Specialist Hospital, and I am highly satisfied with the quality of work done.

"GYB (Gov Yahya Bello) stands for standard and quality, and you can only use quality and standard to describe GYB," he said.

The governor noted that the job was eventually handled by a local contractor, saying he had done credibly well. He thanked the contractor, being an indigene of Kogi State, for executing a very good job to his standard at a far cheaper rate.

"So, today we have a

## Bello expresses satisfaction with projects executed

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

remodeled Specialist Hospital, manned by a competent Chief Medical Director, Prof. Yahaya Ozigi and all of his other team in the hospital.

"The Medical Director is doing very well and all his patients, as well as the doctors, nurses and other workers are expressing their satisfaction in terms of job, pay remuneration and incentive," Bello said.

He thanked the stakeholders who had contributed one way or the other towards making sure that quality jobs were being executed in the state. Commenting on other projects inspected, Bello said, "I am happy that all the jobs executed so far are all excellent, ready for

commissioning".

Bello emphasised that he personally inspected all the projects to ensure that they met his taste and quality before inviting President Muhammadu Buhari, APC flag bearer, Bola Tinubu and other dignitaries for commissioning.

The governor added that every other place dimmed necessary to be touched in the city had been captured, saying, "we will continue to work till the last second in office as the Executive Governor of Kogi State".

Our Correspondent reports that other projects inspected include GYB Model Science Secondary School, Adankolo, PMB Civic Centre, Ganaja overhead bridge, among others.



**Bello**

## 'I will migrate, upgrade PRTVC, THE NIGERIA STANDARD'

BY **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

THE Governorship Candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Plateau State, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, has promised to upgrade and migrate the Plateau Radio Television Station and **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** Newspapers to meet global standard when elected.

He made the pledge while on a courtesy visit to the State Headquarters of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Jos, the Plateau State Capital as part of his campaign strategy in line with the existing cordial relationship with the Council.

The APC candidate said, "this has always been my statement, I said Print Media across the globe are shifting online and all of them are having their Social Media platforms. The faster they migrate, the better for them. Physical production of hard copies of the newspapers have dropped over the years and more have been transferred online.

"The present generation do not have time to read newspapers. Most of these global newspapers make short reportage and put it on Social Media because this generation do not want to read long paragraphs. If they do not migrate into Social Media platforms themselves as Newspapers, as Radio and Television Stations, they will soon be out of business.

Goshwe, however, expressed concern that, most of the State owned Television Stations were on DSTV, GOTV and other free media homes saying, "so, why not PRTVC? The Government can do it and I know we can to it! I will do it for PRTVC and a newspaper like **THE NIGERIA**

**STANDARD** for it to go daily and online for more people to have access to it.

"We have many Plateau people who are waiting for news from home from UK, US and other parts of the world. They are also in Lagos, Abuja, etc and will not have time to scout for physical copies, but can go online to get the

summary of what is happening in their own homes, villages and they will be very happy being in contact with the state and can subscribe and that is where the State will make money", he highlighted.

The Candidate, however, debunked the speculations making the rounds that, he

promised to dump conventional media and use the social media describing it as false and misleading because he was one of most media friendly INEC Commissioner while in Benue State as the INEC Commissioner and that, it was the conventional media that made popular across the world.

## Hoodlooms attack Bauchi Lawmakers

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Deputy Minority Leader of the Bauchi State House of Assembly, Hon. Baballe Abubakar Dambam, representing Dambam/Dagauda/Jalam Constituency, has pointed an accusing finger on the adviser to Bauchi State governor on state and National Assembly Liaison Alhaji Sani Mohammed Burra of sponsoring hoodlooms to attack the lawmakers over their recent position on the Assembly's leadership.

Hon. Baballe in company of over 22 lawmakers made this known in Bauchi, in a press conference at the guest house of the lawmakers along Sir Kasim road GRA in Bauchi.

He expressed concern over the unfortunate situation, "We suspect Sani Burra because the hoodlooms attacked us 30 minutes after he left us at the guest house."

Baballe said the hoodlooms armed with dangerous weapons vandalized the guest house, smashed the glasses of windows in the guest house and also smashed the windscreens of the lawmakers' vehicles.

He said, "Even when we were in recess we used to go to the House to carry out our normal legislative duties, we intended

to go the house in the morning when we heard that the House of Assembly is under siege by security agents because we are standing for the people."

"We feel that whoever is behind this does not respect the law. We have every right as members of the state House of Assembly to say what we said because we have immunity on the floor of the House; that is why we have passed a vote of no confidence on the Speaker and all Principal officers and we asked them to resign."

He said they have reported the matter to security agencies for necessary action.

But the adviser to the governor Mohammed Sani Burra, in an interview with reporters over the issue denied the allegation and described it as false alarm by the Lawmakers to tarnish his good name for political reasons.

Burra said he was at the guest house in the morning when he was invited by one of the lawmakers, and he went there and met all of them and he greeted all of them and left.

Burra said, "I wish to make it abundantly clear that I am not aware or behind the purported attack."

## Sen. Gyang condoles Jugu family

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

SEN. Istifanus Gyang has condoled the Jugu family over the demise of Ngo Na'omi Jugu De Lo Berom.

This was contained in a statement signed by Precious K. Nyako Special Assistant on Media to Senator I. D. Gyang.

According to the statement, the lawmaker said they received the news

of her demise with a deep sense of loss but are comforted by her ebullient, people friendly, eventful and impactful life.

The Senator said she lived her life seeking the good of the land and people and became one of the most celebrated presidents of

Berom Women Association.

According to him, Ngo was given to philanthropy and hospitality and a recipient of many awards and commendations in acknowledgement and recognition of her service to humanity.

Senator Gyang noted that, Ngo Naomi sought and worked for the progress of many and was not threatened by their eventual success but rather celebrated their rising, adding that, she was a mother indeed.

The statement pointed out that there was a time, she gave her personal residence for the take-off of a church in her neighborhood as a mark of her love and service to God.

The lawmaker expressed his condolence to the immediate family, the Berom nation, and members of the many organizations she served in diverse capacities.

While eulogizing her for the many commendable accomplishments on her earthly sojourn he prayed that, "May the Lord accord her mercy and grant her soul eternal rest, Amen", the statement concludes.



**Gyang**

## Politics

# PKK: Is the one term arrangement beneficial

*This has long been an unanswered question begging for answers in the minds of many who care to know. Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam constituency has since time immemorial, been tied to the so called zoning arrangement that has left the constituency naked and drained because of its immediate benefit, EZEKIEL DONTINNA writes.*



Gagdi



Golu



Dilkon

IT is possible that the architects of this zoning did not weigh the revolving political settings of the time then and thought it was the best way for collective inclusiveness. Unfortunately, the reverse is now the case in that, the political intricacies there in the National Assembly has been deepened.

Today, the underground politics there has gotten to a point where ranking for any member must be based on experience than just picking a first timer as Principal Officer in the House of Representatives.

Understandably, in 1999 Members of the Green Chamber were almost all first termers and it became so easy for them to elect Principal Officers, but the case is quite different these days. Although, some of the intricacies are not constitutional, but were adopted as policies and respect for those who have served for many years.

In fact, even the sitting arrangement there is done based on the number of years you have stayed in the house. Some possible considerations can be given to a few first termers especially when you have served as a Legislator at the State level and have the experience.

Apart from the sitting arrangement where the front row consists of those who have been there for more than two terms as it goes chronologically, electing the Principal Officers is also done based on the number of years one has been there in line with the zoning arrangement.

This, for the time being has not favoured the respective PKK Representatives in the Lower Chamber because of strict zoning arrangement that have no regard for good performance. No matter how productive or the level of your performance, this zoning axe you in PKK and this has placed other Constituencies above them.

It appears it is a known problem in two of the Constituencies in Plateau

State. In PKK and Shendam/Quaan-Pan/Mikang Constituencies, none of the Members has been able to return after four years of meritorious service to their people.

But, we have the likes of Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Maje, of Wase Constituency, Hon. Beni Lar, Langtang-North/Langtang-South, Hon. Solomon Maren, of Mangu/Bokkos, Late Gyang Dantong, of Riyom/Barkin-Ladi, Hon. Bitrus Kaze, of Jos-South/Jos-East and Hon. Suleiman Kwande, of Jos-North/Bassa Constituencies who served with some still serving and have done well for their constituents.

However, in PKK, from 1999 to 2003, we had Late Josiah Gobum, from Kanke Local Government Area, who emerged as Member representing Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam (PKK) in the Green Chamber and the best of him was cut short after four years because of this zoning. It is certain that, even a magician in this case would not be able to understand perfectly the runnings of the house in just two years.

There is no denying the fact that, in his four years in the Green Chamber, part of the first two years was nothing but a learning process because he was a first term. The other two years left was not enough to give his best to the people of PKK simply because of zoning and he had to respect it.

Again, from 2003 to 2007 Hon. (Rev) Labar Wuyep, from Kanam Local Government was elected to represent PKK in the same House of Representatives. He did his best and went through the same challenge and was dropped after four years just like his

predecessor, Hon. Gobum.

Similarly, Hon. Leo Dilkon, from Pankshin LGA took over from Hon. Wuyep in 2007 and represented PKK for four years and in 2011, the zoning palava forced him out, where the former Speaker of the Plateau House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Go'ar, took over from the same Pankshin LGA.

The argument then that sailed his way to succeed Hon. Dilkon was that, "whoever takes 'Adashe' (contributions) last, should be the first to take" and that gave Rt. Hon. Go'ar the opportunity to emerge from Pankshin LGA again starting from 2011 to 2015. The same zoning axe brought him home after another four years.

Also, in 2015, another vibrant son of Kanke Local Government Area, Hon. Timothy Golu, who was former Member representing Kanke Constituency in the State Assembly was elected. Again, he did his best having served as Legislator at the state and had experience, just, his predecessor, but was pulled down because of zoning dilemma after four years.

Although, he contested on the platform of the then ruling party, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and won the primary election, but the same fought him in the middle of the "Change tsunami" that forced his party out from the national to the state level.

This paved way for the former Deputy Speaker of the state Assembly, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Babayo Gagdi, to emerge as winner from Kanam LGA to represent the people of PKK in 2019 and he is still serving.

All of them did wonderfully well in their different ways, but PKK is left with a lot of uncompleted projects that were meant to better the lives of their people. This is because of zoning and it is affecting development in that constituency.

It is sad that, Nigeria's politics is not a respecter of continuity where projects initiated by predecessors can be completed by successors. You see fresh projects coming while the old remains. Some say, "The project was initiated by my predecessor so, I will do my own for me to be remembered".

However, now that elections are around the corner, the permutations as to who to represent PKK has keenly began with Kanam LGA taking a leaf from Pankshin LGA that they are now the last to take the second round of the contributions (Adashe) and should be allowed to start the third round first.

Quite interesting is the confusion this zoning might spark. Kanam LGA was lucky to scale through the primaries with Rt. Hon. Gagdi, the incumbent, emerging as the flag bearer of the All Progressive Congress (APC) for PKK. What this portends is, possibly, the people of PKK have learned their lessons and would like to change by giving room for two terms taste how benefiting this would be for their constituents.

It is possible this would be the turning point for zoning, now that the power shift might favour PKK in the Green Chambers because it form part of the North-Central Zone. Will the people of PKK risk having the seat of a Speaker for zoning? No! This politics of religion and tribe has denied us of so many privileges that would have shaped people's lives.

You would recalled that, this baseless display of political ignorance deprived us of not becoming the President of the Senate in 2007 when politics of religion took centre stage. The then Deputy Senate President, Ibrahim Nasiru Mantu, had the majority of his colleagues and it was glaring that he had a strong

charisma and the connection to lead the Senate, but voted out because of sentiment.

Now, it may seem somehow weird to believe that a similar mistake is about to be made like what Senator Mantu did while in the Senate, you will agree with me that none of the Senators after could beat his chest in the open market square to challenge his records. Let us talk first of what would benefit our people and keep aside sentiments when it comes to the issue of developing our people.

Once again, let us not make the same mistake of placing religious sentiments ahead. Rt. Hon. Yusuf Babayo Gagdi, is from Kanam where the zoning argument favoured under APC and he happened to be the incumbent. Based on recent rating, he has been seen to be the best in terms of human capital development.

This is going to be a prove to whether PKK has learns its lesson and will not throw the baby with the bathing water because of religious sentiments. He should first be seen Jar man before religion moreso that all other tribes in PKK has as or two sons who are Muslims and we still call them brothers.

Although, he has lapses just like any other human being which is natural, but what he is doing has no tribe, no religion and no ethnicity. He also has Hon. Chrisantus Ziphon, of PDP from Pankshin LGA to contend with. The two major party Candidates are brothers so, religious sentiment should be out of it. Let us look for leaders who understand our heartbeats, people who you must not reach, but leaders who reach you at the appointed time. If they must go by the zoning formula, the Candidates of two major parties are not all from Kanam LGA where the supposed Candidate found should emerged.

# IMAGES

## NUJ COUNCIL RECEIVES YILWATDA ON COURTESY CALL

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Plateau State Council on Monday received Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, the APC Governorship flag bearer on a courtesy call at the NUJ Secretariat, Jos



Mr. Paul Jatau, NUJ State Chairman (left) receiving Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe to the Secretariat



Mr. Pam Musa (standing) anchoring the visit of the APC Governorship candidate



A cross section of Women Journalists waiting for the arrival of the APC Governorship flag bearer



Comrade Jibrin Bancir (left) with other members of the Generation next entourage



NUJ Chairman (right) flanked by members of his EXCO and the National Auditor of NUJ, Ladi Dinchi Emmanuel listening to the speech by Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe



Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, APC Governorship candidate delivering his speech



Mr. Paul Jatau, NUJ Chairman (standing) responding to the message of the APC flagbearer



NUJ State Chairman (left) exchanging greetings with other Journalists at the Secretariat before the arrival of the visitors

Photos: DANLADI DUK



## Politics

# PVC as panacea to credible elections

**For citizens to exercise their legal right there is need for all eligible citizens to go out and get their permanent voter's card (PVC) to elect credible candidates, and be eligible to vote and be voted for as this must be seen as the right to participate actively in public affairs. CHRISTY TAMAI writes.**

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is an independent organ saddled with the responsibility of planning and conducting elections into different political parties in Nigeria established in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

To have a free and fair elections there must be proper verification that voters fulfill legal requirements to vote. Voter's registration has been going on since 2021 as it is a continuous registration towards preparation for 2023 general elections. Despite the ongoing continuous registration people are yet to fulfill their legal right in order to vote come 2023.

Voter registration is the process of identifying citizens eligible to vote in an election and compiling their personal details in a list called a register of voters. Voter register must be seen as a catalog of citizens who have the right to vote. Therefore, registering is fundamental for any voting system, and for any electoral legal system. Usually all the requirements that have to be met by citizens are established in the constitution. Electoral laws have to regulate, design, and update such requirements which have to be non-discriminatory. All the procedure related to voter's registration have to be complete and inclusive. Bearing this in mind, voter registers generate certainty and security and have therefore a key role in establishing and consolidating a democratic regime. Similarly, voter registers can promote enthusiastic, and the participation of citizens within electoral processes.

This process vary from one



**Mahmood**

country to another, but it is generally agreed that voters registration serves the following processes which are guaranteed and enable all those legally qualified to vote to do so. It prevents unqualified persons from voting by ensuring that only qualified voters are registered. The process also prevents voters from voting more than once at any election, thus ensures equality of the vote.

For a citizen to get his or her Permanent Voter's Card known as PVC the citizen must be a citizen of Nigeria, has to attain the age of eighteen (18) years or above on or before registration

day, the citizen is ordinarily resident in a particular local government area or registration area or ward covered by the registration center. The citizen must not be subject to any legal incapacity to vote under any law, rules or regulations in force in Nigeria, to be registered the citizen needs to present himself or herself at the registration point for registration as voter and be able to provide proof of identity, age, and nationality where necessary.

Since the return to civil rule in May, 1999 The frustration of Nigerians with the subversion of their democratic aspirations has largely been occasioned by civilians in power,

essentially reckless politicians or militiamen who are a "do or die" politician, they abused, misused and generally undermined the political and electoral processes to hold onto power arbitrarily, but hiding under periodic, procedural electoral "Victories" to "Legitimize" their actions. Indeed, in no sector has the frustration of Nigerians been as manifest as the electoral process in the past decades.

Elections have historically been an avenue which offer opportunities to citizens in democratic period to exercise their franchise electing those to govern them, satisfying their needs and aspirations. However, how elections are conducted, and how citizens manage to utilize them to exercise real, substantive, choice to qualitatively influence politics and governance, to a large extent determine the phase, tempo and direction of democratization and democratic consolidation or lack of it. If conducted properly and managed well, with greater enlightenment and participation by citizens and good conduct by all and sundry including stakeholders, especially the politicians.

Elections catalyze good governance and facilitate democratic development and consolidation, more so in countries said to be transition to democracy. However, if elections are poorly managed fraudulently conducted and characterized by intense conflicts and violence, they become mere procedural "democratic" rituals of no consequences as far as good governance and democratic consolidation are concerned. Indeed, the more fraudulent and conflict ridden elections are, the higher the chances of such elections merely perpetuating arbitrary rule and undermining transition to democracy, and creating instability in the polity such elections could result in reversal of democratization and entrenchment of authoritarian rule.

In Nigerian elections observers have noted that, from the first to the third republic, regrettably, elections have increasingly been mere rituals, with no substantive democratic outcomes, obstructing rather than nurturing democratization. Some analysts have described successive elections in Nigeria as basically a sham, convoluted processes through which rogues and crooks have controlled, muddled up and dominated the political and governance terrains, and entrenched themselves in power, concerning state resources for personal or private uses. In effect, the electoral processes have been misused to subvert, rather than nurture and promote the democratic governance, in which societal resources are equitably deployed to address the fundamental needs and aspirations of the majority of the citizens. Nigeria elections have invariably, with few if any exceptions, spewed up and entrenched undemocratic and self-serving characters into public positions, which they systematically but recklessly misuse.

The 2023 elections will be impacting with the large turnout of citizens at the registration centers who are willing to get their PVC in order to exercise their franchise if only the commission will decentralized the registration points to various communities since the head office and other local offices are jam parked in order for the people to have more accessibility in getting their Permanent Voter's Card.

When a credible leader is elected the resources of the nation will be used to meet the needs of the country and people, there by bringing development, creating job opportunities for its citizens. Your PVC, is your ticket to good health, good electricity, good roads, quality education and good life. Do not sell your PVC, vote your conscience.

For citizens to exercise their legal right there is need for all eligible citizens to go out and get their Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) and elect a credible candidate who will bring the much needed change and to also manage the resources of the State/Nation to develop the democratic state, where free, fair, credible and peaceful election is prerequisite for a stable and just society in an emerging democracy.

***"When a credible leader is elected the resources of the nation will be used to meet the needs of the country and people, there by bringing development, creating job opportunities for its citizens. Your PVC, is your ticket to good health, good electricity, good roads, quality education and good life. Do not sell your PVC, vote your conscience. For citizens to exercise their legal right there is need for all eligible citizens to go out and get their Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) and elect a credible candidate who will bring the much needed change and to also manage the resources of the State/Nation to develop the democratic state, where free, fair, credible and peaceful election is prerequisite for a stable and just society in an emerging democracy."***

## NEWS

## Graduating armed squad tasked on professionalism

From DORCAS PANKYES,  
Abuja

THE Commander Nigerian Army Training Centre, Major General Oluoyinka Soyele has urged graduating Armed Squad of the Nigerian Correctional Service to remain professional in their conduct.

The Commander gave the advice recently, in Kontagora Niger State during the graduation ceremony of 150 personnel of the Nigerian Correctional Service who took part in a 3 week Refresher Course at the Centre.

The Commander Major General Oluoyinka Soyele who expressed satisfaction with the capacity of the training and conduct of the graduands charged them to be mindful of the peculiar challenges underlying the incessant attack and jail breaks across their facilities, charging them to be ready to adequately secure Correctional Centres across the country.

The Commander, while thanking the Chief of Army Staff, (COAS) for choosing the center for conduct of the training, appreciated officers and men of the NATRAC for living up to expectations.

Earlier, while presenting the Course Appraisal, the Director Soldiers Professional Training Directorate, Brigadier General Ezekiel Ojo stated that the training is in continuation of efforts of the NCoS authority to develop manpower capacity and capabilities to curtail the constant jail break and other myriads of security challenges facing the Correctional Service. He noted that the 3 weeks rigorous training covered crash and intense Physical Training, Weapon Handling, Unarmed Combat and Range Classification.

In his speech, the Chief of



Farouk

Training, (Army) Major General Abdulsalami Ibrahim, represented by Acting Director Education, Army Headquarters Department of Training, Lt Col Yahaya Nuhu, stated that the just concluded training of selected Nigerian Correctional Service Armed Squad personnel is to expose them to basic tenets, techniques and requisite skills to conduct specialized operations such as Convoy Drills, Protection of VIPs, Rescue Operations amongst others

The Chief of Training, (Army) Major General Ibrahim congratulated the graduands for successfully completing the special training and urged them to be law abiding with high sense of professionalism.

