

Lalong  
apologizes to  
Pope for  
misconception



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## Nigerian youths must decide 2023 elections -Kukah P5

# Food security: Farmers resort to human urine

*The high cost of fertilizer which is fast going beyond the reach of an average farmer in Nigeria has forced the users to look for cheaper and environment friendly alternative source of growing their farm produce or risk being cut out of the farming business. Pages 10, 31*

## Buhari, Lalong influenced my release >Page 2 -Dariye





## Editorial

### Buhari's impeachment: Myth or reality?

The recent threat by Nigeria's legislators to impeach President Muhammadu Buhari, according to Bulkachuwa, an All Progressives Congress (APC) senator, representing Bauchi North, is the last and necessary option left for the lawmakers to remind the President that the legislature still has the constitutional power to "pull his ears and show that he still cares."

The senator noted that he and his colleagues had tried in many ways to help the executive and by extension, the President to tackle insecurity in the country but to no avail.

Earlier, another APC senator from Adamawa State, Elisha Abbo, had publicly backed the impeachment plan, principally being driven by the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) members in the Senate.

The Constitution of Nigeria empowers the National Assembly to remove the president when it considers the President's conduct to be gross misconduct. Gross misconduct means a grave violation or breach of the provisions of the constitution or as defined by the National Assembly.

Unfortunately, the level of Nigeria's economic, social, religious and insecurity situation is pathetic. It does not show that we have rulers, not to talk of leaders. Hence, the move for impeachment comes on the heels of attacks across the country and security threats in the federal capital.

The legislators expressed disappointment at how the options had not worked and security in the country had only gotten worse as they had also tried to engage service chiefs and other security personnel to find out what their problems were.

However, following these developments and the impeachment threat against the President by the lawmakers, the National Assembly leadership expressed fears over the worsening insecurity in the country. It has deteriorated to a level that the administration is unable and unwilling to do anything about it, and is, indeed, incapable of doing so.

Needless to say, Nigerians cannot sleep with their two eyes closed and the entire country is under siege. The first job of a president and Commander-in-Chief is to protect his country; it is, even more, to protect his capital city. Above all, it is to care about his people

We believe that democracy is a contract, which is why the candidate puts up a manifesto and on the basis of that manifesto; they are either accepted or rejected.

Hence, the need to stop the abuse of democratic process. And we urge Nigerians not to focus on the faults of the Federal Government alone, but also ensure state governments do their bit to bring democracy dividends to the people.

We call on the federal government to, as a matter of urgency, find sustainable solutions to the lingering spate of insecurity in the country which is also threatening to consume the present administration especially the current threat issued by the bandits on kidnaping the president and Governor El-Rufai of Kaduna State.

Our position is that lawmakers should synergize with the executive, security agencies and all critical stakeholders as a matter of urgency, to put in place proactive mechanisms in order to deter these terrorists and bandits from unleashing violence on innocent citizens who go about their lawful businesses to cushion the hard effects of economic and social problems bedeviling the country.

We believe the current challenges bedeviling the country is surmountable if the right thing is done. And, when this is done, Nigerians and other nationals residing in the country can sleep with their two eyes closed.

## NEWS

### Eight Nigerian states owe workers six months -Report

**A**t least 12 of 36 states owed workers at least one-month salary as of July 28.

Eight state governments failed to pay some of their workers for at least six months, a new report says.

The states are Taraba, Nasarawa, Edo, Ebonyi, Ondo, Plateau, Imo, Abia. They owe active workers as well as retirees.

The report by the civic organisation Budgit shows that at least 1 out of Nigeria's 36 states owed workers at least one-month salary as of July 28.

One state, Abia, did not pay some workers for 22 months.

"The state (Abia) currently owes its state tertiary institution workers six months' salary, while Ebonyi State has not paid its pensioners in the last six months," Budgit said in its report.

It said secretariat workers in Taraba State complained of irregular salary payments for up to

six months, while lecturers at state tertiary institutions and midwives in the state-owned hospital in Ondo State have not been paid in the last four months.

A civil servant in Ondo State told PREMIUM TIMES workers were facing dire conditions. "We were receiving salary till February 2022, then it stopped. Since March till date, we have not received any salary," she said.

The state's Commissioner of Information, Bamidele Olateju, however said the state had paid workers till April.

Salaries have been paid till April. And we are working hard to pay off the rest," he said Friday.

PREMIUM TIMES contacted state workers and some claimed even states indicated in the survey as not owing were indeed owing.

Irregular payment of workers' salaries has been a problem in Nigerian states for decades. Officials often blame revenue

shortfall, yet continue to apply the same lean resources on their lavish interests.

Budgit said it conducted the survey to spotlight and identify state governments that have consistently failed to meet the essential requirement of governance and employee compensation.

The group called on governments to urgently address the glaring inability to pay state workers' salaries as the attitude, enthusiasm, productivity, and survival of state workers and their families are directly related to the timeliness of their remuneration.

"Nigerian civil servants are unfortunately no strangers to delays and gaps in monthly salary payments. Despite belonging to the executive implementing arm of the government, they have been left without payments in many instances," said the group's Head of Research and Policy Advisory, Iniobong Usen.

"With several states guilty of this non-payment, civil servants are often at wit's end at 'month end'."

### PLSG assures on clearing benefits of retired civil servants

By PALANG KASMI

**P**lateau government has assured retired Civil Servants that the backlog of their benefits will soon be cleared.

The cheering news was given by the Plateau Commissioner for Information, Hon. Dan Manjang while briefing news men after the State Executive Council meeting.

Manjang disclosed that a company, the United Capital has agreed to take up the payment of the backlog of gratuities, death benefits and arrears of pensions of retired civil servants in the state totalling about N18bn Naira.

However he said civil servants have a choice to make because it is going to be discounted and subject to negotiation by the civil servants and the Company.

"The state government has given the company the go-ahead so the company will pay civil servants off, but the civil servants will negotiate with them, and a document that will get the House of Assembly backing will be worked upon".

He said after the organisation clears the arrears of the retirees, government will pay back to the organization in instalments.

The Commissioner also said the Executive Council took major decisions and did some approvals including downward review of Government Reserve Areas (GRA) in Shendam to enable retired civil servants occupying the properties, who were not able to pay to afford to pay for the houses.

He also disclosed that all sub

councils instituted by government made up of Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDA's) including infrastructural, economic, human capital and social development shared services and support sub councils had given their reports.

Manjang said for better outcomes and development in the civil service, government called for interagency cooperation to encourage synergy and fuse overlapping functions.

He said it has now become a policy that all government documents should be printed by the government printer due to the secrecy and sensitivity of some of those documents.

"Therefore the Ministry of Information and Communications has been tasked to liaise with Plateau Property Investment Company (PIPC) to see that the new government printing press takes off with a Public Private Partnership arrangement".

He said government gave approvals for review of contracts by the Plateau Tender Board, and equally approved those with variations.

He listed those approved to include contract for a master plan for Nyak Ajikamai and environs in Shendam Local Government Area (LGA) to be awarded to Stee consult for over 100 million Naira, construction of three road projects within Jos metropolis and they are West of Mines road, access road to Immigration headquarters office behind Area Command Jos, Cemetery Road Dadin Kowa Jos awarded to be constructed through direct labour,

installation of 80 Watts integrated solar power street lights within the new government house Little Rayfield, including variations approved for some projects across General hospitals in the state.

Manjang said the total amount for the contracts is over N1. Billion Naira while a bill for establishment of the Plateau State Management Performance Office made up of 69 clauses and 10 parts which has to do with evaluation and monitoring of projects is awaiting assent of the Plateau House of Assembly.

"Once it is law, it outlives the life of this administration" said Manjang.

He disclosed that approvals for operational license of the state Radio the PRTVC which was not paid for in the past 15 years since 2007 was paid the Nigeria Broadcasting Service (NBC) to the tune of over N114 million naira.

While congratulating Governor Lalong for his appointment as DG Tinubu/Shettima APC Presidential campaign Organisation, Manjang applauded the Governor Lalong for the role he played in the re-opening of the Karl Kumm University disclosing that very soon, academic activities will take off.

He said government also expressed happiness with the final release of two former governors of Plateau and Taraba States, Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye and Rev. Jolly Nyame from prison through presidential clemency and pardon.

### Buhari, Lalong influenced my release -Dariye

**F**ormer Governor of Plateau State, Joshua Dariye, says President Muhammadu Buhari and Governor Simon Lalong of Plateau State, were instrumental to his release from prison.

Dariye spoke on Friday, when Lalong paid him a visit to express joy on his release from prison.

Dariye and former Governor of Taraba State, Jolly Nyame, were granted pardon by the President Muhammadu Buhari's government on 14th of April, 2022.

Both former governors were serving jail term for corruption allegations until they were granted pardon by President Buhari, a development that received a lot of negative reactions.

But on Friday, Dariye said Buhari and Governor Lalong were

instrumental to his release from prison. The former governor walked away from the prison gates on August 8, 2022.

Dariye thanked God for his release and using people such as Lalong and President Buhari to make it a reality.

He debunked rumours that he was running for senate and advised politicians in Plateau to unite and support the governor in promoting the interest of the state and its people.

Dariye described governance as an opportunity for those in charge to do their best and leave posterity to judge their efforts, saying no one could finish the business of government in a day.

Speaking, Lalong, who visited Dariye with his wife, Mrs Regina

Lalong, at his residence in Abuja, thanked President Buhari for his magnanimity in granting pardon to Dariye and Nyame, adding that massive prayers and appeal was made to facilitate it.

He said the visit was to encourage him as his release was another opportunity for him to reflect on his experience.

Lalong urged him to continue to contribute to the advancement of Plateau through his knowledge, while praying to God to grant him good health in all his duties.

The delegation which included National Assembly members, as well as members of the State Executive Council, also visited Rev. Jolly Nyame at his residence in Abuja.



With  
**Katdapba  
Y. Gobum  
On Sunday**



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**"In a country where people that are physically challenged are not treated with respect, most of them have risen to the challenge of being the masters of their destinies. They have made their mark in a number of areas, to the point that hardly is the society aware of the nature of their challenges. Nigeria should celebrate these people for their undiluted patriotism."**

# A day after the Birmingham Games

A few days before the 2022 Commonwealth Games started in Birmingham, the Nigerian camp was boisterous with activities ostensibly to go and conquer the world. It was written all over them.

I wonder, but only Nigerians can say with certainty if it came to pass or not. But given what we saw during the games, all that was said at the camp were largely accomplished and made possible by the sheer dexterity and commitment of the athletes to the cause.

Over the years, from the observatory, many as I do, have cause to believe that Nigerian athletes have an infectious desire to excel and place the country on the world map; and by inference, compete with the world's best.

They have not failed to make Nigerians proud, indeed, some of the athletes despite different challenges have been able to create a mark; making many who hear of it to ask questions. One wonders what they would have done had they been able to have the best facilities to train.

Many of the athletes have been offered scholarships, which they would use to get their potentials exposed to the best facilities and education in the world. Many of them are products of such arrangements, and gladly they have not forgotten home, and what they need to do to rise to stardom.

Despite the inadequacies of government, associations, and generally even with the backdrop of lack of facilities, they have remained patriotic and are focused and committed to ply their trade so that Nigeria will remain a force to be reckoned with.

Often, they (athletes) are denied opportunities to excel as much as bring glory to the country they represent. They are left stranded at event venues for lack of funds to upset their bills as well as allowances that should be given them for their efforts. Of course, a worker deserves his wages.

Beyond being rhetorical, and I hope that I won't be accused of gender violence against the men, the women have been outstanding. They have shown class and dedication, but wait a minute, haven't the men operated under the same conditions?

They have and even more, however, their opponents may have had more advantages over and above them. They did not fail to shine because they were not prepared for the games over time. Their opponents got the better of them on account of their strength of excelling at the games.

The female athletes gave a good account of themselves in the various games. The women are right about now being celebrated all over, while questions are being asked on what happened to the male athletes during the games. Nigerians have a way of celebrating failure; they tell you in the plainest language without knowing what



**Amusan**

happened that they failed to perform while the games lasted.

It is not in the monumental celebrations that Nigerians are interested in; neither are they happy when pronouncements that may not be fulfilled are made. They are worried that any time there is a feat worthy of being noted, it is not continued and made to stand the test of time. They are made to have dreams about what would be made available to them that may enhance their lives and that of their families. Often and most times, the promises are not kept; they are politically motivated statements that hardly see the light of the day.

That has been the lot of most athletes who have competed for Nigeria in the past. Who knows; and I dare say, we haven't been healed of this malaise in a long while. When the time comes, our athletes will be proud to go out to compete to be the best amongst the world's best. And even when their allowances are not paid, you can be sure that they will be doing so on account of the fact that they are swearing the colours of the country.

The reason for that can be squarely placed on the shoulders of Nigeria's political administrators generally, who make pronouncements and never get them fulfilled. They may have largely made such statements for the fun of it; otherwise, nothing stops them from implementing what should spur young men and women; who are often to represent the country.

After all, there have been so much done in other areas or in fact, that huge sums have been spent on frivolous issues to the detriment of those that should make us move forward as a country. In Nigeria, many characters are today struggling to get to power, yet, it becomes difficult to sacrifice for these set of athletes; who, despite all denials of the best things of life are hopeful that the colours of

Nigeria matter always.

It takes years to decide to if they deserve to be remunerated and appreciated by the country. What often strikes most Nigerians is the silence that often greets such pronouncements by mostly, the president and governors of states. All are in the know of the state of the economy; those involved in such pronouncements know they wanted to be given to the athletes: Monetary gifts, houses, plots of land and national awards are mostly the items that are often promised them.

Questions need to be asked: Who is responsible for not carrying out the directives? Why do directives take long before they come near to execution?

We know that some of those who took part in some games have long died. They were promised certain monetary compensation but never got to receive such. Why could this be left to happen, when it is certain that the compensation was made to keep their spirit high for other competitions?

There is no athlete worth his calling that will not be proud to be in the colours of his country. That much can be seen in the spirit that often lights any games' camp; they are the more energized to do more for the country. And indeed they are doing so for future generation.

Let us return to the feats accomplished by the Nigerian women athletes during the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. What must have informed their individual feats? They were, like the male athletes ginged to compete with others from other countries that are also their best.

On this account, athletes such as Tobi Amusan Ese Brume and others didn't want to disappoint themselves, their families, but most importantly, Nigeria; to the extent that they shattered records and created new ones. Such cannot

**"On the whole, we are where we are, but the government and the athletics federation must not lose sight of the fact that much is needed to be done for them and in other games. Young men and women can't work themselves up and be snubbed by those who know what to do. Some of those in the federations are not strangers to the developments we have mentioned above."**

be coincidence. They planned and worked towards it, as over the years, they have maintained the winning streak waiting for the ultimate diadem. That it came is a confirmation of the preparations towards obtaining the medals they had set sight on.

I am tempted not to forget all the physically challenged athletes who, over the years in most competitions have not disappointed to tell the world that there is ability in their disability. Practically in sports one hardly expected only the able bodied athletes to make a statement, some of them were where they displayed with dexterity their class of ability. I am sure their countrymen and women need not to forget them soon for the feat.

In a country where people that are physically challenged are not treated with respect, most of them have risen to the challenge of being the masters of their destinies. They have made their mark in a number of areas, to the point that hardly is the society aware of the nature of their challenges. Nigeria should celebrate these people for their undiluted patriotism.

When Tobi Amusan posed for the press after her win of the 100 hurdles for what turned out to be 'the symbolic signs of the New Nigeria to the world', she was doing so for all of those who participated in the games. It is a sign that the youth may well have a future despite what we are witnessing now. Indeed, there are indications concerning that already, the never give up spirit of Nigerians to strive to the end was on display in abundance.

Nigeria finished 7<sup>th</sup> on the medal table. It came up tops in Africa winning 35 medals: 12 gold, 9 silver and 14 bronze. The feat was an all-time best record at the

Commonwealth Games, and don't forget, there were 5 records set- 4 games and one world record.

Already, President Muhammadu Buhari has described Team Nigeria's performance at the 22nd Commonwealth Games, Birmingham 2022, as a parting gift to him.

In a statement issued by his media adviser, Femi Adesina, the president noted: We are proud of these achievements and the memories will linger with the nation forever and for me this is a special moment and a fitting parting gift, being my last Commonwealth Games as Head of State.

He said: The President commends the 94 worthy ambassadors that proudly flew the Nigerian flag in nine sporting events, and for those exciting moments when the medalists brought smiles to our faces by breaking world, national, and games records, as well as achieving personal bests in their career.

'The President also lauds the coaching crew and team officials for the passion towards the development of sports in the country, assuring them that history will remember them for all their contributions to making our athletes shine in the international arena'.

When Amusan lined up in the final as favourite for gold and there was no stopping her as she blazed to a new games record of 12.30 seconds to retain the 100m hurdles she won four years ago in the Gold Coast, Australia.

Despite winning the race comfortably, Amusan said she did not execute it to the best of her ability.

'Mentally, it was challenging. It was nerve-racking. You know, when I say I poorly executed race, I know when I execute smoothly. I think my first five hurdles weren't it, but I was able to get myself together and regroup and do what I needed to do and I did just that'.

'The 25-year-old has been in blistering form in the past year, breaking the African 100 meters hurdles record three times in the past 10 months.

'After narrowly missing out on the podium twice at the World Athletics Championships in Doha in 2019 and at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics where she placed fourth on both occasions, Amusan finally struck gold at the World Championships in Oregon while setting a world record of 12.12 seconds in the semi-finals.

'Amusan went even faster in the final race, clocking 12.06 seconds. However, her winning time is not recognised as a world record due to an illegal tailwind of 2.5 metres per.'

On the whole, we are where we are, but the government and the athletics federation must not lose sight of the fact that much is needed to be done for them and in other games. Young men and women can't work themselves up and be snubbed by those who know what to do. Some of those in the federations are not strangers to the developments we have mentioned above.



## The faulty foundation

Fortnight ago, the government of Plateau State announced that all private schools in the state were to go to the Ministry of Education and register their schools. Any school that failed to do that would have itself to blame as it won't be captured as a school in the state, which automatically disqualifies it.

Using the above data, the government intends to pay a visit to each school and judge for themselves if the school is up to standard.

This is a welcome development for some of us who have been hammering on government to direct its searchlight on private schools. The cry has been loudest recently, to rid the state of mushroom schools.

Located in one part of Hwolshe, is a school which looks more like an uncompleted building. It is made up of about 3 rooms, in a very tight surrounding. From every indication, the owner of the building built those 3 rooms as an after thought after selling his/her land and seeing a small portion left.

The initial plan was for one room accommodation for polytechnic students. The residents were meant to share toilet, bathroom and kitchen. But it was too open as it faces a busy road. In the alternative, someone decided to use it for a school. And it turned out to be a good business venture because it drew a lot of children.

The problem is not the fact that it has limited space, or no playing ground, talk more of space for games. A few yards from the unfenced school is a shallow stream.

The owner of the school mission and vision is to make money. In that state of mind, the owner may overlook this danger or see it as nature's endowment. But not the supervisors.

Hidden among houses in the city of Jos is a school where the pupils in different classes were only separated by the form of their teachers backing each other. The voices of the teachers were always trying to outdo each other. This used to confuse the pupils. One wonders how the teachers used to know their pupils. Did any learning take place? I think the pupils were going to school for the sake of going to school. Nothing more!

Have you ever wondered why some parents patronise low standard schools within their neighbourhood? Some have cited paucity of funds as their reason. The women that plait my hair said they have to make do with what is within their means. They enrolled their wards in a very affordable private school because they want them to speak good English.

As far as the above women were concerned, the private school gave their children class. And their boast was seen in the fact that their children loved speaking in English, even though they have challenge with their tenses. They are not to be blamed because the fee determines the quality of teacher and quantity of students per teacher.

It will not be out of place to suggest that Plateau State borrows a leaf from Kaduna. We need quality teachers. But everything should be done with a human face. Tell the teachers what is expected of them so that they will prepare. That way, we will not throw the baby with the bathing water. Everybody deserves a second chance.

Unfortunately, there are some exceptions. I once paid a visit to a primary school teacher here in the heart of Jos. It has ever remained fresh in my memory. The first thing I noticed was the children celebrating nature right in class. There was only one desk. Everyone except for 3 pupils were sitting on boulders. The floor of the classroom had potholes covering more portions than the cemented floor. Every pupil comfortably put a boulder in a pothole to balance their sitting position.

The teacher had just finished marking their class work. As one watched, she started distributing their books. She would call the name and if the owner wasted time coming for his/her book, she would fling it like trash after hissing. Most of the pupils had to scramble for their books on the brown floor.

As they came forward, one by one, one took note of their uniform. Most of them were very faded and or torn on the buttocks or knee part. The shoes were strapless and old. Or faded and strapless. They wore them without socks or with torn, white socks turned brownish or slacked.

Shortly after that, the bell rang for break and a particular boy caught my attention. He was one of the unlucky ones whose book was torn as a result of how hard the teacher threw it. He calmly brought out a transparent Santana leather, tore it open and helped himself to some sweet potatoes.

That visit was an eye opener to why these pupils feel inferior, and seem to learn little even though they have the most qualified teachers. Throwing down a pupil's book in private school can traumatise the pupil. It can even cost the teacher his/her job.

Teachers should bear it in mind that the job is a vocation that requires love, patience and resilience. If you don't love the job, please give way to those equipped for the job. Please, don't be a stumbling block to

## NEWS

### NPC commissioner applauds census trial exercise

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

Federal Commissioner, National Population and Housing Census, representing Plateau State, Hon. Mrs. Cecilia Dapoet has applauded the commission for a successful census trial exercise.

Dapoet stated this during a press briefing to update the general public on the just concluded census trial that was conducted in 9 Local Government Areas in Plateau State between July 20 and 30, 2023. This was held at the commission's headquarters in Jos, last Wednesday.

She expressed that the exercise went peacefully as the house numbering and household listing was completed within the number of days allotted.

She added that the enumeration of persons was successfully conducted and completed in all the enumeration areas except where persons within legible households were not at home all through the period of enumeration.

Dapoet, who was represented by the State Director, Mr. Pam Deme said that the census trial was aimed to test the commission's instruments of data collection, logistics and the capability of staff preparatory to next year's 2023 general census.

He noted that there is need for more public awareness campaign and this requires the media and other critical

stakeholders to take the message down to the community level to push forward the census message through discussion, community meetings, on the ground to draw attention and to reinforce the importance of census.

He pointed out that the commission alone cannot achieve it with its meager resources at its disposal, but would continue to engage the media and other stakeholders to enlighten the public on the importance of census.

The state director maintained that the commission would continue to inform, educate the public to retain their project, so that together we can achieve

the success.

confidence and support in the project, so that together we can achieve the success.

Deme reiterated that the census data is imperative for planning and implementation of development programmes by government.