The Chief of Training further expressed his appreciation to the Commander Nigeria Army Training Center, Director Soldiers Professional Training Directorate, all the instructors and supporting staff of the center.

In his vote of thanks, the Controlling General of the Nigeria Correctional Service, represented by Assistant Controlling General of

Corrections Operations, Daniel Odaro, showered his heartfelt appreciation to the Commander and the leadership of the Nigeria Army for conduct of the well packaged training.

High points of the occasion was the colourful presentation of certificate and awards to the graduands who distinguished themselves during the training.

## Motorists stranded along Bauchi-Gombe federal highway

From Abbas Gungura,  
Bauchi

MOTORISTS flying the road from Bauchi to Gombe or could no longer pass through the road due to collapse of two major culverts in the federal highway in Bara village of Kirfi LGA in Bauchi State, this has left the motorists stranded as a result of heavy downpour that cut off the road.

The Secretary to the Bauchi State Government Barrister Ibrahim Kashim Mohammed and member Representing Kirfi, Constituency in the Bauchi State House of Assembly,

Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has given an assurance that the prevailing unhindered academic activities in the state owned tertiary institutions will be sustained.

The Governor also promised the provision of adequate academic facilities and basic infrastructure that would facilitate quality education at primary, secondary and tertiary institution levels.

Bello gave the assurance while on an inspection of projects executed by government at the Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja, over the weekend.

"I will not relent in ensuring that all state owned tertiary institutions continue to run academic calendar devoid of strike action under the present administration in Kogi

"The present administration will also remain committed towards making education system in the state stable and uninterrupted where students would graduate within the the duration of their academic programmes" Bello said.

He expressed satisfaction with all the projects executed in the Polytechnic through Local contractors.

## Bello vows to sustain unhindered academic activities

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja



Bello

While he maintained that service to the people would not be sacrificed under his administration and paid glowing tributes to the local contractors who he said have made the state proud in the delivery of standard projects.

In his words, "This is what the state is able to achieve using local contractors"

The Governor commended the students for making the

state institutions cult free, urged them to be law abiding and ensure that they come out in flying colours in their academic performance.

Gov. Bello lauded the Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr. Salisu Usman Ogbo for the good work he is doing, described him as the man of the moment and for standing out tall amongst his equals.

## Matawalle establishes community protection guards

GOVERNOR Bello Matawalle of Zamfara has begun training for a newly-established security outfit, Community Protection Guard (CPG) to tackle banditry and kidnaping in parts of the state.

The announcement was contained in a statement by Malam Jamilu Birnin-Magaji, Press Secretary to the Governor in Gusau.

The statement said the

new outfit would give needed support to the conventional security agencies in their effort to end banditry and kidnaping that had ravaged the state.

Matawalle said at the exercise, that his administration had resolved to tackle the state's security challenges head-on by implementing new security measures.

"The Governor said the government came up with additional measures for combating insurgency in the state.

"Among the new measures is the recruitment of CPGs in each of the 19 Emirate Councils of the state.

"He said the decision to establish the CPG was informed by his administration's desire to use possible options to deal with the increasing act of banditry causing loss of lives, untold hardships and rupturing inter-communal

peace in parts of the state," the statement said.

It said that the governor urged the guards to concentrate fully on their training as the task ahead of them was enormous and daunting.

"As Community Protection Guards, yours is a patriotic call, your names would stand out in history as people with remarkable patriotism, selflessness and love for peace.

"Only people with courage and bravery will offer to serve as guards of their communities, bravely standing up to face the brutal infamy of the bandits," Matawalle said.

The governor also called on them to work within the parameters of the rules of engagement which would be clearly spelt out during the training.

He counseled them as newly-recruited guards, to

serve as agents for the restoration of normalcy and peace in their communities.

Matawalle said at the end of the training, the CPG members would be deployed to their various communities in the 19 Emirate Councils of the state to complement the security forces in the fight against banditry and sundry crimes.

He reminded them to remain disciplined throughout the exercise and to keep in mind that they were trained for a life saving mission that would spare their neighborhoods from terror and suffering.

He said their efforts would restore the dignity of human life and peaceful co-existence in the state.

The Commissioner of Police, Zamfara Command, CP Ayuba Elkana, said the training was part of series of measures being taken to tackle crimes.

Elkana expressed the command's support to Matawalle in the fight against banditry.

He urged the recruits to be law abiding, God-fearing in the discharge of their duties to achieve the desired goals.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Security and Home Affairs, retired Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Alhaji Mamman Tsafe, said the guard was established to assist the security agencies in securing the state.

The event was attended by the Speaker, Zamfara House of Assembly, Alhaji Nasiru Magarya, Secretary to the State Government Alhaji Kabiru Balarabe, and Chief of Staff, Government House, Malam Ibrahim Suleiman.

Others included the State Head of Civil Service, Alhaji Kabiru Muhammad, members of the State Executive Council as well as Heads of security agencies in the state. (NAN)

heavy downpour from last Thursday evening to Friday morning which cut off the large culverts linking the two roads together.

The Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corp, Yusuf Abdullahi, said that the incident happened about 10km away from Bara along Gombe road, pointing out that "no life was lost to the erosion."

He said that all hands were on deck to recover the road, however, noting that it will take about one week for the road to be fixed and for it to be motorable again. Abdullahi, therefore, advised motorists either travelling or who intend to travel from Bauchi to Gombe or from Gombe to Bauchi through that axis to use alternative routes to get to their destinations.

He said, "There is a failure along the Bauchi-Bara-Gombe road, about 10km away from Bara towards Gombe. What happened is that, that place also gave us a problem last year.

"Yesterday, there was a heavy rainfall throughout the night and as I speak with you now, the road is cut off, it is not passable now. I am presently at the site and the engineer working on the road is also here on the site with me."

The engineer said, it will take him up to about one week to fix the road. "For that, we are advising road users to use Gombe-Dukku-Darazo-Bauchi road, for those coming from Adamawa and Gombe axis.

"The FRSC and sister security agencies have increased operations along the new routes due to increased traffic volume against hoodlums," he explained.



Matawalle



Mohammed

Abdulkadir Umar Dewu, with reporters in Bauchi.

stated this while interacting The flood was part of a

# News

## Return our looted artefacts

-FG

THE Federal Government says the British authority has taken care of its looted artefacts for so long and it is time for the cultural and historical works of art to return home.

The Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, stated this in London during a working visit to the British Museum.

Speaking after a meeting with officials of the museum, Mohammed, who was taken round the gallery and strong room, thanked them for their passion and for taking care of the artefacts for so long.

The minister met with Sam Nixon, Curator and Head of Africa Section, British Museum and Lissan Bolton, Keeper of the Department of Africa, Oceania and the Americas in the Museum.

"Before now, they said we did not make a demand, but in October last year, almost nine months ago, we made a formal request for the return of the artefacts especially the Benin bronzes for which we have not got any response.

"We made them understand that our quest and clamour is for the return of the Benin bronzes and all other artefacts that were stolen and looted to their origin.

"I said they should take a cue from Germany which was neither our coloniser nor the one that looted the artefacts but which has yielded to pressure and signed an agreement to return 1,130 Benin bronzes to us.

"We also made it clear to them that they cannot hide under legislation and no Act of Parliament will make what you have stolen to become yours," he said.

Mohammed said he reminded the officials that Universities of Aberdeen,



Buhari

and Cambridge had respectively returned the looted artefacts in their custody.

He added that all over the world, countries like France, Belgium, and Germany were returning the artefacts in their countries while Canada had also made the promise to do so.

According to the minister, the officials who listened to him with rapt attention did not make any comment because the matter was beyond them.

Mohammed, however said they would not rest until Britain does the right thing by returning what they looted from the country a century back.

NAN reports that the artefacts, mostly Benin bronzes were looted by

British soldiers when they occupied Benin City in 1887, while some were stolen by explorers.

NAN also recalls that Jesus College at the University of Cambridge was the first UK institution to restitute a Benin bronze to Nigeria,

After 124 years, bronze cockerel, known as Okukur, that had been donated to the college by the father of a student in 1905 was returned to the country last year.

This was followed by the University of Aberdeen which restituted a bronze sculpture, which depicts the head of an Oba (king).

The artefact, one of thousands of religious and cultural artefacts looted by British forces in 1897 was purchased by the University at an auction in 1957.

## Hospital imposes N1, 000 daily electricity bill on patients

THE management of the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, Oyo State, has confirmed the addition of N1, 000 daily electricity fee to the service charge of every admitted patient in the hospital.

The hospital, in a circular disclosed that the new development was prompted by the high cost of electricity tariffs and diesel.

The circular was signed by the UCH administrator, Wole Oyeyemi, on behalf of the chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee and Chief Medical Director.

It reads in part, "Following the recurring power outage in the hospital, high cost of electricity tariff and inflation in the price of diesel which have impeded stable power supply, management has decided to consider measures that can help to facilitate flawless service delivery in the hospital.

"To this end, I write to convey the management's approval for the mandatory payment of utility fee of N1,

000. 00 (one thousand naira only) daily by every patient accessing care in this hospital.

"You are requested to kindly implement the approval with immediate effect."

Confirming the development, an official at the hospital's Works Department, who requested anonymity for fear of sanction, explained that the hospital is currently running on "a huge loss" and had to improvise by adding the N1, 000 to patients' service charge.

The source added that the hospital receives between N50 and N60 million electricity bills every month from the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC).

"You are aware that diesel is very costly, as we have to rely on public power supply and then the bill by our electricity distributor- IBDC, is also now very high."

"We receive between N50 and N60 million naira every

month here and this is not a corporate organisation, we are serving humanity. So because we cannot maintain such a bill, we had to look for ways of sustainability," the source said.

"The more power we have, the higher the bill," the official added, noting that oftentimes the hospital experiences a recurring power outage, and would be forced to run power generating sets for hours.

The source also emphasised that the hospital cannot afford total blackout "because of the emergency units that need constant power and water supply."

The public relations officer of the hospital, Toyé Akinrinola, who also confirmed the development on the telephone, noted that "there is more to the development than what is being circulated."

He added that some well-meaning Nigerians have started donating diesel to support the hospital.



## Is government overwhelmed?

RECENT events in our clime are not palatable and pleasing at all. Things are going awry and, are threatening to boil over and nothing is being done to curb the unfortunate descent to chaos. As usual, government seems incapable of dealing with the situation and stamping its authority. Welcome to Nigeria where nothing works and where the constitution of the union is merely on paper. And indeed, where the citizens determine what they want without being called to order or held to account.

This was how the Boko Haram crisis was allowed to fester and grow into a monster that has defied solutions and continue to cause untold hardship to families, threatening the very foundation of the Nigerian nation. Government's lack of resolve to deal with the threat posed by the insurgency has led the country to where it is today. Government has continued to show that it is incapable of doing something or has deliberately turned the other way, allowing things to go bad for whatever reason.

It seems someone is trying to incite a religious war in the country. There are several pointers to this. And, nothing is being done to stop the sad trend. What am I referring to? The systematic and deliberate killings that have been launched against Catholic priests in the recent past in several parts of the country are a pointer to the mischief of those who do not wish the country well. All over the place, these set of people are being kidnapped and ransom are being requested by their abductors and some have been killed in the process.

Not only that, large

sums have exchanged hands in the now lucrative trade in humans that our young ones would rather get involved in it than engage in hard work. So much money exchange period and those vested with the authority to deal with the situation seem so impotent to do so.

Not only that, large swaths of land are being taken over by foreign marauders and government are incapable of dealing with it. No wonder the Governor of Zamfara State was frustrated to the point that he called out his people to arm and protect themselves from the marauders. The recent killings of the members of our armed forces in Kainji, Niger State by the forces of darkness affirms the position of the Governor of Zamfara.

How can this be allowed to continue? How can a country allow its people to be hunted and killed and in reaction express mere rhetorics? We are tired of hearing that government is on top of the situation when in actual fact, nothing is being done. This

**Any leader who refuses to defend his oath of office is not worth his salt. You cannot swear to defend the Constitution of your country yet pretend not to see and deal with situations as they arise. Once you accept to lead, your sentiments, whatever they are must be relegated to the background and nationalistic fervour take the lead. A leader's responsibility is solving difficult problems on behalf of the people. Not pandering to base sentiments and not doing anything if he is called to duty.**

situation cannot be wished away like when we were told political sharia would fizzle out on its own. Today, the country's foundation has been shaken because leaders refused to take decisions on behalf of the people. And, the country is the worse for it.

Any leader who refuses to defend his oath of office is not worth his salt. You cannot swear to defend the Constitution of your country yet pretend not to see and deal with situations as they arise. Once you accept to lead, your sentiments, whatever they are must be relegated to the background and nationalistic fervour takes the lead. A leader's responsibility is solving difficult problems on behalf of the people. Not pandering to base sentiments and not doing anything if he is called to duty.

The potentials inherent in this country are so enormous that we do not deserve to be where we are today. A new set of patriotic leaders must come up, accept the challenge of leadership and help reunite this great country. If we must continue to exist as a united and strong country, religion must be relegated to the background. Our secularism must be respected and we must all accept that we need to change a lot of the ways we do things. We cannot pretend to want growth when everything we are doing speaks to something different.

The leadership must wake up or else the revolution that is simmering and threatening to boil over will soon find expression in the activities of young people. Our generation has failed this set and if nothing is done quickly, we might soon all be at the receiving end of their bundled up anger.

News

**Activist urges NSCDC to checkmate excesses of officers**

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Human rights activist, Chief Haruna Osike has called on Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to keep its search light on the activities of the officers in charge of Adavi Division of the corps in Kogi state., saying their excesses has become unbearable to the community.

Osike who made the call in a petition letter he addressed to the Commandant General of NSCDC Ahmed Abubakar Audi copies which was made available to newsmen in Lokoja on Sunday, stated that the officers ineptitude to duty led to the recent burning of the only operational vehicle of the corps by yet to be identified arsonist.

The rights activist who is also the director of Azi Ajibade guest house at Ebogogo in Adavi LGA alleged that both divisional officer and the station officer do not stay in office more than two hours.

He added that on that fateful day that the operational vehicle was burnt, the supposed officer on duty was visibly drunk and abandoned his duty post which create an avenue for the arsonists to have all the oppourtunities to vandalized and set the vehicle ablaze.

"My supervisor on duty alerted me of the burning fire and I quickly went to the office and met the vehicle burning without any officer on duty. I sent to the house where the officers of the corps stayed to intimate them of the fire



Audi

incident since non of them was on duty and to my surprise they were not at home either.

There and then I called a journalist in Lokoja who also called the Area Commander of NSCDC in charge of Kogi central, but resident in Ageva, Okene LGA.

"The Area Commander within few minutes despite the distance came with some other officers who join hands with us to quenched the fire that is almost at the point of extending to the station office and at this point still non of the officers in charge of the office show up until after an hour.

"It apparent that the divisional officer, her second in command and even the station officer have been indulging in unwholesome activities that prompted the arsonists to burn the vehicle as there are series of complaints from the community of an alleged

extortion and unlawful detention of suspects.

"About three years ago the officers of Adavi division of NSCDC locked up a suspect in the cell, they abandoned him there without any of them on duty and the following morning the suspect was found dead in the cell.

Similar non chalant attitude play out recently at Ponyon ward in Yagba east LGA where a suspect allegedly died in NSCDC cell as reported in online media" the petition said.

He appealed to the Commandant General to prevail on the Kogi State Commandant of NSCDC Mr Suleman Ibrahim Mafara to redeploy all the officers in Adavi division of the corps, stressing that "virtually all of them have spent upward of seven to eight years in that division.

The Federal Government of Nigeria on Monday announced a platform to facilitate the placement of Nigerian students evacuated from Ukraine into Nigerian tertiary institutions.

This is despite the over four months' strike by university lecturers in Nigeria.

The spokesperson of the ministry of foreign affairs, Francisca Omayuli, said this was to enable them to continue their studies.

"In this connection, Interested students should visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website and complete the online Nigerian Student in Ukraine (NSU) registration form with the required information on or before 15th July, 2022," it said.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, which started on February 24, led to the disruption of lives and activities in Ukraine including education. Millions of people have been displaced in Ukraine with different governments including Nigeria's evacuating their citizens from the war-torn country.

Nigeria received over 1,000 evacuees from Ukraine in March; most of them being students. Many of the students have been undergoing online classes in their Ukrainian universities while others have had their education stalled until this

**Ukraine: FG offers admission to displaced students**



Onyema

announcement.

The source reported that the Nigerian Medical and Dental Council (MDCN) recently announced that it will not accept Ukrainian certificates issued during the war because it does not recognise online studies for medical students. The MDCN advised the affected medical students to continue their education in Nigerian universities.

Nigerian lawmakers last week opposed the stance of the MDCN and asked the council to allow students in the 5th year of their medical programmes in Ukraine to be absorbed into medical schools in Nigerian

universities to complete their 6th year.

It asked the federal government to, through relevant MDAs, discuss with Ukrainian authorities for universities to release the transcripts of years completed from year 1 to year 6 (as applicable) for Nigerian students willing to transfer to medical schools in Nigeria or other nations.

A source reported how the Nigerian students stuck in Ukraine cried out for help when the war started.

Over 300 of the students were trapped in Sumy, a Ukrainian city that shares borders with Russia.

**Marwa reiterates need for drug tests before marriage**

Retired Brig.-Gen. Mohammed Buba-Marwa, NDLEA chairman, has reiterated the need for drug tests for intending couples.

Marwa told a delegation of the Adamawa Council of the NUJ which visited him on Monday in Yola that it was pertinent for parents to establish the drug use status of their children's spouses.

He stressed that intending spouses and even politicians should go through drug screening and those found wanting should go into rehabilitation.

Marwa noted that 80 per cent of drugs users needed counselling which they could get at 26 outposts of the NDLEA, adding that government had approved six additional rehabilitation centres.

"We must all rise against drug abuse. This year alone, we have sent about 984 drugs criminals to jail," he said.

Marwa also solicited for continued partnership with the media for more awareness and sensitisation on the fight against drug abuse.

Earlier, Chairman of the



Marwa

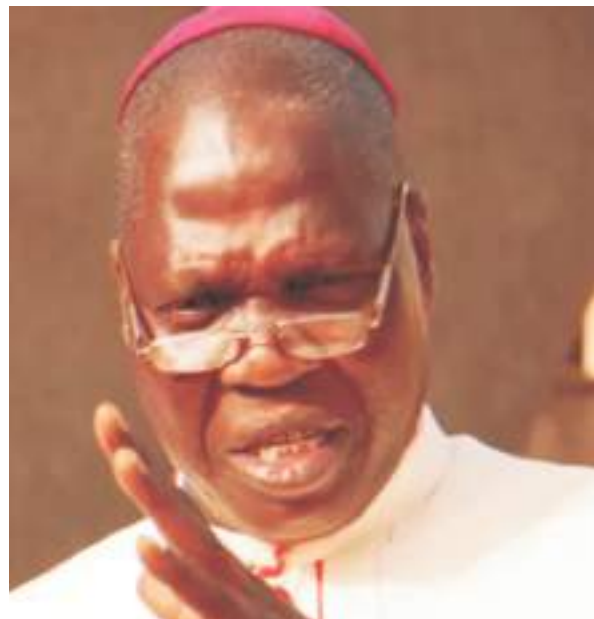
NUJ Council, Ishaka Dedan, appreciated Marwa's contributions to the fight against drug abuse, stating that a lot of success had been achieved.

**Another Catholic Priest kidnapped**

TERRORISTS, have yet kidnapped another Catholic Priest, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Silas, in the early hours of Monday, in

From JOHN FWAH Kaduna

Kauru Local Government Area of Kaduna State.



Idagoso

The Chancellor, Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Uchechukwu Okolo, confirmed the development in a statement made available to journalists in Kaduna.

It would be recalled that late Rev. Fr. Vitus Vaishima Borogo was killed by terrorists on his farm in Kujama, along Kaduna-Kachia Road on Saturday, June 25, 2022 and was laid to rest on June 30, 2022.

The Chancellor said, "it is with great pain that we announce to you the kidnapping of our Priest, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Silas. The event occurred in the early hours of July 04, 2022, when he could not turn up for morning Mass.

"He was abducted from the parish rectory at St. Charles Catholic Church,

Zambina, in Kauru Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

"We solicit for an intense prayer for his quick and safe release, we equally wish to call on all and sundry to refrain from taking the laws into their hands.

The Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, Kaduna State has confirmed the release of Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Silas, barely 24 hours after he was abducted by some armed men.

Silas was kidnapped from the parish rectory at St. Charles Catholic Church in Zambina, Kauru Local Government Area of

Kaduna state in the early hours of Monday.

In a statement, the Chancellor of the Diocese, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Okolo, thanked everyone who offered prayers for the quick release of the priest.

"With hearts filled with joy, we raise our voices in a symphony of praises as

we announce the return of our brother, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Silas.

"He was abducted by armed persons from the parish rectory at St. Charles Catholic Church, Zambina, in Kauru Local Government Area, in the early hours of Monday, July 4th 2022," the statement read.

**Abducted Kaduna Catholic Priest regains freedom**

**Foreign Commentary**

**Ukraine: Teachers swapping classrooms for trenches**

*It's a regular morning in Ukraine and Fedir Shandor is logging on to conduct his online classes, SOPHIE WILLIAMS writes*

THE university professor has been teaching online since the pandemic but for the past few months, he has been educating his students from the frontline.

The 47-year-old signed up to the military after the Russian invasion but he was eager for his students to continue their education.

The result? He conducts twice-weekly classes on topics such as tourism and sociology from the trenches on his phone.

"I've been teaching for 27 years. I can't just abandon that. It's what I'm good at," he tells the BBC.

Mr Shandor has been teaching while serving in the military since Russia invaded in February. He signed up because he wanted to fight for his country and protect his wife and daughter.

"I should stop the Russians before they come to my house," he says.

Mr Shandor's dedication to his job has also helped keep participation numbers up.

"Even students who would skip classes before, turn up to every lecture," says one of his students, 20-year-old Iryna. "He has always told us that we have to be smart, that we are fighting for a smart nation."

But teaching in the trenches is not easy, and the students have had to get used to hearing shelling in the background..

"During one class, the sounds were very loud and so the students heard everything. Then I hid in the trenches and continued to teach," he says.

Through his surroundings, he's also been able to show his students shrapnel and teach them about different missiles.

Mr Shandor's lessons are also something of a novelty to his fellow soldiers, who often tune into his lectures and take pictures of him at work.

One of those pictures, showing him holding his phone in a trench, was posted online and went viral across Ukraine. A number of artists around the country have since made drawings and cartoons of the moment.

Mr Shandor isn't the only teacher currently fighting on the frontline. According to Ukraine's Education Minister, Serhiy Shkarlet, some 900 teachers have joined the armed forces so far.

"We are proud of each and every one of them," he says. "We have people who have joined the armed forces of Ukraine in the Ministry of Education too."

Others, such as Anton Tselovalnyk, have joined the territorial defence.

His lessons were cancelled during the first two weeks of the war, but after time, schools that he had worked with in the past



**Fedir Shandor delivers his lectures from the trenches in eastern Ukraine**

started messaging him, asking for help.

The 42-year-old instantly responded, opting to teach classes in the trenches or in the nearby housing for territorial defence personnel. Nothing can stop him from missing a class, not even the cold weather. Anton Tselovalnyk has been teaching his students - who range from primary to high school - about architecture

He says that at first it wasn't about teaching the kids, it was more about talking and supporting each other.

"You can imagine, the children used to go to school every day and then it suddenly stopped."

He has been teaching his students - who range from primary to high school - about architecture.

"The most important thing now is to keep the connection between your past and your future. Teaching now is like that for me too," he says.

One of his students, 17-year-old Veronika Volkova, says Mr Tselovalnyk's lectures are funny in order to keep the class in a good mood.

"It's the best distraction," she says, adding that her teacher will often show the class his surroundings, telling them about the trenches he has helped build and the places where he sits and looks at the stars.

"He's thoughtful and caring during lectures. Always asking for feedback, trying to keep the subject interesting for us," Ms Volkova adds.

Anton Tselovalnyk has been conducting classes on a range of subjects such as architecture

Other teachers, such as Maksym Kozhemiaka, are using their medical skills to help the military.

The 41-year-old professor of trauma medicine at Zaporizhzhia State University realised he could be of use at the city's military hospital and volunteered to help.

But after a few days working there, he discovered a way of helping his students continue their studies too.

"We thought we could teach classes online," he says. "We already had experience in online teaching during Covid."

And so after a challenging first two weeks of the war, Mr Kozhemiaka resumed teaching by letting his students watch him conduct operations online.

They use a mixture of live classes and augmented reality to allow their students to participate and comment on operations even from their own homes.

"We've taught young doctors and students how to deal with combat wounds," he says.

Mr Kozhemiaka's classes have allowed students to continue their education despite the war

Daryna Bavysta, has joined in Mr Kozhemiaka's classes and says she has learnt a lot since they restarted.

"Now I understand everything that is happening on the operating table," she says.

"Maksym explains everything during his online live operations - what he is doing and how," she says.

But she is worried about her teacher: "It's not only psychologically difficult but physically - you want to give everything to the people you're treating. Our soldiers."

For Mr Kozhemiaka, abandoning his classes was not an option.

"Teaching is the work of my life," he says. "I couldn't abandon it. We were on the right track as a country before the war and we still are, so we need to fight together for our victory and stay united."

"It's important to continue working on what you did before. Why should a war stop us?"

**Additional reporting by Svitlana Libet.**



**Zelensky**

## Foreign News

### Tunisian president defends draft constitution amidst opposition

TUNISIA'S president has said his proposed constitution would not restore authoritarian rule, hitting back at criticism from across the political spectrum urging people to support it in this month's referendum.

Saied, who suspended and subsequently dissolved the elected parliament to rule by decree in a step his foes call a coup, made the comments on Tuesday.

A draft of a new constitution that would greatly expand his powers while weakening checks on his actions was published.

Previously, political power was more directly exercised by parliament, which took the lead role in appointing the government and approving legislation.

The president's supporters say he is standing up to elite forces whose bungling and corruption have condemned Tunisia to a decade of political paralysis and economic stagnation.

In a letter published online, Saied said there was no danger to Tunisians' rights and freedoms.

"Everyone knows what Tunisia has suffered for decades, especially the last decade. They emptied state coffers. The poor got poorer, the corrupt got richer," Saied said, accusing critics of his constitution of "slanders, far from reality".

Most political parties and civil society groups oppose his constitution, saying it was drawn up unilaterally and will lack legitimacy as Tunisians have less than four weeks to decide on it and there is no minimum rate of participation for it to pass.

Even the head of the committee Saied convened to prepare the first draft of his constitution, which he then rewrote, said this weekend that the president's version was "dangerous and paves the way for a disgraceful dictatorial regime".

Sadok Belaid, the



President Saied

committee head, said the version Saied had presented did not resemble the draft the committee had prepared.

Similarly, the head of the powerful UGTT union said the proposed constitution could threaten democracy in the country.

But the union, a major

political force with more than one million members, said it would allow its members the freedom to vote as they choose on the constitution proposed by Saied.

Voters will be asked to approve the constitution in a July 25 referendum.

### US, China talk trade, as Biden cuts tariff

UNITED States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese Vice Premier Liu discussed economic issues including international trade and supply chains, as the Biden administration considers lowering tariffs on Chinese goods to tame soaring inflation.

In a virtual meeting with her Chinese counterpart, Yellen "frankly" raised concerns about China's "unfair, non-market" economic policies and Russia's war against Ukraine, the US Treasury Department said in a statement.

The two sides also discussed the global economic outlook amid rising commodity prices and food security challenges during the call, which the Treasury Department described as "candid and substantive" and part of efforts to "maintain open lines of communication".

"The issue is what the US is going to do beyond just repeating the same accusations. Plenty of trade law scholars argue there's considerable scope for seeking redress at the WTO but the US

seems unenthusiastic towards the institution. But more unilateral sanctions won't change Chinese policies and nor will they win the US plaudits even from close allies like Japan and Australia, who remain committed to the WTO and its processes."

Following the call, China's Ministry of Commerce said the "pragmatic and frank" talks touched on the macroeconomic situation and the stability of global supply chains.

China also expressed concerns about US tariffs and sanctions against Chinese firms, the ministry said, adding that both sides had agreed to continue dialogue.

"As the global economy faces grim challenges, there is a great significance to strengthen the communication and coordination of the macro policies between China and the United States," the ministry said in a statement.

"Safeguarding the stability

of global industrial chains and supply chains will serve the benefits of China, the US and the whole world."

The talks come as US President Joe Biden weighs the possibility of easing tariffs on Chinese imports as part of efforts to control soaring prices, which are rising at their fastest rate in more than 40 years.

US politics, Canada's multiculturalism, South America's geopolitical rise—we bring you the stories that matter.

Biden's cabinet is reportedly split on whether to ease tariffs, some of which were inherited from former President Donald Trump, who took aim at what he viewed as unfair Chinese trade practices.

Yellen has publicly pressed Biden to reduce some tariffs, arguing they make "no strategic sense" and

Deborah Elms, founder and executive director of the Asian Trade Centre in Singapore, described it as a positive that officials from the world's two largest economies are continuing to meet.

"There is no way to manage tensions if communication is handled through the media rather than in person, or via Zoom."

At the G7 summit in Germany last month, US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping were expected to hold talks in the coming weeks.

Gary Ng, a senior economist at Natixis in Hong Kong, said

It means companies must

stoppage and WCS did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

In a later statement, the government said it was open to discussions with new partners in the ambitious project that aims to extract iron ore from its remote hinterland to a port hundreds of kilometres away but which has been dogged by delays in recent years.

Guinea's military government has

### Guinea halts Simandou iron ore project, seeks partners



Mist shrouds the Simandou mountains in Beyla, Guinea, an area where finest iron ore found

suspended construction of the mine and related infrastructure once before, in March. That resulted in Rio and WCS signing a framework agreement that month under which they would "c o - d e v e l o p" infrastructure for the mine, including a 670-km (416 miles) railway and a port.

The government gave the companies 14 days on June 19 to agree on a joint venture, itself an extension of a previous deadline.

The March framework agreement guaranteed the state 15 percent of the Simandou iron ore as well as a free and non-dilutable 15 percent stake in the railway and port joint venture, the government has said.

Magassouba said Rio and WCS were stalling over the terms of the government's stake in the joint venture, blaming the companies for "inertia" on this issue.

European Parliament adopts landmark laws for internet platforms

THE European Parliament has adopted landmark laws that will improve internet consumer protection and supervision of online platforms.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) passed with 539 votes in favour, 54 votes against and 30 abstentions on Tuesday. The Digital Markets Act (DMA) was adopted with 588 in favour, 11 votes against and 31 abstentions.

European Union internal market commissioner Thierry Breton, a champion of the regulations, praised the EU legislature on Twitter, hailing the vote as "historic".

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the commission "will be the digital regulator for the biggest platforms".

The DSA represents the biggest shake-up in EU law in this area in about 20 years and spells out the responsibilities of technology and internet companies.

It means companies must moderate their platforms for harmful content like COVID-19 disinformation and introduce protocols to block the spread of dangerous material during crises like the pandemic.

Companies must also increase transparency regarding interactions with users and simplify user agreements.

Furthermore, the DSA bans targeted advertising using sensitive personal data like sexual orientation or political and religious beliefs. Targeted advertising for minors is also banned.

The DMA focuses on market distortion risks and targets the biggest digital players – those platforms that act as so-called "gatekeepers" – to prevent them from abusing their dominant market position.

Once EU member states have adopted the legislation, which is regarded as a formality, a 15-month transitional period starts, after which it enters into force



United States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen

## Feature

# The power of discipline

**The world is heavily loaded different things- both good and bad. This makes it difficult for indisciplined people to achieve their goals. They set out to achieve one thing and they end up being distracted by another. They say I will do A and they end up trying to achieve B, C... Our make-up as humans, also predispose us to want comfort over anything that can discomfort us. JOSEPH YOKAT writes.**



I say this, because hardwork is not always achieved without pains and sometimes discomfort. We naturally want to enjoy, rest, relax... Because of this, we always want to postponed things or tasks that should be done now till a later date. Or avoid certain things entirely, because of the pains that may be associated with such things.

Our human nature requires discipline for maximum productivity. There is a discipline that comes from the person in question (self-discipline) and there is another that comes from external source. At the early stage of life, we receive discipline from external source- from parents, relatives, guidance, teachers... But at adult stage, one is expected to have self-discipline. It was the American writer, publisher, artist, and philosopher Elbert Hubbard who said "Self-discipline is the ability to make yourself do what you should do when you should do it, whether you feel like it or not." This means the ability to control your behaviours (actions and inactions) at the right time and in the right direction without being influenced to so by another person. Since there are always defaulters in virtually every sphere of life, or society, the Government or the society have already make provision for handling those who will be undisciplined in the society. This is why we have the law enforcement agents- The police, Road Safety officers, Vehicle inspection Officers, lawyers... These people are responsible for enforcing discipline, where individuals failed to inculcate self discipline. Every good society have laws and traditions for its people to abide by. And anybody who is found culpable is normally punished. Where self discipline is lacking, external discipline becomes inevitable.

I have observed that great men and women, have self-discipline. So that, they don't need anybody to discipline them to achieve their goals. How different will you be from a child, if you always need external discipline to achieve your goals? It is a Characteristics of children to need discipline from external source, to do the right things. Peak Performance can not be achieved in a state of immaturity. This implies that for

**"The funny thing I observed about many people who live a defeated life, is their spectacular excuses. They are experts in giving excuses. And sometimes, the excuses we are giving for not achieving our goals, is what motivates other people to achieve their theirs. There is no point in time that you will lack excuses for not doing what you should do. Discipline is seeing and having the excuse, yet, you still move ahead to work on your goals."**

you to achieve excellence in any field, you must mature and become an adult in every perspective.

Where discipline is lacking, there is always failure and regrets. Any field you lack discipline in, you will not achieve much in it. I have always cherish the discipline of military men, because they are orderly in their activities and actions. They don't give room for unnecessary excuses and complain. They are highly disciplined and discipline is their watch word. As a result of this observation, I asked a military friend, how the military is able to achieve this. And he told me that it is achieved through training (external discipline). Military men are often subjected to rigorous training to instil self-discipline in them. It is expected that you become a self-disciplined person after passing through the external discipline from your parents, guidance, teachers...

**Ways to Achieve Self-discipline**  
**1. Have your future in view:**  
 I believe that the reason why many people show signs of indiscipline, is because they don't have a glimpse of their future. The scripture made us to understand in Jeremiah 29:11 that God's plan for us, is plan for good and not of evil, to give us a future and a hope. It means that

the future of every man/woman is glorious and great. But we need to know what kind of future God destined for us, if not we may be discouraged and be distracted from achieving it.

What do you think is the reason why athletes, wrestlers and players in different games perform excellently all the time? The reason is because of the prize(s) that awaits them at the end of the competition. The bigger or glorious the prize, the tougher the contest, because every player wants the prize. Our lives on earth is like a contest because God has place a prize of greatness for each of us to receive and we need to perform excellently to receive that prize. When you consciously remind yourself of how glorious your future is, you will be willing to discipline yourself and pass through any condition to achieve your goals.

**2. Remember that the only time you have is now:**

We often forget too quick that we are sojourners on earth and our days are numbered. It is common for you to see people talking about their plans - what they will do in the years to come, without the consciousness that death is a reality. I am not being pessimistic, but I feel that death is a reality we must be aware of always, in order for us to avoid procrastination and achieve what we set out to achieve in life. The only time you have is now. You must be disciplined enough to do the things you should do WHEN (within the time) they should be done. Indiscipline people waste their time on little things that have little or no impact on their lives.

**3. Don't give room for excuses:**

Excuses are very sweet and they are abundant in supply in every clime of the world. They are every where around you. As

a matter of fact, to every one thing you achieve, there are literally a thousand reasons why shouldn't have done it. For instance, when you think of reading, you may also see reasons to sleep, or postpone it till tomorrow. It was Brian Tracy who titled his book "No Excuses the Power of Self Discipline." This implies that for you to be a disciplined person, you must avoid excuses. You will see the excuses, but you must not focus on them.

The funny thing I observed about many people who live a defeated life, is their spectacular excuses. They are experts in giving excuses. And sometimes, the excuses we are giving for not achieving our goals, is what motivates other people to achieve their theirs. There is no point in time that you will lack excuses for not doing what you should do. Discipline is seeing and having the excuse, yet, you still move ahead to work on your goals.

**Do things according to priority:**

Not everything you do will give you maximum benefit. To be disciplined, you must separate necessary things from the unnecessary in your life and treat them as such. You can't spend the same amount of time on little things as you spend on major things that matters. This is why many people complain that they are working hard, yet they are not achieving much. Most times, those people didn't priortize their activities, they waste time and energy on little things. When you discipline yourself to invest more time and energy on the major things in your life, good results awaits you at the end.

**5: Be a hard master on yourself:**

Sometimes we are soft hearted towards ourselves and hard to

others. But a man of discipline can excuse others but himself.

Pruning is not an enjoyable process for plants, but it is necessary for their productivity. Sometimes we seek comfort too much and avoid doing necessary things with high potential for our greatness. The question we must ask ourselves is this: This discipline I am afraid to implement on myself, how many people have died as a result of it? The only thing you observe about those who implement this upon themselves, is that they become successful and excellent in their respective fields of endeavour. Nothing is ever achieved without paying the price. If you know that the task is a necessary ingredient for the achievement of your dreams, be disciplined enough to do it, for, without that, it would be impossible for you to achieve your dreams. It was the great philosopher Aristotle who said "what lies in our power to do, also lies in our power not to do". Remember that you are the major determinant, of whether or not the task will be done.

Just as pruning gives shape to plants and enables them to flourish well, discipline shapes us and brings out the best in us. A plant that is not pruned will grow in any direction haphazardly, and so will a life without discipline too. Without discipline, it will almost be impossible for us to achieve anything we set out to achieve. We need to make conscious decisions to be Bn disciplined for us to become the best version of ourselves. May we live a life of discipline.

# EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

## Ways blame-shifting affects relationship

By **Sylvia Smith**

The blame game in relationships is often a running joke in popular movies and TV shows.

However, what do you do when your partner shifts all the blame onto you while absolving themselves of everything?

Blame-shifting in relationships is a manipulation tactic designed by the abuser to victimize themselves while portraying negative situations as your fault.

What is blame-shifting in relationships?

People who use blame-shifting are often escapist who lack the emotional maturity to own up to their behavior and the resulting consequences of their actions. These people often perceive negative situations as another's responsibility.

Blame shifters often victimize themselves.

Since blame-shifting is a form of a coping mechanism, the person shifting the blame may be doing it unconsciously and may not understand their faulty logic.

However, the individual on the receiving end of the blame games often believes such accusations are true and tries hard to work on the relationship.

Unfortunately, when dealing with projection and blame, the victims often find that they aren't able to make things work. They often blame themselves for the failure of the relationship.

Blame-shifting in relationships is also a way to manipulate you into doing something that you otherwise wouldn't be willing to do. The abuser makes you feel like you "owe" them something.

Finally, blame-shifting is often done to create a shift in the power dynamic between you and your partner. When your partner finally convinces you that you were at fault, they tend to have more power over you. Additionally, the responsibility of fixing the relationship also falls on you.

If your partner has the habit of always blaming others, it is a red flag



that you should not ignore. **Psychology behind blame-shifting- Why do we blame others?**

Let's take a quick look at some psychological reasons for blaming others.

Blame-shifting can often be explained as a classic case of fundamental attribution error.

So, what does this mean?

In simple words, we often attribute someone else's actions to their personality and character. Still, when it comes to us, we often attribute our own behaviors to

external situations and factors out of our control.

There's another reason why we shift the blame on others.

According to Psychoanalysts, our ego defends itself from anxiety by using projection—a defense mechanism wherein we take out our unacceptable feelings and qualities and blame them on other people.

So, you often find yourself blaming others for your actions.

The defense mechanism always points to a lack of insight into our feelings and motivations. Since defense mechanisms are often unconscious, a person who is



projecting on you will usually not realize what they are doing.

**How blame-shifting works?**

Imagine this. You and your partner are coming home from a 12-hour car journey, and both of you are extremely exhausted from the drive. While your partner is behind the wheel, you're admiring the beautiful sky.

And then, you feel a crash!

It turns out; your partner miscalculated the turn they had to take and end up hitting the car on the curb.

The rest of the week, you get to hear- "I hit the car because of you. You were distracting me."

You feel like you're going crazy because you were silently looking at the sky!

**Techniques used while shifting blame in relationships**

In this manner, the abuser will try to invalidate your feelings, and you may feel like you're going crazy. This is a technique of dismissal and rejection of someone's thoughts and feelings. Psychologically, it negatively impacts the partner.

**The victim card**

Playing the victim card means the person feels powerless and does not know how to be assertive, but tries to gain an advantage by cutting a

sorry figure.

Joe and Max were in a relationship for three years. Joe is a lawyer at a well-reputed firm while Max is in-between jobs.

**The stink bomb**

The go-to-hell attitude is reserved for when the abuser knows that they've been caught and have nowhere else to go. This clearly means that when the person has no opportunity to defend or escape, they unabashedly accept it and pretend they aren't even at fault.

**Gaslighting versus blame-shifting**

Gaslighting is a subtle form of emotional manipulation wherein you start doubting your sanity and perception of reality. It's a way of insisting that something didn't happen when it did in reality.

For example, "I didn't call you stupid! You're only imagining it!"

When someone is gaslighting you, they are exploiting your vulnerabilities, fears, insecurities, and neediness.