He appreciated the cooperation and support of the State Government, Local Government Council chairmen of the 9 LGAs, where census trial were conducted, traditional rulers, security agencies, schools who offered their facilities to be used for the training of functionaries and the citizens of Plateau State in ensuring that the exercise was a success.



Dapoet

### Niger moves to establish health regulatory agency

From MATHEW JWANTU, Minna

As measures to ensure best practices in the health sector, Governor Abubakar Sani Bello has directed for the immediate establishment of the Niger State Private Health Regulation Agency.

Governor Sani Bello gave the directive when he received the report of the committee on the increased death cases in private hospitals at the Government House, Minna.

The Governor said that most private clinics were not up to standard to be in operation, as such their activities need to be regulated by the agency.

"I will saddle this committee to work with the SSG's office and the Ministry of Health to come up with terms of reference and responsibilities of the agency, including giving permits for private clinics to be established after meeting the minimum requirements", he said.

He said that window that allows for medical doctors to practice both at private and public hospitals have affected the performance and efficiency of government hospitals.

The governor added that when established, the agency will go around all private clinics in the state and register the ones that meet the minimum requirements as there were many mushroom clinics across the state whose activities lead to complications and deaths of patients.

According to him, it was unethical for doctors in the public sector to divert patients to their private clinics for

monetary gains or move equipment from government hospitals to their private-owned clinics. And said that violators of the regulations should not be spared.

"There should be a maximum penalty for abusers. I am saying maximum because it has to do with people's lives", he said.

In the meantime, he said that the SSG will soon announce the white-paper committee.

Chairman of the committee, Dr. Haruna Aliyu said that the committee diligently carried out its assignment since it was set up in April 2020.

Dr Aliyu said that after its findings, the committee gave some t for violators, and adherence to structural standards by private clinics, enforcement of the professional code of ethics and effective monitoring by relevant organisations and government agencies.

recommendations including; strict compliance with registration requirements and scope of service, punishment for violators, and adherence to structural standards by private clinics, enforcement of the professional code of ethics and effective monitoring by relevant organisations and government agencies.

He said the committee also recommended that government should provide subsidy for some of the needs of the private hospitals.

"In order to minimize avoidable death and permanent disability in the private health establishment, the government should establish an agency to be saddled with the responsibility of registration, licence, inspection, supervision and monitoring of private health facilities", he said.



Bello

POLITICS

# Obi's campaign communication team leader named

**P**at Utomi, a renowned Economist, has announced Charles Odigbo as the leader of the communication team for the Labour Party campaign team.



Utomi

Mr Utomi made the announcement at a special session of the Media Team for the Peter Obi Campaign team, which held in Lagos recently.

According to him, the team comprises media veterans who are professionals, passionate, and committed to the Nigerian people.

Mr Utomi also said that the "Big Tent Platform" for Peter Obi campaign team would begin a "Listening Clinic" from August 16.

He explained that the Big Tent Platform comprised several political parties working together to present the candidates that all of Nigeria would embrace.

Mr Utomi, who is also a management expert, said the listening clinic would highlight the fact and the way government of the people and for the people had to begin with the

sharing of what the people thought and felt.

This, he added, was how to solve their problems, noting that it was the person who wore the shoes who knew where it pinched.

The clinic would be handled by a communication team who are professionals, passionate and committed to the people.

Mr Utomi also disclosed that a ceremony would hold on Friday in Owerri, Imo State, where members of the Rescue Nigeria Project (RNP) in all

of the South East states would come together to declare for the Labour Party.

He said he would be receiving members of the RNP on behalf of the Labour Party.

"It is a point of convergence for the RNP, National leaders of Labour Party, Civil Society Movements, streams of social movements and other political parties.

"They are all coming together so that we can change our country's politics fundamentally, for good," he said.

Senator representing Plateau North Senatorial District in the Red chambers Senator I. D. Gyang has joined other well wishers to welcome and felicitate with former Governor of Plateau State, Senator Joshua C. Dariye, for regaining liberty on the grant of Presidential pardon.

The senator said this in a statement Tuesday in Abuja issued through Precious K Nyako, his Special Assistant on Media:

Senator Gyang whose voice was loud on the call for Senator Dariye to be granted pardon. pointed in the statement that he sees his release and homecoming as an answer to the wish and prayers of men and women of goodwill.

The lawmaker further wished Senator Dariye a happy reunion with his family, friends and the vast social and political capital he has built on the Plateau and across the nation.

Senator Istifanus Gyang joined other notable Nigerians who have joined in visiting the residence of the former Governor, Senator Joshua Dariye since his release from the Kuje correctional center in Abuja.

His residence has become packed with visitors wanting to outdo one another in order

# Senator expresses joy at Dariye's release

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

Senatorial zone.

to pay their homage to a man who has been variously described as Head Boy of Plateau politics.

Senator Dariye was Governor of Plateau State from 1999 to 2003. He later became a Senator, representing Plateau central

In 2018, he was convicted by an Abuja Court of Appeal for using the state's Ecological Funds for personal use to the tune of N1.162 billion.

In April this year, he received a Presidential pardon after the council of states gave a nod for it. He was released on August 8, 2022.



Dariye

# Insecurity: KSHA to meet Masari, Buhari

By SHEHU DANJUMA Katsina

KATSINA State House of Assembly has resolved to meet Governor Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari and President Muhammadu

Buhari over the worsening insecurity in the state.

The Chairman of the House Committee on Information, Alhaji Ali Abu Al-Baba stated this while briefing newsmen in Katsina.

Al-Baba said that the Assembly was worried over the rampant reports of banditry activities across the state.

The lawmaker said the current insecurity in the state is worrisome, and unacceptable.

He pledged that the assembly will meet with the

Governor President Muhammad Buhari to ensure that decisive measures taken against the bandits.

"Something must urgently be done to check the activities of the bandits"

"We are also soliciting for the support and cooperation of all and sundry on crusade against banditry" Al-baba said.

Meanwhile, the law maker have also supported the state Governor's call for people to take arms against the bandits.

# 'Will transform Nigeria's economy'

Labour Party's Presidential Candidate, Mr Peter Obi, has said that the party would transform Nigeria's economy from that of consumption to production.

Obi made the declaration at the Labour Party and the Coalition for Peter Obi Leadership Summit.

The Summit had "Youths, Governance and a New Nigeria" as its theme.

He said that he would diversify the economy by harnessing potentials and natural resources from all regions of the country.

He added that he would build a country of integrity where patriotism would be the pride of citizens.

"We have a country called Nigeria, but we don't have

Nigerians.

"What we want to do is to create Nigerians and the only way to create Nigerians is to make people to have hope in Nigeria.

"Nigeria is a great country. God created this country and gave it everything to make it great. The only thing that is lacking is a simple thing called leadership.

"That is what Datti and I intend to provide," he said.

He explained how he plans to harness regional potentials for national economic development.

"When I say we are not a producing country but a consuming one, it is true.

"For instance, Borno is a state situated on 70.9

square kilometres of land and today we are talking about Sambisa Forest. It is an asset for Nigeria.

"This is because Sambisa Forest is twice the size of Israel and it is an agricultural land that can give us food.

"If you go all over the northern part of Nigeria you will see that Nigeria is blessed with land that can give us food.

"We are waiting to share money from oil. How much do we generate from oil?"

"Our total export as a country is 30 billion dollars including oil, yet we live in a country of over 923,000 square metre, almost one million square kilometres," he said.

Obi said that Nigeria, when compared with Vietnam that lives on 331square kilometres of land and has a population of 100 million was lagging behind.

This, he said, was because Vietnam's export is 312 billion dollars yet Nigeria could not do 10 per cent of Vietnam's exports with a vast land and a population of 200 million people.

He added that Niger is two-and-half the size of The Netherlands, yet the state could not feed itself or the country whereas The Netherlands'



Obi

# Nigerian youths must decide 2023 elections -Kukah

THE Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Matthew Kukah, has said young Nigerians who make up 60 per cent of the population must elect good leaders and create a better country in 2023.

Kukah stated this during an interview on Channels Television.

Speaking on the role of youths in the 2023 elections, Kukah said young Nigerians will determine the outcome of the next general election.

The Catholic bishop added on Thursday that it would be a tragedy for young Nigerians if they did not see that they had the opportunity to change the country

"This election, whether we like it or not, is going to be determined by the young people of Nigeria, who are better informed and far more patriotic than those who governed them," he said.

"They love this country more than those who governed them and understand where the rest of the world is going far better

than those who governed them.

"So guess what? If you are young, there is a job for you — change this country. The wonderful part of this story is that we say that young people make up about 60 percent of the population of Nigeria. This is their moment; they have the ability and capacity.

"It would be a tragedy if they don't see the opportunity that is available for them. The challenge for young people is to move beyond the silo that has held us back — break down the walls of dubious ethnicity and regionalism.

"Break down those walls erected by criminals who have no interest in your future; who have interest only in their future and the future of their children. Let's create a wonderful country from Sokoto to Akwa Ibom.

"Right across the board, young people in the world want literally and basically the same thing — a limitless opportunity for people."

## POLITICS

## We shall not be distracted by religious bigots

-APC chairman

**T**HE Chairman of the All Progressives Congress in Plateau State, Hon. Rufus Bature has assured all party members and supporters that the party would not be distracted by the machinations of some religious bigots who do not wish it well.

This was contained in a statement signed by Sylvanus Namang, APC State Publicity Secretary and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos.

According to the statement, the Chairman gave the assurance at the Kalwa House party secretariat when the executive committee of Nigeria for BAT (Bola Ahmed Tinubu) paid him a courtesy call.

Hon. Rufus Bature warned trouble makers who want to use religion to deceive people to steer clear of the party's internal affairs.

The APC chairman observed that, these detractors only use religion as a cheap tool and for convenience while they don't put what they preach into practice.

He advised that the same faith ticket by the APC should not dampen their spirit and enjoined party supporters to be emboldened. Bature further charged supporters not to be swayed by the sentiments being peddled around but to engage on issue based campaigns.

According to him, religion is a personal issue between a person and God and hunger does not know religion. He said Plateau state cannot because of sentiments allow itself to be left behind in the comity of states in the contest for relevance and recognition at the national level.

The chairman reiterated that while Plateau State vote is important, it cannot change the overall result at the national level and advised that we should come out of the cocoon of religious antics.

He applauded the choice of the Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Honourable Simon Bako Lalong as the Director General of the Bola Ahmed Tinubu Campaign Council which he said will add value to the APC in the state. Bature therefore admonished party members to leverage on this key appointment to disappoint doubting Thomases in our midst by delivering its candidates.

He commended the APC Presidential candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu for appointing Governor Simon BakoLalong as the Director General of his campaign, adding that, with this development, the party has the capacity to deliver at all levels during the 2023 general elections.



Bature

Earlier in his address, the Plateau State Chairman of Nigeria for BAT, Mr Shadrach Golen commended the APC Chairman over the giant strides he has taken in repositioning the party. He said the group had come to seek for ways of collaborating with the state exco of the party in order to ensure victory for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and other candidates at all levels. Golen revealed that, Nigeria for BAT is one out of the four Tinubu Support groups which has been recognised by the presidential candidate and its members are very disciplined, self sponsored and card carrying members of the APC with a spread cutting across the 17 local governments of the state.

He said they cannot work in isolation with the party at the state level, hence the visit

which will create for synergy and cooperation

Mr Golen advised the party on the need to close ranks and to reconcile with all aggrieved members to ensure total victory at the forthcoming general elections.

## SDP poised to wrestle power from APC in Katsina

By SHEHU DANJUMA  
Katsina

**T**HE Chairman of Social Democratic Party (SDP) of Katsina State, Alhaji Bello Safana said that the party will take over power from All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state in the 2023 elections.

Safana who stated this while briefing newsmen in Katsina recently, said that people of like minds under the aegis of Katsina Initiative Development Forum Association (KIDA) had resolved to join the Social Democratic Party (SDP) to achieve its dream.

According to him, KIDA, initially, was a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), but has collapsed to SDP with a view to wrestle power from APC to provide good governance in the State.

"After wide consultations among members of KIDA, we resolved and pitched our tent with SDP because it has similar ideology with our organisation"

"We felt this is the only way we can bring change and positive development by joining politics and contest elections. I think this is the only way we can achieve our mission

and vision"

"As am speaking to you now, SDP is contesting for all the posts, right from Gubernatorial to National and State Assembly Seats."

"Our party is firmly rooted. By God's grace, we will win all the elections in 2023, Safana said.



Gabam

From SHEHU DANJUMA  
Katsina

**J**ABIRU Yau- yau, an All Progressive Congress ((APC) aspirant for House of Representatives for Batsari, Danmusa and Safana Local Government Areas of Katsina State has cautioned the party ahead of the 2023 general elections.

Yau-yau gave the advice while speaking to newsmen in Katsina recently.

The aspirant is currently the House of Assembly Member representing Batsari Local Government in Katsina State House of Assembly who lost the bid to get the ticket to represent his people in the house of Representatives.

"Unless and until the Katsina State chapter of the APC puts it's house in order, it might face eminent defeat in the forthcoming 2023 elections. This is because injustice is imbedded in the party."

The lawmaker noted that injustice was also done to him when he contested for primary election for House of Representatives for Safana, Danmusa and Batsari Federal Constituency.

"In view of this, some high profile aspirants dumped the party due to the perceived injustice"

"It was because of this kind of

## 'Lawmaker cautions Katsina APC ahead of 2023 elections'

arrogance that PDP was defeated in the 2015 general elections" Yau-yau disclosed that he is currently in court challenging the outcome of the primary election.

"I headed to court to challenge the outcome of the primary election because I strongly believe I cannot get justice from the party's leadership," the law maker said.



Adamu

## Kukah slams Buhari, APC over Muslim-Muslim ticket

North-east as its vice presidential candidate.

Both the APC presidential candidate, Bola Tinubu, and Mr Shettima are Muslims.

Mr Kukah, against the backdrop of the much-criticised performance of the current administration, said the ruling party was insensitive to arrive at such a decision despite squandering power and misallocating opportunities given to them in 2015.

"In 1993 that you were talking about... I think Nigerians have gotten to a point like we have under Abacha, where we do whatever is required to get the military out. We're going to do it. I think we have exaggerated our interpretation of what happened in 1993. Because we always have this dubious interpretation that this is evidence that Nigerians don't care about religion," he said.

"Maybe that was what was illustrated, but moving forward, the question I'm asking my friends who are Muslims and it's a very simple question, especially those of us who are from northern Nigeria or northern Nigeria be ready to make the same concession that Christians made in 1984, in 1993, and they have now been asked to make the same constitution."

"You have to understand that this against the backdrop of what has happened to this country in the last seven years. You know, when you look at the squandered opportunities when you look at the way power has been distributed, when you look at the way this government has allocated opportunities in the broad spectrum of Nigeria

against the wider backdrop of the crisis that we're in now, ordinarily, the least we should be talking about is whether our next president is going to be a Christian or a Muslim."

"But as a Christian, I can tell you very frankly that the decision that the APC took, naturally, I felt astonished.

The candidates in question and I might also say without sounding arrogant that I know all the presidential candidates, at least the prominent presidential candidates that are out there...It is unfortunate that two illustrious people like Asiwaju Tinubu and my friend, Kashim Shettima, should have to face this whole dilemma because it's not their own making. But I feel that the sheer insensitivity that brought us to this point speaks to the fact that somehow our people are not aware of the volatility they have created in the system."

"I think that as a Christian, this is totally reprehensible and is not acceptable to me because of the sort of decision the APC has made. When the campaigns start, we'll hear what people have to say, but it has just laid the foundation for what has taken us back after the kind of progress that we made in terms of national integration."

He said the country's politicians have been at liberty to operate at their current height of wanton corruption because of citizens' tolerance, a disposition not common in other parts of the world.

"Let me put it very clearly, we still have a terribly long way to go. The tragedy that afflicts our country now is not a tragedy that we're going to

resolve so quickly. But our politicians must also realise that they are lucky to live in a country like Nigeria, where we have internal instruments and mechanisms of restraint that stop us from going out and picking up the violent option.

"Nigerians deserve tremendous credit for the ability to live with the rascality that passes for governance in this country. The humongous amount of theft of state's resources has become the reason why people are struggling to get to power," the cleric, who is the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, said.

He described the country's much-discussed division as largely artificial which has never been more mismanaged by any government than the Buhari-led government.

The cleric agreed that religious manipulation by politicians has become "part and parcel of our politics" but challenged Nigerians who voted on such grounds to evaluate the dividends of such a decision.

"So I think the most important thing is for Nigerians to become much more circumspect to appreciate the fact that politicians will do what politicians do everywhere in the world, that is to play on the sentiments of people and use them as instruments for mobilizing cornering power, but increasingly as such, if you live in Nigeria, you know that that Nigerian politician is concerned with three things myself, myself and myself."

"So it's really a question of what they made just getting wiser and sidestepping some of these landmines," Kukah said.

## SUNDAY POLITICS

# How hangers-on may ruin principals' chances

Character defamation and the expression of unpleasant opinions between staunch supporters of different nominees standing for election for political offices are spreading widely without being checked and gradually becoming entrenched in Nigeria's political space, *CHURCHILL OKORO writes.*



Atiku



Tinubu



Obi



Kwankwaso

A situation Nigerians say could interfere with the rhythmic sounds emanating from a group of committed fans who have been steadily drumming support for their preferred candidates.

Each time election approaches, supporters brand their candidates in the public eye and, in the process, get entangled in a difference of opinion; remain unwilling to endure opposing views and resort to bullying, especially through the internet which is now the present-day interactive space.

In recent times, observers say altercations among political opponents have moved from the lower rungs of the ladder – where the services of thugs are employed to unleash violence on dissident fans – to a top rung on the digital environment that has put people-oriented policies in the shade.

"Instead of supporters to propagate the manifestos of their principals to eligible voters, they indulge in maligning the characters and political image of those running for the various political positions, thereby interrupting the concentration of the opposition camp perceived to be stronger. This isn't how politics is done, we keep on missing it anytime we are about to get it right, Henry Osazuwa, a Benin resident, told BusinessDay Sunday.

Interestingly, the raging trend by campaigners which has recently generated outrage and created deep-seated ill-will across the different fan base of candidates jostling for the various seats, especially the top job, is coming against the backdrop of the 2023 general election, which many Nigerians anticipate and opine will be a make-or-break occasion for the

citizenry.

Although every citizen has the right to freedom of expression, there is a growing concern over the deliberate attacks on candidates' image in the build up to the forthcoming poll as pundits stress that engaging in name-calling may become the new normal if urgent attention is not taken to forestall the trend.

Before the commencement of electioneering campaign on September 28, 2022 for the Presidential and National Assembly elections, according to the timetable released by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Nigerians have urged supporters of candidates to employ decorum in their utterances and behaviours towards opponents of their principals.

Reacting recently to some intemperate words employed by supporters of some presidential candidates against others, and urging civility henceforth, the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), through Ene Obi, Country Director, ActionAids Nigeria, in a statement, on behalf of Situation Room, said: "There are concerns that politicians have not desisted from stoking ethno-religious rhetoric ahead of the election. Instead of basing their campaigns on issues that will benefit the citizens, supporters of candidates have resorted to rhetoric that have focused on personalities, insults, mudslinging and smearing especially online.

"With the beginning of campaigns next month, it becomes important for citizens to make demands on

candidates and political parties to state issues of focus for their campaigns to enable citizens to hold them to account on their being elected".

Tony Abolo, a Benin-based communication expert, described the prevailing smear campaign as "old politics," saying that the fight to rescuing the nation from collapse in the run-up to the most keenly anticipated election can only be done in an environment where ideas are rich and conversations are based on specific problems as well as how it can be addressed.

"Nowadays, conversations are not enlightened or elevated. We talk about issue-based campaigns because that is what leads to politics and progress. Apart from Peter Obi who has taken a position on where the country goes towards 2023 and post 2023, the other people are lost in remarks like your eyes are bigger, you are walking slowly or you can't talk, my crowd is bigger than yours and so on.

"Those are non-issues and when conversations are so debased and their followers begin to follow their paths, then you now have a non-sequitur. You can't distill anything because that is not the way. We are lost and so if we now continue this way, we will not even know what matters between now and 2023 because the core issues are now," Abolo said.

Abolo, while urging followers not to take a cue from the jabs of their principals, opined that making false claims to discredit other candidates may pose a threat to Nigeria's unity because "in one of the major political camps, they are circumspect in their language, in their verbiage and in their tone."

According to him, "They are trying to show the way how

politics is practised but the other people think that by doing mudslinging is the only way to decapitate your opponents but that is old politics."

According to him, "The country is collapsing due to the kind of parochial and ethnic leadership we have seen in the last few years. It is not just to take back the country; it is to build the country.

"Therefore, how do we build this country back? To do this, the structural framework or scaffolding is the people, their thoughts and ideas. What are our thoughts? How do we reformulate whatever it is in terms of strategies, policies, development ideas; those are the kind of things you want the followers to begin to think about and then when we are more in that framework or when there is a critical mass looking at things from that perspective, then we are now ready to remake the country."

Pius Oiwoh, chairman, Benin branch of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), urged the electorate to be conscious of previous records of performances, accomplishments, reputations of candidates rather than spread untrue remarks about contenders.

"The campaign should be issue-based and people should look at the manifesto of each political party rather than campaign of calumny which is what we are seeing at the moment. Candidates should be able to come out to tell us what they have on the table different from what we are seeing now.

"Electorate should consider track records and how they emerge to become flag bearers of a political party and of course, we know if you came through

corrupt means, you certainly have nothing good to offer but corruption because that is the foundation on which you emerge.

"To a large extent, I think Nigerians are now well enlightened and educated whether the elite, those who have taken advantage of education or not, our people are wiser today. We do not need a prophet to tell us that all is not well with the country. I am sure and convinced that even those who have the intention to buy votes will meet a brick wall because the electorate will collect the money and vote their conscience," Oiwoh said.

Speaking on the driving influence of citizens ahead of the election, the legal practitioner said: "There is no doubt that we have experienced poor and bad governance in the last few years and Nigerians are yearning very seriously for a change not the normal change associated with a political party but positive change.

"You will agree with me that insecurity which is now the bane of the current administration is worrisome and has chased local and international investors. There appears to be no hope in sight. When this administration came on board, the three cardinal focus which they identified as areas to improve include security, economy and corruption. Completely, the present administration has not fared well; it is a fiasco," he said.

Oiwoh, however, expressed confidence that the votes of millions of Nigerians would count in next year's election, just as he urged the INEC to ensure it is transparent, free and fair.