On the other hand, blame-shifting is a form of manipulation in which your partner twists things so that you end up being blamed even if you were not at fault. You avoid your partner as much as you can and start working late in an attempt to avoid going home.





# THE NIGERIA STANDARD'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

# Health benefits of waterleaf

WATERLEAF is a vegetable that's known by many names. Its names include Ceylon spinach, Florida spinach, Surinam Purslane, cariru, and more. Even its scientific name is up for debate. Both *Talinum fruticosum* and *Talinum triangulare* are used. Regardless of what it's called, it's crunchy, tangy, and nutritious.

Waterleaf can grow to 5 feet by some accounts, and has simple pink flowers. It is an excellent source of iron, zinc, and molybdenum.

While waterleaf is native to the Americas and the Caribbean, it has been cultivated in many places across the world.

### Health Benefits

Waterleaf is extremely nutritious. However, it is also high in oxalate. Oxalate is a natural chemical found in foods like spinach, rhubarb, beets, sweet potatoes, and waterleaf. For those with kidney disorders, oxalate may contribute to kidney stones.

Up to 50 percent of the soluble (dissolves in water) oxalate can be removed through blanching or cooking. Cooking can also remove lectins from waterleaf. Lectins are generally harmless, but they can interfere with the body's ability to absorb micronutrients like calcium, iron, and zinc.

Some of the health benefits of waterleaf include:

### Bone Health

Waterleaf is an excellent source of calcium and phosphorus, both of which are essential for healthy bones. In fact, some research has shown

that taking calcium without phosphorus does very little for bone strength. The two elements appear to work together. They are especially good for helping women over 60 who are already suffering from osteoporosis.

### Eye Health

Maintaining sufficient levels of vitamin A is essential for healthy eyes. Research indicates that vitamin A can slow the progression of retinal disease, reduce the risk of cataracts, and improve low-light vision. Waterleaf is a good source of vitamin A.

### Iron Deficiency and Anemia

Waterleaf is an excellent dietary source of iron. Iron deficiency can range from mild to severe. Those who experience milder symptoms benefit the most from shifting to an iron-rich diet.

### Cognitive Health

Research indicates that eating a diet rich in vitamin C reduces the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and slows age-related cognitive decline. Waterleaf is an excellent source of vitamin C, with about 31 mg for every 100 grams of vegetable matter.

### Nutrition

Waterleaf is a rich source of the essential nutrients Calcium, Phosphorus, Iron, and Vitamin C.

It is also a good source of:

- Vitamin A
- Thiamine
- Riboflavin
- Niacin

### Portion Sizes

The main concern when it comes to eating too much waterleaf stems from its



oxalate content. Too much oxalate can be unhealthy for individuals with kidney disease. As such, those individuals should refrain from consuming raw waterleaf. Cooked waterleaf has approximately 50 percent less soluble oxalate than its raw counterpart.

Otherwise, waterleaf is a healthy food that is low in both calories and sugar. Generally, it's a good idea to try to eat three to four servings of vegetables per day.

### How to Prepare Waterleaf

Waterleaf is a fantastic vegetable if you want to be able to grow your own food. While it grows best in tropical climates, it can be cultivated anywhere with a hot, humid growing season. Keeping the plant well-watered and at least partially shaded will accelerate growth.

Soil should be well drained. Standing water is detrimental to the plant. Waterleaf also needs nitrogen to be healthy. If the leaves begin to yellow, it may mean there's insufficient nitrogen in the soil.

After waterleaf is harvested it can be eaten immediately, dried, or kept in a plastic bag in a refrigerator to maintain freshness. It can be prepared in much the same way as spinach, and is popular for soups, stews, stir fries, and pizza. It can also be enjoyed raw, though it is

recommended not to do so in large quantities.

Some popular waterleaf recipes include:

- Gbure Elegusi, a Yoruba dish from Nigeria
- Edikang Ikong soup, an Efiks dish from Nigeria

- Roasted waterleaf with yams, plantains, and/or potatoes
- Stewed waterleaf with chicken, tomatoes, and onion

**Sources:**  
[medicalnews.com](http://medicalnews.com)



**Editorial**

**Is someone trying to incite religious crisis?**

**THE recent attack on churches, worshippers and kidnapping of Christian clerics and their eventual killings have become worrisome. These systematic attacks and killings of a particular religion potent danger for a nation that has existed based on its ideology of being a secular state and maintain such until recently.**

**IT would be recalled that recently President Muhammadu Buhari recounted that the killings and attacks are geared towards dividing the country along religious and ethnic lines by causing division and hatred amongst the populace.**

**BISHOP Matthew Hassan Kukah of Sokoto diocese in his Easter message lamented that Nigeria is being divided through religious and ethnic lines which have poised greater challenge than the upcoming 2023 general elections. A negligible number of Nigerians were offended by Kukah's honesty.**

**IT is evident that Nigeria is currently experiencing what could be seen as targeted genocide with many killed and consistent attacks heightened even in recent times. This is a clear indication that these attacks are calculated and deliberate.**

**UNFORTUNATELY, some bold and audacious religious and ethnic leaders keep making incisive and derogative statements capable of causing religious uproar amongst their members in public places without being cautioned by government to desist from such acts. Even though government has always condemned the acts of terrorism or kidnaping from whatever quarters yet action has not been taken to stop they wave of this evil by check-mating those doing that.**

**WE call on government to take responsibility of the safety of its citizens and nip their nefarious acts in the bud. They should arrest whoever that is caught making comments or statements capable of dividing the nation along religious coloration. The different religions have co-existed harmoniously in the past with respect for each other's beliefs and activities.**

**IT is sad to say this has been jettisoned by a sinister agenda hatched somewhere to ignite fire that will consume the nation and destabilize its peace. Religion is the opium of the poor and fanatical followers. So tact must be employed by leaders of all religions in handling national or sensitive issues in the discourse of state or national matters.**

**WE implore government to raise the red flag on any Nigerian that is seen making any comment or statement that is inimical to peaceful coexistence or suspected to be religiously or ethnically sensitive in this volatile time of our national growth.**

**GOVERNMENT and security agents must therefore act fast to go after and arrest all those responsible for attacks on religious places of worship kidnapping and killing of religious clerics. Proper investigation should be carried out to fish out the masterminds of this evil agenda. It is said that the rights of one to swing his hands should end when the right of another to cover his nose begins".**

Kidnapping can be define as an act or instance or the crime of seizing, confining, abducting or carrying away a person by force or fraud often against their will. In criminal law, kidnapping is the unlawful confinement of a person against their will, often including transportation.

Over the years, cases of kidnapping is rampant in the South East and South-South, owing to activities of militants and law breakers. In the early 2000s, a sitting Governor in the South East was abducted, who happens to be a current Minister in the President Buhari-led administration. The heinous activity has spread to other regions of the country, with some dastard section seeing it as a lucrative venture. Victims of this act are most times traumatized and disenchanted.

Notable personalities have been abducted in recent times including the father of the former Governor of Plateau State, Chief Joshua .C. Dariye, a traditional ruler in Gindiri, Mangu Local Government, Da Gwom Rei Wwang, among a host of others. This trend is most alarming and heart-breaking, and in the year 2021, an average of 13 persons were abducted daily in Nigeria in the first half of the year according to a report by SBM intelligence, bringing to 2,371 the number of persons kidnapped in the country within the first six month of the year.

The clergy have gotten their own fair share of the barbaric act, with Rev. Zango and other notable gospel minister abducted.

According to report from SBM, N10 billion (\$19.96 Million as of June 30) was demanded as ransom for the kidnap victims, the highest number of kidnap victims about 605 was recorded in February.

This was closely followed by March with 534 kidnap victims. Report indicated that Niger State recorded the highest number of persons abducted, with 643 victims in 28 kidnap incidents, while 58 people were killed during the abductions. Plateau State recorded 10 abductions in 6 months of 2021.

Schools were often targeted in the abductions in 2021 which is basically prevalent in

the North-East. Many cases go unreported, this condemnable act cut across gender, class, race, colour, age etc. Time has beckon on us as a whole to address the evil act in other to safeguard the future. A case reported in FCT, in 2021 shows that kidnappers now use bank account to collect ransom. Some poor families involve the church/mosque for contribution. A man was said to have remove the roof of his



**Increasing rate of kidnapping in Plateau State**

house to see in other to raise ransom for his kidnap son.

Some states are adopting measures to curtail this spread. In Gombe State, the state government has deployed local security in all the institutions in the state to compliment efforts of the police and other security

agencies. Plateau State should emulate other states in beefing security in schools cut across, primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Local security network should be adopted to nab foreigners invading our towns and village.

Collaborations should be

encouraged with traditional institutions to protect their domain through local chiefs, this will further forestall law and order. The government and other non-governmental agencies must be deliberate about security of lives and properties. We have lost more than enough.

**AJANG AJIJI JOHN, Rikkos, Jos**

**The danger of security delay in response to attack**

IT is obvious that the most unfortunate stories that Nigerians often go to sleep and wake up with on daily basis is the unprovoked attacks that are being unleashed on innocent Nigerians without any reason as far as these attacks are concern.

These heinous and senseless attacks often meted on our people are always observed as a well calculated plan before carrying out the attacks.

More offending than not, it always leads to loss of lives and destructions of property.

Infact, what sometimes baffles some of us is the issue of non arrest of the perpetrators by our security outfits. Indeed, some of the things that always give some of us

concern is the fact that the assailants cannot

disappear into the air.

This, however, has clearly shown that Nigeria's security are suppose to be trained more on tracking offenders for effective arrest of any gang or terrorist attack.

Again, why the arrest of those criminals who have become heartless in their human thinking is sometimes difficult can be attributed to the security's delay in prompt response to any distress call connected to attacks.

It is also unfortunate that our security sometimes end up arresting people who know nothing about the attack, especially those within some of the attacked communities.

It doesn't make any nd has suffered destruction of property during an attack be arrested?

sense for security to arrest innocent people under attack. The

question is: how can a family member who is counting the loss of his beloved and has suffered destruction of property during an attack be arrested?

When the real perpetrators are not always arrested so as to make them face the full wrath of the law of the land to serve as deterrents to others, the cases of criminality instead of reducing would be increasing in number. It is a minus for everyone if they attack and go back freely into their respective homes. When we don't call a spate a spates we shall never get it right.

**JIDAUNA DARING, Rukuba Road.**

**BE PATRIOTIC AND RESPONSIBLY NIGERIANS BY GETTING YOUR PVCs AND VOTING DURING ELECTIONS**

**STANDARD CARTOON**

**Kidnappers and delegates are the jobs that pays more than Central Bank and NNPC in Nigeria.**  
**"Cash flow no network problem"**  
**True or False?**  
**Government must answer this question.**



## Opinion

# Minimum wage: What's the way out?

By  
**FELIX ASHAKAH**

IN Nigeria, the minimum cost of living is above the minimum wage due to high inflation rates. Nigeria's minimum wage was set at N30,000.00 in April 2019 by the Federal Government, and it has remained the same over the years.

The minimum cost of healthy living for an adult per month at the beginning of 2022 stood at N40,980.00 in Nigeria, Picodi.com reported. The reports showed that Nigeria's minimum wage is less than the minimum cost of healthy living by 36.60 percent. The difference indicates that many Nigerians are malnourished and poor.

Life has become unbearable for many individuals and families because they can no longer feed themselves due to the high prices of foodstuff in the market. Prices increase every other market day. Many Nigerians go to the market with sizable wallets and return home with near-empty bags. High food prices have been a problem in Nigeria, but the current situation is biting hard on the nerves of many Nigerians.

Many Nigerians are poorer than in 2019; N90,000.00

cannot buy the same quantity of foodstuff they got at N30,000.00 in 2019. Many Nigerians have intensified their groaning following the daily pressure of the high cost of living.

In Nigeria, the high prices of food items have eroded the income of the people. The salaries of many workers have not increased to match increases in prices. Many individuals and families need financial help to augment their meagre income.

Many Nigerians are passing through pain as they can no longer eat twice a day. Many Nigerians now buy fewer consumables due to the prevailing high prices in the market. Macroeconomic studies have shown that consumption expenditure is one of the main drivers of economic growth. A reduction in private consumption in Nigeria may affect the GDP growth forecast for 2022.

The current high food prices in Nigeria correlate with high fuel

prices. The current fuel price is a driving force of food prices because of the multiple uses of fuel. The Federal Government must address the prevailing fuel crisis in the country in the interest of the vulnerable.

Manufacturers are complaining about the high cost of diesel. Some filling stations are selling a litre of diesel at N1,000. The high cost of diesel has compelled many manufacturers to cut short output and labour force. The cut in output and labour force in the manufacturing sector has the full potential of aggravating the problem of unemployment and GDP growth rate in Nigeria.

High inflation in Nigeria is associated with a drop in the supply of agricultural produce to the markets. Many Nigerians in the middle-belt and northeast states have not returned to farming due to the fear of bandits. Many other farmers are still practicing small-scale farming methods. Nigeria's population requires mechanised farming to produce large quantities and several agricultural products

for consumption.

Also contributing to high food prices in Nigeria is the high exchange rate. According to Tony Anakebe, the managing director of Gold-Link Investment Limited, about 80 percent of importers source forex from the parallel market due to their inability to source forex from the official market. High prices of imported food items are exacerbating food prices in Nigeria.

The inability of the Nigerian government to use direct control over rising food prices is a significant concern. The wholesalers and retailers are the major drivers of high prices in the market. Many wholesalers and retailers are making abnormal profits; they sell their products at much higher prices.

The inability of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to effectively regulate prices is one of the factors driving food prices in Nigeria. The CBN either does not have the required competence to control prices or it does not have the required independence to act

effectively.

The prevailing high food prices in Nigeria call for the urgent attention of the Federal Government. The government needs to intervene by using relevant economic policies to bring down food prices in the market. The CBN must be strengthened to implement monetary policy effectively in Nigeria.

The government should restore security in the country and grant low-interest loans to farmers to enable them to expand production. Low prices and sustainable growth are crucial macroeconomic goals of every developing country. The prevailing high food prices in Nigeria hurt economic growth and development.

Nigeria's government must rise to the challenge of high food prices facing many people. Low food prices can enhance consumption, production, employment, growth, and stability in every economy.

**Felix Ashakah is economics lecturer at Western Delta University, Oghara**

## PVC: Your weapon is your votes

By **MATTHEW MA**

"IF you do not vote, someone else will decide for you. Your vote is your power. And that power begins with collecting your PVC. With your PVC, you can either vote someone in or kick someone out."

One of the most critical ways that people can influence decision-making is through voting. Voting is a formal expression of choosing a preferred candidate for an office. In a democracy, the right to vote is one of the ways citizens can influence the decisions about how political leaders govern their countries. Citizens exercise their right to vote when the government decides to hold elections. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, recognizes the integral role that transparent and open elections play in ensuring the fundamental right to participatory governance.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article 21 states: Everybody has the right to participate in an election through direct or indirect voting. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country. The will of the people shall be the basis of the election. It shall periodically express in genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage. Hence, it shall take place by secret ballot or equivalent free voting procedures.

To vote is one of the political exercises bestowed on every citizen in a democracy. In a perfect democracy, the logistics of voting would be quick and easy for all citizens. Yet, unfortunately, this idea has never been the case in Nigeria. It has always been a demanding exercise, even more so

today with the Permanent Voter Card (PVC). Now, more than ever, we face increased difficulties in voting presented by violence at voting centers, vote-buying, election fraud, rigging, prevalent insecurity, snatching of ballot boxes, ceaseless postponement of elections, poor planning, and clumsy voting process. The reality is overcoming these roadblocks can be a time-demanding process when parties are benching on ruling either by force or by deception. Besides, for many of our communities, the logistics and preparation leading to voting are made so impossible that people are not ready to sacrifice their time to exercise their rights as Nigerian citizens. For the elderly, the risk of voting is so high that going out to collect their PVC jeopardizes their safety despite being elderly and part of high-risk groups. This notion has always led to significant shortages of votes in every election.

An American human rights activist once said voting is not only our right but also our power. As evident as this idea may be, people across Nigeria seem to have given up on voting as a catalyst for a positive change. Nigeria has an estimated population of over 200 million, yet these numbers have not been an actual representation of the voting population. Since Nigeria became a democratic country in 1999, there has been an increase in voter apathy. In 2015, 15.3% of the Nigerian population determined the result of the Presidential election. That is 42.4% of the registered voters. While in 2019, 18% of the population (about 35% of registered voters) voted in the

Presidential election. This estimate means fewer than four people determined who won in 2019 for every ten eligible voters. The 2019 elections recorded the lowest election turnout Nigeria has recorded since independence for a presidential election. The big question is, what number will determine the upcoming 2023 general elections?

Inarguably, we must participate actively in the election process and change the narrative as we countdown to 2023. We must be proactive about the Nigeria of our dreams and constantly work at it. As citizens, it is our civic responsibility to collect your PVC. Remember, no one can vote in any election without your PVC. Luckily, technology has now made the process easier. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has made the registration for a Permanent Voter Card (PVC) easy through its online registration portal. So, make use of this advantage to collect your PVC. Also, apart from getting our PVCs, volunteerism is helping people worldwide get involved in the conversation around democracy and elections. And there is no doubt that it is continually helping to strengthen national democracy by contributing to the increasing awareness and education on pertinent issues on governance.

We are encouraged to use this enormous potential to mobilize and accelerate the electoral process. For example, we can develop and launch a #Go and Get Your PVC project. The project could aim at educating and empowering Nigerians to collect their PVCs to be ready to participate in the

forthcoming general elections. We also call on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to simplify the entire electoral process and make the electoral process more responsive and usable to Nigerians by acting as an information point for different categories of voters.

We understand how important this election is in Nigeria today. Why we try to join parties to change the dynamics of the election in Nigeria, we appeal to the youth to go and get their PVC. For young people to be represented adequately in political institutions, processes, and decision-making (particularly in elections), they must get involved. The first critical step is to collect a voter's card that enables them to become participants, decision-makers, and influencers. Criticizing from the sidelines or on social media would not make much difference. If you do not vote, someone else will decide for you. And once he decides, it may not be about your interest. This anomaly must change if we want to build a great country that will compete among the comity of nation-states in this 21st century. The real power is in your one vote. Your vote is your power, and that power begins with collecting your PVC. With your PVC, you can vote someone in or kick somebody out of the office.

Dear Nigerian youth, remember that every nation determines its election by the people who participate. It is time to get involved and use the power of numbers to sustain our democracy. So, get your PVC today!