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## GOV LALONG VISITS DARIYE, NYAME

*Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong recently visited former Governors Joshua Chibi Dariye and Jolly Nyame after their released from prison at their private residences in Abuja*



*Governor Simon Bako Lalong (left) former Governor Joshua Chibi Dariye*



*A cross section of personalities during Governor Lalong's visit*



*Mrs. Regina Lalong, wife of Governor Lalong (left) with Chief Mrs. Valentina Dariye, wife of Sen. Dariye and Sen. Nora Dadu'ut*



*Some members of the Governor's entourage at the former Governor's residence*



*Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (right) with former Governor of Taraba State, Rev. Jolly Nyame*



*Sen. Joshua Chibi Dariye is seen responding to the message by Governor Lalong*



*Sen. Joshua Chibi Dariye (right) shaking hands with Dr. Makut Simon Macham, DOPPA to Governor Lalong*



*A cross section of well-wishers during the Governor's visit*



**I**t is gladdening to see that our lawmakers, both at the state and National Assembly are making concerted efforts to protect the nation against insecurity. This shows that there is indeed a political will to handle the issue head on. Whether we like it or not, it is a fact that our security situation in the last few years has not been palatable. So many lives have been and are still being lost as a result of kidnapping, banditry and conflicts.

The many assurances by our representatives can only bring about the desired change if actions are matched with words. Recall that shortly before the House recessed for its annual vacation, the bill to give full effect to the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and other related matters passed through second reading. This singular act shows that it is a priority for the House of Representatives who see that bill as something that will make the country a safer place, ensuring that Nigerians live without fear of molestation and victimisation.

Recently, the issue of making security top priority was again brought to the fore during a public hearing and interactive session organised by the House Committee on National Security and Intelligence on four security related bills under consideration. These bills include, a bill for an act to establish the National Commission against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, a bill for an act to make provision for the integration of private Close Circuit Television (CCTV) and for related matters, 2019.

Other bills also up for consideration are a bill for an act to repeal the explosives act, and for related matters and the bill for an act to designate the month of November as the national appreciation for security agencies month and for related matters. In as much as two of the four bills are from the executive (Executive Bills), the bills are said to have the same goals and objectives and should not be considered as being separate from each other. However, both committees of the House on Security and Intelligence and that of Treaties, Protocols and Agreements have promised to ensure that the objectives of the bills are achieved.

You will also recall that as part of efforts to reform the Nigeria Police Force, the House of Representatives on November 18th 2020, presented a draft copy of the Police Service Commission Bill to stakeholders at a public hearing for their contributions and inputs. The bill was subsequently passed for second reading on December 15th, 2020. The bill for an act to repeal the Police Service Commission Act, 2001 and to enact the Police Service Commission Bill, 2020 was sponsored by Yusuf Adamu Gagdi and is seeking to overhaul the Police Service Commission with a view to making the Nigerian Police Force more effective and better equipped in tackling the security challenges in the country.

Interestingly enough, the Plateau State House of Assembly is not left out in the pursuit of lasting peace and security for its citizens. As representatives of Plateau people, the House has carried out legislative activities in the area of security and related matters through motions and bills passed. It will interest you to know that late last year, the House passed the bill for a law to provide for anti-land grabbing, kidnapping, cultism and related matters, 2020 to which the state Governor Simon Bako Lalong has since assented to.

There is also the bill for a law to eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence including physical, sexual, psychological, domestic, harmful traditional practices, discrimination against persons and to provide maximum protection and effective

remedies for victims and punishment of offenders, and for other matters related, 2020. Plateau people can evaluate the enforcement of these laws on their own, bearing in mind the duties of the legislators in this regard.

Of all the proposed bills by the National Assembly, one thinks that Nigerians should be particularly drawn to the bill on compulsory honour for our security forces. This is because as a nation, we have oftentimes failed to recognise the fact that our security personnel are doing their best in safeguarding our lives. Even though more is expected, they ought to be appreciated. No wonder, this bill seeks to force all



## Will bills on security make a difference?



citizens to honour security forces, especially those serving in the armed forces, police, civil defence, foreign and domestic intelligence and other military and paramilitary agencies.

The bill for an act to designate the month of November as the national appreciation for security agencies month seeks to preserve and promote honour, respect and greater recognition for Nigerian security agencies for their sacrifices, tireless and crucial services to the people of Nigeria in preserving the security, freedom and liberties of the citizenry. The bill also aims at establishing a fund to be known as the National Appreciation for Security Agencies Fund. It will serve the purpose of conducting the activities of the national appreciation for security agencies month, as well as other matters related thereto.

For the benefit of those who may not know, the bill which has already been passed for second reading was introduced and is being sponsored by Bamidele Salam. According to the lawmaker, the overall objective of the bill is to recognise, honour and encourage the dedication of the men and officers of Nigerian security agencies and galvanise a public show of gratitude to them and their family members on an annual basis. He added that when people are appreciated generally, it will spur them into not just doing more, but putting in their all to it. In his opinion, Nigerian security personnel like their counterparts in other parts of the

world in the line of the fight against terrorism, banditry and insecurity deserve gratitude from all Nigerians who are the beneficiaries of their sacrifices.

For the lawmaker, countries like the United States, UK and France appreciation of the efforts of their military has proven effective and remains the propelling force behind the success story of years of battle in defence of their nation. For the chie of November as the month of appreciation, it is in view of the fact that it is closer to the end of the year when most families, government organisations and businesses will be winding down on annual activities. By implication, it will certainly be a good time to reflect on the sacrifices of our security agencies with the aim of celebrating and appreciating them.

It is also pertinent to note that the House of Representatives has always taken certain steps towards legislating security matters. Sometime this year precisely on June 9th, it introduced about nine more bills to the floor of the House which according to the Speaker Femi Gbajabiamilla is geared towards fulfilling their obligations in the area of insecurity. Indeed, the speaker did not mince words when he said that if the nation fails to get its security architecture right, nothing meaningful would work, no matter what efforts are expended. Therefore, getting security right is second to none.



Lawan and Gbajabiamilla

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



## Food security: Farmers resort to human urine

**The high cost of fertilizer which is fast going beyond the reach of an average farmer in Nigeria has forced the users to look for cheaper and environment friendly alternative source of growing their farm produce or risk being cut out of the farming business. KENNETH DARENG, writes.**

**H**UMAN Urine is evidently becoming an alternative solution towards complementing Nigerian government's strategic desire in ensuring adequate fertilizer to farmers for greater productivity in the country. For decades now, most of these farmers in particularly rural areas have continued to struggle by overcoming the unpalatable consequences of food insecurity in the nation. No doubt, the raising cost of fertilizer has continue to discourage some of these farmers whereas, only a few of them can successfully lay their hands on these farms input to guarantee a bumper harvest for the benefit of the citizenry. For instance, a market survey by the Nigeria standard reveals that a bag of commonly used NPK 20-10-10 fertilizer which a year ago went for between N7,000.00 and N8,000.00 is now sold at N30,000.00 per bag with other varieties going for between N15,000.00 and N25,000.00 respectively as against the previous price of less than N6,000.00, depending on the brand available in the market.

Mr Musa Maichibi, a farmer in Bassa LGA of Plateau State, expressed worry that farmers are experiencing the most difficult times in the nation's history whereby farmers apart from the fear of insecurity are being confronted by high cost of farming inputs such as hiring of tractor, pesticides, herbicide, fertilizer and costs of human labour, transportation and which when put together makes

farming a not too pleasant business at this crucial times.

Also sharing his opinion with SUNDAY STANDARD, Mallam Luka Barde, a dry season farmer in Dong, Jos North LGA, noted that; "If the cost of fertilizer does not go down, the next farming season may likely experience severe food shortage and even a further hike in prices of food stuff.

"In the olden days, our great grand parents never knew anything like chemical fertilizers, yet people lived healthy long life. I grew up farming with my parents with just cow feces and ashes and the crops produced quite well with natural taste. Unfortunately, the white men came with their so called civilization and destroyed our land. What we have today is devastation of both land and health of human beings due to the effects of chemicals in our

food," Barde added.

Another view was expressed by Haruna Garba, a resident of Narguta in Jos north who noted that; "With this latest development, Nigeria has now joined the league of nations that convert human urine as a component for making fertilizer. Then, the borne of contention was, how were they going to collect the urine and what will be the guarantee that this will not go as one of these elephant projects which never saw the light of the day.

"It is quite sad that the government is taking such a risk at the expense of its citizens especially in a country where majority of its populace eat from hand to mouth with dare consequences. Imagine the government telling the populace to take a bite at their own fists in the name of improving their farm

yield especially in view of our backwardness and the general level of poor hygiene in most of our communities and with diseases rampaging the people. What then is the guarantee that the use of human urine will not endanger the health of its citizens at any given time." Garba asked.

Although the argument appears to be gaining currency, some Nigerians like Madam Asabe Jang, expressed misgivings over the idea of using human urine as fertilizer. According to her; We as a people are not ready for that. Let the government address the challenge by subsidizing farming inputs with the collaboration of the Federal, States and Local Government Councils.

But Mr Chinge Rivie, a retired civil servant in Bassa LGA, now a farmer in a chat with SUNDAY STANDARD said; "There is no need for apprehension by some

individuals on the usage of human urine after all, most people don't even know the secret behind some of the food we all consume. Farmers in most cases have now adopted the use of human urine in place of chemical fertilizer.

"Nowadays, farmers buy human urine stored in public or residential septic tanks or soakaways then mix the substance with other chemicals to get the desired bags to cover the entire farm and the yield is always amazing and in most cases more than the chemical fertilizer yield." Rivie disclosed.

However, the reason for the soaring cost of chemical fertilizers may be associated with Federal Government's efforts of breaking the jinx and taking out the firm grip of powerful cartels behind fertilizer control by the removal of subsidy some years ago which allowed market forces to determine the procurement and sale of the product.

Although the government decision yielded positive results in terms of the stabilizing cost of the commodity, the current downturn of the economy coupled with inflationary trends and general insecurity is taking its toll on the availability of fertilizers.

Other factors associated with this scarcity and high cost has to do with Federal Government placing strict control on the product in the wake of insurgency in the north western part of the country where terrorists had taken advantage of the low cost of the product such as Urea

**“It is quite sad that the government is taking such a risk at the expense of its citizens especially in a country where majority of its populace eat from hand to mouth with dare consequences. Imagine the government telling the populace to take a bite at their own fists in the name of improving their farm yield especially in view of our backwardness and the general level of poor hygiene in most of our communities and with diseases rampaging the people. What then is the guarantee that the use of human urine will not endanger the health of its citizens at any given time.”**

**Continued on page 31**

## NEWS

## Lalong apologises to pope for misconception

Stories by  
**PALANG KASMI**

**G**OVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State has said his recent reference to the Pope while defending his acceptance to serve as Director General (DG) of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council for the 2023 elections was not to ridicule the Church or the Holy Father.

The Governor therefore said contrary to a lot of insinuations and misconceptions that had been imputed into his interview granted to State House Correspondents at the Presidential Villa had as a Catholic and a Papal Knight, the Pope has not told him that accepting the position of DG of the APC Presidential Campaign Council was wrong. Lalong explained his statement was out of reverence and not disregard for the Holy Father, Catholic Church or Christianity.

As a result of the anger generated by his statement, the governor has also gone ahead to issue an apology to the catholic community over the issue.

Lalong in a statement signed by his Director of Press and Public Affairs, Makut Simon Macham said it was unfortunate that part of the interview he granted had been excised and used by politicians for propaganda and misinformation about his personality, faith and political persuasion.

**The NIGERIA STANDARD** reports that the governor had said in the interview with State House correspondents, after meeting with Buhari, that as a Catholic with the highest Papal award of Knight of St. Gregory, the Pope had not told him what he was doing is wrong.

But his comments did not go down well with the Catholic faithful who blamed him for dragging the Holy Father into Nigeria's politics, and as such some groups in the Church called for his immediate suspension.

The Governor in the statement said his reference to the Holy Father, the Pope was to emphasise that as a Christian born and raised in the Catholic faith, accepting the assignment given to him by his party, the APC of which he is a founding member, does not in any way remove his faith in Jesus Christ or his commitment to the Church in Nigeria and universally.

He said "Those who know me can attest to my respect for the Church, Christianity and Spiritual Fathers of all denominations. They know my modest contribution to the growth of the Church in Plateau State, Northern Nigeria and Nigeria at large and can testify to it".

Governor Lalong further emphasized that although he understands and appreciates the concerns of Christians over the emergence of Muslim, Asiawu Bola Ahmed Tinubu as APC Presidential candidate and the choice of Vice Presidential nominee Senator Kashim Shettima also a Muslim, the situation does not



**Lalong**

warrant Christians within the party leaving the party or refusing to accept responsibilities because being within a system makes it easy to address grievances than being outside.

The Governor in another letter released Friday August 12, 2022 addressed to Archbishop Lucius Iwejuru Ugorji, Archbishop of Owerri

and President, Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, Catholic Secretariat, gave an unreserved apology to the Catholic Church over the issue.

He stated in the letter that he had granted two interviews during the week to justify why his appointment as DG of the APC presidential candidature of Ahmed Bola Tinubu and Ibrahim Shettima should be

supported but did not mean to undermine the Church or the Pope in the process.

Lalong said in the letter: "My appointment understandably was received with mixed reactions across the Christian community who genuinely feel aggrieved by the decision of our party to settle for a Muslim-Muslim ticket".

"In trying to make my case, I have granted interviews to justify why I believe that my appointment did not in any way undermine my commitment to the Catholic Church".

"During the week, in the course of defending myself, I had cause to make reference to my credentials as a Catholic and a Papal Knight and in the process I made reference to the Holy Father".

"I now realised that this was an error on my part that has caused some level of concern and even embarrassment to many especially the members of the Papal Knights to which I belong".

I now understand that I may have overreached myself in the course of trying to defend my personal decision in accepting the appointment and thus, the reference to the Holy Father was not intended as an act of disrespect to his exalted and revered office".

## PLSG debunks claims of owing workers 6 months salaries

**A** recent field research and report published by Budgit has claimed that Plateau State government is owing its workers 6 months salaries.

But the government in a statement Friday described the report as misleading and untrue.

The statement said the report by Budgit titled "2022 Nigerian Sub-National Salary Survey as at July 31st, 2022" which categorised Plateau State under the red colour of its mapping with interpretation as one of the states owing salaries of between "6 months and above" is not true.

"The survey which Budgit claims is the result of its field research, is not only very misleading and surprising, but a source of embarrassment to the Government" said Government spokesperson and Director of Press to the Governor, Makut Simon Macham in the statement.

The government called for immediate retraction of the publication and an apology from the organisation.

To clarify the issues, the statement read: "We wish to put the records straight on the issue of salary payments in Plateau State under the leadership of Governor Simon Bako Lalong".

"As a matter of fact, Plateau workers have never

had it good on the issue of salaries in a long time than under the Rescue Administration of Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong who upon assuming office, inherited 8 months unpaid salaries, pensions and other outstanding allowances due to the workers and retirees".

"The Governor immediately cleared the backlog and further directed that salaries and pensions should always be paid before 25th of every month which was implemented faithfully".

"Because of his consistency in fulfilling this responsibility to the state's workforce and pensioners, he was nicknamed "Governor Alert" while the Joint Labour Unions of Plateau State honoured him with an award for consistent payment of salaries and improving the welfare of workers".

"This prompt payment of salaries continued until sometime this year when the Federal Allocations accruing to all states ran into problems as a result of non-remittance of funds by the NNPC which made it difficult for them to meet their obligations including salaries".

"Despite this general challenge which is not peculiar to Plateau alone, workers have received their salaries up till May 2022

while pensions have been paid up to July 2022".

"The Government therefore wonders where Budgit got its erroneous facts from to the extent of publishing it thereby misleading the public".

While stating that the government is not happy owing workers' salaries for June and July (2 months) as against the "6 months and above" quoted by the organisation, the statement assured workers that government will continue doing its best to clear the outstanding as soon as possible in tandem with the promise of Governor Lalong never to leave any salaries unpaid during his administration.

However, the statement cautioned Budgit to always cross check its facts and conduct "thorough research" so as to avoid misleading the public, embarrassing the government and bringing itself into disrepute.

The state government called for a retraction of the error from the body saying "It should be corrected immediately, so as not to make it to be seen as a political manipulation aimed at disparaging the Rescue Administration of Governor Simon Bako Lalong, and the good, hardworking staff of the state.



### Gunmen kill two vigilantes, kidnap several residents in Katsina State

**G**UNMEN have killed two members of a local vigilante group and abducted several residents of Shola Quarters in Katsina State metropolis in an attack that lasted for over an hour last Sunday morning.

Those kidnapped in the attack include a newly married couple. It was gathered from residents who would not want their name's in print that the terrorists invaded the area around 1:25 a.m and operated for over an hour without being confronted by state security personnel.

"It was the vigilante members that even stood against them. But the bandits killed two of them and wounded the other two. The vigilante members had to retreat to their houses when the bandits overpowered them. And it was just now (morning) that we retrieved the two corpses and took the wounded ones to the hospital," the resident said.

### Ban on motorcycle reduces traffic robberies, accidents in Lagos

**G**OVERNOR Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has said that traffic robberies and accidents have significantly reduced following the directive on ban of motorcycle transportation.

He spoke during a chat on Channels TV's Sunday Politics programme after the ban on commercial motorcyclists (aka Okada riders) by the governor from plying in six Local Government Areas in the state - Eti-Osa, Ikeja, Surulere, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, and Apapa and nine local government councils areas.

### PIDAN discards stakeholders endorsement claims of rebuilding Main Market

The Plateau Initiative for Development and Advancement (PIDAN), has disregarded claims in some quarters that stakeholders in Plateau State have endorsed the rebuilding of the burnt down Jos Ultra-Modern Main Market describing it as false and misleading.

This came in a press statement signed by the PIDAN Secretary General, Comrade Nanle N. Gujor, and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital Monday, as a rejoinder to the statement credited to the Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Plateau State Governor that; "Stakeholders endorsed rebuilding Jos Main Market".

### YOWICAN reacts to DOPA's statement on Main Market rebuilding

The Youth Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria (YOWICAN), Plateau State Chapter, has also reacted to a statement made by Director of Press and Publicity to the Governor on the endorsement of rebuilding of Jos Main Market by the said stakeholders.

The Youth Wing said, "With due respect to the leadership whom God has placed over us on the Plateau, this brief statement is crucial to addressing the above reportage taking an unwholesome turn in the public domain as credited to the Government of Plateau State as per the outcome of the Stakeholder meeting of Saturday, the 6th day of August, 2022 which held at the Lady Victoria Gowon hall, Government House, Little Rayfield.

### NAN applauds PPC for keeping faith

**M**ANAGEMENT and staff of Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), publisher of THE NIGERIA STANDARD and SUNDAY STANDARD newspapers Jos have been applauded for keeping the newspaper alive all these while.

The Zonal Manager, News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), North Central, Mr. Kayode Olaitan, gave the commendation when he led the delegation of his management team on a courtesy visit to the General Manager PPC, Dr Boniface Gwotbit in his office in Jos, the Plateau State capital on Tuesday.

Mr. Olaitan expressed happiness with the warm reception accorded them during the visit saying, "the purpose of the visit was for the two organizations to see how we can benefit from each other through partnership in the area of information dissemination as partners in progress. The other reason for the visit was to further build on the existing relationship that has been on ground.

### Henwan to support handball team

**I**N an effort to promote sports in Plateau State, the General Manager, Plateau United Football Club of Jos, Pius Henwan has assured the Plateau State Handball Association of his maximum support in order for them to succeed in their coming competition late in the year.

He gave the assurance when the association presented an award of excellence to him, saying, "without the association, I would not have been where I am today". The award presentation which held at the Handball Court of the Rwang Pam Township Stadium recently, witnessed the presence of the Director of Sports, the Management of Sports Council, Chairman of the association, among other dignitaries.

## SUNDAY FEATURE

## As waste dumping overwhelms Niger major towns

**Cleanliness they said is next to Godliness but the opposite is the situation in Niger State as inability of the state government to pay contractors handling the collection of wastes and waste management trucks have led to indiscriminate dumping of refuse across the major towns. Mathew Jwantu writes.**

**A**S floods peak period is fast approaching, roadsides, streets and markets in major towns across Niger State have been turned into refuse dump sites. The state government environmental officials have also failed to clear these refuses.

Our correspondent who took a trip across the state discovered that the refuse which usually dumped on the streets for the Niger State Environmental Protection Agency (NSEPA) stays for days without being collected leading to more refuse dumped in different areas apart from the designated place.

Due to inefficient system to collect these waste, the residents are left with no choice than to dump these refuse on any available space they find which include streets, roadsides and drainages; even markets across the state are not free from this development as wastes can be seen inside the market amidst raising concerns of the people towards the health impact.

Some residents of the town expressed fear over these waste saying that the indiscriminate dumping of waste especially during the raining season can result in water pollution, drainage blocking, flooding, land pollution and infrastructural degradation.

In Suleja, Ismaila Muhammad Yaro lamented that the dumping of refuse on roads should not be so and even if it is dumped, appropriate authorities should be made to remove the wastes as soon as they are dropped stressing that this can affect the health of the people.

Chidoke Charles who also lives in Suleja said that the refuse has been left unattended to for months, "those who are supposed to pack this refuse haven't been doing anything. We are suffering this. The smell alone is not good. They say that there is COVID 19, monkey pox and others and this refuse have been here for more than a month with nobody coming to pack it, instead of the government to pay the people that are packing it, they are not doing anything. We are suffering from the smell and the flies that come from it. They left it because they are not living here or doing business here. "We are begging the government to come and clear it for us"

At the Kure Ultra Modern market Minna, one of the traders, Mohammed Dangana whose shop is facing the refuse dump lamented that they have complained to the authorities but nothing has been done, "We are just looking. I have a POS stand close to the dustbin. We have complained but nothing is being done. We are tired of complaining, so now, we are just looking."

Customers going to the market said that they would no longer pay the gate toll fees to enter the market until the government decides to do something about the refuse dump which has become an eyesore in the market.

One of the customers, Juliana Jacob said, "Imagine a market like a dump site, in fact, the market has become a dump site. This is supposed to be one of the parking spaces. One wonders what all the revenue being collected as toll fees from vehicles is used for.

If you want to come inside the market, you either pay N100 or N50 depending on where you want to park, not to talk of the money collected from the traders especially those who hawk their wares. Hundreds of cars visit the market daily and yet, the local government authority



cannot use part of the funds to take care of this part of the market.

Imagine the threat to the lives of the people that this poses. Flies here can go and perch on meat, fish and other foods that are opened."

Abdullahi Usman said, "I have since stopped paying that fees to enter the market. I rather park my car outside in a safe place with a friend or my brother inside than to give that useless committee any penny for doing nothing. Everything about Niger State is from the opposite direction. I just pray we get the good leadership in place come 2023"

Muhammad Badamasi said, "I keep wondering the kind of government we have in Niger State who does not consider the situation of the all they know is to collect money from this revenue to the other ,to pass a gate in kure market you have to pay while the main road leading to the market are in sorry situation ,we call on the state and local government to do the needful regarding to that road".

Bakare Kabir says, "Chanchaga LG are just busy allocating land with no attention given to refuse management in the market. Imagine filling pothole with waste from market. Go to the other side, where ram sellers used the story is the same."