**Rev. Ma, S.J, is a Jesuit priest and doctoral student in public and social policy at St. Louis University in the state of Missouri, USA.**

# Change of Name

<p><b>DALYOP</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DALYOP PETER</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DALYOP PETER GANG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AHMED</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>IDRIS JEMILAT ABDULAZEEZ</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AHMED FUNMILAYO JEMILAT</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>YUSUF</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YUSUF LUKA YOHANA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YUSUF LUCKY DOGOL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ANTHONY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANBET ANTHONY YUSUF</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANTHONY NANBET PRECIOUS</b>. Correct date of birth is 05/04/1994 not 05/04/1993. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>IBRAHIM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>IBRAHIM MARY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM MARY KARAGA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>DUNG</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ALEXANDER DAVOU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DUNG ALEXANDER DAVOU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>BULUS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BULUS AJIJI MADAKI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BULUS AJANG AJIJI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ANASTASIA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ANASTASIA JOHN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANASTASIA TUNDE SAMUEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>ISHAYA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ISHAYA UWANI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISHAYA ESTHER UWANI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>JOSEPHINE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JOSEPHINE PIUS ANIMAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOSEPHINE NWAKAMA PIUS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ESTHER</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MAFWAL ESTHER MAREN URAM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ESTHER MAREN SAMUEL</b>. Correct date of birth is 19/04/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>SHUWARRET</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SHUWARRET EZRA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SHUWARRET RECHAE SILAS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>OGBONNA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>OGBONNA SAMUEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OGBONNA CHIBUZO SAMUEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SAUL</b></p> <p>I, <b>SAUL KUMKUR</b> wish to state that my correct date of birth is 15/04/1996 not 15/04/1990 as wrongly captured.. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>GAMBO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DAVID REGINA DANGUT</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GAMBO REGINA MAFWALAL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>DABUWAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DABUWAN LONGSUWAL DAMAK, DABUWAN LONGSHUWAL DAMAK and DABWAN LONGSUWAL DAMAK</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DABUWAN LONGSUWAL DAMAK</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ADETUNJI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KYESWAL EMMANUEL YILJEP</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADETUNJI KYESWAL YILJEP</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>GIMBA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GIMBA SARAH NASARA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GIMBA SARAH JONATHAN</b>. Correct date of birth is 14/12/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>MARY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SAMUEL MARY ESHIZUGAI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARY ULUJI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MRS. JAMES</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MISS NANKPAH NANJI JENNIFER</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. JAMES NANJI JENNIFER</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DAVEN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DAVEN KWAKSE SELYA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAVEN VICTORIA SELYA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>OYIKWU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>OKULU SAMUEL OCHOCHÉ</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OYIKWU OCHOCHÉ SAMUEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ADAKOLA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>FAITH CHARLES</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAKOLE FAITH CHARLES</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ALIYU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABUBAKAR ALIYU IDRIS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ALIYU ABUBAKAR IDRIS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>MRS. WUYANG</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MISS ISHAKU MARY FAKEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. WUYANG FAKEL MARY</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANMI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ELIZABETH JOHN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANMI DANLADI MWANBONG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>OLUWATIMILEHIN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ADEM ANNE TERDOO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OLUWATIMILEHIN ADEM ANNE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>UMENNAKA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GODWIN VIVIAN NGOZI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UMENNAKA VIVIAN NGOZI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>MARKBASH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MARKRUNO BASH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARKBASH BRUNO JENOM-OGUGUOM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>YUSUF</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GYANG ESTHER CHOLLOM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YUSUF ESTHER DUNG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>GODSAVE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DACHING GODSAVE JOEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GODSAVE JOEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>USMAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABUBAKAR USMAN USMAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>USMAN ABUBAKAR YUSUF</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>DASHE</b></p> <p>I, <b>DASHE PETER JOHN</b> wish to state that my correct date of birth is 15/01/2002 not 15/01/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUHAMMAD</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMAD HAEDAR</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUAHAMMAD HAEDAR ALIYU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>YUSUF</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YUSUF SALEH YUSUF</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YUSUF SALEH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MARKUS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LOPSHAK REBECCA MARKUS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARKUS REBECCA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>BITRUS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BITRUS PAM EMMANUEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BITRUS EMMANUEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MARAWES</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YOILA MARAWES GAUIS SABO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARAWES GAYUS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ABUH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ANZAWA HABU ABU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABUH AZAWA ACHINANDI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>TAHIRU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>TAHIRU UMAR IDRIS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TAHIRU IDRIS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>TAWAI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PATRIA PAKSIIN TAWAI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TAWAI PATRICIA PAKSIN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>FOM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>FOM JUSTINA MOSES</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>FOM JUSTINA MUSA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>OSHINOKA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ALICIA KARIMO OSHINOKA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OSHINOKA ALICE KARIMO</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DANJA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PAM VOU KANKANI, GYANG VOU KANKANI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DANJA, VOU KANKANI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>DAVOU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BITRUS EUNICE GYANG</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAVOU EUNICE FRANCIS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>WAKILI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>WAKILI GAJERE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>WAKILI GAJERE JOSHUA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>AYUBA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AYUBA EZEZEA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AYUBA EZIRA</b>. Correct date of birth is 04/04/1990 not 15/05/1982. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>YUNUSA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YUNUSA SODANGI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YUNUSA SODANGI ADAM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>POLINA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PAULINA OKO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>POLINA OCHUNO OKO</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>STEPHEN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>FRIDAY KITGAK JIKAT</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>STEPHEN DAWAKI JIKAT</b>. Correct date of birth is 01/01/1998 not 01/01/1993. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>RACHEAL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ALO OLAWUNMI RACHEAL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RACHEAL ONYEMEACHI OGBOH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ASMAU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ASMAU NURU ISMAIL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ASMAU HABIBA ISMAIL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>RAYYANU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>RAYYANU ABUBAKAR SAIDU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RAYYANU ABUBAKAR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>DALYOP</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DALYOP NGYEM BLESSING</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DALYOP BLESSING IBRAHIM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>JORDAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DONGPUP YILDET</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JORDAN DONGPUP YILDET</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUHAMMAD</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MOHAMMED MUSA YAKUBU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD YAKUBU MUSA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DOOSHIMA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>IORNER PRISCILLA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DOOSHIMA PRISCILLA IORNER</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MOHAMMADU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NURA ABDULLAHI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MOHAMMADU NURA RABIU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MANUS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MANUS, GRACE BABAKANO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MANUS, GRACE BABA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>HAGGAI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>HAGGAI MANJE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HAGGAI WANGAI MANJE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

## News

### Traditional ruler commend CP Onyeka for quality policing

By BULUS GAMBO

TRADITIONAL rulers within the axis of Nassarawa Gwong in Jos North Local Government Area have commended the Plateau State Commissioner of Police, CP Bartholomew Onyeka for ensuring quality policing in the state.

The custodians of culture and tradition have also acknowledged the transparent leadership qualities so far exhibited by the Divisional Police Officer, (DPO) Nassarawa Gwong SP Musa Hassan which in the past few years have consolidated on peaceful and harmonious coexistence of the various heterogeneous communities residing in the area.

Speaking during a reception organized by the community members to appreciate the newly promoted officers and men of the rank and file, the traditional rulers through Michael Akusuk noted that since his assumption of office as Plateau State Commissioner of Police, the once unpalatable rising crime rate in the state has greatly reduced for the better.

Also contributing, former Chairman of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, Plateau State chapter, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima noted that the CP's decision to allow SP Musa Hassan to man the Nassarawa Gwong Police Division was the best thing that ever happened to the residents of the area.

According to her, the ability of SP Musa Hassan to integrate other vigilante groups and synergize with the various stakeholders has helped in no small measure towards tackling acts of criminality in the area.

She disclosed that SP Musa Hassan and his men have restored the confidence of the people towards accepting the reality of the fact that a



CP Onyeka

policeman is a friend to Nigerian citizens.

Mrs. Yarima explained that what has made SP Musa Hassan to stand out amongst the crowd is his refusal to accept any kind of gratification ensuring all that bail is free and shall remain so under his watch in the Division.

"No wonder the slogan today in the community is that even if SP Musa is promoted to the rank of a Commissioner of Police, he should be allowed to stay back in Nassarawa Gwong because of the peace he has brought to the area. Today, we are full of appreciation that all these good men have been rewarded as a result of their hard work and we know that by God's grace, all others will enjoy this same promotion the soonest". She added.

In his remarks, the Divisional Police Officer, (DPO) Nassarawa Gwong, SP Musa Hassan thanked the Inspector General of Police, Alkali-Baba and the Plateau State Commissioner of Police, Bartholomew Onyeka for their

respective cheering roles which facilitated the promotion of all police officers which his men are beneficiaries.

SP Hassan admonished the officers to see this promotion as that which should ginger them to continue with their good works towards policing the state.

He noted that all efforts would be made by the Police in his Division with the support of Plateau State Police Commissioner to ensure a peaceful Sallah celebrations.

Responding on behalf of all the newly promoted officers, DSP Nura Alhaji Sani pledged to do their best to justify the promotion given them by the Nigeria Police hierarchy in the country.

Some of the newly promoted Police Officers include DSP Nura Alhaji Sani, DSP Markus Dauda, DSP Alexander Koshi and ASP Jibrin Aminu.

Others are ASP Mustapha Sabo, ASP Benjamin Olachene, INSP Dopsal Nanpol and INSP Bashir Sa'idu.

THE North-East Development Commission (NEDC), has began a 5-day training of 100 youths on waste recycling and enterprising skills in Bauchi State.

The training was a collaboration between the commission and the Bauchi State government through the state's Ministry of Environment.

Speaking during the opening ceremony in Bauchi, Mr Mohammad Ibrahim, the Trainees Supervisor of NEDC waste to wealth training said, the aim of the exercise among others is to train and empower the teaming youths in the area of waste management so as to know the basic techniques involved on how these waste could be converted to wealth.

He added that at the end of the day, it would serve as a source of employment, which will ultimately improve their living standard and boost the economy of the state in general.

Also, Mr Ahmed Sabo, the Lead Consultant of the training, explained that the participants were drawn from the various sectors of the economy. "We have 50 trainers. These are people who have some high level of training on environmental management. So, we picked them to be the trainers.

"The scavengers are people who normally roam around, visiting the dump sites to pick objects. We got a lot of information about them from the Bauchi State Environmental Protection Agency, so we were able to

### NEDC trains youth on waste recycling in Bauchi

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

identify them and invited them for this training.

"We have 100 scavengers and 50 trainers, making a total of 150 participants in this exercise," he said.

Also speaking, the Director General, Bauchi State Environmental Protection Agency, (BASEPA) Mr Ibrahim Kabir, appreciated NEDC for collaborating with the state government in organising the training.

He said that about 79 per cent of the wastes in Bauchi state are recyclable which could be converted

to useful items. "As far as Bauchi State is concerned, we are committed to ensure that the issue of waste management are resolved".

He explained that what ginged the NEDC and the Bauchi State government was the inclination to solve the problems of waste in the state and at the same time engage in the concept of waste to wealth.

According to him this would further improve the economy, create job opportunities and empower the teaming youths willing to engage in the sector in the state.



Mohammed

### Guluwa commissions Turakin Bokkos Shopping Plaza

EXECUTIVE Chairman Bokkos LGA, Hon. Joseph Guluwa has performed the official commissioning and opening ceremony of Turakin Bokkos shopping Plaza.

While performing the ceremony, Hon. Guluwa appreciated Chief Dantala Ayuba Ret, Turakin Bokkos for the massive investment on the Plaza.

Hon. Guluwa stated that Dantala could have built the edifice elsewhere like others, but choose to do it in Bokkos in order to develop the locality and support the economy of the Local Government Area as the business plaza in Bokkos town is boosted by this feat as this gesture will complement government's effort in the area of job creation.

Hon. Guluwa also used the opportunity to debunked insinuations making the rounds that the Local Government has increased tax on agricultural produce on farmers.

He categorically made it clear that the increment has no effect whatsoever on the local buyers, farmers, but the

buyers/merchants who come to Bokkos to buy.

Guluwa explained that the council is only implementing revenue per bag not per truck as enshrined in the Plateau State Revenue Law.

He decried the attitude of the merchants who are resisting the new development by failing to buy from farmers which crushed the price of Irish Potatoes last Thursday.

The Chairman emphasized that the council will not relent in safeguarding the interest of farmers by ensuring minimum price control so that sales must be within reasonable price to justify the economics of production of agricultural production in view of current cost of fertilizer and other inputs to enable the farmers benefit from their labour.

Earlier, Hon. David Ishaya Lalu, House of Reps APC Candidate for Mangu/Bokkos, supported the Turakin Bokkos with a huge amount of money for widows and encouraged all eligible persons to come out and register with Independent National Electoral Commission

(INEC) to obtain their voters card.

Chief Dantala Ayuba Ret appreciated the Chairman for honoring his invitation to act in such capacity and appealed to the people to support the Re-Engineering programme of the Chairman.

He applauded the Chairman's initiative to create a market system that would salvage primary agricultural producers from the monopolistic tendencies of middlemen and merchants who manipulate the price of agricultural produce below break-even points, for farmers.

The Turakin Bokkos expressed his unflinching support to the Council effort in bringing an end to purchase of agricultural produce on credit from the farmers.

The well attended occasion attracted traditional rulers and prominent personalities of Bokkos including the Makai of Takai, Saf Ruwi, Saf Shukur and several others.

The edifice has 24/7 CCTV surveillance system installed in the control room.

MEMBERS of the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers, (NICE) Plateau State Chapter have applauded the pace of work on the British American-Junction Flyover.

The NICE members gave the commendation while undertaking a 6 days intensive training in Jos, and visited the construction site to assess the nature and progress of work, said a statement Tuesday.

The visit to the site was coordinated by Engr. Beedee Bot, Director at the Plateau State Ministry of works and Chairman, Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers, (NICE) Plateau Chapter.

During the visit, the Engineers comprising of practicing and fresh graduates were briefed on the scope and progress of work by Engr. Charbel

### NICE rate progress on British-American flyover high

By PALANG KASMI

who stood in for Engr. Dani, the Resident Manager of Craneburg Construction Company Ltd., the contractor handling the work.

Charbel enumerated the details of work progress to include earth works, concrete works, pre-casting of main beams, construction of piers and cross beams and said other areas are the construction of kerps, concrete drainages, form works among several others.

He explained the scope of the work saying the progress so far made was attributed to the support and commitment of the Executive Governor of the state, Simon Bako Lalong.

In his remarks, the NICE Chairman Engr. Beedee Bot said, the British-American Flyover and Dualisation to Lamingc Roundabout Junction is one of the key projects of the Lalong Rescue Administration.

He also said the site has become a reference point for young engineers and students who want to take on engineering as a profession, saying the quality of work is also something that deserves to be commended.

The NICE Chairman also commended the ministry of works for dedicating themselves to delivering on the mandate of the Governor which targets completing the overheard bridge by end of the tenure of the present administration.

**PROBATE NOTICE**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA  
PROBATE DIVISION**

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column. AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (2) days of from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Ally Dalyop late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th June, 2015 at Jos, Plateau State.	Joshua Ally Dalyop of No. 37 Tudun Wada Ring Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Mwantu Dakas late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd April, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Dakas Panmak Mwantu of Opp. COCIN Church Lankan, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Angelina Jonathan Tace late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th January, 2022 at PSSH, Jos.	Jonathan Sani Edward of Farin Gada Angwan Jarawa Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Ilegoghie Juliana Oiwoodu late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th May, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Ilegoghie Samuel of Kings College Kangang Police Station, Jos South LGA, Plateau state. Lawful husband of the said	Hara Idi late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th August, 2021 at Kadima Hwolshe, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Idi Sunday Hara of Kadima Hwolshe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Zubairu Bello Pam late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th Nov. 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	TANI PAM BELLO OF BEHIND COMEX HWOSHE, Jos SOUTH LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased
MABUR MALLAM late of Plateau State. Died on the 27/12/2021 at Butura Gida, Bokkos LGA LGA, Plateau State.	HASSANA MABUR EZRA of Butura Gida Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased	INSP. ROTDANG ISHAYA late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th Nov. 2021 at Gen. Hosp. Langtang LGA, Plateau State.	GOMPER FAITH ISHAYA of COCIN CHURCH Mimyak Amper Kanke LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Daughter of the said deceased.	MARY MOJI JONATHAN late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th April, 2022 at Airforce Hosp. Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	KUNLE IDOWU JONATHAN & VICTORIA OLABODE BOSE OF NVRI VOM JOS SOUTH LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter/son of the said deceased.
UMEADI BARTHOLOMEW OZOMENA late of Anambra State. Died on the 8th Feb, 2022, at Plateau State.	BARTHOLOMEW DANIEL OF No. 41 BEHIND DUNAMIS CHURCH ALHERI, JOS NORTH LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	Dape Jerry late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd Aug. 2021 at PSSH, Jos Plateau State.	Jerry Chetman Dapel of opp. Shinko Junction Rayfield Jos south LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	Hilda Udenkwo Okaro late of Plateau State. Died on the 2nd Oct. 1965 at Vom, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Okard Ifeanyichukwu of 27 Liverpool Christian Road Apapa. Lagos State. The Lawful son of the said deceased.
Dachomo Martha late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th Jan, 2021 at Juth, Plateau State.	DACHOMO PAM ALEX of No. 10 G.R.A. Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Alhaji Garba Abbas late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th Aug. 2003 at Jos, Plateau State.	Haruna Garba Abbas of Road 10 Filling Sukuwa Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Christiana Ali late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th Feb, 2022 at PSSH Jos, Plateau State.	GYANG PAM DALYOP of CHURCH Dabwat Riyom LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Isah Yahaya Wase late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th Oct. 2020 at BHUTH Plateau State.	Mahmood Yahaya Isa of No. 2 Dogon Karfe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Mwanti Jene late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th May, 2018 at Jos Plateau state.	Gyang Mwanti of Chakarum Vom, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Sunday Naomi Dalyop late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th June, 2021 at Juth, Plateau State.	EMMANUEL WETLAHAM DAMS of Bwai Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Dagwai Danfulani late of Plateau state. Died on the 29th July, 2021 at Gen. HOSP. Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	INNOCENT DAGWAI of Samunaka, Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Lami Mathew Nanjwan late of Plateau State. Died on the 3rd May, 2022 at Mangu, Plateau State.	Mathew Dabut Nanjwan of Sabon Barki Gyel Jos South LGA. Plateau State. Lawful Husband of the said deceased.	Teacher David Ezekiel late of Plateau State. Died on the 23rd Dec. 2021 at Sabon Barki Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	SARAH EZEKIEL of New Govt. House Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Yusuf Sabo late of Plateau State. Died on the 2nd April, 2022 at Bauchi State.	YUSUF UMAR ABDULLAHI of ZINARIYA, JOS NORTH LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Danjuma Pankshin late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th Oct. 2020 at Gen. HOSP. Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Godwin Dimka of Jenta Adamu, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Nora Haruna late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th June, 2015 at Jos, Plateau State.	CHRISTIANA YAKUBU CHOLLOM of Katako Barki Ladi LGA, Plateau state. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
Ioson Nyimkor late of Benue State. Died on the 17th December, 2021 at Benue State.	LINUS NYIMKOR OF ANGWAN LAGOS TUDUWN WADA, JOS NORTH LGA, PLATEAU STATE, Lawful son of the said deceased.	Tancit Stephen John late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th October, 2021 at PSSH, Jos	Stephen John of Anglo Jos, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Simon Bitrus Dung late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th February, 2022 at Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	FWOMMEH SIMON DUNG OF OPP. TCNN BUKURU, JOS SOUTH LGA. PLATEAU STATE. Lawful widow of the said deceased.

Signed  
**(LADI A. MADAKI)**  
PROBATE REGISTRAR  
PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS

**Public Notices**

**CITY OF FAITH ORPHANAGE HOME**  
The general public is hereby notified that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'F' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.  
**THE TRUSTEES ARE:**  
1. Daman, Nanlir Monday  
2. John, Noro Nash  
3. Justina, Nanlir Monday  
**AIMS & OBJECTIVES ARE:**  
1. To provide basic necessities of life for orphans.  
2. To provide basic education for orphans.  
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**

**Change of Name**

<b>JULIE</b> I, formerly known as <b>JULIE SUNDAY CHOLLOM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JULIE PAUL AZI-ARUM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	<b>DASHA</b> I, formerly known as <b>SENDET OHOMSUK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DASHA OHOMSUK SENDET</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	<b>JULIUS</b> I, formerly known as <b>JULIUS PIYELSHAK JOSEPH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JULIUS PIYELSHAK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	SPACE FOR SALE
<b>SINGVONG</b> I, formerly known as <b>CLEMENT SINVONG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SINGVONG RINTIP CLEMENT</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	<b>LUKMWEN</b> I, formerly known as <b>OBADIAH KOPBE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LUKMWEN OBADIAH VELBISSA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	<b>IDOKO</b> I, formerly known as <b>IDOKO LUCY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JAMES LUCY IDOKO ONYEMORWO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	SPACE FOR SALE

# Nigerians: In our darkest moments...



By **BULUS GAMBO**

UPON the agonizing worsening situations we are going through in the annals of this country's history today, some sycophants and hypocrites still prevaricate stories that it is well with this nation. Our politicians are treating us as if we are dummies and cannot decode when they are playing tricks on us. Just take a look at this country, analyzing situations with a sober reflection and one will comprehend what perhaps I am talking about.

Since I was born and now that I have aged, we as a nation have not for once experienced the complex calamity which Nigeria is passing through today. That in our communities today, things have turned haywire, to the extent that kidnappers have taken over everywhere unleashing mayhem on us. That while the majority have become so vulnerable and left at the mercy of criminally minded elements, warehouses, shops and houses of influential persons and the wealthy are 24/7 guarded by fierce looking security personnel.

Just imagine that this country's unpalatable unparalleled poverty level has degraded to the extent that many households look for chaff at grinding mills to cook for their families. It's is so unbelievable today that the nation which we used to know can no longer feed it's teeming population.

It is quite a shame that most of the leaders of this country have turned their backs against us. Some of these selfish leaders we voted into office have; turned out to be our country's undoing.

It beats my imagination that though our children have remained at home following the closure of Nigerian universities, the elites and our leaders of thought have remained mute over the matter. Sad enough, we see pictures of their children consistently graduating from foreign universities usually displayed in various social media platform without any remorse.

In a country where teachers are sacked by sitting Governors over flimsy excuses, one can imagine how complicated our educational sector will become in the next couple of years. For this negative development, I think Kaduna State Governor, Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai should be given an award of recognition following his hunger and taste for mass sacking of teachers in most recent years.

Without mincing words something makes me feel Governor El-Rufai of Kaduna State is under spell by some kind of evil spirits. Sometimes, I am tempted to wonder if the Governor is thinking straight and or is sane during his policy calculations.

Most of our hospitals across the nation today have become a

shadow of themselves whereas, top government officials have continued to embark on medical tourism across the globe deliberately leaving the poor behind to their fate. Due to their dastardly acts, our medical staff have abandoned our hospitals and left the nation seeking for greener pastures abroad. Certainly, we cannot blame our doctors and nurses for this after knowing the hazardous environmental setting they work back home here in the country. Nigeria does not appreciate hard work therefore, it is becoming hard for anyone to die for his or her beloved nation.