The General Manager of the Niger State Environmental Protection Agency, Habib Abdulkadir said that the government is being challenged by lack of funding as he lamented that the people have refused to pay for waste collection and there is no finance by the government to continue funding waste management.

"The government have been doing this for ages and it has gotten to a point that the government has arrived at a point of lack of finances in the area of funding of waste management in the state. The

government tries its best but the population keeps increasing and the cities are also increasing. There is need for us to improve on the equipment that we need to deploy to cover these areas that are coming up. It has come to a point that there is no other alternative than for the people to pay for their waste bills."

The officer in charge of waste management in NSEPA, Mohammed Isa Kutigi said the generation of waste is every time and that majority of the areas that the wastes are outside and not easily accessible by their trucks while he also pointed out that there is lack of vehicles for the collection of wastes.

He disclosed that the agency has not been able to pay the contractors for about three months which led to the withdrawal of their services, "the contractors cannot work because they are not paid. We have 11 trucks in Suleja, Kontagora we have six trucks, Bida, we have three and only five trucks in Minna and it cant take care of only Tunga side alone. We have a lot of challenges. The government need to intervene to provide a lot of trucks so that we can address this."

Speaking about the market, Kutigi said that NSEPA is not in charge of the markets and motor parks but the local government councils adding that the Agency is getting set to take the Chanchaga Local Government Council to court due to their negligence over the sanitary situation of the market.

"The market and motor parks are the responsibility of the local government and not the state government which we are operating under. The Chanchang Local Government is owning us for waste collection, because they could not pay, we had to stop our services because we have other areas of responsibility. We intend to

take them to court for allowing the market to degenerate to this level."

He lamented that the people have defaulted in the payment of the waste collection because they have been enjoying free collection of waste from 1986 till date, they are finding it difficult to pay. We need about 30 trucks in all local government areas to enable effective collection of waste in the state.

"we still need the government to intervene and support us in turning it into a private venture which will enable us to get the people to pay for the collection for their refuse. We cannot do this without government intervention and backing.

In June, the Niger State Commissioner for Environment and Forestry, Dr Daniel Habila Galadima stated that the Ministry had embarked on refused collection and disposal within major cities across the state, including Minna, the state capital following the directive of the state government to clear all the dump sites in the state but as of today, the state of refuse dumping remains the same.

The commissioner however acknowledged that the ministry had hitherto some challenges evacuating refuse in the state capital as a result of rise in the price of diesel which had affected the ministry's budget but stated that the state government had provided the resources for the Ministry to mobilise additional trucks so as to ensure the directive is quickly and efficiently carried out.

He said then that the refuse clearing has commenced with the assurance that in the next few days, the state will be cleared of indiscriminate refuse dump sites but the dump sites have since increased after the Commissioner's statement.

## SUNDAY FEATURE

## Celebrating left-handers

**Left-Handers Day is observed annually on 13th August to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of left-handed individuals. The International Left-handers Day was created to celebrate sinistrality and to raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed in a predominantly right-handed world. Although, everyone is special in their own way. But fewer left-handed people exist than right-handed people, so by their population in the world, it is a relatively special trait. However, Celebrating Left-handers Day is fun and to acknowledge the unique position of those whose dominant hand is their left. HOSEA NYAMLONG writes.**

Studies have shown that 10% of the world's population are southpaws, commonly known as left-handers. Scientists don't know why a person develops left-handedness. But it's more likely a child would be left-handed if one parent is a lefty, too.

Parents of left-handed children used to force them to use their right hands. In the eyes of right-handers, the predominant use of the left hand seemed evil. Such Parents feared that society would disassociate with their children.

Similarly, parents should not discourage their left-handed children from using their hands, that is how God created them. It is a blessing not a curse.

Left-handers have not had it easy in the world. This kind of discrimination, goes beyond our African aunts and uncles. In many cultures, left-handed people have generally been seen as evil, devil spawns. In the dark ages, left-handed humans were thought to be in consortium with the devil and considered less intelligent than right-handers.

While in Nigeria, to do any transactions with any elder with the left hand is considered a lack of respect. Take or give anything to anyone with your left hand and it is assumed that you lack home training.

There is a general taboo on left-hand use, giving, receiving, eating, and drinking with the left hand are considered rude by virtually all members of communities in Nigeria, by extension Africa.

It is mostly perceived that pointing with the left hand is considered to be to be rude. Pointing, here, includes both gestures that indicate a direction towards a location. Most acts of unnecessary made by any human are considered a leftish move, as it is said that people are born left-handed when mothers are stressed during pregnancy.

Today, some right handers that were converted would tell you that they were all forced by their parents, aunts, grandparents, teachers, to write with their right hand and it has affected them naturally, even in their performance, in a way that they cannot give in their best while using the right hand.

Well, it's a kind of myth that many people are forced to learn whatever they hear and not what they know. When asked, none of our parents or elders can tell you the reason why they think or know about the fact that there is an actual problem with left-handedness.

Nonetheless, the vast majority of the population is right-handed, many devices are designed for use by right-handed people, making their use by left-handed people more difficult.

Ranging from scissors, class desks, car steering, musical instruments, cutlery, golf sticks, games, game pads, mobile phones,



keyboards, mouse, remote controls to door knobs, it has become so obvious that the world is right-handed.

The design of ATM (Automated Teller Machine) and the calendar is right-handed

However, left-handed people have an advantage in sports that involves aiming at a target in an area of an opponent's control, footballers playing with left foot, as their opponents are more accustomed to the right-handed etc.

Notably, are some famous people who are left-handers, Aristotle; Alexander the Great; Julius Caesar; Napoléon Bonaparte; Henry Ford; Michelangelo; Leonardo da Vinci; Charlie Chaplin; Albert Einstein; Isaac Newton; Bill Clinton; Barack Obama; Bill Gates; Phil Collins; Steve Jobs; Mark Zuckerberg; Amitabh Bachchan; Whoopie Goldberg; Angelina Jolie; Celine Dion; Justin Bieber; Tom Cruise; Julia Roberts; Sylvester Stallone; Bruce Willis; Oprah Winfrey; Rafael Nadal; Pelé, Diego Maradona etc.

In Nigeria, Funke Akindele; Desmond Elliot; Babatunde Fashola; Chiwetel Ejiofor; Adesua Etomi; Segun Arinze;

Teco Benson; Emeka Ike and Toolz are all left-handed and are making waves in the entertainment and political terrain.

We are living in a world that is, by omission, designed for right-handed people. The case is further worsened by cultural and traditional perspectives, nourished by many years of unenlightened mindsets.

At this point, It has been scientifically proven that when a child is manipulated by parents, teachers, care-givers or societal perception to swop from using left-hand to the right hand, it can affect the brain and can lead to

clumsiness, low self-esteem, withdrawal issues and identity crisis.

Being left-handed is indestructible, and we must help children to find, discover and express themselves, instead of trying to change them from the way God created them. Some people are just wired differently and this unique design is actually sacrosanct to unlocking their genius.

In some African traditions and cultures that believe that a left-handed wife is a bad women and a vessel of misfortune to the family. In fact, an African

culture believes that people that shake hands with their left don't wish their acquaintances well.

There are many derogatory remarks for left-handed people. To correct the wrong notion that left-handedness is an anomaly, it is not a bad omen; it is simply being unique and simple.

To this end, parents, teachers, caregiver, and the general public should help left-handed children build their self-esteem by letting them know that they are awesome, wonderful the way they are created by God. Using left-hand is not a taboo, rather a blessing.

**"We are living in a world that is, by omission, designed for right-handed people. The case is further worsened by cultural and traditional perspectives, nourished by many years of unenlightened mindsets. At this point, It has been scientifically proven that when a child is manipulated by parents, teachers, care-givers or societal perception to swop from using left-hand to the right hand, it can affect the brain and can lead to clumsiness, low self-esteem, withdrawal issues and identity crisis."**

WE conclude our series on bikers today. Gomez Adebowale is the President of SCAN. He is a software Engineer by profession. He coordinates the activities of some biker clubs in Nigeria. He informed Bangles that the Grand Patron of Bikers is the Emir of Gombe, Malam Shehu Abubakar.

He tells us that even though many people see bikers as cultists and ritualists, this is far from the truth. He said that amongst bikers are many professionals, from pilots to doctors to Governors, Such as Former Governor Donald Duke. He explained that the only ritual that bikers have is during their training. He explained of his experience while learning how to ride. He went to a training school. He added that after training, the young bikers are expected to be ushered into the road by their teacher who rides in front. The young bikers are surrounded by older bikers and what happens is that when the young bikers are being ushered, the older ones would put them in the middle and protect them. If a young biker is swaying or losing his grip, the older biker would stabilize him or her.

This is done to initiate the young bikers the road with safety in mind. This is also to protect the young bikers from motorists by acting as buffers. When this ceremony is over and the older bikers and the teacher are sure of the ability of the young ones to ride on their own, it is at this point that they are considered trained bikers. The teacher ensures that the young bikers can control their bikes in case of emergencies without panicking or fidgeting, when riding on their own. He reiterated that this is the only initiation that bikers have. He emphasized that bikers are not cultists or ritualists. He added that the mis-perception about riders is hinged on lack of communication. He explained that it is important for motorists to understand that bikers ride in a formation such as the diamond formation; something like a convoy with a different formation. He said that it would be a welcome development if motorists learn to avoid breaking the bikers' ranks on the road this is one of the ways that help them to ride in safety.

When questioned about the biker's paraphernalia, especially the skull, he said that the skull is white. He explained that beneath the colour of our skin, we all have white skulls. This is the same across all races. It essentially means that all bikers are the same, whither white, black, or yellow. He said that this binds bikers all across the globe and this is why no brother is left behind. He speaks of his ride to Ghana and how he was warmly received and accommodated by brothers that did not know him from Adam, same also happened in Benin Republic. He said that the skull is a symbol of unity. He however pointed out that not all bikers wear the skull. He said that for bikers, an injury to one is an injury to all and so they look out for all brothers on two wheels. This has nothing to do with race, creed, or culture. He added that it should not surprise you to see 80-year-old bikers supporting a 20-year-old biker of any gender. A biker is a biker for life. He explained that bikers form clubs along the lines of common interest. He added there are even Christian rider clubs such as *chariots of fire*.

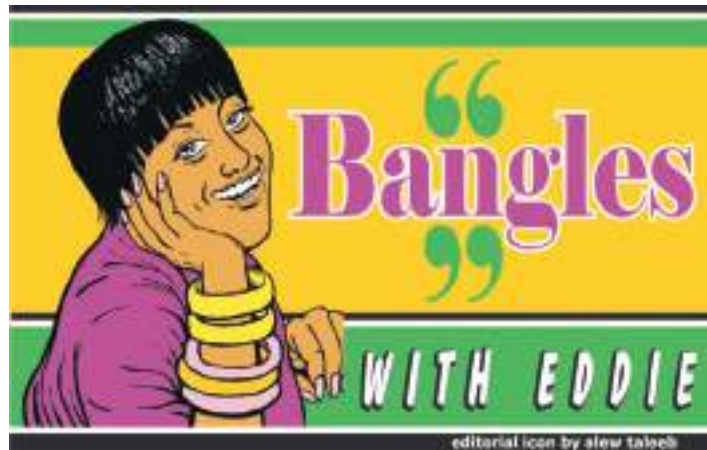
He gave an example of a biker who was travelling from Spain on a tour of Africa and posted a message on their bikers' forum. The biker had a problem with his bike in Mali. Mr. Gomez sent this message to the bikers in Mali who rode out to meet the Spanish rider and rescued him. They accommodated him, fixed his bike and led him back to his tour. He said that today, they have formed a bond with the Spanish biker. He mentioned that bikers can go to many lengths for each other.

Mr. Adebowale spoke about the charity events that bikers engage in. He added that bikers are engaged in so many charity projects. Particularly

visits to orphanages. He added that the doctors amongst them often organize health outreaches. Similarly, bikers also engage in tree planting campaign. He mentioned how bikers had an outreach during the covid-19 pandemic. They went from state to state raising awareness and distributing masks and hand sanitizers. He mentioned that they also work with senior medical personnel in carrying out charity events. During this period, they also went from hospitals to residential homes distributing medication to patients who take essential medication for conditions such as cancer, hypertension and diabetes.

orphanages and giving back to schools through the *Education must continue project* a project which is a mentorship programme conceptualized and initiated by SCAN. This body mandated all clubs to get involved in this project. They are Professionals such as Lawyers, Doctors and Engineers who teach classes and encourage student to realize their dreams by working hard.

On the tree planting campaign, the club collaborates with the Ministry of Education on this project in Gombe during the first tree planting campaign. The first tree planting campaign was at the Federal University Keshere. This was due to



## Biker's ride for charity and philanthropy



This they did in collaboration with the Ministry of health. He mentioned that most of the bikers that were picked for this assignment are also road safety Marshals. He mentioned that they have Doctors who are also specialist consultants in various areas.

Adebowale mentioned that there is an arm of the road safety marshal for bikers who help to decongest and control traffic and they give more coverage because of their bikes. He explained that they also use this platform to sensitize road users on safety so as to create a safety culture. They do this by organizing National safety campaign for all road users.

Furthermore, the bikers under the auspices of SCAN organize *The School Uniform Project*. This project is targeted at under-privileged young children. These group sews and distributes Uniforms to school children as a way of boosting their self-esteem. Teachers would help in identifying the under privileged students.

At the club level, we interviewed Mr. Misari, the Chairman of the Gombe Jewel bikers club which is under SCAN. Gombe jewel has been involved in tree planting campaigns for several years. Mr. Hussein Misari explained that Gombe Jewel Bikers is based in Gombe and is made up of about thirty members spread across the country. He said that the club is a Nigerian club based in Gombe. He explained that he comes from a family of bikers as most of his uncles are power bikers. He added that he has ridden for ten years so far, and it is a passion as he has a need for speed. However, overtime, he has used this platform for philanthropy and humanitarian activities. He points out that the biking community is into humanitarian and philanthropy and he uses that passion to give back to the society. This was why he joined the club.

Since 2019, he has been President of the club. The club has launched some campaigns starting with the tree planting campaign. Other charity projects include charity at the

the deforestation and desertification that was assailing the environment. So far, the club has had 4 planting campaigns. Three in Gombe and one in Bauchi. The 4th tree planting campaign was in Bauchi and the club collaboration with the Government of Bauchi State and a fertilizer manufacturing company called Notore. The Ministries of environment, sports and agriculture were on hand to support the project. The Ministries also gave their own quota towards the tree planting campaign. So far, the club has planted 12 thousand trees in the past 4 years and the aim is to plant 3,000 tree every year as this has become an annual event.

*The giving back the school project* was initiated by the National body. He said that they produced about 3,000 bundle of exercise books, 2500 was presented to the Emir of Gombe who has built schools. The Lamido of Adamawa was also presented with 1000 bundles towards the vision of education. The club mentors' young children and makes them believe that they can be whatever they want to be, but they have to study first.

Mr. Misari said that motorcycles are a means of transport for him and some bikers. He said that bikers are misperceived and the misconception may come from the noise of the bikes, which makes some people see them as a nuisance. He said behind their helmets are very responsible people who give back to the society meaningfully. Mr Misari said that they take money from their pockets for their charity events and the poor perception of bikers is tied to the misconception about who they are. As part of the charity they do, the chairman also told Bangles that they carry out bore-hold projects for poor communities.

As to the psychological effect of riding a bike, he said that he feels a sense of freedom when reading. He said that the concentration keeps him focus on himself. The breeze gives him a sense of nature. He said that when he is stressed up, he rides his

bike and goes to see some beautiful sceneries after which he feels refreshed. He has a first degree and a master's degree in marketing. He is a professional marketer who has worked with Guinness, Unilever and now, he is the regional manager for Phillip Morris.

Speaking on the marketing potentials of biking and how it can become a brand, he said that they have a proper structure with corporate documents. It is actually an NGO. They collaborate for partnership and sponsorship. He mentioned that publicity is low because most people think that no good can come from bikers, which is an error. He said that the club is also

collaborating with jewel environmental. The NGO also collaborate with the government of Gombe State for the Gombe-goes-green vision. They supply them with trees. They also seek collaboration with some companies but because they do charity and have low coverage, companies looking for return on investment via wider reach for their products do not find the deal competitive enough.

He mentioned that in their community, there are soldiers, doctors, lawyers, architects, teacher, pilots, Olympic champions, governors, senators, interpreters, mechanized farmers and teachers to name a few. Mr. Misari was recently nominated by several African countries as *biker of the month* and went to Benin Republic recently to receive his award. He attested to the fact that biking is a uniting force because their brotherhood spreads across all African bikers. The club, black African rider is an umbrella body for bikers across the African continent. He said that in order to foster more unity, the francophone bikers learn English and the Anglophone bikers are learning French for the purpose of overcoming the linguistic barrier. The Brotherhood also helps in establishing business network across the continent. He said that the love bikers have for each other is different because they love each other like family, and they extend this love to other members of society.

Speaking of safety measures, he said that all bikers that are members of clubs, adhere to safety measures and it is bikers that are non-members that often create the image of lawlessness for them. He reiterates that the Majority of bikers are safety conscious and law-abiding members of society who contribute positively to society's wellbeing.



**Y**OU cannot resist fear if you do not know how fear manifests itself. How will you go against fear when you do not know how fear expresses itself? Fear manifests itself through thoughts, ideas and suggestions. Thoughts, ideas and suggestions which are inserted or injected into our minds as a result of our contemplating circumstances, negative or frightful circumstances, challenging situations we are going through; negative news and reports we hear around us.

Satan injects thoughts, ideas and suggestions into our minds, wanting us to cooperate with him. To begin to believe those things, begin to speak them out of our mouths and to begin to act on them. Now when you believe Satan's thoughts or you accept those suggestions, and begin to speak them out of your mouth - when you begin to act in line with them, you are literally authorizing the devil and giving him license to fulfill his wicked agenda in your life, which is stealing, killing and destroying. You must understand and get it firmly rooted in your heart and mind that you can stop the devil by stopping the fear.

When you stop the fear, Satan is incapacitated and has no further ability to operate in your life. Open the door to God instead by trusting the truth of God's word. When you do that, you

literally authorize God to get involved in your circumstance and manifest his blessing in your life. I tell you the truth, there is nothing the power of God cannot do. There is no disease the power of God cannot cure; there is no situation the power of God cannot fix and there is no person the power of God cannot protect, preserve or

in our lives; if we want to win all the time in life's fight no matter what comes against us, then we must pay attention to our thought life - to the way we think. Again, as a man thinks in his heart, that is the way his life will turn out. That is what the word of God says. It is so important that we understand how we can



## Fear not, trust God (20)



or he does not have a right to. If he could, he would have but he cannot so he goes around seeking whom he may devour. However, the Bible says we should resist him steadfastly in the faith.

Now the roaring of the devil is like the roaring of the lion. He is not a lion but the roar of the lion is used as an example for the operation of the devil. The roaring of the devil is the manifestation of fear. Fear is like a roaring. It roars, it comes at you from everywhere through thoughts, ideas and suggestions. It paints negative pictures in your mind. It creates feelings and emotions of panic concerning your life, your safety, your preservation, your livelihood, your ability to thrive in life etc. But the word of God says we should resist him steadfastly in the faith.

Romans 10:17 says so then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. So resisting the devil in the faith is standing against him, opposing him based on the truth of God's word that you know. If you do not have access to the truth of God's word and you do not practice the truth of God's word, there is no way you will be able to successfully resist the devil.

Your only defense against the devil is to first become a child of God which then grants you access through Jesus Christ to the name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, the ministry of the Spirit of God and to the word of God. Now after becoming a child of God, become knowledgeable in the word of God. This is why we teach and instruct you in the word of God so that you will take the things you hear, rise up, come against the spirit of fear, subdue it, start trusting God and seeing situations start turning around in your favour.

This is where we focus our attention; on our thoughts, on our suggestions, on our imaginations. The moment we allow the word of God to take over our thoughts and imaginations and become the fuel or source for the suggestions that come into our mind, then we have a grip on the spirit of fear. Praise God.

defend.

This is what we are dealing with in this series: "FEAR NOT, TRUST GOD". When you understand that Satan's primary manifestation is through thoughts, ideas and suggestions, you know what to focus on. You are not shooting blindly or guessing, trying to fight the devil. You know exactly where to go to for the battle and that battlefield is in the realm of your thoughts. Your thoughts are the gateway into your life. If you are looking for the way into your life, if you are looking for the thing that influences your life more than anything else, it is your thoughts - how you think.

You live in the world of your thoughts. It is your thoughts that eventually determines how your life ends up. It is your thoughts that determine who is involved in your life, whether God or the devil. Proverbs 23:7 says as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.

We must focus our attention on our thoughts, our mind or our thinking; in other words, our thought life. If we want to be successful against the spirit of fear; if we want to trust God and see His blessing

conquer the operation of the spirit of fear because as we have observed so frequently in this series, Satan has literally zero power when you deal with the spirit of fear. Fear is Satan's foremost strategy, his General and Field Marshal - Fear is that that goes ahead of Satan. It is his advance party to open the door for him to steal, kill and destroy.

When you shut down the operation of the spirit of fear, you shut down Satan's operation. Just like when you shut or lock properly the doors of a house, it prevents access to all intruders or those who may want to come and cause harm to the residents of that house. When you learn to shut down the spirit of fear, you literally paralyze Satan and render him impotent to operate in your life.

Instead of operating with fear, begin to trust God. Start trusting God with your life and the way to do that is to trust the words He has spoken to you through the written word of God as you study the Bible, or as He inspires you when you sit and listen to anointed teachings.

When you read the Bible or listen to anointed teachings, you begin to allow God to produce faith in you. The Bible says in Romans 10:17; so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

I tell you the truth that when you learn to shut down fear and start trusting the word of God, it literally opens the door for good things to start happening in your life. For the blessings of God to come upon you, to overtake you and to manifest in your life.

So, now that we have understood that fear operates through thoughts, ideas and suggestions, we do not need to go looking anywhere else. We do not need to go to our village or our ancestry to look for the operation of the spirit of fear but we go to the word of God. The word of God will pinpoint the problem. Satan operates through thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

The Bible tells us in James 4:7 and 1Peter 5:8-9, to resist the devil and he will flee. The scripture says the devil goes about as a roaring lion seeking who he may devour or swallow up. That means he is not authorized to

””  
***This is where we focus our attention; on our thoughts, on our suggestions, on our imaginations. The moment we allow the word of God to take over our thoughts and imaginations and become the fuel or source for the suggestions that come into our mind, then we have a grip on the spirit of fear. Praise God.***  
””

## INTERNATIONAL

## South Korea pardoned Samsung 'Prince' Lee Jae-Yong

ONE of South Korea's most powerful white collar criminals, Lee was twice imprisoned for bribing a former president.

South Korea's government justified the move, saying the de-facto leader of the country's biggest company was needed back at the helm to spearhead economic recovery post-pandemic.

This marks another swing in a struggle over how the country is run that has raged since mass protests took over Seoul six years ago and ousted a president from office.

Lee's crimes were directly tied up in the corruption scandal that led to the imprisonment of former president Park Geun-Hye, in office from 2013-2017.

The "Crown Prince of Samsung" - as he was dubbed by protesters - paid \$8 million (£6.6m) in bribes to President Park and her associate to secure support for a merger opposed by shareholders that would shore up his control of his family's empire.

When it was revealed, millions of South Koreans turned out at candlelit protests every weekend in the 2016/2017 winter, demanding an end to Park's government and the stitch-up between politics and business.

Korea's parliament impeached Park and she was imprisoned in 2017 for 25 years.

Lee, who is also known as Jay Y Lee in the West, was jailed a year later for offences including embezzling company funds to buy a \$800,000 (£650,000) horse for the president's friend's daughter.

A new president, Moon Jae-in swept into office with a mandate to clean up the mess. But he failed to make much headway. In his last days as president, he granted a pardon to his predecessor.

Now eight months later, under another new president, Samsung's chief has also received the same clemency.

For those who have been fighting against corruption, it's a dispiriting blow.

Lee's case reaffirms popular conception that business leaders are untouchable and above the law.

In Korea, giant conglomerates dominate the economy, with the top 10 accounting for about 80% of GDP. Known as *chaebols*, they are family-controlled empires which provide a span of services. LG, Hyundai, Lotte, and SK are among them.

But Samsung is the biggest and most powerful of them all.

As the world's largest smartphone maker, it's a global electronics brand. But at home it does much more - hospitals, hotels, insurance plans, billboards, shipyards and even theme parks.

Samsung and other chaebols are so omnipresent they're known as "octopus" firms, says Prof YoonKyung Lee, a political sociologist at the University of Toronto.

And those tentacles have long wormed their way into the highest levels of Korean politics.



Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong - convicted of bribery and embezzlement in 2017 - has been granted a special presidential pardon

Prof Lee was at the 2016 protests and says most of the anger was directed at President Park's personal actions. But she said labour activists and others strove to highlight the chaebols' outsize influence on government.

Chaebols were heavily supported by the government after the Korean War. They were given cheaper electricity and tax incentives, there was a "Buy-Korea" policy and even help in suppressing union movements.

But the resulting monopolies also crushed competition, stifled labour movements and their practices spawned decades of bribery and corruption cases.

In many cases, Prof Lee said, executives were given light or suspended sentences. In some cases judges said the economy might suffer if a chaebol leader was taken out of action.

Mr Lee's own father, Lee Kun-hee was convicted of bribery and fraud in the 1990s when he was Samsung chairman. But he didn't serve a single day of jail time.

So in 2017, when his son was hauled away to a cell on a five-year sentence, activists hoped the case would mark a turning point.

Celebration however was short lived. Lee's court battle dragged on for years with twists and turns worthy of the most dramatic Korean serials.

An appeals court released him, a higher court then ordered a retrial at which he was again found guilty and jailed.

But just a few months into his second jail term, the Moon government released him on parole, saying it was in the national interest.

Since then, he has returned as the public face of Samsung - in May greeting US President Joe Biden on a trade visit to South Korea.

Lee still faces criminal allegations of rigging company valuations, accounting fraud and making Samsung business decisions in breach of his sentence conditions. Clemency means he will be able to fully resume his executive responsibilities.

CLASHES between security forces and protesters in the Somaliland region over an alleged attempt to delay the presidential elections have turned deadly, according to a regional leader and a senior police official in Somalia's breakaway region.

At least five people have been killed and 100 more injured, Muse Bihi Abdi, the president of Somaliland said.

Abdi Hassan Mire, the deputy commander of the Somaliland police, said dozens of security personnel were injured during the clashes with protesters who were armed with knives, catapults and clubs. Some carried weapons and fired bullets, he said.

Property and vehicles were also destroyed, according to police.

The president's current term ends in November but the opposition suspects Abdi wants to delay that election and accuse him of seeking an extension of his term through "Guurti", a council of elders that acts as the de facto parliament in Somaliland.

Abdi, the president, did not say whether those killed were civilians or security personnel.

At least 100 people suspected of involvement in the clashes were arrested and will be charged soon, Ibrahim Abdi Haji, the head of operations in Somaliland Police, told the Reuters news agency.

Hundreds of people took to the streets in the capital Hargeisa and the cities of Burao and Erigavo after negotiations between the government and opposition parties broke down, with the latter accusing the authorities of seeking to delay the election.

Protesters carried placards saying "Hold the election on 13th November 2022" and chanted anti-government slogans.

In a news conference late on Thursday, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, the leader

## Somali clashes between protesters, police turn deadly

of the main opposition Waddani party, accused the government of committing "atrocities" against the protesters.

"This was a peaceful demonstration and we have led people who carried only placards and whistles, but the government has committed violations by using excessive power, live bullets, tear gas," he said at the press conference in Hargeisa.

"Peace can only prevail in Somaliland with the provision of fair and free elections, let those who defend democracy prevail."

Abdirahman Cirro, a presidential hopeful and former head of Waddani, put the death toll at six, according to the Reuters news agency.

"The demos will continue and it is just the beginning until we get full democratic space and freedom from dictatorship and bad leadership," he said.

One protest organiser, Ahmed Ismail, told the AFP news agency that three people including a woman were killed

in Hargeisa, and 34 others were admitted to hospital.

In a statement on Thursday six foreign diplomatic missions, including the US, UK and European Union, condemned what they called "excessive use of force" during the demonstrations.

"We call upon all sides to ensure that both the demonstrations and police response are peaceful and follow the rule of law," the statement said.

"We reiterate the need for all sides in Somaliland to engage in constructive dialogue in order to reach consensus on a roadmap for elections. Somaliland's leaders must work together with its people to decide their future and protect Somaliland's peace, stability and democracy."

Somaliland broke away from Somalia in 1991 but has not gained widespread international recognition for its independence. The region has been mostly peaceful while Somalia has grappled with 30 years of civil war.



Supporters hold banners of candidates during a rally of the opposition Waddani Party

## US court charges Iranian

AN Iranian man has been charged by the US with plotting to kill former Trump National Security Advisor John Bolton.

US officials said Shahram Poursafi, a member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRG), was in Iran and wanted over the alleged plot.

They said Mr Poursafi was likely seeking revenge for the US strike that killed Qasem Soleimani, Iran's most powerful military commander.

Iran dismissed the charges it said came from a "failed policy of Iranophobia".

Soleimani spearheaded Iranian military operations in the Middle East.

The 62-year-old headed the IRG's elite Quds Force. He was killed at Baghdad airport in Iraq in January 2020 in a strike ordered by President Donald Trump.

Iranian government spokesperson told state media that the allegations

were "baseless".

In its announcement of the charges, the US Department of Justice said Mr Poursafi, aka Mehdi Rezayi, 45, of Tehran, had "attempted to pay individuals in the United States \$300,000 (£245,000) to carry out the murder in Washington DC or Maryland".

The charges detail how the Iranian operative had asked a US resident who he had met online to take pictures of Mr Bolton, allegedly for a book he

was writing. The unnamed resident had then introduced Mr Poursafi to another individual who was later asked to kill Mr Bolton and provide video evidence of the murder.

In a statement, Mr Bolton thanked the FBI and the justice department for their work.

"The justice department has the solemn duty to defend our citizens from hostile governments who seek to hurt or kill them," said Assistant Attorney General Matthew G Olsen.

"This is not the first time we have uncovered Iranian plots to exact revenge against individuals on US soil and we will work tirelessly to expose and disrupt every one of these efforts."

At the time of his death, Soleimani was widely seen as the second most powerful figure in Iran, behind Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The Quds Force, an elite unit of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, reported directly to the ayatollah and Soleimani was hailed as a heroic national figure.

But the US classifies the Quds Force as terrorists and holds them responsible for the deaths of hundreds of US personnel.



Gen Soleimani was very influential in Iran, some say almost as much as its Supreme Leader



## INTERNATIONAL

# Ukraine's shadow army resisting Russian occupation

**Recent explosions at a military base in annexed Crimea "significantly degraded" the Russian navy's Black Sea aviation fleet, the United Kingdom says. Two more ships have departed Ukraine's Black Sea ports, according to Ankara, bringing the total that have left under a UN-brokered deal to 14. DAVID CHILD and ARWA IBRAHIM.**

**R**USSIA'S ambassador to the United Nations has said the country does not support the proposal to create a demilitarised zone around Ukraine's occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

"The demilitarisation of the station can make it vulnerable to those who want to visit it. No one knows what their goals and objectives will be. We cannot rule out any provocations, terrorist attacks on the station, which we must protect".

His remarks came after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for an "urgent agreement" on "a safe perimeter of demilitarisation" at the Zaporizhzhia plant in order to ensure its safety.

Russian troops seized the nuclear facility, the largest of its kind in Europe, shortly after beginning their invasion on February 24. Although it is held by Moscow's forces, it is still being operated by Ukrainian workers.

Kyiv and Moscow have traded blame over recent attacks at and near the complex.

Russia has turned down a Swiss offer to represent Ukraine's interests in Moscow, saying it no longer considers Switzerland to be a neutral country on account of it imposing sanctions over the war in Ukraine.

Thursday's rejection came a day after Bern and Kyiv agreed on a mandate for Switzerland to represent Ukrainian interests in Russia, which invaded its neighbour in late February.

Russia says it has turned down a Swiss offer to represent Ukraine's interests in Moscow because it no longer considers Switzerland to be a neutral country.

Bern and Kyiv on Wednesday agreed on a mandate for Switzerland to represent Ukrainian interests in Russia, which invaded its neighbour in late February.

However, on Thursday, a Russian foreign ministry spokesman said the plan was not acceptable in the current situation.

"The Swiss were indeed interested in our opinion on the possible representation of Ukraine's interests in Russia and Russia's in Ukraine," Ivan Nechayev told reporters.

"We very clearly answered that Switzerland had unfortunately lost its status of a neutral state and could not act either as an intermediary or a representative. Bern has joined illegal Western sanctions against Russia."

Swiss media previously reported that the main objective of the Swiss proposal would be to allow Ukrainians living in Russia to receive consular services from the Swiss embassy in Moscow.

Switzerland has a long diplomatic tradition of acting as an intermediary between countries whose relations have broken down.

The wealthy Alpine country – which has held such mandates hundreds of times since first playing the role of a protecting power during the Franco-Prussian War in 1870-71 – currently represents the diplomatic interests of a range of countries in difficult situations.

Notably, it also represents Russian interests in Georgia and vice versa.

But it has attracted Moscow's ire in recent months by mirroring nearly all of the sanctions that the European Union – of which Switzerland is not a



Putin

member – has imposed on Russia over its invasion in Ukraine.

Last week, the Swiss government adopted some of the latest measures imposed by the 27-member bloc, which ban buying, importing or transporting gold and gold products from Russia.

Announcing the Swiss government's move in late February to break with the country's traditional neutrality and sanction Russia, President and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis said the "extraordinary situation" in Ukraine warranted "extraordinary measures" in response.

"We stand on the side of Western values," he added.

Switzerland had previously steered clear of imposing sanctions in a string of crises, including when Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

The exception had been sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council, which it has to implement under international law.

Ukraine's president has told government officials to stop talking to reporters about Kyiv's military tactics against Russia, saying such remarks were "frankly irresponsible".

"War is definitely not the time for vanity and loud statements. The fewer details you divulge about our defence plans, the better it will be for the implementation of those defence plans," Zelenskyy said in an evening address on Thursday.

"If you want to generate loud headlines, that's one thing – it's frankly irresponsible. If you want victory for Ukraine, that is another thing, and you should be aware of your responsibility for every word you say about our state's plans for defence or counter attacks," he



Zelenskyy

added.

Ukraine's leader addressed his remarks to state, local and military officials, as well as other people he said were commenting on events at the front.

Zelenskyy's comments came after the New York Times and Washington Post newspapers cited unidentified officials as saying Ukrainian forces were responsible for the major blasts that wrecked the Saky airbase in Crimea on Tuesday. Ukraine's government, on the other hand, declined to say whether its troops had been behind the explosions.

Blasts this week at the Russian-operated Saky military airfield in the annexed Crimean Peninsula led to the loss of eight Russian combat jets, the United Kingdom's defence ministry has said.

"The loss of eight combat jets represents a minor proportion of the overall fleet of aircraft Russia has available to support the war. However, Saky was primarily used as a base for the aircraft of the Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet," the ministry said in its latest daily intelligence update.

"The fleet's naval aviation capability is now significantly degraded," it added, noting that while the base's airfield probably remained operational, its dispersal area was believed to have suffered serious damage.

The explosions, which Russia has said killed one and injured five, will "likely prompt the Russian military to revise its threat perception" in the region, the ministry said.

Russia's National Settlement Depository (NSD) says it has filed a lawsuit at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg to overturn

European Union sanctions imposed on the country over its invasion of Ukraine.

The EU added the NSD, which Moscow planned to use to service the country's Eurobonds, to its list of sanctioned entities in June

Russia's state-controlled pipeline transport company Transneft has said that payment for oil transit to the Czech Republic via Ukraine has been made, according to a report by the country's RIA Novosti news agency.

RIA Novosti quoted the firm as saying that it expected Ukraine's pipeline operator UkrTransNafta to confirm the transfer of funds so that it could begin pumping shipments to the Czech Republic along the Druzhba pipeline.

According to Transneft, Ukraine halted oil shipments via the southern section of the pipeline – which takes Russian oil through Ukraine to the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary – on August 4 after Western sanctions prevented it from accepting transit fees from Moscow.

The northern leg of the pipeline, which runs through Belarus to Poland and Germany, was not affected by the stoppage.

A European bank has agreed to process a payment for the transit of Russian oil through Ukraine, the Reuters news agency has reported, citing Slovak refiner Slovnaft and another source familiar with the matter.

The payment, if confirmed by all parties, would be a step to restoring oil flows to the Czech Republic after a week-long outage and also create conditions for future payments for transit to the region.

"According to our information, the bank reconsidered the originally blocked payment between transit

companies for the transit fee and accepted it in the end," Slovnaft spokesman Anton Molnar said.

"This confirms that the framework set up this way is functional and can be a long-term solution," he said.

Another source familiar with the matter told Reuters the payment had been released by Dutch-based bank ING, and that flows to the Czech Republic should resume by Saturday.

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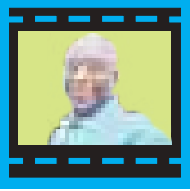
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**SOURCE: Aljazeera**



With **BULUS GAMBO**



### 'God will make things beautiful at His time'



University of Abuja, a jungle missionary and a farmer.

**What kind of music are you into at the moment?**

Well, music should be like a mirror to an artiste's life. I am a follower of Jesus Christ and I have been called to testify about Him, edify humanity and to also make disciples of all nations, not just the "Church goers". So, I'm using my biggest gift and tool, which is music to do that. That's the kind of music I'm into.

**Many up coming musicians are not finding it easy in this country, can you tell us your story?**

Well, If I will tell you my story, hmmm, it might end up taking the whole of this newspaper. I come from a very humble background, I didn't start as the artiste I am today, I was glorifying drugs, girls, money and profanity as it was my life and quest as of then. I used my school fees and house rent just to go to the studio and put out music. I had my encounter with God middle of May 2017 on my way back to University of Abuja from Jos with my printed CD's of an EP I was to lunch, I had to sacrifice everything to carry my cross and follow Jesus Christ. Even being who I am today, things have not been easy because I still don't have a management, God has been sending some support here and there and I know He will make

everything beautiful at His own time.

**Despite these problems what are your hopes?**

*Continued on page 26*

**CAN you introduce yourself?**

My name is Tongshwar Stephen Dawap, Known as Heavenly Dawap AKA Yaron Jtown. I am from Chip in Plateau State, Nigeria and I currently live in Jos. I am a Theater Artist from



### Top Hollywood Actress in 2022

Ever since women started radiating their talents on the silver screen, they have captured our hearts. Leading female actors have often mesmerized audiences of all ages, whether it be on the silver screen or the TV sets. Even after the movie ends, their smiles and expressions still prevail in our minds.

For this list, we'll be looking at our top picks for some of the best actresses in Hollywood as of 2022.

#### Jessica Chastain



Jessica Chastain has long been held as one of the best actresses in Hollywood.

She is also one of the most decorated actresses in the game, with a Golden Globe Award and two Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Chastain most recently won the SAG Awards for her role as Tammy Bakker in The Eyes of Tammy.

And to the keen-eyed observer, this might be the indicator for Jessica winning her first Oscar.

This year's Academy Award nomination makes it three for Chastain.

She is often associated with roles and movies that have feminist themes.

Chastain gained further global recognition for her role in films such as Interstellar, The Martian, and It Chapter Two.

#### Jennifer Lawrence



Often compared to Meryl Streep, this young Oscar-winning actress is widely acclaimed for her acting abilities.

Jennifer Lawrence first gained global recognition for her roles in X-men and The Hunger Games franchise.

She won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Silver Linings Playbook, starring alongside Bradly Cooper.

And at the age of 22, her win made her one of the youngest

actresses to win the golden statuette.

After her hiatus, she returned in 2021 with the satire comedy 'Don't Look Up' starring alongside Leonardo DiCaprio.

#### Emma Stone



She's funny, she's thought-provoking, she's pretty, and she's seriously good at acting.

Emma Stone has delivered tons of iconic performances, so much so that it is almost impossible to pick just one.

Albeit Zombieland, Birdman, La La Land, Cruella, etc., are a few to name.

Stone was nodded by the Academy for her performance in Birdman while she took home the golden statue for Best Actress for La La Land.

Her most recent endeavor, Cruella, was widely acclaimed by both fans and critics.

#### Charlize Theron



This Academy Award-winning actress is well known for her iconic roles in movies like Monster, Atomic Blonde, Mad Max Fury Road, and many more.

Theron has also been seen on the big screen as the cyber-terrorist Cipher in the Fast and Furious franchise.

And for her portrayal of Megyn Kelly in the biographical drama Bombshell, she was nominated for her third Academy Award.

Charlize Theron has certainly defined an era itself with her mind-bending and wide range of performances.

*Continued on page 26*

# EVIE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

## Living

### Overcoming fears of impending singledom

By **ANYA MEYER**

**T**HOUGH no easy task, worrying about being alone shouldn't stop you from doing what's best. One of the main reasons that people stay trapped in a bad relationship is the fear of crossing the Rubicon and being single for evermore. It can be a big and scary step to take, particularly if it has been a long relationship. And the pandemic doesn't help either — with the added fear of loneliness and fewer opportunities to meet people.

Neil Wilkie, relationship expert, psychotherapist and author of *Reset - The Relationship*, advises that we should 'reflect on how the relationship is now and whether you have done all you can to improve it?' If it feels as though you've done all you can, or the only thing keeping you there is the fear of being single again, then it might be time to face the truth.

Though no easy task, there are ways to overcome fears about impending single dom.

**'NO-ONE WILL EVER LOVE ME AGAIN'** This is a very common fear; after all, there was only one person in the world who could ever love you! How to overcome this? You need to start by loving yourself; unless you can genuinely do this, you are less likely to attract people that love you for who you are. Make a list of all your positive attributes and you could even give yourself positive affirmations as you look at yourself in the mirror every morning.

**'I HAVE HAD THE BEST; IT IS DOWNHILL ALL THE WAY NOW'** Is that what you genuinely think? What evidence do you have to prove this? How to overcome this? Rather than looking back through rose-tinted spectacles and nostalgia; look forward to the sort of loving relationship that you would like in the future. Maybe you could even raise the bar to ensure that you find the right relationship in the future.

**'I'M SENTENCED TO A LIFE OF BEING LONELY AND SINGLE'** The only one that might sentence you to that is yourself and your



negative self-talk. How to overcome this? Reflect on what you learned from the last relationship and what you can take with you into the future one. Draw yourself a picture of your ideal future. Get a sense of what that will feel like and what you need to do to get you there.

**'I'M TOO OLD; NO-ONE WILL WANT ME'** The oldest couple to get married in the UK had a combined age of 194 years, so there is probably some hope for you yet! How to overcome this?

Be realistic about your expectations; if you think you will be attractive to someone that is young enough to be your child, think again. Look for a partner that will have had similar life experiences to you and has compatible dreams for your futures.

**'I WILL RUSH INTO A**

**WORSE ONE ON THE REBOUND'** That is an easy mistake to fall into, because all suitable partners are disappearing rapidly! How to

overcome this? Pause, take a breath and start to savour the search. Be very clear about what you want and where you are setting the bar. You might

enjoy the journey even if it will take time to reach the destination

**'IT WILL BE EMBARRASSING; MY FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO'** If your friends and family like and love you, then they will be there to support you in finding a new relationship. They will know that love can be an elusive and difficult journey. How to overcome this? Avoid turning this into a drama where you are the victim and your ex is a truly horrible person. Be positive about what you have learned from the past relationship and be open and honest about what you want in the future. Enlist the help of your friends, family and colleagues to find the right person. They will enjoy the journey too!

**'IT WILL SHOW THAT I AM A FAILURE'** Who is judging you? Is it better to have had the strength to end a bad relationship than clinging on? How to overcome this? Change your perspective from looking backwards to enjoying being in the now and looking forward to a new and better relationship.

**'I WON'T BE ABLE TO HAVE CHILDREN'** Is the biological clock ticking away and is having children vitally important to you?

**How to overcome this?** Focus on being fit, healthy and happy. Then find your ideal partner to support you in that. Switch off that internal clock as it will be a distraction and may lead you to bad decisions.



# EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

## Relationship

# Things to do when your wife is angry

By **ORKAA**

**W**OMEN get angry for a number of reasons, and their husbands may be unaware of these reasons on several occasions.

If your woman is always angry at you, it's imperative that you first identify the underlying causes. Perhaps you said something inappropriate to her in the past, or she has unmet needs, or you did something in the past that has not been resolved. It's possible that any or all of these things will make her angry and depressed toward you.

What can a husband do when his wife is in such an emotional state? What can you do to bring back her happiness? These are the kinds of things we'll talk about in this article.

1. In the absence of an apology, wives tend to hold on to their resentment towards their husbands for longer periods of time. Disagreements in a relationship are inevitable due to the fact that each partner has a different attitude towards and perspective on life. When this happens, it is imperative that both partners put aside their pride and work toward reconciliation. Your partner may hold a grudge against you until you make amends for your actions. Apologizing is among the most effective ways to bring an angry wife back to her senses.

2. When a woman feels enraged, she could say a number of things to communicate her feelings. Despite the fact that some of these things may be harsh, it is still crucial to allow her to vent herself while you stay cool. Choosing to walk away from her instead of listening to her could make things worse. In a nutshell, listening attentively to her problems can assist in soothing her feelings at any time.