Mind you, it is in the midst of these calamities that our wonderful delegates during the last party primaries decided that our sufferings are not yet over. They pushed us into the lion's den after collecting their share of the national cake which is quite detrimental to our existence as a nation. Due to their scandalous choices, here we are between the devil and the deep blue sea left technically harpless with nowhere to turn to for any practicable solution.

It is no longer news that if Christians in northern Nigeria do not wake up from their slumber, the next coming years will be an unbearable situation for them. The indicators are clear, Nigerian Christians are suffering unending persecutions in most states of the north.

While many members of the clergy have been continuously kidnapped for ransom and killed, several places of worship have been destroyed and many worshippers killed in several churches across the region. On



paper, Nigeria is said to be a secular state but in the real sense of it, the contrary is what is playing out in the nation.

It is quite a tragedy that the present narratives of the complete backwards of Nigeria in most recent years has left much to be desired. It is a pity that a country full of both human and natural resources can no longer play it's leadership role in the continent of Africa. It is not a good omen after knowing to well that our nation has lost its bearing and is heading towards a disaster for sure if care is not taken.

By faith and as a Christian however, I obviously believe that come what may, it is and shall always be well with the chosen ones. This is the reliable guarantee which God had assured us that in as much as we remain within the confines of His domain, we shall never be shaken. Outside this secured territory through the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ however, the popular adage, "one is on his own" encapsulates it all.

For explainable and logical emphasis in the book of Hebrews 11: 1, the scriptures fundamentally notes that "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen

were not made of things which are visible." In other words, what we are seeing in this physical world can be a product of that which had taken place in the spiritual realm. Further more, despite the present dilemma which we have found ourselves in as a nation, this calamity can be eventually turned around for the better, for our sake if we hold on to God. These are the evidences of things and situations we hope for as Christians.

We are always hopeful that though we walk in the valley of the shadow of death, we shall fear no evil. In fact, we have been made more than conquerors through Christ who strengthens us. What this text is saying is that, these victories over principalities are part of the Abrahamic promises which God had initially professed us as His heir apparent in Christendom.

In the midst of our darkest moments, the grace of God is always sufficient for us. Though we are facing these unimaginable difficulties deliberately brought on us by our political leaders through their tyrannical policies, we cannot afford to give up even as weeping endures for the night, joy would certainly come in the morning. Just wait and see, in no distant time, all these Egyptians we see tormenting us, we shall see them no more because our great God is sufficient for us.



By **FWENJI GOAR**

IT is not in doubt that Nigerians are hopeful, and believe that 2023 will usher in a new era, an era to be brought about by coming-in of some sort of "messiah." They are presently groaning in pains over poor economic fortunes, occasioned, to an extent, by seemingly unending insecurity. This is added to a high unemployment rate which had catapulted the poverty level to a height never experienced before.

There has been a lot of talk as to what geopolitical zone the next president should come from. And for the 2023 general elections, the major political parties had before now, put in place the zoning system which allows for power to shift between the north and the south. This arrangement however never stopped people

## 2023, a year of healing

from other zones to aspire, and show interest in gunning for the number one seat on the land.

In past elections though, this zoning arrangement was always respected. You find out that at the various party primaries, those whose turn hasn't come allow those from areas that positions are zoned to carry the day in a gentlemanly fashion. The story this time around changed in the major camp of both political parties, which brought about the emergence of Atiku, a Northerner, as Presidential candidate of the major opposition party, the Peoples' Democratic Party, (PDP). The All Progressives Party, (APC) on the other hand maintained the zoning formula and allowed Tinubu, a southerner to emerge as its flag bearer.

We all are aware of how the primaries were conducted, the results, and the issue of their running mates, which in itself, generated some heat, and has left some more disappointed. Whether this can be remedied is left to be seen. But for now, we have what we have, and are moving on towards proper

campaigns, before we go to the polls in February 2023, precisely Saturday, February 25, 2023.

These candidates have all come out to say what they will do if elected in 2023. We, as citizens have our vision(s) of what we believe Nigeria should be, moving on from 2023 onward. So to say, there is a lot of expectation. We all dream of a Nigeria which will regain its place of pride as the giant of Africa, a Nigeria which would set its foot on the path of being great again.

What this translates to is the fact that Nigerians want a president who can make Nigeria better than what we have today, someone who would grow the economy, and make it flourish, someone who will unite the country, and usher in an atmosphere of peace and justice, someone who must work very hard, and improve security. Such persons are found in all of the major political parties, and in most ethnic groupings, and of course among the major religious divides.

I believe Nigerians will not give serious consideration to ethnic and party affiliations in

2023. Consideration would be given a leader who is God-fearing and kind-hearted, one who is competent and credible, one able to tackle insecurity. A leader who Nigerians can be proud of. From all indications, the very first expectation of the president-to-be would be to restore security in the country.

In 2023, Nigeria's future would be decided, when we choose to either continue as we are, or to make a u-turn onto the path of greatness. We either choose to continue in poverty, or get onto the track of economic recovery. We must be thinking of how to create wealth, and not deplete wealth. The year 2023 is a year we begin our healing, otherwise we crash and burn. The leader would either take the nation he leads to his level or he would bring it down to his level. The leader's capacity reflects what is being experienced in the country.

Visionary leaders turn ordinary nations into great nations. Nigeria does not need a leader who is myopic, incapacitated, self-centred, or one who lacks creativity. With such a leader; Nigeria would

remain underdeveloped and would remain poor, the people will be weakened, as both human and material resources would be mismanaged.

Getting it right in 2023 is a task we must achieve in order to secure the future of our grandchildren. Getting it right means voting a person with strength of character. A leader who is strong in character will not shut his eyes to injustice, will not encourage corruption and will not permit incompetence, someone who will build strong institutions, by allowing for an effective justice system. There should be no hiding place for anyone caught acting contrary to the laws of the land. Political leaders must not come to equity with soiled hands so that they can be courageous enough to step on toes.

One of the presidential candidates has advised Nigerians to elect a president who would not further wreck the economy. The situation is beyond religion, ethnicity, tribalism or selfishness. It is about our future. It is about the economy. It is about having a Nigeria that is peaceful, that is functional, that is productive. A Nigeria, for you, and for me to proudly call our own.

By FRANCISCA ADIDI

THE saying that "it is good to be good" came alive recently when the Director General of the Industrial Training Fund, Sir Joseph Ari and his wife Victoria Ari gathered distinguished personalities at the Saint Monica's Catholic Church Rantya Low Cost Jos, as his son, Dr Shitnaan Joseph Ari got married to his heart throb, Laetitia.

The crowd that converged at the church during the wedding ceremony showed and revealed Sir Joseph Ari's leadership quality and the level of his personal relationship with people across the length and breath of the country. To say the crowd that turned out was overwhelming, is to put it mildly. The turnout of the bigwigs and masses got people dumbfounded.

Given that this is the first wedding of his biological son, shows that all the good things that over the years the DG had done to other people came to play, considering the personality of people that graced the occasion.

It was also gathered that the wedding celebration started with the traditional ceremony in the United Kingdom with the bride's family and friends. Here in Jos, it began a week before the wedding proper with a Mother's Day where there was a sit out with the groom's mother Victoria Ari, hosting her friends all dressed in white on blue jeans to kick start the wedding mood with all the joy that knew no bound.

It was a wonderful outing that heralded the marital journey as the groom himself in company of his father danced their way into the venue and gave their dance steps with lots of fun that predicted what was going to happen on the wedding day. The mother's night was enriched with advice to Prince Charming as the groom was referred to by the friends to the groom mother to build his home on. As friends, the son has found a beautiful wife, going to set his home and live together with his wife.

The wedding day guests at the church was talk of the town. Apart from families and few friends who were privileged to be in the church, the church had seven Bishops in attendance, over a hundred Reverend Fathers and over 30 Reverend Sisters. That was not enough, the Knights of Saint Mulumba Nigeria and their Ladies also turned out in their numbers having the Supreme Knight as the sponsors for the wedding and not to forget Catholic Women Organization and Zumunta Mata who graced the church with beautiful rendition of songs.

In a homily during the

wedding solemnisation, the Arch Bishop of Jos, Rev Fr Mathew Audu described the marriage as a step of faith which couples are willing to take because of love. He decried the high level of broken homes in the society, blaming it on selfish attitude, lack of love and respect which spouses display to one another. He challenged couples to bring

different groups and associations that attended the wedding showed the commitment and person of Sir and Lady Joseph Ari. There was no better proof that Ari is a man of the people. A man who does not hesitate to save an unpalatable situation. He is a man with a heart of gold, a charitable man who even



## Ari: The beginning of marital journey



God into their home. Bishop David Ajang, Bishop of Lafia performed the marital rites, urging the couple to keep to their promises for each other.

Governor Lalong who also graced the wedding in a remark, described the groom as his son and prayed God to bless their home. He also admonished the couple to remember the cream of distinguished guests that graced the ceremony to play their part well by keeping their promises well.

Also, the choir that sang at the church mass were the Archdiocesan choir, and the Saint Joseph Children Choir of Saint Monica. Their choral songs added spice to the colourful scenario of the church environment. The



when offended, will turn around and give a helping hand.

Sir Ari is a man after God's own heart. A husband of the widows, and father of the orphans', a man of the people who always carries people along, who also forgives and

cares. That was why the reception was full to capacity.

The Basel Event Center, venue of the reception programme of the wedding was deliberately commissioned on that day. Ari's wedding was the first to be hosted on that ground.

The center could only accommodate 2000 guests while canopies were mounted outside for others who could not enter. That was why the entrance into the hall was only possible by an access card identification. The reception was like something out of the fairytale, too good to describe. The hall itself was glamorously decorated with different types of light flashing all through with beautiful music that spiced up the mood of guests.

While the guests were joyfully seated and enjoying the bridal music being played and sipping some drinks with small chops, the bride and her groom walked their way in and greeted the guests by waving all round and thanking everyone seated in their honour.

Then the bridal dance followed with an atmosphere of love all through the hall. There was dance displayed by the parents of the groom which made most of the guests to come out and join in the dance.

There was assorted food, drinks and snacks which was all enjoyed by the guests. Amidst the ceremony, nature could not hold its own as there was shower of blessings that came with a heavy drops cooling the weather.

We pray for a happy home for Dr and Mrs Shitnaan Joseph Ari.



# IMAGES

## PLATEAU PEACE BUILDING AGENCY EMBARKS ON INTENSIVE TRAINING

Plateau Peace Building Agency (PPBA) recently embarked on a 2-day intensive capacity training on Project Financing and Management for Peace Building Sustainable Programme at the Crest Hotel, Jos



Mr. Joseph Lengmang, Director General, Plateau Peace Building Agency presenting his paper during training



PHOTOS: OFFICE OF THE MEDIA PLATEAU PEACE BUILDING AGENCY, JOS

DG, Plateau Peace Building Agency, Mr. Joseph Lengmang (middle) staff of his office and resource persons in a group photograph after the ceremony



A cross section of some staff of the Agency and resource persons at the intensive training



A cross section of participants listening keenly

## REV. YAKUBU PAM HONOURS BY GCICAN, CHRISTIAN PILGRIMS ARRIVES JERUSALEM

The Executive Chairman, Nigeria Christian Pilgrims Commission, Rev. Dr. Yakubu Pam recently elected a Fellow by the Governing Council of the Institute of Corporate Administration of Nigeria (GCICAN) and the second batch of Nigerian Christian Pilgrims arrived Jerusalem for Pilgrimage



Rev. Pam (left) being presented the Fellow of GCICAN plaque at the ceremony



NCPCC boss, Rev. Yakubu Pam appreciating the honour done to him by the group



Nigerian second batch pilgrims visiting holy sites in Jerusalem



Second batch of Pilgrims in high spirit during a group photograph

## Odd World

### Couple spot 'Winston Churchill' flashing Queen peace sign

A couple believe they spotted former Prime Minister Winston Churchill flashing a 'victory' sign to Queen Elizabeth II in cloud form.

The pair spotted what the cloud formation of a 'perfect' peace sign while out hiking last week, at the very same time Her Majesty was celebrating her historic 70-year reign.

Søren Hauge says, he spotted a clear outline of a hand, complete with an index and middle finger positioned in a 'V' shape.

To his eyes, the formation looked just like Churchill's most famous salute, often made before cameras in the days of World War II.

With the iconic statesman having served as Queen Elizabeth's very first Prime Minister, Søren says it was as if he was "sending a little sign from the sky."

Søren snapped the pics at a nature reserve in Kullaberg, Sweden, with the apparition disappearing mere minutes after he captured it.

He'd asked his partner Hanne Andreasen, 55, to pose in front of it for the shoot, making a peace sign of her own.

After sharing the photos on social media, Søren managed to clock up more

than 2,000 likes.

Søren, from Copenhagen, Denmark, said: "One of the most famous people in the world who did the peace sign was Winston Churchill.

"Winston Churchill was a very multi-faceted person. He was thinking a lot and he also stepped up when he was needed. This cloud formation is quite timely as he was Queen Elizabeth II's first prime minister and it's her Platinum Jubilee.

"It's a nice nod to that and like he's sending a little sign from the sky."

The spiritual teacher, coach, and author also believes this to be a sign of "heavenly support for peace in Europe", particularly in regards to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

He continued: "These days we need a 'heavenly support' for peace in Europe and especially in Ukraine, so the opportunity was a gift and also a delightful picture in itself.

"As I took the pictures I heard an English guy behind us say to his children 'look up, that's a peace sign' and I believe they started shooting as well, imitating us, before the formation started to dissolve.

Source: *The Mirror*



### 2023 elections: My mind is inescapably choppy

For the very first time after following decades of Nigeria's general elections with keen interest, my mind is perturbed over the possible turbulent outcome of the prospective 2023 general elections in the country. Though I had also participated in numerous such intriguing polls held in the journey of our democratic experimentation in the past, my impressions about next year's polls for sure is fundamentally going to be dramatically epileptic, wholly apprehensive with phenomenal skepticism and resentment.

As a fan of Arsenal Football club of England for instance, I had long adopted to our team's consistent chase towards picking the Premier League crown on many occasions only for us to ultimately miss it by the whiskers. Most times, as unrepentant fans of this North London football club, we are left calculating during the peak of the league; which team must lose before Arsenal would eventually grab this elusive trophy. At the end after losing out, soccer pundits are left opinionating that the god of soccer did not favour our fumbling tactics thereby refraining the team from winning this converted trophy.

Unfortunately, the scenario in Nigeria which is foreshadowing our much-anticipated general elections is becoming quite complicated comparable to that of Arsenal FC's impractical computations. Nigeria's situation has today become so complicated knowing too well the degree of polarization inherent on the polity. Hence, our politicians have continued to toy with our collective interests in their greed to gain more political influence in the country. This time around, our unpalatable dilemma is beyond human comprehension even as we are bystanders to the fact that this nation is heading towards a state of chaos and anarchy. This is also as a result of the complete polarization of our citizens along religious and or regional lines.

Mind you, this excruciating impasse and skepticism all started after a section of the selfish core northern oligarchy initiated a campaign for power retention in the north prior to the just concluded party primaries. Before this most recent imbroglio, this gentleman's agreement earlier endorsed at the advent of this democratic dispensation in 1999 was hinged on an equitable sharing of power between the north and the south to ensure political inclusiveness and integration. This consensus was arrived at through an acceptable workable turn-by-turn alliance between the political juggernauts of both the north and the southern regions of Nigeria. This pact had worked out tremendously well before it was recently punctured by some of these greedy political stalwarts.

After President Mohammed Buhari was voted for a second term into office in 2019; he is presently expected to complete his two tenures of eight years by next year. It is therefore hoped that come 2023; his tenure will end and power would then shift from the north to the southern region of the nation.

Unfortunately however, the hardliners of the core northern oligarchy impaled this arrangement with the help of a pocket few sycophants from the other regions of this nation spreading this venom everywhere in the country.

For former Vice President Atiku Abubakar whose body language all this while was fashioned towards enabling him occupy the seat of Nigeria's president, it has become a do or die affair. After struggling all these unfruitful years to become the president of this country, all that Atiku, the flag-bearer of the Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP) needed

was to employ these intrigues to enable him achieve this ambition at all cost. Through monetary influence, the Turakin Adamawa and his sympathizers during the last PDP convention against the constitution of their party decided to overrule provisions of rotational presidency to open the gateway for him to secure the party's ticket. The inability of Atiku to accept Governor Nysom Wike as his running-mate after he secured this presidential ticket as earlier endorsed by about 15 PDP state Governors has further deepened the ongoing crisis in the party. Equally, the ruling All Progressives Congress, (APC) which settled for Bola Tinubu has also been placed in a more arduous predicament while searching for a running mate to enable the party win the 2023 presidential elections in the country.

In the real sense of it, both the two major political parties in the country have misfired suppressing the aspirations of the electorate after pocketing their party delegates.

Today, while the ruling party has made a huge mistake by playing to the gallery endorsing former Governor of Lagos State, Ahmed Bola Tinubu despite his fragile composition, the Jagaban is struggling with difficulty not to field a Muslim running mate which will risk his party's quest for eventual victory. The religious bigots and greedy ones within the party hierarchy however are still insisting for a Muslim-Muslim ticket to test-try their cruel intentions on the nation. Adding salt to injury were the remarks recently uttered by some Muslim clergy who have continued to instigate their followers to see the forthcoming general elections participation from a religious perspective. Interestingly, some churches have also started campaigning that their followers must jettison our two major political parties for a structure-less party, the Labour Party, (LP) whose candidate, the former Anambra State Governor, Peter Obi is a Christian.

Don't also forget that after President Muhammadu Buhari won his second term of office, he promised to be a father to nobody but a father to everybody. Unfortunately, his subsequent lopsided cabinet appointments including that of other top strategic sectors of governance raised dust in the country. This gesticulation also send a negative signal across the nation. The first ethnic group to cry fowl-play over these lopsided appointments were the Igbos of the South East who since Nigeria's civil war have not fully administratively been embraced and strategically integrated into the system. This deliberate act of exclusion according to several security experts has led to the emergence of an armed separatist group agitating for secession in the region. Sad enough, these unwarranted agitations carried on the wrong platform through misleading ideology have led to the death of several innocent civilians.

It is on this inference that Nigeria is preparing to conduct the 2023 general elections. These elections which may consume one of the highest budgets in our nation's most recent history may if care is not taken also end a disaster for us all. For the fact that our political class has taken us for granted and not navigated this country on the path of political inclusion and nation building, this has not gone down well with the entire citizenry. This act of lack of political inclusion in the scheme of things has turned-out to be a disaster for the country. It has left us in a sorry state of collective backwardness never imagined in the annals of our country's history. This is the sad prevailing narrative in Nigeria, the most populous black nation in the entire world. Some of us are worried that we as a people are yet to get it right. Though we have derailed from the path of building a virile nation based on the dreams of our founding fathers, it is still not late for us to redress our footsteps and redeem this country from the path of collapse.

Interview

We want to modernize shoemaking business in Nigeria

Daniel Dung Gwom is the Managing Director and Principal Instructor of Jmofs Enterprises which specializes in shoemaking. The organization recently won an award during the 5<sup>th</sup> National MSME Awards ceremony which was presented to him by Nigeria's Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbajo. In this interview with BULUS GAMBO, Gwom explains the sacrifice behind their success and the desire to upgrade the organization in the coming years. Excerpts:-

- Dung Gwom

Can you introduce yourself?

I am Daniel Dung Gwom, the Managing Director and Principal Instructor at Jmofs Enterprises, a shoemaking company I started in Jos. I was born into the family of Prof. & Mrs J.Y Dung Gwom, fourth of five siblings, and married to Mrs. Sandra Dung Gwom, from Jos, Plateau State. I hold a Higher National Diploma, (HND) in Public Administration and a Post Graduate Diploma in the same discipline from Nasarawa State University.

How did you venture into shoemaking?

We started Jmofs Enterprises in 2009, it was eventually registered in 2018. Our journey however can be traced back to sometime in 1995 when my brother, (Gyang Dung Gwom) and I opted to start a shoe repair business. We saw a need, which was that; since most of the people within our community couldn't always afford new shoes, they needed to regularly repair the ones they had, it was an opportunity for us to provide cobbling services for about one to three-naira coins.

Since 2009, we have evolved from shoe repairs to making shoes, belts, wallets and bags. We envisioned going fully into fashion accessories. Our shoes, wallets and belts are made only from the finest leather, which ranges from, calf skin, PU leather, (Microfiber) and the likes, all locally sourced within Nigeria and Africa.

The business was borne out of a strong desire to empower young impoverished people within Nigeria, Africa and eventually various regions of the world. This we do through partnerships with our footwear academy and Job creation at our factory, store and office.

Jmofs looks into telling the most compelling stories through quality, style and promoting trends that shows the African virtues of art, culture, heritage and pride. This has been the consistent reviews we have received from our many customers over the years, which reaffirms our vision.