3. When your wife is angry at you and expressing her grievances, it's natural to want to protect your ego, but it's best to be quiet and allow her to express her feelings. In order to avoid more crises, it's important to put your pride aside and engage her calmly rather than fight for your ego and refuse to compromise.

4. Make her smile by doing things she enjoys. Her anger will fade quickly once she realizes you're making an honest effort to win her back. When you do the things that she enjoys, give her a special treat or take her to a place she'll find enjoyable, she'll feel appreciated and happy. If you take care of all of this for her, her resentment will dissipate quickly.

5. Don't be harsh with your wife when she's enraged. Don't get irritated by her behavior and decide to retaliate because of her



temperament. Rather, try to understand and accept her behavior. Don't deviate from the pattern of increasing your affection and compassion for her. This can be accomplished by

holding her close and speaking sweetly to her, as well as giving her compliments. As obnoxious as she may be, she still adores and wants you, no matter how many outbursts of rage she may

spout.

6. If you've hurt your wife, don't just apologize; show her that you're working on your character so that this doesn't happen again. Apologizing all the time

isn't enough; you need to deal with it properly and show her that you're sincere about making things right. Making her happy and gaining her confidence will be easy if you follow through on this.



# Reality Bites

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## Youths and unemployment challenges in Nigeria

**T**HE rate of joblessness facing the Nigerian youths is increasingly becoming a cause for concern.

The situation has been blamed to corruption, nepotism, tribalism, poor economy, and other reasons that has not given the youths opportunities to strive.

As this years United Nations' (UN) International Youth Day is celebrated on August 12 to recognize efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society is marked, there is a need for the Nigerian government and key stakeholders to reflect and find solutions to the challenges of youths.

The youth day was chosen to promote ways to engage youths in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities.

Many activities and events that take place around the world on International Youth Day promote the benefits that young people bring into the world. Many countries participate in this global event, which may include youth conferences on issues such as education and employment. Other activities include concerts promoting the world's youth, as well as various sporting events, parades and mobile exhibitions that showcase young people's achievements.

The UN defines the worlds' Youths as the age group between 15 and 24 years old, making up one-sixth of the human population. Many of these young men and women live in developing countries and their numbers are expected to rise steeply. The idea for International Youth Day was proposed in 1991 by young people who were gathered in Vienna, Austria, for the first session of the UN's World Youth Forum. The forum recommended that an International Youth Day be declared, especially for fundraising and promotional purposes, to support the United Nations Youth Fund in partnership with youth organizations.

The rate of joblessness in Nigeria especially among the strong energetic youth population is high and continues to rise as more graduates from universities and tertiary institutions complete their education.

It leaves the nation with agile and active youths that cannot secure jobs to make ends meet or put their intellectual Acumen's to use. This situation has been attributed to be the cause of the increasing crime rate in the country.

More than half of labor force are unemployed or underemployed in Nigeria, Africa's largest economy and it surged to the second highest on a global list of countries monitored by Bloomberg.

The jobless rate in Nigeria rose to 33.3% in the three months through December, according to a report published by National Bureau of Statistics on its website Monday. That's up from 27.1% in the second quarter of 2020, the last period for which the agency released labor-force statistics.

Many Experts have lamented the high unemployment rate in the country saying there is no way Nigeria can develop without its youths actively used to work, put



their inputs and energies to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Among such experts who raised the alarm was the President African Development Bank, AfDB, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina while speaking recently in a lecture titled "Nigeria -

A Country of Many Nations: A Quest for National Integration".

He lamented the high rate of joblessness and how over 40 percent of the youths are unemployed nor gainfully working.

The AfDB President said the worrisome situation had make the youths discouraged, restless, angry. and hopeless compared to other nations where there is a lot of opportunities and hope for their teeming youths.

Many experts say as Nigeria's population continues to grow, projected by the UN to be the world's third most populous country by 2050 with an estimated over 300 Million people, so shall the number of people looking for jobs increase. The number of graduates without jobs is worrisome.

With this scary statistics, Economic Experts advise new strategies and policies that will create jobs to meaningfully and positively engage the most productive population which are the youths.

Observation of Youths Day first started in 1998 a resolution proclaiming August 12 as International Youth Day and was adopted during the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. That recommendation was later endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1999. International Youth Day was first observed in 2000. One of the year's highlights was when eight Latin American and Caribbean youth and youth-related organizations received United Nations World Youth Awards in Panama City, Panama.

Governments, Civil Society Organisations, and other stakeholders can use the day to draw attention to the plight of the Nigerian youths and proffer solutions to bring the nation out of the unemployment time bomb.

Instead of allowing the nations youths to be used as mercenaries for kidnapping, insurgency, crime, terrorism, and other other negative vices, deliberate efforts should be made by governments to employ their services and expertise into Agriculture, economic growth, and national development.

The youth are rated the most active of the population of any country. They are seen as major drivers of the economy. Once their energies are utilised positively and gainfully, the can cause gross development and rise to a nations economy, as such wasting them will not add value to the system.



# EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

### Fruits women should eat often

**W**omen are blessed with a dynamic personality. They are busy in their jobs, managing household, maintaining relationships, and still manage to look gorgeous. They have their tough days too - dealing with mood swings, cramps, energy drains and headaches can be daunting. Moreover, as women age, the nutrition rules change - they get stricter. Some vitamins (like B12, C and D) and minerals (especially iron and calcium) become even more important with time. This all may seem little overwhelming, but there is one simple way to ease things a little: healthy diet. According to a study published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, higher intakes of vitamin C and linoleic acid and lower intakes of fats and carbohydrates are associated with better skin-ageing appearance. The study also



stated that promoting healthy dietary behaviours may have additional health

benefits in women. Therefore, to match the nutritional needs, it becomes important to

maintain healthy eating habits, which may help prevent bone and muscle loss, fend off ailments like

diabetes, breast cancer, and heart-related problems, plus preserve eyesight and protect skin.

#### Cherries

Cherries are known to combat several health problems that are common in middle age like gout and arthritis. Plus, they are a rich source of antioxidant anthocyanin that boosts energy. Eat a dozen cherries or drink a glass of unsweetened juice three or four times a week. Better still; eat fresh cherries with yogurt to ensure absorption of the beneficial vitamins.



improve blood sugar levels and reduces insulin resistance. The high levels of potassium and soluble fibre contribute to the betterment of heart health. It is also known to

reduce the intensity of the pain during menstrual cramps. To improve mental health, eye sight, complexion and metabolism, the consumption of this little fruit can do wonders.

#### Tomatoes

Tomatoes are an excellent source of the antioxidant lycopene. They are known to protect women against the formation and spread of cancer cells, moreover, preventing heart-related disease. According to a study published in the Journal of Nutrition, women consuming greater amounts of lycopene are more likely to look younger. Additionally, higher lycopene intake is also associated with a healthier

dietary pattern. There was another study published in the same journal that stated, tomato product intake has been associated with a reduced risk of several cancer sites, particularly malignancies of the lung and the stomach. To make the most of lycopene antioxidant, consume cooked tomatoes, as it is the most convenient way to benefit from lycopene. You can also opt for juice, puree or sauce (fresh, not sweetened).



#### Guava

Guava provides 228.3 grams of vitamin C in just 100 grams of serving as per the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutrition chart. This tropical fruit is often neglected due to its stiffness and seeds. However, the health benefits offered by this fruit are quite exceptional. Studies have proven that guava helps



#### Apples

Apples are rich in pectin fibre, which is known to help lower the body's absorption of excess dietary fats. This helps you feeling full for longer. "Fibre takes the longest to digest, which helps you keep satiated and prevents you from bingeing on other fattening and sugar-laden foods. In the long run, this aids in weight loss." Moreover, it is believed that including apple in daily diet helps in keeping heart-related issues at bay.

## BUSINESS WORLD

# Cyber security initiatives for securing a country

The book "Cyber Security Initiatives for Securing a Country" which is authored by Professor Isa Ali Ibrahim provides practical approaches to ensuring safer activities on cyberspace, Fom Gyem writes.

**P**ANTAMI who recently emerged the first African Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Information Security, CIISec is Nigeria's Minister of Communication and Digital Economy.

With various activities taking place online on regular basis, one must remain vigilant in this time and age of technological advancements. The world is now considered a small digital village because all information can be found on the internet and to have access to the internet one is prone to the risk of cyber threats.

Scores of people have examined the subject of cybercrime from a variety of perspectives, with most of them approaching it from a different angle than the others. Cybercrimes have advanced past traditional crimes and now pose a threat to the national security of every country, including technologically advanced nations like the United States.

Prof. Pantami provides an in-depth look at cyber security. The book is written for everyone who has access to the internet which is 98 percent of the world population. The book has a total volume of 7 chapters and a total of 78 pages excluding the index. The book has a lot of diagrams and illustrations for easy understanding.

The author states the meaning of cyber security and also the reasons why cybercrime is rampant. He also explained the difference between cybercrime and physical crime. According to him the high dependence on online platforms has increased the level of exposure to cyber threats, which undeniably, is a daily occurrence in our everyday life.

The book also entails a vivid difference between cybercrime and physical crime providing statics illustrated in a bar chart of industrial cyber attacks from 2014-2019. Furthermore, it expands on the different types of cyber threats we have and the economic cost of cybercrime.

The book then discusses how the internet relates to cyber security and how it facilitates both cybercrime and cyber security. It gives a brief history of cyber security and the internet and went further to explain the emergence of the Internet of Things (IoT).



Pantami

Prof. Pantami went ahead to give a brief on his role in leading national cyber security efforts when he served as the Chief Information Technology Officer of Nigeria. He writes about developing a roadmap with cyber security as a pillar when he was appointed as the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of NITDA.

He explained he created a roadmap with seven pillars for NITDA in 2021 which he insisted cyber security must be included and also gave a detailed illustration of the NITDA strategic roadmap and action plan, also he established a department dedicated to cyber security and their objectives are stated in the book. He also went ahead to discuss the policies and initiatives on cyber security as a serving minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

It isn't news anymore that Prof. Pantami is a man of identity. He is someone that wants a functional and registered system that can be accounted for, so every database must be accurate.

One of his first achievements when he resumed office as minister was to ensure all unregistered SIM cards be cut off the system or properly registered under the coordination of the Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC). The book also exposed

the development of the the book.

National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) and the 8 pillars led personally by the author.

As a minister, the author recognized the importance of cyber security response and has implemented it in significant economic areas. The author also wrote about his achievements in establishing emergency communication centres (ECC) and the 112 Toll-Free number to promote cyber security and so many other accomplishments with illustrations were presented in

Prof. Pantami called the attention of the government efforts on citizen data harmonization for enhanced national security and also brought forth his role as the chairman of the technical committee towards securing Nigeria's cyberspace. The government has been able to address some concerns regarding Nigeria's data systems management through the presidential committee constituted by President Buhari.

Following the transfer of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) to his

ministry, Pantami has emphasized the relevance of legal identity. He discusses how the national identification number supports economic and security values and the function of digital identity in cyber security, as well as the National Policy on SIM Card Registration.

He asserts that the revised National Digital Identity policy for SIM Card registration was prepared in response to the new problems that emerged as part of efforts to improve the National Policy on SIM Card Registration. He outlined the steps taken to establish a functioning legal identification system in the nation and noted a few advantages associated with the introduction of NIN.

In order to create a model that can be used to secure the nation, the minister worked hard to combine efforts to produce policies, initiatives, and strategies. He acknowledges that Nigeria's cyberspace has grown stronger. In conclusion, the book offers a straightforward introduction to cyber security and its supporting technology, the internet, making it simple to understand. It also includes distinctive tactics that may be employed by any nation to combat cybercrimes. I have to add that, in the end, this book is highly recommended to both corporate organizations and governments aiming to reduce cybercrime because it contains information on how to set up a structural framework in all areas of endeavours.

**Source: Economic Confidential**

**"The author states the meaning of cyber security and also the reasons why cybercrime is rampant. He also explained the difference between cybercrime and physical crime. According to him the high dependence on online platforms has increased the level of exposure to cyber threats, which undeniably, is a daily occurrence in our everyday life. The book also entails a vivid difference between cybercrime and physical crime providing statics illustrated in a bar chart of industrial cyber attacks from 2014-2019. Furthermore, it expands on the different types of cyber threats we have and the economic cost of cybercrime."**

## BUSINESS WORLD

## \$418 million Paris Club Fee: Malami tackles governors

**N**IGERIA'S Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, recently said that the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF) had no basis to reject the proposed deductions of \$418 million from the Paris Club refund.

Mr Malami told journalists at the State House Ministerial Briefing that the governors originally created the liability whose payment they had also indemnified, therefore all the "noise making that is now being generated arising from the Governors forum" is unjustified.

It was reported earlier in the week that President Muhammadu Buhari directed the Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, to suspend plans to begin the deduction of the \$418 million Paris Club refund allegedly owed the consultants from the federation account.

Sources privy to details of the Executive Council of the Federation's deliberations told this newspaper that the president gave the directive at the FEC meeting of August 3, where the matter was extensively discussed.

Governors of Nigerian states under the umbrella of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) had last week resisted attempts to commence the deduction plan. The governors, in a letter to the federal government, through the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Boss Mustapha, argued that an attempt to restart the deduction process, which is being challenged in the courts and for which the Supreme Court has made a pronouncement, would be unconstitutional.

The letter, signed by the Chairman of the NGF and outgoing governor of Ekiti State, Kayode Fayemi, described the new move as an "attempt by the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Abubakar Malami, and the Minister of Finance (HMF) to circumvent the law and the recent judgement of the Supreme Court by surreptitiously securing the approval of the FEC to effect payment of the sum of \$418 million to four contractors who allegedly executed contracts in respect of the Paris Club refunds to the states and local governments."

Mr Malami argued that his office had not incurred any major judgement since he assumed office, adding that the Paris club deduction controversy precedes his appointment as minister.

He said: "I think you need to be informed first, as to the antecedents, prevailing circumstances and how the liability arose but one thing I'm happy to state, which I want to reiterate having stated same earlier, is the fact that the Office of the Attorney General and the government of President Muhammadu Buhari has not indeed incurred any major judgment debt for the period of seven years it has been on."

"How do I mean? The



Malami

Governor's forum comprising of all the governors sat down (and) commonly agreed on the engagement of consultant to provide certain services for them relating to the recovery of the Paris Club. So, it was the governor's forum under the federal government in the first place that engaged the consultant."

Speaking further, the minister said that when

successes were recorded in the refund process, the governors "collectively and individually presented a request to the federal government for the fund and among the components of the claim presented for the consideration of the federal government was the payment of these consultants that are now constituting the subject of contention."

## Nigeria's rig count stable as OPEC reduces demand

**N**igeria's oil production remained stable in the last three months, albeit low, going by its rig count and production volume, as reported by the latest data from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Besides, the cartel has reduced its global demand growth forecast for this year to 3.1mn b/d, down by 300,000 b/d from its previous-month estimate, given "expectations of a resurgence of Covid-19 restrictions and ongoing political uncertainties" in the second half of 2022.

In its Monthly Oil Market Report (MOMR) the group now sees world oil demand at 100.03mn b/d in 2022. It sees demand growth at 2.7mn b/d

in 2023, unchanged from its previous report.

According to OPEC, Nigeria's production, based on secondary sources, went up marginally to 1.18 million barrels a day (mbpd) in July, from 1.17mbpd in June, just as its rig count remained unchanged at 11 for the two months.

Nigeria's oil production crashed by about 14.94 million barrels in the second quarter of this year, an indication that the country's oil earnings plunged by about N703.76bn, being the worth of the crude that was lost during the review period.

The Federal Government, as well as operators in the oil sector, has repeatedly decried the plunge in Nigeria's oil

production, attributing the decline to acts of vandalism by oil thieves.

Others include the non-restart of shut-in oil wells, ageing facilities, the inability of the national oil company and the many independent companies to replicate the capacity demonstrated by the exiting IOCs.

The foregoing challenges have rendered the government's aspiration of achieving three million barrels per day oil production and 40 billion barrels reserves almost impossible, with the reserve stagnating between 36 and 37 billion barrels for years.

OPEC anticipates demand from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Americas will pick up the most this year, driven by US

third- and fourth-quarter recoveries in appetite for gasoline and diesel.

"Gasoline demand is due for a rebound following a relative drop in retail prices that should support the summer driving season," OPEC said. It expects Chinese oil demand — especially the industrial sector's call on distillates — will improve in the second half of 2022, following hurdles created by Covid-19 restrictions implemented earlier in the year.

The oil cartel is more optimistic on demand growth than the International Energy Agency (IEA), which earlier put its estimate for the year at 2.1mn b/d.

OPEC foresees a "gradual economic recovery" in the second half of the year, assuming no escalation of the

## We spent N75bn on agric, N60bn on SMEs -Jaiz Bank

territory of Islamic banking in Nigeria, the company was able to achieve the feat with the N12bn it started with in 2012.

The MD noted that the bank, which commenced operations with three branches and is classified as a regional branch, has increased to over 45 branches across the federation, adding that it has consistently been growing at about 30 per cent over the last five years.

"For the last two years, we have been consistently paying dividends, though small, it is competitive. During our first dividend, we paid about 800m but from the

second one, each year we have been paying a billion after the AGM, the journey has been satisfying for us, he said.

He said its profit before tax has grown by an average of about 40 per cent over the last four years with its customer base reaching almost a million across all sectors.

"We have just reached ten years and we are going to have our tenth AGM on the 16th and it will be preceded with a dinner to celebrate our reaching 10 years and the milestones that we have achieved, so we are inviting you to grace that occasion and be part of the celebration."



Usman



Sylva

## Nigeria's non-oil revenue among world's lowest - Expert

**A** senior public sector specialist, domestic resource mobilization with the World Bank, Rajul Awasthi, has revealed that between 2015 and 2019, Nigeria's non-oil revenue was among the lowest in the world and as a result the second lowest in spending.

Awasthi who disclosed this at a virtual pre-summit themed 'Critical Tax Reforms for Shared Prosperity' organized by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) during the week, maintained that Nigeria would have no choice but to get rid of the subsidy eventually.

Awasthi said Nigeria is in an

unfavourable economic situation due to dwindling revenue, the continued payment of trillions of naira on fuel subsidy by the government and the attendant economic challenges.

In a slide he shared during his presentation, which showed Nigeria's Development Update (NDU), Awasthi said that between 2015 and 2019, Nigeria's non-oil revenue was among the lowest in the world and as a result the second lowest in spending.

He said that the country's oil revenue was also falling even when oil prices were higher.

"Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa and the largest country in Africa by population, so it is critical to Africa's progress. There is no doubt about that," Awasthi said.

"But the government of Nigeria, from the public finance perspective, is facing an existential threat. Let's not downplay the situation. That is the actual reality."

"Nigeria is 115th out of 115 countries in terms of the average revenue to Gross Domestic Product ratio. Despite the oil prices rising the way they have been, net oil and gas revenues have been coming down because of the tremendous impact of the subsidy."



# ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

## Young entrepreneurs in Nigeria to look out for

**From 18th century's John Hopkins to 20th century's Apple founder Steve Jobs, every generation experienced its share of successful young entrepreneurs in Nigeria. The philosophy behind establishing your own organisation brings out the critics. Nirvi Bee writes**

**B**UT millennials today have followed suit, exploring new ways to serve a greater purpose. As for a culture-rich nation as Nigeria, the success of a young entrepreneur will be the key to nation's transformation in the new millennium.

Thus in the view of instilling a culture of nation-building and leadership dynamics, we are celebrating the nuances of young entrepreneurship in Nigeria, who inspired us and many. Our team at peopleHum is especially delighted to announce the successful young entrepreneurs in Nigeria. (in no particular order) "Be strategic. Know your network is limitless, and contact whomever you desire to reach; but always make sure you have some value to offer them."

Maya Horgan Famodu is the founder of Ingressive, an organisation that aids companies expand into Africa. Horgan has also established a non-profit setup for her firm - Ingressive for Good, which provides micro-scholarships, tech training and talent placement for African youth.

In conversation with Guardian, she speaks about nothing being more important than one's "ability to do through numbers, experience, expertise (and) intelligence." She further advises on developing the entrepreneurship value and adds, "Always lead with numbers and the tangible value you offer."

Tiwalola Olanubi is the founder of Dotts Media House, one of Africa's leading digital marketing agencies. Being enthusiastic about youth development and entrepreneurship, he quotes "The best thing that can happen to any entrepreneur is to start chasing their dreams as early as possible. My advice is to start early as soon as that idea gets into your mind."

Tiwalola is a part of numerous CSR projects such as Leap Africa's Youth Day of Service and among others. He is also the founder of Zarafet Loaves, a Lagos-based bread bakery, and Trendupp Africa.

Florence Chikezie is a strategy consultant, coach, trainer, author, and investor. She is the founder and CEO of ReDahlia International Limited, a trusted business that offers free investment informations for client spanned across the globe. Florence believes the solution to the economic problems faced by Nigeria and other countries in the world lies in the confines of entrepreneurship.

"The game plan has always been to pass on the knowledge and ensure that business owners do business the right way."

Gossy Ukanwoke is the founder of Beni American University, the first digital university of Nigeria. An education-driven



entrepreneur, he founded an online forum named as Students Circle Network which has wide database of academic resources, allowing interaction over educational resources for young learners.

"Education is about teaching people how to make a living, and teaching people how to live; how to interact with others, how to lead their lives and make something out of themselves. With education comes discipline and we need a lot of discipline in Nigeria as well."

Ukanwoke has further worked with African governments on strategic developments to assist in creating better access, quality and relevance of learning in higher education institutions.

Bidemi Zakariyau Akande is the founder and CEO of LSF|PR, one of the fastest growing PR agencies in Nigeria. Guided by values and principles, Bidemi spoke about an entrepreneur's tendency to be naturally "pulled in different direction, losing focus of (their) core values."

In this regards, she adds, "It's important to be guided by principles and operate by those principles." Her organisation LSF|PR is a recipient of a certificate of excellence by the SABRE Awards (2018) — the worlds biggest PR awards programme, dedicated to benchmarking the best PR work across the globe.

"It's ok to start small and scale as you grow. You don't necessarily have to wait for when you have all the funds you need."

Fred Oyetayo is the founder of Fresible, a digital agency in

Nigeria with expertise in web development, branding, and digital marketing.

He has earned a B.L Degree from the Nigerian Law School in 2015 and an LL.M Degree in 2018. Oyetayo is also the curator of Law Repository, a platform of engagement and value orientation for Nigerian law students, lawyers and paralegals.

"One of the first things I realised in life is self-awareness. If you want to connect the dots, you must know your purpose."

Chika Madubuko is the founder of Greymate Care, an AI-driven caregiving platform. An online platform that connects the vulnerable to a professional caregiver, an idea arose from Madubuko's personal challenges that she faced when looking for a care-giver for her grandmother.

Finding the greatest purpose out of her education, she describes how her course MSc Biotechnology from the University of Hertfordshire "enabled (her) to push herself and provide a comprehensive and practical approach to the industry she wanted to pursue a career in."

She has now based her service offering around providing trained professionals to care for vulnerable family members.

Uche Pedro is the founder and CEO of BellaNaija, a media company known for creation of content in the lifestyle and entertainment domain. She earned a degree as the Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Being passionate about her nurturing the youth of her

community, she founded the #BNDoGood, an initiative that supports numerous non-profit organisations such as LEAP Africa, Slum2School, Django Girls, among other.

"Cut out the noise, focus on doing the right thing, making an impact on opening doors for others to come"

Obinna Okwodu was the co-founder of Fibre, a Nigeria-based company helping users find rental accommodation by reducing the entry barriers to renting property in the country. The Fibre model reduces the time and costs to find rental accommodation from 200 days to a week.

Previously working at Morgan & Stanley as an Investment Banking Analyst, Obinna has graduated as a Bachelor in Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

When asked for an advice to young entrepreneurs, Obinna notes, "Don't make assumptions, ask questions. Test the market before going into it."

Silas Adekunle is the co-founder and CEO of R.I. a data platform for industrial automation and IOT. He is graduated as an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Technology from the University of the West of England, Bristol.

"Coming up with an idea, presenting it to people and getting them to say "yeah we believe in this" was nothing but entrepreneurship."

Silas is also co-founder and CEO of Awarri, a company focused on enabling robotics and AI in Africa, starting with education.

Chinedu Azodoh is co-founder and CGO at MAX, a technology company building the infrastructure for last-mile mobility in Africa. Along with his fellow cofounders, Chinedu established Metro Africa Xpress, a motorbike ride-hailing and delivery service popularly known as MAX.ng. The smartphone and web-based platform is much like Uber, Lyft, and other ride-sharing companies.

"Most cycle taxi drivers made about \$80 a month when we started MAX.ng. Within two and a half years, every driver on our platform was making \$600 a month. That's what we're doing in Nigeria—developing social systems and social infrastructure."

Azodoh explains how they set goals with an aim to create an affordable, accessible, and more secure mobility infrastructure for the African continent.

Read more on one of the most technologically and economically advanced countries in the African sub-continent: Top HR trends in South Africa 2021.

Awa k. Ndukwe is a brand strategist, business development consultant and content writer.

"Branding is about making a promise and keeping the promise consistently over a given period of time. It was about my team, it was about building a perception and positioning."

Having started his career as a Health And Safety Coordinator, Ndukwe graduated as Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Lagos. He also co-founded Youth Up, a platform that offers necessary tools, knowledge and awareness needed to empower the youth.

Ifeadi Anigbogu is a HR leader, keynote speaker, and mostly a management consultant. She is a true example of transforming the role of an HR Strategist to build unique people management practices.

As a business coach, Ifeadi focuses on the big picture, collaborating with the HR department and consulting with the leadership team to make sure everyone is pulling in the same direction.

"We should remain the students of life. Keep learning. Be open to change. Face the world with a mindset of possibility."

Interestingly, Africa has the highest entrepreneurship rate in the world by 22%, as per the African Development Bank. In order to successfully navigate the future of organisational cultures, the journey has to start as early as possible, with those who exhibit entrepreneurial traits or an interest in entrepreneurship. These disruptions, opening the floodgates for Future of Work, are inevitable. It's all about being prepared for it, and young entrepreneurs hold the key.

**Courtesy: PeopleHum**



## 'God will make things beautiful at His time'

Continued from page 18



My hope is in God, He has blessed me with a lot of visions to bring change and to build His kingdom on earth. I know He never starts anything without finishing it. I know He is working and I have faith in the future He has already predestined for me.

### What shows have you performed and what are your experiences?

I've performed in quite a lot of shows which I don't really keep them in mind; but the unforgettable one was Gospel Music Africa Reality TV competition which took place 2019 at Owerri, Nigeria.

I was privileged to be among those who



represented Nigeria and the only Rapper in the House after several auditions. I emerged among the first ten housemates. Even though I was evicted at the second to the last stage, I went home fulfilled. My experience there was Heavenly. My last performance brought tears to one of the judges, I was surprised that with a lot of excellent singers from across Africa, my song was what brought tears to a judge when we all know that singing does that. That day; God showed me the power of Rap and what He can use it to do.

The second most unforgettable performance was my Album lunch, CARRY YOUR CROSS; the mixtape on the 5th of April, 2021. I used stage drama to exhibit my rap songs and I was amazed how older women could connect to my music. I was surprised to hear that a lot of them cried when I was performing a song about the crisis in Jos, infact, God used this two events to open my eyes on how to go about my craft, He made me understood why I studied Theater Arts.

### Do you have any music icon, and which one will you love to collaborate with?

This is a big one, well well well, my music Icons are King David and Solomon in the Bible, Bob Marley, KRS-ONE, Damian Marley, Sevin, Da Truth, J Cole, Lecrae.

For collaborations, I will choose Damian Marley, Lecrae and J Cole.

### Do you have any appeal for help?

Sure, I do. I believe everyone needs help. I have two pressing visions.

The first one is have a live recording studio in a facility that we can use to disciple creative drug addicts, cultists and little children. We've found out that most of the drug addicts are creative, especially rappers.

Secondly, is to build a total theatre where there will be a weekly drama, dance and music to promote peace, unity and love in the community. And also a place of worship through music and prayers.

### What do you have for your fans?

Hmm, I always say I don't have fans but fam, lol.

My message for them is to believe in God, cast their cares on Him, follow and obey Him, work hard in all they find their selves doing and keep praying for themselves and me also. I love them so much! God bless all my fans.

## Top Hollywood Actress in 2022

Continued from page 18



### Scarlett Johanson

Of course, we know of the charming Black Widow from the MCU and her iconic action roles in movies such as Ghost in the Shell, Marriage Story, Jojo Rabbit, and many more.

One of the most eminent actresses in Hollywood, Scar has garnered numerous accolades and has been nominated for two Academy Awards.

Surprisingly both her Oscar nominations came in 2019.

Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in Marriage Story and Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Jojo Rabbit.

This goes to show how good Johansson is even when she's not working on the green screen.

Fun fact, Scarlett Johansson is the highest-grossing actress of all time and also the highest-paid actress in the world.



### Zoe Saldana

The ever-humble Zoe Saldana has to be one of the finest actresses in Hollywood today.

Although she started her career in theater, we can't picture the status of the science fiction genre of Hollywood today without her.

Remember Neytiri, the blue human-like creature from 2009's Avatar?

As if that was not enough to propel Zoe to global stardom, she also got her hands on the role of Star Lord's love interest Gamora in the MCU.

And since then, she's appeared in a plethora of Sci-fi movies, from Star Trek Film Series to the most recent The Adam Project.

Zoe just can't seem to lay off the sci-fi dose, and we just can't name sci-fi movies without mentioning her.



### Margot Robbie

This Sheila from the down under needs no introduction.

She has a pair of Academy Award nominations and a list of highlights that includes Wolf of Wall Street, I Tonya, Bombshell, and most recently The Suicide Squad, among many many others.

Perhaps her most iconic role is the live-action adaptation of Harley Quinn, which many say that she was born to play.

In dedication to her role as Harley Quinn, Robbie had to learn to hold her breath for five minutes underwater and excessive roller-skating.



### Emily Blunt

Is there any role that this marvelous actress can't pull off?

Emily Blunt started her stage career in her early teen performing in The Royal Family in 2001.

Her breakthrough came in 2006 with the comedy-drama film 'The Devil Wears the Prada.'

And since then, from rom coms to science fiction to post-apocalyptic horror, Emily Blunt has been doing it all.

The British actress actually made headlines with husband John Krasinski for her role as a survivalist mother in 'A Quiet Place.'

She also received critical acclaim for her role in thriller films such as Sicario and The Girl on Train.

One might even recognize her starring alongside Tom Cruise in the science fiction film Edge of Tomorrow.

And most recently, she brought the iconic nanny Mary Poppins back to the big screen playing the titular character in Mary Poppins Returns.

SUNDAY FEATURE

# General Irabor parleys with media executives.

*The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Lucky Irabor, has confirmed the arrest of 4 of the architects of the terrorists' attack on St Francis Catholic Church, Owo, Ondo State on 5 June 2022. He made the confirmation during the second CDS' parley with media executives and editors, which took place at the Defence Headquarters (DHQ), Abuja on Tuesday 9 August 2022. DORCAS PANKYES writes.*

THE parley was organized by the Directorate of Defence Information in collaboration with The Media Today (TMT) International. The CDS said that, through the collaborative efforts of military and DSS personnel, 4 amongst the terrorists who carried out the attack on the Owo Catholic Church were arrested at Eika, Okehi LGA, Kogi State on 1 August 2022.

Those arrested included Idris Abdul malik Omeiza (a.k.a Bin Malik), Momoh Otohu Abubakar, Aliyu Yusuf Itopa and Auwal Ishaq Onimisi. The Defence Chief said, preliminary investigation revealed that Idris Abdul malik Omeiza was the mastermind of the terror attack on the Owo Catholic Church as well as the attack on a Police Station in Adavi LGA, Kogi State on 23 June 2022, during which a policeman was killed and weapons carted away.

The Defence Chief also mentioned the arrest of another terrorist, Idris Ojo (32 years), who was apprehended at Ayetoro Osi, Ondo State through the combined effort of military and DSS personnel on 7 August 2022. Idris Ojo, the CDS said, was one of the suspected ISWAP terrorists who escaped from the Kuje Medium Correctional Centre highlighted on 5 July 2022.

The CDS also mentioned that Ojo was arrested alongside Jimoh Ibrahim (39 years), a sympathizer of the



Irabor

terrorist group, who accommodated him. The CDS further revealed that the arrest of Idris Ojo was crucial as he, along with others, was already planning terrorists' attacks against some selected targets, in order to create fear amongst the citizenry aimed at discrediting the government.

Gen Irabor also confirmed the death of a bandit leader, Alhaji Abdul kareem, who was killed alongside his fighters on 6 August 2022 during air operations in the

North West region.

Whilst mentioning the unfortunate terrorists' attacks on Kaduna Abuja Train Service, Owo Catholic Church, Kuje Medium Correctional Centre and the presidential advance convoy, the CDS assured the media chiefs that the military, Nigeria Police, DSS and other security agencies were collaborating in many fronts, working day and night to keep the country safe.

He appreciated Nigerians of goodwill, in understanding what military operations were like and what the responsibilities of Nigeria Police, DSS and other security agencies were and what they were doing in ensuring that every one of us, within our geographical space, lived in peace and harmony.

The CDS used the opportunity to solicit the cooperation of the larger society, saying that, "what the criminals (terrorists) amongst us want to do is to stoke fear and to promote it to such a level that every one of us will not even want to leave our houses. This is the

strategy, which if we do not take time, will become part and parcel of our daily lives".

Gen Irabor said the media gatekeepers had a responsibility "in educating the society to understand that, never again should we allow agents of destabilization to stoke fear amongst us, that together we will crush the elements that do not want us to leave in peace".

The CDS therefore, urged the media executives and editors to remain partners in progress in ensuring that their media were insulated from being used by terrorists to unintentionally fuel fear in the minds of Nigerians. Gen Irabor also expressed the commitment of the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) in guaranteeing a secure and peaceful 2023 general elections during the parley.

He remarked that, "members of the Armed Forces have a covenant with the democratic process that the covenant deposition is that the military would create conditions for free, safe and secure conduct of the 2023 general elections".

The CDS further explained that, all the operational engagements of the AFN have been tailored towards ensuring that the nation's democratic process was not only nurtured but also made to remain solid.

He urged all stakeholders that would be involved in politicking to take actions that are focused and geared towards moving the democratic process forward.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), The Media Today International, Barrister Charles Odenigbo, in his opening remarks, commended the AFN for the operational successes recorded in the various theatres of operations in recent times.

He said the second CDS parley was planned in the spirit of openness, to elicit a practical and robust review of media reportage of defense and security sector over the intervening period since the first CDS parley.

This, he said was aimed at

evaluating the contributions of mainstream and online media towards assisting the military and security agencies in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria. Barr Odenigbo urged the media to continue to work with the military in the task of national security and nation building.

In his welcome address, the Director Defense Information (DDI), Major General Jimmy Akpor, recounted that the first edition of the CDS parley with media executives and editors, which held in January this year, was mooted by the current CDS, Gen Irabor. According to him, the parley was in line with the leadership philosophy of the CDS, "to foster professional Armed Forces capable of effectively meeting constitutional imperatives.

The DDI further described the CDS' parley as a welcome development that would build sustainable trust and confidence between the AFN and the media, particularly as it concerned the conduct of military operations and engagements.

Highpoint of the occasion was a presentation on "Media Analysis/Review of the Defense/Security Sector in Nigeria," delivered by the CEO PR Nigeria, Mr. Yushau Shuaib. The CDS Gen Irabor was also honored by the Centre for Crisis Communication during the event. The President, Nigeria Guild of Editors, gave the vote of thanks at the event.

**"The CDS therefore, urged the media executives and editors to remain partners in progress in ensuring that their media were insulated from being used by terrorists to unintentionally fuel fear in the minds of Nigerians. Gen Irabor also expressed the commitment of the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) in guaranteeing a secure and peaceful 2023 general elections during the parley."**

**Change of Name**

**NENKANG**

I, formerly known as **NENKANG BULUS PAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NENKANG HOSEA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**DANJUMA**

I, formerly known as **DANJUMA MWANTEP**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DANJUMA MWANTEP BACHI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

## NEWS

# Lalong consults stakeholders on rebuilding Jos Main Market

By PALANG KASMI

**I**n order to clear some misrepresentations concerning the reconstruction of the burnt Jos 'Terminus Market' awarded to Jaiz Bank, Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has held consultations with stakeholders.

The stakeholders' consultation meeting was convened by the Governor Saturday, August 6, 2022 to sensitize the citizens of the state and get their input into the process of carrying out the project.

Among stakeholders at the meeting were representatives of religious, tribal, civil society, women, youth and social groups including politicians, labour unions, professional bodies, businessmen and women and traditional.

Governor Lalong while addressing the participants said the stakeholder's engagement was a deliberate effort by the government to educate and sensitize the people on the proposal for rebuilding the market and also dispel the misinformation, rumours and misconceptions over the project which has generated needless controversy.

Lalong explained that rebuilding the Jos Main Market is part of the fulfillment of his campaign promise to restore the lost glory of Jos which relied so much on the iconic market. The market was renowned as the best in West Africa and attracted traders, tourists and visitors from within and outside the country until it was burnt down over 20 years.

He said the government made several efforts to rebuild the market by advertising and engaging many investors within and outside the country. However, they who insisted that they wanted a bank guarantee from the government, as well as an absolute control of the market for as long as it takes for them to recover their investment. Therefore such unfavourable proposals and demands of the investors and high interest rates of the investors was rejected.

He said Government could not meet those conditions and continued looking for investors until Jaiz Bank came up with a proposal to fund the construction of the market 100% with their money with the state giving only the land as their equity.

He said "Thereafter, a sharing formula of the shops for the purpose of sale in the ratio of 60-40 will be used under which the bank will recover its funds and leave. The bank will have no business in running the market and will not own any shop".

"However, those who buy the shops will be issued a 40-year lease by the government for them to utilise the shops and recoup their money after which the ownership reverts to the government. All the while, the market will be managed by the Jos Main Market Authority (JMMA) as it is the property of government", he said.

The Governor therefore debunked the misinformation being peddled by politicians that the Government was handing over the heritage of the state to an Islamic bank for 40 years, describing it as false and a calculated attempt to truncate the laudable initiative.

According to him, his administration has the record of recovering sold assets of the state such as the BARC Farms and Jos International Breweries (JIB) and will not in any way contemplate to sell the Jos Main Market to anyone.

While assuring that more consultations will be carried out, the Governor appealed to the stakeholders, particularly



Lalong

leaders of religious, traditional, ethnic, professional and other groups to play their role of educating the people to see the benefits of rebuilding the market whose absence has made the

once beautiful centre of Jos, a slum and eyesore.

Secretary to the Government of the state, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, who presented the report of earlier engagements with the stakeholders including

traders, religious leaders, elders, civil societies, tribal, party leaders, professional bodies, women groups, physically challenged, traditional institutions, among others said similar projects were executed in other states by Jaiz Bank who are only financiers of the project.

He said during the engagements, the stakeholders called for proper education and enlightenment on some of the misconceptions that have been making rounds in the social media and other media spaces.

In his contribution, former Military Administrator of Plateau State Admiral Samuel Bitrus Atukum under whose regime the market was completed and commissioned by then Military Head of State, Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, advocated for sustained consultations and enlightenment.

Member representing Pankshin, Kanke, Kanam Federal Constituency, Yusuf Gagdi said the misconceptions and controversy that greeted the news of rebuilding the market was not necessary because some political undertones have been brought into the discourse and seemed to overshadow the good intentions of the governor.

He said since the shops in the market will not be sold to Jaiz Bank but to all interested citizens of Plateau State under

a strict supervision of an Allocation Committee, there is no reason for apprehension because the funding bank has done similar projects in many states with huge success.

Chairman Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Plateau State, Rev. Fr. Polycarp Lubo and the representative of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) Sani Mudi also called for consultations to be carried out to make citizens understand the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Former Managing Director of the Federal Housing Authority Architect P.D. Gyang who spoke on behalf of Plateau elders and Hon. Ayuba Burki speaking for people living with disabilities wondered why the issue that is strictly business is being associated with religion and ethnicity, whereas traders of different faiths always do business together in the market.

At the end of the deliberations, the stakeholders agreed that consultations should be carried out up to the grassroots which led to the Governor mandating members of the Plateau State House of Assembly to go and hold Town Hall Meetings within their constituencies within one

week and report their resolutions to Government.

Leaders of the interest groups were also tasked to reach out to their members with updates and clarification on the issues, while government said it is open to fresh suggestions concerning the MOU.

The Governor also used the opportunity to speak about his appointment as the Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, assuring the people that his appointment is not a minus but a plus to Plateau State especially within the ruling party.

He explained that contrary to some views that his appointment is about religion and an attempt to ridicule Christians and the North Central, some people who are shouting on top of their voices never supported Christian aspirants during the primaries and also sidelined the North Central and prospective nominees for the Vice President from the zone and Plateau State because of selfishness.

He assured the people that he will do his best in the assignment given to him as a loyal member but will always protect and safeguard the interest of the people of Plateau State wherever he finds himself.

## UNICEF hails Kebbi for signing child right law

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**U**NICEF has congratulated the Kebbi State Government on signing into Law, the State's Child Rights Bill passed by the State House of Assembly, calling on the State government to allocate and release adequate resources as well as put in place mechanisms for full implementation of the law to grant children the rights enshrined in it.

The Kebbi State Child Protection Bill was signed into law by the State Governor, Senator Abubakar Bagudu at the weekly Executive Council meeting at the Council Chambers of Government House, Birnin Kebbi, recently.

Gov. Bagudu also signed into law, the Prohibition of Violence Against Individuals bill during the weekly Executive Council meeting.

"We congratulate the government and people of Kebbi State on this momentous achievement. By providing legislation that protects the rights of its children, Kebbi State has taken the right decision to provide its children the

enabling environment to thrive and reach their full potential," said Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Representative in Nigeria.

"Putting in place this law is good but just the first step. The Kebbi State Government must take the next important step by putting in place structures and allocating resources for its full implementation. UNICEF urges that the law be gazetted without delay," added Hawkins.

"On its part, UNICEF will continue to collaborate with the Kebbi State Government on interventions that contribute to the fulfillment of the rights of children, including the implementation of the Kebbi State Child Rights Law. UNICEF calls on the States that are yet to domesticate the Nigeria Child Rights Act to do so without any further delay," said Hawkins.

In 2003, Nigeria's National Assembly enacted the Child Rights Act (CRA), which derives from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to which Nigeria is a signatory; and all of Nigeria's 36 States are

expected to domesticate the law. Not all states in Nigeria have domesticated the law, however by signing the Child Rights bill into law, Kebbi State has joined the group of states which have a legislative framework through the domestication of the Nigeria Child Rights

Act. Thirty-one (31) states have so far enacted the state equivalents of the Child Rights Act. Five states are yet to domesticate the law: They include Adamwa, Bauchi, Gombe, Kano and Zamfara.

To contribute to the

fulfilment of children's rights in Nigeria, UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, has been supporting government at the state and federal levels to put in place laws and policies which address child rights issues, and the Kebbi State Child Protection Law is one of the results of such efforts.

## Breastfeeding: Low rates cause millions childhood diseases

From MATHEW JWANTU, Minna

**I**NADEQUATE and low rates of breastfeeding cause over 10 million avoidable cases of childhood diarrhoea and pneumonia and leads to more than 100,000 child deaths - which translates into almost 18 billion naira in future economic losses for the country.

Breastfeeding benefits the country by adding lower health care costs, increased educational attainment and, ultimately, boost



Ehanire

productivity. Chinwe Ezeife, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, Kaduna Field Office made the submission at the Launch of Niger State Zero Water Exclusive Breastfeeding Campaign held at Justice Legbo Kutigi Conference Hall, Minna, Niger State.

This according to her, resulted from a study on the cost of not breastfeeding in Nigeria, conducted by the Federal Ministry of Health, 'Alive

and Thrive and UNICEF recently.

She explained that despite the compelling evidence that breastfeeding contributes substantially to improved child survival and development, Nigeria still has among the world's highest child mortality rates and stunting prevalence as well as some of the lowest rates of many recommended infant and young child feeding (IYCF) indicators.

## EFCC nab 18 suspected yahoo boys in Lokoja

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**E**CONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has arrested 18 suspected 'Yahoo-Yahoo Boys' operating in Lokoja, the Kogi state capital.

The arrest was effected by operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Command Office of the commission when they busted the hideouts of the suspected internet fraudsters in Lokoja.

According to a statement by the Media Unit of the Command, it was the second of such operations in the state within the last two months.

The operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Command, which

covers Kwara, Ekiti and Kogi states, had recently in June 2022 arrested 19 suspected fraudsters at different locations in Lokoja.

The latest arrest, which was made on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, followed actionable intelligence and hours of surveillance by the anti-graft operatives to smoke out the suspected fraudsters of their hideouts.

Among the suspects are two siblings, Bala Caleb Abdulkarim and Ayuba Bala.

Others are Adebayo Olubunmi, Yusuf Salawu, Victor Yakubu, Victor Udeh, Abutu Francis, Moses Akeji, Aiyegbe ThankGod, and Einiola Adeniji.

Also arrested were Abraham Ayodele, Julius

Omowale, Samuel Onojah, Saka Usman Ojo, Isaac Emmanuel, Yusuf Mohammed, Ibrahim Musa and Omaonu Ojochenemi Victor.

Preliminary investigations showed that the suspects operate as a syndicate to scam unsuspecting victims.

The suspected 'Yahoo-Yahoo boys', who had incriminating items in their possession, including five different brands of exotic cars, phones and laptops, have volunteered useful statements to the Commission and would be charged to court upon the conclusion of the ongoing investigations, the statement added.