This is a new development on the Plateau, how are you trying to create the necessary awareness for people to understand the relevance of this career?

shoemaking is not entirely new on the Plateau, there was the popular Batta brand, the Naraguta leather works and several other shoemaking brands which have been on the Plateau for decades. However, some of us are trying through our brands to build the shoemaking industry on the Plateau, Nigeria, and Africa as a whole so that we become globally competitive and we are able to properly portray African art, industry and culture. Hence, this award affords us a larger platform to show other youths that this is a huge platform they can leverage on to empower themselves and



Gwom

others.

You recently won an award, how did it all started?

Yes, we recently won one of the 5<sup>th</sup> National MSME awards, an award of excellence in leather works, this was as a result of the process of sending entries for consideration then screening and selection which is done entirely by the Award Clinic as it is called.

In the aftermath of this achievement, has it created a platform for synergy with government and other well spirited individuals or personalities on the Plateau?

Indeed, the award is opening doors for synergy with the government, its agencies as well as good spirited individuals who are getting involved in certain ways to help provide support and help build a sustainable structure where other entrepreneurs can leverage on this to build viable businesses. Our experience in business has revealed to us that what most young people need is that structure of support, they do not lack the intellect or drive. What we need is a deliberately structured system which believes in the abilities of the youth to transform their communities for good and make provisions for them to access technical support when they are starting and credit facilities when they are setting up their establishments.

After attaining this feat,

what next?

The biggest asset of every brand is its influence. At Jmofs Enterprise; we aspire to grow into one of the most competitive brands from Africa within the next five years and to eventually grow into a leading global brand by 2032. Our vision is to build a strong and enduring global brand which delivers excellence and sets precedence in style, art and culture. We envision that our customers have their stories to tell. And we intend to be the brand that tells it.

We are focusing on training more professional shoemakers through our academy, where we literally put the choice in the hands of the individuals who we enroll into our programmes to empower themselves with the skills they need to not just survive in any economy but to thrive. We are constantly leveraging on technology and evolving trends.

Are there challenges?

Entrepreneurship requires you to be tough all over the world, but being an entrepreneur in Nigeria requires an extra level of toughness, through the years or sometimes just surviving and growing our business; we have had to deal with countless challenges, some of them include; lack of access to credit facilities. Money is the live wire of any business and the

entrepreneur needs a lot of it at various stages of building his business as every area is relevant to the business which revolves around it.

Another issue is lack of adequate manpower. Recruiting artisans is one of the most difficult things to do. First, it is quite difficult to find the person who has the set of skills you need. You also grapple with the fact that most artisans prefer to work for themselves or lack the

discipline to work for someone else. This particularly is one of our reasons for starting the Jmofs Footwear Academy, where we train artisans to have the right set of skills and discipline needed to be employable and to also build their own businesses.

We must also think of high level of inflation which has been a major challenge to our business. Inflation makes it difficult to have stable prices for your products, procure equipment, especially if the purchase is in a currency much stronger than the naira.

We must also think of customer foreign taste orientation. The average Nigerian has been oriented to believe that Nigerian products are inferior to foreign products and must only resort to buying Nigerian-made products when they cannot afford to buy the foreign ones. This is one area we must give due credence to the Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbajo who has made relentless efforts to encourage the production and consumption of locally made products. That is something you see about him through diverse means.

Another area is technical support structure, especially at the initial stage of a business. This is one of the direst needs of small-scale businesses. The challenge of how to manage their documentation, assessing and paying their taxes, registration,

legal obligations and such others. Most entrepreneurs would appreciate a structure where they can access technical guidance in some of these areas.

What kind of support do you want back home?

We would greatly appreciate the support of the government in terms of aids, grants and possibly soft loans for ourselves and other entrepreneurs like us to jik up our business as this would afford us to build our capacity in empowering thousands of others in the industry through our trainings and influence.

We also desire more direct government participation in encouraging entrepreneurship to help create a better orientation and encourage participation.

We have with this brand been intentional in producing internationally competitive products and invariably surpassing such benchmarks into becoming a leading global brand in the fashion industry, this is evidently visible in the quality of materials used and attention to detail given to every product, aspiring to tell the untold story in the mind of every intending client and customer.

Where do you see yourself in the next ten years?

In the next ten years, we would have built one of the most competitive and influential global fashion brands, trained hundreds of thousands of people through our fashion academy. We plan to expand the Footwear Academy into a full fashion academy, where we would be major real estate players, more importantly we would have grown the capacity to empower millions of people across the world through skill development and mental reorientation.

Any additional thoughts?

We first of all must recognize the fact that any opportunity is a challenge and or problem. Rather than becoming bitter and complaining about all the things we feel that government should do for us, we must accept the orientation that it is the people who make the government and not the other way around. One thing I know for a fact is; we never would have gotten this award if we sat back and allowed ourselves to be frustrated by the challenges around us rather than identifying them as areas of need and creating systems of dealing with those challenges.

It is indeed an honor to be featured here, thank you so much.

You can contact us on Facebook: Jmofs, Jmofs Footwear Academy Instagram: J m o f s \_ e n t Jmofs\_Footwear\_Academy Email:jmofsconcepts@gmail.com. Mobile: 07037425709



## The Drug, Medical Commodities Agency Bill

During July's State Executive Council meeting at the Council Chambers, Plateau new Government House, Governor Simon Bako had approved a draft bill for the creation of a Drug and Medical Commodities agency for Plateau State.

The Governor had presided over the meeting shortly after visiting NASCO Foods to commission a new multi-billion Naira production plant for one of its products cornflakes on Thursday, June 24, 2022.

The meeting was attended by members of his executive council. In the usual



tradition, after the meeting, briefings took place, and two commissioners, for Works and Housing, and Health, Hon. Pam Bot-Mang, and Dr. Nimkon Lar respectively were selected to be spokesmen to brief government house newsmen on the outcome.

The draft bill, for the creation of the Plateau State Drugs and medical commodities Management Agency was spearheaded by the Ministry of Health, and had been signed, approved and sent to the legislative arm of government for necessary action, disclosed Bot-Mang as he spoke to Journalists.

Commissioner for Health in his remarks was emphatic that the bill had been long overdue and would be a great boost to creating drug access and other benefits to the health sector in the state.

One of the areas is how the Bill, if passed into law will be a legal structure that will attract foreign and local donor agencies to donate drugs to the state. Apart from this, Lar said there will be access to quality drugs at public hospitals, fake drugs can be tracked and traced to sources where they emerged from especially the manufacturers and contractors, while the availability of drugs at primary, secondary and tertiary health facilities will be felt.

Other things Lar said to newsmen is how the Lalong-led government targets the affordability of drugs at all levels especially at the grassroots, by ensuring the policies in the health care system is strengthened.

### Plateau loses elder states woman

When the sad news over the demise of Ngo Naomi Jugu came last week, Plateau Governor in his message of condolence described her death as a great loss to the state.

Lalong eulogised and condoled her family, the Berom nation and Plateau State over the loss of the elder stateswoman, politician, saying the Late Jugu will be fondly remembered as a great "woman mobiliser, business woman, philanthropist, and advocate for justice and human rights".

The late Jugu, who died at the age of 82 was popularly known in many circles and was given the title "Delo-Berom" for her very active role in the Berom socio-cultural group. She also made an impact as a gender activist, and leading female voice in the state and country.



## News

### Insecurity: FG seeks cooperation of states on ranching

THE Federal Government has restated its appeal to the states to cooperate in ensuring that herders embrace ranching in ending the perennial farmers-herdsmen clashes.

The Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, restated the appeal in London during his engagements with some international media houses.

The minister is in London to engage the international media and tink-tank on the progress the administration is making in various endeavours.

Speaking on the outcome of his respective engagements with "Reuters", "The Economist" and "Times of London", the minister said issues on security, economy, fighting corruption and power sector took the centre stage.

Mohammed said the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration had been able to find workable solutions to the perennial farmers-herdsmen conflicts worsened by climate change, forest desertification and demographic growth.

"Our solutions which can be found in National Livestock Transformation Plan has ranching at its core.

"All we are asking for is for states to cooperate more with the federal government to ensure that ranching take place in their states.

"Evidence has shown that in the states where ranching has been put in place, there are less conflicts than the others," he said.

Still on security, the minister told the media houses that the government is leaving no stone unturned to address the challenges and the efforts were yielding results.

"The success of our gallant military has resulted in about 51,000 insurgents surrendering between January and March this year alone.

"We have also been able to reintegrate about 1600 former fighters who had been able to learn one trade or the other," he said.

The minister said the administration had taken very bold transformation steps to open up the economy.

He said they massively invested in infrastructure development as key to unleash growth, connect

communities and help in breaching the gap between the have and have not.

Mohammed said the signing of the Petroleum Industry Bill into law after twenty years of failures by previous administrations was another success story of the administration.

"With the Petroleum Industry Act, we have completely open up the oil and gas sector to investors.

"Importantly, we are now running NNPC as a commercial venture and we are going to be judged the way any other private company will be judged.

"This is already yielding dividends because a Canadian Trade Commission has already indicated interest to participate in the industry.

"Even oil giants like Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and Shell have indicated interest also to come and invest in the oil and gas industry.

"We hope that certain decisions being taken by investing countries and the EU will not negate the gains of PIA," he said.

The minister added that the 4000km sub Saharan gas line which will deliver our gas to Europe via Morocco is also a giant stride.

HOST communities of the Mambilla Beverages Limited, producers of Highland Tea, have kicked against the move by the Taraba State government to privatise the company.

In a statement signed on behalf of the Kakara host community by Abdullahi Abdulkarim and Usman Laido, Chairman and Secretary respectively, it insisted the host communities never agreed for the company to be privatised as claimed by the Taraba State government.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Taraba Investment and Property Limited, Mr Iliya Ezekiel Sunday was in Kakara when he met the host communities who were demonstrating in front of the company's headquarters in Kakara against the Taraba State Government on the 30th June, 2022. While at Mbondua Palace, he pleaded with the protesters to put it on hold pending the outcome of their discussion with the State Governor or when the host community fully understands the full benefit as canvassed by the M.D.

"We categorically state here that no member of the host communities welcome the idea of the privatisation and are happy with anything about the so call privatization," the statement read.

They accused the government of selective treatment in appointment into administrative positions while

### Host community bicker Taraba govt over sale of company

leaving menial jobs for members of the host community.

According to the statement, "It is the highest in terms of employment in Taraba State after state government and this is because of the low cost of production," the statement added.

According to the statement, if the government was interested in privatization for "profitability, productivity efficiency", it should go on and privatise the Greenhouse in Jalingo, Kurmi Timber Factory, Taraba Motel Jalingo, Jalingo New Market, Cassava Industry and Gassol Rice Mills.

The community expressed their fear of a political undertone to the planned privatization aimed at shortchanging and impoverishing them.

"We reject the plan in its entirety and caution you on the ripple effects which include the short-change and impoverishment of the people of the area and their attendant effects.

"The host community must be compensated for their lands taken over since 1975 and be paid the cumulative value to date at current rate," the statement read.

The community also demanded the payment of

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

backlog of salaries and wages of all workers laid off or still in service, running to up to three years.

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Taraba Investment and Property Development Limited (TIPDL), Ezekiel Iliya, had last week disclosed that government intends to privatise the company in order to improve profitability, productivity and efficiency.

He also added that government had commenced sensitisation of the communities on the privatisation of the company.

"Mambilla Beverages Nig. Ltd is solely owned by the Taraba government. In order to improve profitability, productivity, efficiency and job opportunities for the benefits of Tarabans, the government is proposing to privatise the company to ensure the efficient management devoid of government interference and bureaucracies.

"The interest of the workers and host community are adequately protected within the confines of the Law in the privatisation process," the memo stated.

Iliya also asked the public to "disregard the rumours that the company belongs to a particular community".

**PROBATE NOTICE****IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA  
PROBATE DIVISION**

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.  
AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (2) days of from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Aliyu Mohammed Mainja late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th February, 2022 Jos, Plateau State at OLA Hosp. Jos North LGA,	Hadiza Aliyu Jibrin and Mohammed Fatima Aliyu of tilde Kaya Toro LGA, Bauchi State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.	Joyce Banwat late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th May, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Samuel Benjamin Banwat of Watershed Pharmacy, No. 4 Miango Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Brother of the said deceased.	Ardo Nimyel late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th February, 2022, at Jos, Plateau State.	Nansoh Wilfred & Nanzing Wilfred of Dahwol Dangwong, Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Njoku Edna Ukachi late of Plateau State. Died on the 12th July, 2015 at JSH, Jos Plateau State.	Benjamin Justin Uzoma of No. 42 Namua Junction Abattior Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Clement Bala Gowon late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st January, 2016 at Amper, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	Gowon Bala Tongbe of Kambel Anglo Jos, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawfulson of the said deceased.	Maurich Rin Nyam late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th December, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Nyam Jesse Zang Kabong Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Monday Ezra Gotip late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th August, 2021 at Oasis Medical Centre Jos Plateau State.	Asabe Elizabeth Gotip and Panshak Gotip of No. 8 Mission Road off Yakubu Gowon Way (Hwolshe `Jos Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	Mathew Pwajok late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st January, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Pam Mathew Pwajok of Trade Centre Kuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Atawu Ajina Jonah late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th May, 2022 at Bassa LGA, Plateau State.	Annah Emmanuel & Emmanuel Ajinah, All of ECWA Egbak Akoh Bass LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/grand son of the said deceased.
Shimwen Amon late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th April, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Mairo Amon Shimwen and Dommun David Shimwen of Rangarasang Rantya Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said	Saliyu Karima Mailafiya late of Plateau State. died on the 4th April, 2022 at Samanath Lucil Hosp. Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Umar Aliyu Umar of No. 548 Sarki Mangu Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Husband of the said deceased.	Joseph Datong late of Plateau State. Died on the 27th December, 2019 at Jos, Plateau State.	Datong Markus of Dokan Kasuwa Qua'anpan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Lydia Yusuf Deshi late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th July, 2021 at JUTH,, Plateau State.	Deshi Nenlidang Yusuf of Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Sunday Usaini late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th February, 2022 at Langtang LGA, Plateau State.	Nansak Sunday & Nanpon Sunday of COCIN Church Dengre Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	Peter Zamdai late of Plateau State. Died on the 11th May, 2013 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Jummai Agwom & Ruth Nakai of COCIN Church Abattoir Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughters of the said deceased.
Gwodo Yakubu Jack late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th May, 2020 at Dorowa Babuje, Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State.	Jack Jack Yakubu of Dorowa Babuje Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Billy Jonah Shantuma late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st September, 2016 at Bingham Teaching Hospital Jos, Plateau State.	Ernest Billy Shantuma of No. 5 Chamber Line, Laranto Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	Bulus Bekat late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th January, 2013 at Langai, Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	Timothy Bekat of Langai Village Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased
Dung Victor Pam late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th March, 2009 at Jos, Plateau State.	Pam Edith Asabe, Captain Daniel Jah Pam Zainab Vou Pam & Prince Henry Musa Pam. All of Little Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/sons/daughter of the said deceased.	Fanzhi Fanbol Yilnap late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th June, 2008 at Mabudi, Langtang South LGA, Plateau State.	Ponfa Fanbol of Sabon Gida Langtang South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Shadrach Shemu Rinan late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th August, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Shemu Nenrot Shadrach & Philip Selzing Janfa of No. 54 CBN Road Jos, North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/cousin of the said deceased.
Yaksat Christiana Ada late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th January, 2022 at BHUTH, Plateau State.	Yaksat Maklek Gaius of St. Joseph Block IND. Rukuba Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Mallam Bukar Zarmari late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th September, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Abubakar Sale & Sale Abubakar of No. 14 Dadin Kowa, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	Ibrahim Gurama late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th October, 2021 at Toro LGA, Bauchi State.	Mohammed Ibrahim of Magama Gumau Toro LGA, Bauchi State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Tsokwa Danjuma late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th August, 2019 at BHUTH, Jos, Plateau State.	Danjuma Diana of Jenta Adamu Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Cyril Nwazulu late of Plateau State. Died on the 27th January, 2022 at Rayfield Medical Hospital Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Frank Chidozie Nwazulu & Fabian Okechukwu Nwazulu No. 4 Da Dung Pwol Boulevard Rayfield, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	Suleiman Yakubu Baba late of Nasarawa State. Died on the 30th December, 2019 at General Hospital, Keffi LGA, Nasarawa State.	Adullaziz Baba Suleiman of Opp.ASTC Vom Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Delse Selleng late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th May, 2022 at Lankan, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Gu'am Pankyes Dasle of Lankang District Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Zakari Ibrahim Zabwah late of Nasarawa State. Died on the 7th May, 2019 at Mama Village Wamba LGA, Nasarawa State.	Habila Zakari & Hussaini Dahai Musa of Mama Village Wamba LGA, Nasarawa State. Lawful son/brother of the said deceased.	Longman Da'or late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd February, 2022 at Cottage Hospital, Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	Ruth Laraba Korap of New Layout Plot 04. Pnkshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful mother of the said deceased.
Ezekiel Jok late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th May, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Christiana Vou Ezekiel of No. 1 D. B. Zang Way Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Bitrus Chung Gwom late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th October 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	chung Isa Gwom of LCC Kwakpwis Foron Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	Laraba Garba late of Kaduna State. Died on the 7th February, 2022 at Kaduna State.	Lami Garba Pam & Salamatu Garba Pam of Behind First Bank Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughters of the said deceased.
James Nansel Magaji Goselle late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th August, 2021 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Dindul Magaji Goselle No. 21 Dapwol Close Off NAP. Base Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>Signed (LADI A. MADAKI) PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</b>		Nabar Nyam Azi late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd January, 2022 at OLA Hospital, Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Jummai Nyam of Nwing Junction Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.

Sports

# P/Utd clinches continental ticket

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

PLATEAU United Football Club of Jos has clinched a CAF Continental ticket when the beat relegation threatened Lobi Stars Football Club of Makurdi 2-1 to place second on the league table after Rivers United in match week 36 played at the Jos International Stadium on Sunday.

Speaking after the tough encounter to journalists, Fedelis Ilechukwu, Technical Adviser of Plateau United, stated that the club achieved this as a result of the support given to them by the state governor and the Management of the team.

"We know today's game was going to be a difficult one because many of our players were injured, but we had to make use of the ones available even though we prepared well for the game and knew we were going to win the game" he said.

Now that the team has qualified to play in the continental league, the coach emphasized that a lot must be done to reorganize the club.

"Now that we have qualified to play in the CAF league, we need to do a lot, bring in players in order to strengthen the club very well. The team is not going to remain like this, because, if we do not reorganize the means, we are not going to participate well in the continental, and I have



Coach Ilechukwu and players

discussed with the management", he maintained.

"We have done our best in this season, we landed in the position where we didn't expect to be when the league started, we have to thank God for that, I am giving kudos to the management for all they have done for this success" he said,

When asked whether playing their home games outside the state will affect the teams performance in the CAF continental league, the coach said, "This question is for the management not for me, as coach and players we need to play anywhere, but at home it would be the best, because you cannot compare playing your home game on away soil as the best", he emphasized.

Also, Baba Ganaru, Technical Adviser of Lobi

Stars lamented in the level of officiating, saying that, the centre referee made some dubious decisions.

"I am not happy with the officiating because, there were a lot of dubious decisions taken by the centre referee, the officiating was porous, we didn't loss to Plateau United but to the referee," he lamented.

## WAFCON 2022: Nigeria will not panic-Waldrum

NIGERIA coach Randy Waldrum has refused to press the panic button after the Super Falcons started their 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations campaign with a 2-1 defeat against South Africa in Morocco on Monday.

Goal said that, the 65-year-old American coach remains confident the

THE League Management Company (LMC), has confirmed Mountain of Fire Ministry Football Club, (MFM FC) as first team to be relegated from the Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL) 2021/2022 season.

Newsnow said that, in a tweet on the league body's @LMCNPFL handle on Twitter last night, LMC confirmed the church team's exit from the Nigerian topflight.

MFM FC have remained at the bottom of the NPFL log for the better part of the season.

After conceding another home defeat to Niger Tornados at the Agege Stadium in Lagos on Sunday afternoon, MFM FC could only boast of paltry 36 points from 36 matches. Even if they win the two remaining matches, they can only end up with 42 points leaving them at the bottom of the 20-team Nigerian topflight.

With Rivers United already declared champions since penultimate weekend, Plateau United were yesterday confirmed runners up following their 2-1 victory over Lobi Stars. The Jos team now have 64 matches from 36 matches.

The third spot remains a fierce battle between Remo Stars (56 points), Kwara United (55 points) and Enugu Rangers on 53 points.

Apart from already relegated MFM FC, the battle to stay alive in the NPFL is now between Shooting Stars(45), Kano Pillars (45), Heartland (44) and

## NPFL: LMC confirms relegation of MFM FC



MFM FC

Dakkada on 43 points.

In some of the matches decided yesterday, Rivers United Head Coach, Stanley Eguma, was full of praises for his opponents Kano Pillars as well as his wards after his side defeated the Sai Masu Gida 1-0 to reach a record 74 points in Nigeria's top flight.

The Pride of Rivers were confirmed as champions penultimate weekend in spite of a loss to Nasarawa United but they never let their guards down despite Pillars' stiff resistance in the Match-day 36 game decided at the Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium in Port Harcourt.

The win means that Rivers United surpass their previous record created in 2011 (as Dolphins) also with Eguma the head coach.

Elsewhere yesterday, Remo Stars secured an important 1-0 win over Enyimba in Ikenne to keep their hopes of finishing the season with a continental ticket (CAF Confederation Cup).

Remo Stars had gone five games without a win against the People's Elephant in previous NPFL encounters before Sunday's win. Sikiru Alimi's second-half goal was enough to seal the win for the Sky Blue side.

## Former director wants Ganduje to fulfill promise



Ganduje

From IBRAHIM SULEIMAN INGAWA, Katsina

FORMER Director of Sports, Katsina State, Malam Aliyu Kofarsauri, has appealed to Kano State Governor, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje to fulfil his promise to repair or replace the vehicle of Katsina United (KU) Football Club which was damaged by fans during the recent National Premier League between Katsina United and Kano Pillars at Kano Stadium.

Kofarsauri made the appeal while speaking to THE NIGERIA STANDARD SPORTS DASK in Katsina yesterday

According to him, supporters of Kano Pillars destroyed operational vehicle of KUfootball during the match.

He said that the situation has now put the club and the players in jeopardy as they don't have a vehicle that will

be conveying them to places for matches.

Kofarsauri said that Ganduje pledged that he will repair or buy a new vehicle for Katsina United, stressing that up till now nothing was done.

"I presumed, the Governor has not forgotten. May be he is too busy or preoccupied in the just concluded recent primary election against the 2023 general election which made him not to fulfil his promise"

So we are still reminding the Governor Ganduje to fulfil his promise because that is the only vehicle that usually conveys footballers and their officials for matches to different places"

Kofarsauri who was a one-time Match Commissioner and Grade 1 Referee urged club officials to always warned their supporters against entering pitches as well as destroying properties of opponents in their local place during home matches.



Waldrum

Super Falcons will recover from their opening defeat against Banyana Banyana.

After a 0-0 result in the first half, the Super Falcons found themselves trailing in the 61st minute when Jermaine Seoposenwe put Banyana ahead.

Before Nigeria could reorganise, Banyana doubled their lead two minutes later through Hildah Magaia, who slotted the ball past Nigeria custodian Tochukwu Oluehi. Rasheedat Ajibade pulled a goal back for the Super Falcons in stoppage time but it was too late to recover as Banyana held on to win the Group C opener at Stade

subsequent matches in the competition.

"We will analyse and review individual players' performance and make the right decisions in the next games," Waldrum continued.

He, however, admitted he was surprised by the way his charges played against Banyana but pointed out the last 10 to 15 minutes as the time they produced a better game.

"We have to increase our urgency in the fighting spirit because we are encouraged by it. We have to play the way we played in the last 10-15 minutes so that we get going," added Waldrum.

Percy Tau backed to shine at Al Ahly despite Pitso's departure

The South African has been backed by Cavin Johnson to continue to shine at Al Ahly despite Pitso Mosimane's departure

"I was surprised with our performance in the attack. We got a late goal and we tried to get back in the game, we are still positive. I am looking forward to how we can improve, we will look at the areas we were exposed and we will make those corrections."

Nigeria will next face Botswana, who beat Burundi 4-2 in their opener, at Moulay Hassan FUS on Thursday.

## Sports

# Wimbledon: Kyrgios, Nadal advance at all England Club

NICK Kyrgios says "so many people will be upset" he has reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals, but says it is a "good feeling" to silence his critics.

BBC SPORT said that, his entertaining SW19 run continued as he shrugged off a shoulder injury to beat American Brandon Nakashima 4-6 6-4 7-6 (7-2) 3-6 6-2 and reach his first major quarter-final in seven years.

He is joined in the last eight by Rafael Nadal, who continued his bid for a calendar Grand Slam with a 6-4 6-2 7-6 (8-6) victory over Botic van de Zandschulp.

Kyrgios was more subdued than in his fiery match against Stefanos Tsitsipas, staying largely quiet as he set up a meeting with Chile's Cristian Garin.

The 27-year-old Australian maintained his focus in a disciplined display and put his success at the All England Club down to improving his habits off the court.

Unseeded Garin, 26, prevented an all-Australian encounter by fighting back from two sets down - and saving two match points in the fifth - to beat 19th seed Alex de Minaur.

The world number 43, more of a clay-court specialist, reached his first major quarter-final with a 2-6 5-7 7-6 (7-3) 6-4 7-6 (10-6) victory.

All eyes were back on Kyrgios following his explosive third-round match against Greek fourth seed Tsitsipas, which became one of the biggest talking points of this year's championships after containing so much drama.

While the match against Nakashima on Centre Court lacked the fireworks of Saturday night on Court One, it was an absorbing slow burner.

Break opportunities were rare as the pair dominated their service games, with Kyrgios' injury issue further making a match with fluctuating swings difficult to call.

After securing a hard-fought win with his first match point, he said: "I need a large glass of wine tonight for sure."

On how he managed to battle past 20-year-old Nakashima, he added: "It wasn't anywhere near my best performance level-wise but I'm super happy to get through and I fought really hard."

Kyrgios reached his first Wimbledon quarter-final since 2014 when, as a 19-year-old wildcard, he stunned then world number one Rafael Nadal.

Another run to the Australian Open last eight followed in 2015, but he has been unable to reach the same stage again until now.

"To sit here in the quarter-finals of Wimbledon, feeling good, feeling composed, feeling mature, having good people around me, I'm



Kyrgios

extremely blessed," said Kyrgios.

"I feel like I'm just comfortable in my own skin."

He said he "doesn't care" about the criticism he received after the Tsitsipas match - an encounter which resulted in both players being fined for their conduct - and that he just laughs about it.

While people regularly discuss his mentality when debating why a player of such talent has not won more titles, injuries are another factor in what have stalled Kyrgios' progress over recent years.

Physical problems came to the fore again for the Australian, who pulled out of the Mallorca Open last month with an abdominal injury, at the end of the first set against Nakashima.

"I woke up after playing Tsitsipas and had some shoulder pain," he said.

"I almost knew that it was time for my body to start feeling some niggles. I think that's normal. At this time in the event I don't think anyone is feeling 100%."

"Mentally I feel like I just deal with these things a lot better now."

In an even opener, neither player made an impression on the other's serve until Kyrgios, looking impaired by the problem, suddenly struggled with his returns and the American pinched the advantage.

At the start of the second set he continued to grimace and tried to loosen the affected shoulder between points.

Nevertheless he broke in the

third game, helped by a double fault and shank by Nakashima, before calling for the physio at the changeover.

After taking painkillers and receiving regular treatment, he managed to move into a two-sets-to-one lead as the match progressed at a rapid pace.

Another twist came when Kyrgios lost his way in the fourth set - which he said was a "complete rope-a-dope tactic".

Kyrgios tanked the final game as he casually returned - and even served underarm on Nakashima's first set point, which he still won - but composed himself to run away with the decider.

Former England forward John Fashanu has castigated the decision taken by Caf to postpone the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast.

Goal revealed that, the former Three Lions hits out at the African body for pushing the 34th edition to 2024 terming decision as "absolutely rubbish".

On Sunday, the African body confirmed the postponement of the 34th edition, which was initially scheduled for June 23 to July 23, 2023, will not be played as planned due to the weather conditions in the West African country and will move to January 2024.

"It is a lovely way for them to say none of the African players will be leaving the clubs for the biggest tournament in Africa next year," the 59-year-old Fashanu, who is of Nigerian descent, said as quoted by *Punch*.

"But it is terrible and it is ridiculous to use weather as an excuse to postpone the Afcon because when has the weather ever stopped a footballer from playing football?"

"Is it when it is snowing, raining, or when the sun is so hot that I wouldn't play football? It is absolute rubbish and I call it rubbish. I wasn't surprised when I saw the news but I was rather horrified and it looks like we are going backward."

"I just hope that we can get

## Fashanu slams CAF's decision to postpone 2023 AFCON

it right in Africa and I don't think one of the biggest tournaments in Europe would have been postponed because of weather."

While speaking in Morocco, where the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations is currently taking place, Caf president Dr. Patrice Motsepe explained the decision to change the tournament.

"The 2023 Afcon will now be played between January and February 2024," Mostepe said. "This is one of the issues we discussed during our congress meeting here in Morocco and the official dates will be communicated later."

"It is after deliberations we came into the decision, we have partners and even though we make decisions, it is out of respect that we take

the advice we are getting that we cannot take a risk [to host the tournament] and so that is why we have made the necessary announcement today [Sunday]."

Wafcon 2022: Can Banyana unseat unstoppable Nigeria

Looking at the five key points ahead of South Africa's opening match against Nigeria at the Women Africa Cup of Nations

"It is not good for African football to play a tournament that can be washed out, it is not good for Africa and the continent at large and so we have to postpone it."

The last edition of the Afcon was staged in Cameroon where Senegal defeated Egypt on penalties in the final to lift the trophy for the first time.



Fashanu

## I tried to get German discipline into Aubameyang's head - Rohr

FORMER Nigeria head coach Gernot Rohr has explained how he handled Barcelona striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang during their time with the Gabon national team.

Goal said that, the tactician also said he got along well with the former Borussia Dortmund star,

Although Rohr - who was in charge of Gabon between 2010 and 2012 - affirmed he got along well with the former Arsenal striker, he stated he tried to instil punctuality.

"We got along very well," Rohr responded, in an interview with *Sport Bild* when asked if Aubameyang sometimes drove him to despair.

"I tried to get a bit of German discipline into his head, like punctuality, for example. It wasn't easy, but he's made



Rohr

great strides in that direction, and accepted it. However, you should be careful not to destroy your creativity with too much discipline.

"We have a very good relationship. As Bundesliga fans know, he is a bit extravagant with his clothes, his glasses, and his haircut. An experience

## Nigeria misses Nephi Igwe

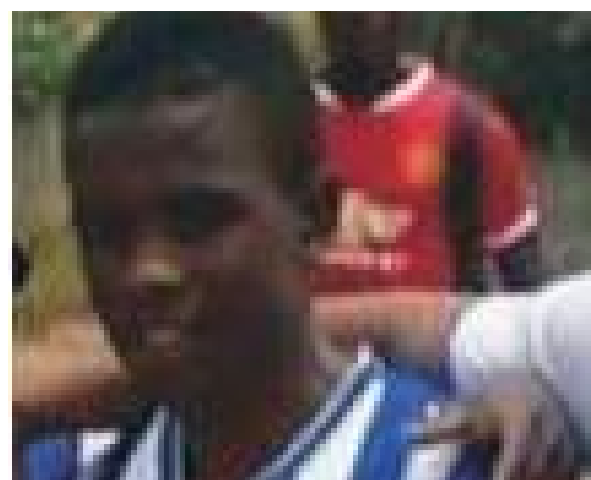
ONE player that will be missed by not only the Nigeria Under-17 National team, the Golden Eaglets, but the World of football will miss as the FIFA Under-17 World Cup kick starts is the deadly goal poaching machine, Patrick Nephi Igwe

Patrick Nephi Igwe, who is heavily relied upon by the Chief Coach, Manu Garba, to terrorize defenders and get the goals that will take Nigeria to their fourth FIFA Under-17 World Cup titles, considering his feast of goals scored in friendly matches, notably the matches against bitter rivals, Ghana and neighbours, Benin Republic.

Before he sustained the injury that ruled him out of the Africa Under-17 National team, Patrick Igwe scored yen goals of which hallmark is the brilliant goal he scored against

Nigeria bitter rivals, Ghana, in the 3-1 win where he was picked as the Man Of The Match, after scoring two goals

and gave two assists. The prayer on everybody's lips is for Patrick Nephi Igwe to recover fast from this injury he



Patrick Nephi Igwe

sustained in the star man performance he had against Ghana to be able to show the whole world his goal scoring prowess at the World Cup if Nigeria qualifies from the Africa qualifiers.

Patrick Nephi Igwe, born on the 10th of July, 1997, is a product of Gee-Lec International Football Academy of Jos, Plateau State.

The Golden Eaglets will resume in Calabar to camp ahead of their clash with Niger Republic to pick a ticket for the African Under-17 Championship in Morocco.

Here are some of the details of the two friendly matches played before Patrick Nephi Igwe got injured:

Nigeria 3 (Isaac Success 10th, Patrick Igwe 68th, 89th) Gabon 1 (Zico Nzeng Mba 4th)

makes me smile today."

The German coach also recalled their time at the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations and especially during a crucial penalty shootout.

"In the quarter-finals of the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations in Gabon against Mali, we had to go to penalties after extra time in the heat," Rohr added.

"I've been thinking about my list of shooters. When I announced whose turn it was when, he cut me off and said, 'Coach, I want to be last to shoot.' Because then he wanted to be celebrated [laughs]."

"Normally the best shooters should go first, but he really wanted to shoot at the end. Unfortunately, his plan didn't work out, he missed, and we were kicked out. That's a little anecdote that's also funny after so many years."

New players and 22/23 kits in FIFA

As new kits are released by clubs, what do they look like in FIFA? Goal reveals in this hype video

On Aubameyang's move from the Premier League to La Liga's Barcelona, the former Nigeria coach feels the transfer is good for the retired Gabon striker.

"His mother is of Spanish origin, he has always dreamed of Spain," concluded Rohr. "I knew he really wanted to go to Barca, couldn't wait to play there. He was at Arsenal for four years, and by the end, it had rubbed off a bit. Aubameyang needed a new challenge. And it fits."

"In this huge stadium in Barcelona, the playing surface is very large, so Aubameyang can use his speed very well. And he puts his heart into it."



**Quest**



writer

MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH

FRAGMENT

The activities of NIREC slightly changed with the tragic death of the then Sultan Macido in a plane crash. Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, his brother, a retired military officer and a gentleman with very good education and with a wide experience within and outside Nigeria succeeded him. There was noticeable change in the last five years since the emergence of Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, the new Sultan of Sokoto and President of SCIA (Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs), and Archbishop John Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja and President of the CAN (Christian Association of Nigeria), as Co-Chairmen of NIREC.

MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH

# Christian-Muslim relations: Nigerian situation

A second example is what happened over twenty years later when the state of Zamfara declared Sharia and was later on followed by the other states in the north. Despite all the hullabaloo over the decision, not much came out of it. It turned out that it had been merely a strategy by a man who had limited resources but huge political ambition to climb to power. The sum total of all this is that in reality, the northern Muslim elite have no serious commitment to living under Sharia law in the way and manner that non-Muslims understand or misunderstand. Indeed, it is the prejudices and stereotypes of non-Muslims which have continued to fuel so much passion and frenzy over this debate. In the end, it all comes down to the wise words of an Islamic scholar who has noted:

*You do not require the law of Shariah to make you behave honestly. You do not require the law of Shariah to be imposed to make you speak the truth and to appear as witness in Court or, wherever you appear as witness honestly and truthfully. A society where robbery has become the order of the day, where there is disorder, chaos, usurpation of others' rights, where the Courts seldom witness a person who is truthful, where filthy language is a common place mode of expression, where there is no decency left in human behaviour, what would you expect Shariah to do there? How the law of Shariah would genuinely be imposed in such a country, this is the question.*

Sadly, things that are taken for granted and look normal and harmless regarding religion are not so in Nigeria. The reason is that religion has been conscripted into the politics of the country, no thanks to the legacy of the dead, but not buried, Hausa Fulani caliphate. So where do we go from here and how does our nation intend to confront these challenges so that religion can really and truly be freed from the stranglehold of modern day politicians who are prepared to make religion political and make politics religious. To try to answer these questions, let me review the state of affairs since the return of the country to democratic rule in 1999.

**Breaking New Grounds for Dialogue: From Belligerence to Accommodation:**

Perhaps, the first sign that the face of religion would change in the political life of Nigeria,



Buhari

especially among the Christian community was at the inauguration of the Obasanjo Presidency after he had openly declared himself born again in the course of his sojourn in prison. This came to a head with the Thanksgiving Prayer Service which was organized by the leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) a day after his inauguration. This is not the place to review the legacy of the Obasanjo administration, but for the purpose of our review, we can note the following:

The successful completion of construction work on the Ecumenical Centre after it had been abandoned for over twenty years.

The appointment of a Presidential Chaplain for the Villa The construction of a Presidential Chapel in the same Villa.

He supported the setting up the Nigeria Inter-religious Council, NIREC.

He strengthened the National Christian Pilgrims Board by appointing a National Chairman

In the case of Islam, the Muslim community enjoyed patronage from the President. Among other things for example:

He organized the fund raising for the renovation of the National Mosque

He openly participated in the Muslim Ramadan and broke his fast with Muslim leaders.

He developed very close ties with the then Sultan, the late Alhaji Maccido and took a title

He maintained the tempo of support for the Muslim

*Pilgrimage He ensured transfer of power to the Muslim North.*

The President's final decision to sack his chaplain for involvement in politics was significant.

What was significant of course was the fact that these gestures had brought religion closer to the Presidency in a way and manner that had never happened. However, as it was clear, there were tensions. First, the two Muslim and Christian bodies, making up the Nigeria Inter-religious Council (NIREC), could not agree on who would Chair the meetings and had to settle for a position of Co-Chairmen. For the period of the Obasanjo administration, not much

“**Sadly, things that are taken for granted and look normal and harmless regarding religion are not so in Nigeria. The reason is that religion has been conscripted into the politics of the country, no thanks to the legacy of the dead, but not buried, Hausa Fulani caliphate. So where do we go from here and how does our nation intend to confront these challenges so that religion can really and truly be freed from the stranglehold of modern day politicians who are prepared to make religion political and make politics religious. To try to answer these questions, let me review the state of affairs since the return of the country to democratic rule in 1999.**”

happened in NIREC between the two faiths beyond the routine meetings. There were arguments as to the role and place of women: for, whereas the Christian body decided to bring in women, the Muslims did not take easily to this. The second area was the confusion as to the roles of the Muslim religious leaders who were, in reality, traditional rulers. To bridge this gap, the Christians decided to appoint two Christian traditional rulers to the Council.

The activities of NIREC slightly changed with the tragic death of the then Sultan Macido in a plane crash. Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, his brother, a retired military officer and a gentleman with very good education and with a wide experience within and outside Nigeria succeeded him.

There was noticeable change in the last five years since the emergence of Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, the new Sultan of Sokoto and President of SCIA (Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs), and Archbishop John Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja and President of the CAN (Christian Association of Nigeria), as Co-Chairmen of NIREC. Under their leadership, NIREC changed the face of Christian-Muslim relations significantly and came into national and international memory. Under the leadership of both men, ordinary Nigerians began to feel somewhat relaxed and positive about the prospects of religion being a force for good and not associated with violence. Both men have appeared publicly in such national initiatives as Health campaigns (Malaria, HIV Aids, Polio etc), they have traveled together for international Conferences, have signed Statements together in moments of national crisis and so on. Both Federal and State Governments began to feel more confident in terms of how they can relate with both faiths.

On April 20th 2010, CAN took a very prophetic step. It organized one-day seminar in Abuja under the theme: *My Muslim Neighbor*. Both the Sultan and Archbishop Onaiyekan presented insightful papers which spoke closely to the issues of collaboration and cooperation in a manner that was unprecedented. Both men in separate statements focused on issues of religious freedom, love, tolerance, evangelism, good governance etc. About a month later, the SCIA, at one of its annual meetings in Kaduna, took

an unprecedented step and decided to devote a session to addressing the issues raised by the CAN initiative. For the first time in their history, they also extended invitations to the leadership of CAN along with other religious leaders to participate at a special session of their historic meeting. At the session, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Anglican Bishop of Kaduna, presented an excellent paper, *Islam in the Eyes of a Non Muslim*. After the presentation, three other Christian leaders including this author were formally requested by the Sultan to speak for between 5 and 10 minutes. This event was spectacular and epoch making. It has offered a major platform of hope for the future of Christian-Muslim relations in Nigeria.

It is of note, that in its over 40 years of existence, the Kaduna meeting was the first of the SCIA that was hosted by a Governor who is a Christian. This was sequel to the new twist in the political developments of the country after the death of President Yar'adua. Secondly, it was also the first time that non-Muslims were invited to the meeting of SCIA. A combination of these factors is indicative of the fact that Nigeria is on the verge of a new phase in securing a new place for Religion in national life on the one hand, and hopefully reducing the tensions that had come to characterize Christian-Muslim relations in the country. It depends on whether the leadership of both faiths carries through with the same trust and enthusiasm that has been displayed by Abubakar and Onaiyekan.

Unfortunately, the CAN elections of 2010 turned the tables. First of all, CAN had broken faith with its unwritten law that Vice Presidents of CAN will always naturally succeed their President at the end of their tenure. This was how things had been from the beginning of CAN. But in 2003, Rev. Peter Akinola, the Primate of the Anglican Church decided to contest the elections even though he was not the Vice President. Amidst tensions, controversies and allegations of bribery and blackmail, he won the elections against Archbishop John Onaiyekan, the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja and the sitting Vice President.

To be concluded next week