NEWS

# PPC GM hails NUJ Chapel

By JIDAUNA DARING

**G**ENERAL Manager, Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), Publishes of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** and **SUNDAY STANDARD** newspapers Jos, Dr. Boniface Gwotbit has showered accolades on the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), PPC chapel over the recent peaceful conduct of election.

Dr. Gwotbit gave the accolade while receiving in audience the newly elected executive council (Exco) on a courtesy call in his office in Jos, last Tuesday.

He also congratulated the new Exco over their victories and told them that every office given goes with responsibility. He urged them to carry all their members along, so as to move the chapel and the entire organization forward.

Dr. Gwotbit said that the management has good working relationship with all the unions of the corporation. He stated that they have equally been working as a family. He then assured the new Exco of the management's continued support.

He pointed out that the management's doors are widely open for staff to bring



Gwotbit

any good suggestions that would bring improvement to the organization, urging staff to shun rumours that are baseless.

Earlier in his remarks, the newly elected chairman, NUJ, PPC Chapel, Mr. Israel Lar expressed delight and said that they were at the GM's office to fraternize themselves

with the management as well as to officially introduce the newly elected Exco of the chapel to them.

Mr. Lar stated that the Exco was working towards changing the editorial department with some new initiatives. He assured the management of unflinching support at all times.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**K**OGI State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC has paraded three suspected oil vandals arrested along Lokoja/Okene highway.

Parading the suspects at the state Command Headquarters, the Public Relation Officer, CSC Alex Agiri said, the arrest was made possible by the Commandant General Tactical Team set up to patrol and arrest suspected vandals of the nation's critical infrastructure.

The suspects; Mohammed Yusuf, who is the driver of the truck, Mohammed Idris and Usman Siaka who are motor boys were handed over to the Kogi State Commandant, John Kayode Oyinloye represented by the State PRO for further interrogation and prosecution.

According to the PRO, the truck was loaded with 40,000 litres of the products suspected to be black oil without legal waybill from Warri heading to Kano with truck registration number

# NSCDC parades illegal oil transporter



Bello

Plateau BUU,592 ZL before the arrest.

He warned other criminally minded individuals or groups to desist from sabotaging the Federal Government's efforts aimed at revamping the economy and protecting the nation's critical infrastructure. He pointed out that the Command was poised to carry out its constitutional duties of arresting and prosecuting anyone caught.

CSC Agiri restated the

CG's unwavering commitment to the protection of lives, property and critical infrastructure as enshrined in the constitution.

Speaking on behalf of the suspected vandals, the driver of the truck, Mohammed Yusuf, said the products were loaded from KoKo in Delta State from a container and that they were not aware that the waybill given was not genuine.

# IGP opens Gombe security, peace summit

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

**T**HE Inspector General of Police, Usman Baba Alkali, has opened the first ever Gombe State Peace and Security Summit with the launch of 28 operational vehicles for the newly formed 'Operation Hattara' Task Force.

The three-day Peace and Security Summit is an initiative of the Gombe State government with the aim of providing an opportunity for a carefully selected cohort of experts, security personnel, government officials and other strategic stakeholders and community leaders to brainstorm on security issues.

They are also expected to aggregate and explore pressing internal security issues with a view to identifying new security and community pathways of mitigating them for lasting peace and stability according to Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya.

The Summit had as theme; Mitigating Contemporary Security Challenges for sustainable Socioeconomic

Development which Governor Inuwa expressed conviction that the participants in the summit will be able to chart a new direction for mitigating internal security not only in Gombe State but in the country as a whole.

This, according to him, was because of the calibre of resource persons invited, the security personnel and strategic stakeholders participating in the summit.

Inuwa explained that "although the present security situation in the country is generally precarious, Gombe State is relatively secure and peaceful".

He stressed further that, "for instance, if we take a look at the Nigeria Security Tracker published monthly by Eons Intelligence (A reputable Risk and Security Consulting Organisation), Gombe State has recorded the least incidences of killings, kidnapping and other violent crimes during the first quarter of this year (2022) - thanks to the combined efforts of

our security agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

"However, it is imperative to note that Gombe State is not immuned and insulated from happenings in other parts of the country. We have our own share of local security threats fuelled by political thuggery, youth restlessness and unemployment which led to the emergence of the notorious Kalare group.

"The proliferation of local militia groups therefore calls for a proactive approach in dealing with these emerging threats and applying local strategies for tackling them", he said.

He stated further that through proactive measures, his administration was able to contain the menace of political thuggery and youth restlessness to the barest minimum.

He said this was as a result of the combined efforts of the political class, security agencies, community, religious and traditional institutions. Thus, preventing it from metamorphosing into another criminal group.

In his address before launching the security operational vehicles named "Operation Hattara", the Police IG, Usman Baba Alkali, said the Gombe State Security and Peace summit was coming at a crucial time when the Nigeria Police Force was working towards deepening the engagement of the concept of community partnership, technology-driven policing, and intelligence-based model in mitigating the current internal security challenges in the country.

He said, "This policing strategy seeks to address security challenges through an active citizen's engagement in identification, analysis, and mitigation of threats. And to actualize it, the communities and strategic stakeholders have critical roles to play".

While appreciating the Governor for convening the Summit, the IGP said, at the end of the three-day summit, it is expected that all issues of security importance will be extensively discussed and effective strategies to address them identified.

# Centre decries FCT owners marginalisation

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**R**ESOURCE Center for Human Rights and Civic Education (CHRICED), has decried the continuous marginalisation of the original inhabitants of the Federal Capital Territory FCT, stating they have been left to live in regret.

The Executive Director CHRICED, Dr. Ibrahim Zikirullahi, made this known at an event organised in collaboration with MacArthur Foundation on Saturday, with the theme, 'Building Resilience, Fostering Recovery: FCT Original Inhabitants and the Struggle for Social Justice,' in Abuja.

Zikirullahi faulted the government for making life painful for those who sacrificed to give Nigeria its center of unity. He pointed out that they are left in despair, adding that the deprivation the FCT original inhabitant are subjected to do not connect to the supposedly beautiful city center.

He said, "the ancestral land of the original inhabitants where they grow their crops, farming, fishing, and their lives were taken away from them with little or no compensation, with nobody listening to them. And the government when all kinds of necessary laws that they have right to forcefully take over their land.

"Today they are just like orphans. They have no place. They are homeless, they are landless, they are stateless, and these are issues we are putting nationally for everybody to listen to, because there is hardly any tribe in this country today that will say they do not have presence in Abuja. And if we want to have peace, there is need for us to address the problem facing the original inhabitants.

"The Constitution states the government has authority to take

over land for public use, but not for them to confiscate and sell for billions of naira for hotels and the rest. If we are in a working system, where justice works, the original inhabitants ought to be collecting rent, in all these lands that have been given away.

Executive Director, Environmental Rights Action, Barrister Chima Williams noted that the fight of the FCT original inhabitant is inadvert as this is a fight to access the essential amenities every government should provide.

Chima reiterated that, "the taking over of the lands of the original inhabitants have affected their economic life and this also affects the social aspect. This leads to depression and consequently death for some.

"What type of resettlement do you think will be enough for people who have lived their lives on their own term. This is forced displacement."

On his part, the Former AMAC Chairman, Abdullahi Candido called for the urgent need to resolve the issues of the original inhabitants as, if nothing is done today, it may lead to an escalation in the future.

"If you do not solve this problem and you think you are enjoying, you will not like the outcome tomorrow, as the young ones coming up may not be peaceful as the present.

"The FCT people are seriously demoralized. We are empty. We feel we don't belong.

"The problems are socio political and cultural for us. But of course our political situation is such a bad one that no Nigerian is even ready to listen. And our fear is that if you don't listen to these challenges today and get them resolved tomorrow, we



Alkali

NEWS

# Parents are to be blamed for children's

By JIDAUNA DARING

PARENTS have been blamed for contributing to the vice indulged by their children by providing them with expensive phones, even when their age bracket do not require such.

This was the opinion of Mrs Jennifer Yarima, the Features Editor of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**.

Yarima stated this in her capacity as a Guest Speaker when she presented a paper titled "The Effects of Social Media on Students Academic Performance" during the Speech and Prize Giving Day of Salvation Army International Academy Jos, Plateau State, held at the school hall, last Wednesday.

She appreciated the organizers of the event, the school hierarchy and stakeholders for finding her worthy to do justice to the above mentioned paper presentation. She added that such occasion also enables them to evaluate with sober reflection the kind of values they were able to impact on the lives of their loved ones.

Mrs. Yarima pointed out that the social media provides people with an ample opportunity to interact with one another and also provides a suitable platform not only for learning but to equally exchange ideas and other forms of expression.

She explained that the transformation of the social media can be seen in the way and manner the younger generation, particularly children have embraced it for their usage. Adding that this advancement has been further fueled by human determination and impulse to communicate through advanced digital technology.

The guest speaker encouraged parents to continue having interest in the future of their children, especially now that these younger ones have continued to face several distractions in the society. She noted that one of the major problems confronting children as they journey through the path of the educational career have been these little distractions and peer pressure.

Mrs. Yarima while speaking on the disadvantage of the social media disclosed that it's a platform for socialization that destroys the good moral values in most children and even adults. She pointed out that parents and teachers need to advice appropriately. She pointed out the students who spend much time on social media can suffer from poor sleep, eye fatigue which can disrupt effective learning.

She then congratulated, students, teachers who have given their best to make what these children are today and also the parents for doing the needful which has led to the graduation of the wonderful set of students they were celebrating.

Earlier in his remarks, principal of the school, Mr. Emmanuel Mathew expressed delight and thanked God for



Yarima

making the event a huge success. He said that the academy has placed great emphasizes on developing good practical, moral and sound principles that would guide the students in making decisions and striking a balance between work and leisure.

Mr. Mathew commended the entire staff both teaching and non-teaching for the good work that they are doing in the school. He further explained that the school has also made a lot of efforts to inspire the students with a desire for self-improvement and achievement of excellence.

Also in a message to the graduants, Assistant Superintendent, Stephen Ezenduka told the graduants to maintain all their good dreams on what ever they want to become in their future studies. He also advised parents to support their children's good dreams so as

NATIONAL Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Kogi State Command has said that they have arrested 4 suspects and seized 456.8 kg of illicit drugs in four days.

The NDLEA's Commander in Kogi State, Abdulkadir Abdullahi-Fakai, disclosed this on Tuesday in Lokoja.

"The 456.8kg illicit drugs including Exol-5, Codeine, and Cannabis Sativa were seized between July 30 and August 3, within the jurisdiction of Kogi.

"Out of the 456.8 kg drugs seized, 229.8 kg is Cannabis Sativa, 190 kg is Codeine and 20.6 kg is Exol-5, all of which were intercepted by crack intelligence officers and forwarded to our head office in Abuja.

"The four suspects arrested will soon be

to make it a reality.

**SUNDAY STADARD** reports that the occasion featured, song presentation, drama presentation, debate, launching of magazine, presentation of gifts, Best Academy Students Award, presentation of staff gifts, and peace club presentation of

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A Philanthropist and President of Enemona Josh Humanitarian Foundation, Gabriel Onoja has lauded the commitment of Kogi Deputy Governor, Chief Edward Onoja to empower the youths and the less privileged in the state.

Gabriel Onoja also called on the well to do Nigerians to emulate the exemplary passion of the Deputy Governor in uplifting the living conditions of the future leaders and the down throdden across the country.

The Philanthropist gave the charge while speaking at the 48th Birthday Day of the Deputy Governor, held in Lokoja on Wednesday.

"Your youths mentorship drive is great and impactful here in Kogi having used your position to attract and placed a good number of them in leadership positions," he said.

The president said the foundation, "is today joining millions of Nigerians especially Kogi residents to celebrate with your 48th Birthday on this Earth."

Onoja, who prayed for the Deputy Governor to enjoy God's divine Health, protection and blessings as he moves on with life, enjoined him to remain God fearing in all his endeavours.

He said that, posterity will be kind to the celebrant for the purposeful roles played at complimenting to the new direction of Gov Yahaya Bello's led administration.

## Philanthropist commends Deputy Governor's assion for youth empowerment

"It's our hope that at 48, God will renew your capacity, expertise and competence to dedicate your service to humanity with courage, dexterity, simplistic-but dogged disposition to provision of good leadership as deputy governor of the state.

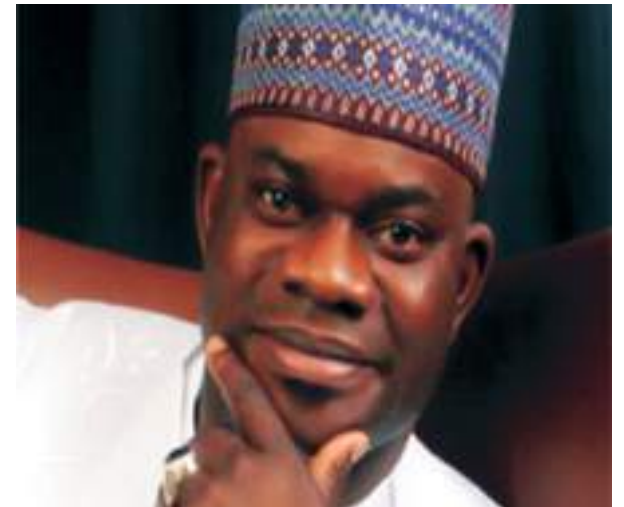
"We know you as a detribalised Nigerian, patriot, democrat and a devoted Christian, whose contributions to the development of Kogi remained unequal and historic," he said.

The president further described the Deputy Governor as an "influential personality" whose youthfulness, political and

leadership style has made him a rallying point for youths in Kogi State and beyond.

While wishing him a blissful and spirit filled birthday celebration, Onoja said "at 48, you are still energetic and has the requisite capacity and competences to perfectly carry out delegated responsibilities and state assignments for growth and development of Kogi.

While wishing him a blissful and spirit filled birthday celebration, Onoja said "at 48, you are still energetic and has the requisite capacity and competences to perfectly carry out delegated responsibilities and state assignments for growth and development of Kogi.



Bello

## Insane man killed over kidnapping diabolically

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A 55-year insane man was burnt to ashes by unruly angered group in Okene over accusation of abducting children through diabolic means.

It was gathered that the mob paraded the man on the streets at Okengwe axis of Okene Local Government area before burning him to ashes. Eye witness account, said the group tied the man's two hands and beat him seriously

before dragging him to Okengwe where he was set ablaze.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Okene Local Government Area of Kogi State, Abdulrazaq Muhammad has ordered the arrest of masterminds of the killing of a man with mental disorder.

In a press statement by the Council Chairman made available to Our Correspondent on Tuesday, described the masterminds as criminals who took the laws

into their hands without allowing law enforcement agencies to handle the situation.

According to the statement, the chairman has directed security agencies to carry out investigation on the unfortunate incident while the District head of Okengwe, some ward heads and community leaders were

invited to make statements for their negligence of responsibilities. "However, preliminary

investigations indicate that the information that led to the murder of the man was fake.

"Those behind the jungle justice will be arrested and made to face the full wrath of the law.

"Youths of Okene Local Government and the general public are hereby cautioned on the spread of fake news.

Residents are also advised to verify every security information and report same to government for appropriate action.

## NDLEA seizes 456.8 kg of illicit drugs in Kogi

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

charged to court for prosecution in accordance with the laws of the land,"

he said.

He expressed satisfaction with the synergy between the NDLEA and other

security agencies.

The commander said that the police had handed over 229.8kg of Cannabis Sativa and a suspect to the

agency.

He also acknowledged the Kogi State government's support.



Representative of Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State, Hon. Yakubu Dati, Commissioner of Lands, Survey and Town Planning in a group Photograph with Our Lady of Fatima Sisters Generet, Pankshin, LGA after presenting an 18 seater Toyota Hiace for mission work at Government House Rayfield, Jos recently

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



## Food security: Farmers resort to human urine

Continued from page 10

fertilizer, where the criminals were in the habit of purchasing Urea in large quantity for the production of improvised explosives.

However, another mix bag of factors have been attributed to the Russia – Ukraine war. But then, the fertilizer availability and affordability issue has always been a vexed discourse with the government still taken the bulk of the blame especially with what some critics say are the failures and missteps by policy makers to address the main issues at stake coupled with endemic corruption in the system.

Others also lay blame at the door steps of those institutions that are supposed to take action but have either been compromised or have left the farmers at the mercy of fraudulent businessmen who are making money at the expense of

these poor farmers.

SUNDAY STANDARD also gathered, that the farming communities are at a cross road wondering where the solution will come from as average farmers appear tinged with helplessness over their sorry condition with their source of livelihood completely threatened. While the harsh economic realities bite harder, the center of their uncertainty over the continued surge in prices of fertilizer which grew up to about 30 percent at the beginning of the year after the 80 percent increase of the previous year. This has contributed in change of plans and search for alternatives such as the use of human feces and urine to boost their crops.

According to a commentator, Mr Abachi Ungbo, "Our food supply chain is activated by the production activities of small

scale farmers that are scattered across the country who hardly get appropriate reward for their busting activities after spending unstintingly for the inputs they deploy.

"We now have a huge crisis in our hands with the soaring price of fertilizer. It means higher production cost will ultimately be transferred to all of us in the prices of food. And by implication, food prices will continue to make an exorable upward trajectory in the face of asphyxiating economic crunch."

Recent research by economic experts have also shown that, about 80 percent of household's income is spent on food which may have informed the mass appeal to farming in order to counter the proportionate expenditure.

Meanwhile, most agricultural experts have agreed that most Nigerian farmers are making use

of human urine as an organic fertilizer available for use. But they are also of the view that the potency of the human urine though not yet ascertained by empirical research, but has gained global acceptability.

The human urine is rich in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and the minerals and nutrients also found in chemical fertilizers are also available in Urea. The organic compound in urine is considered rich and environment friendly and can be used to improve farming activities across the country.

Madam Angelina Gwom, a resident of Rantya, Jos was however not happy with the trend of using human fists for agricultural purposes saying; "I don't subscribe to such practices in our present economic challenges. The phobia of knowing that what one is eating contains some organic materials like human feces can be disturbing. Perhaps such is the reason we are having all kinds of diseases in our communities. Let the government do something about it."

Similarly, Thomas Tukop, a retired Police officer shared his views with SUNDAY STANDARD, wondering why the government cannot encourage the use of manure as was the old practice rather than allowing people to eat indirectly from human urine in the name of fertilizer.

But Abachi Ungbo in his comment said; "Here in Africa, I was pleased to see what an entrepreneur in Uganda is doing with urine which has attracted

global attention. Researchers in Niger Republic and their counterpart from Europe have been working on human urine to fertilize crops and the soil. So far, it has been a roaring success.

"In fact, Swedish researchers are trying techniques of drying up urine into chunks then into powder then pellets that will fit into farming equipment. The idea of human urine as far as fertilizer isn't novel. Historians have described it as a valuable commodity and used extensively by different civilizations in the past.

The Romans are known to have deployed urine for a multiplicity of uses that included fertilizer so much that it became a source of tax. The government researchers need to turn their attention towards alternative sources of cheaper and environment friendly fertilizers to our farmers bearing in mind the impact of the prohibitive cost of the input on food production, soaring food prices isn't just about food security challenges but also about national security," Ungbo noted.

However, as the nation's farmers test run the use of human urine and other cheaper means of farming, most Nigerians expect food on the table for their families and any method that can provide respite may not be a problem. Rather, what is instructive is how every opportunity can best be optimized for the benefit of national food security and survival.

“**The Romans are known to have deployed urine for a multiplicity of uses that included fertilizer so much that it became a source of tax. The government researchers need to turn their attention towards alternative sources of cheaper and environment friendly fertilizers to our farmers bearing in mind the impact of the prohibitive cost of the input on food production, soaring food prices isn't just about food security challenges but also about national security.” Ungbo noted. However, as the nation's farmers test run the use of human urine and other cheaper means of farming, most Nigerians expect food on the table for their families and any method that can provide respite may not be a problem. Rather, what is instructive is how every opportunity can best be optimized for the benefit of national food security and survival.**

“

# METRO-FOCUS

## Body piercing, another dangerous fashion trending

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

**B**ODY piercing, nostril and ear piercing were often considered the most widespread fashion that represented many historical traditions, cultures and religions across the world.

Piercing of tongue and lip were popularly known in American and African tribal cultures. Different cultures incorporated nipple and genital piercing into their tribal practices, including ancient Rome and ancient India.

Today, body piercing has evolved from a behaviour which was considered extreme to an accepted choice among the general population.

Again, piercing is another form of body art, of body modification. A piercing artist uses a needle to puncture holes into the body. Then insert piece of jewelry into these holes.

This fashion has transited into fashion that setting new fashion trends with it around the globe. People get piercing on their tongues, lips, belly buttons, and even on their genitals.

METRO FOCUS observed that many young men and women are involved in this kind of fashion without knowing the health risk or challenges involved.

Everyday people get pierced alterations to their bodies for different reasons but mostly for pure aesthetics. Getting pierced comes with pain, whether it's a minor or extreme piercing on any part of the body. Although, the pain threshold varies according to the type and place of piercing.

However, piercing carries the risk of having an infection because a piercing is an open wound. Wounds on the body easily develop infections when exposed to germs and not properly cleaned. The same happens to piercings when exposed to germs and not carefully treated.

Apparently, infections to a piercing can develop pus, grow swellings, foul smell and constant bleeding. The Aftermath of piercing can also cause redness and severe pain to the surrounding areas of the pierced body part depending on the piercing.

Meanwhile, skin conditions like keloid scars and itching could also occur as a result of the reaction to the type of earring or product used to clean the pierced part of the body.

However, all of these factors associated to body piercing, cause great discomfort to the body and could leave a permanent scar on the pierced body area.

Nonetheless, there are some risks of infections as a result of piercing any part of the body as allergic reactions, bleeding, and damage to nerves or teeth. Infections may be caused by hepatitis, HIV, tetanus, bacteria, and yeast. Although infection may still occur, the risk of infection can be lowered if you take good care of your piercing



and if the piercer washes his/her hands, uses gloves, and sterilizes equipment.

It was suggested by medical experts that extra patience and intense care are required to make a piercing healing process smooth.

An average time duration for the healing process of different body piercings includes; Ear Piercing Healing duration, Couch 6-12 months, Tash rook- 6 -12 months, Tragus 6-12 months, Antitragus 9 -12 months, Daith 9 -12 months, Orbital 6 -12 months Helix 6 -12 months, Forward helix 6-12 months, Low helix 4-6 months, Industrial 9-

12 months, Lobe 2-3 months  
**Body piercing healing duration,** Genital 4-6 months, Nipple 9 - 1 2months, Navel - 9-12 months, Dermal 4 -6 month.

**Facial Piercing healing duration,** Tongue 4-6 months, Lip 4- 6 months, Nose 6- 12 months, Septum- 4 - 6 months, etc.

According to body modification professionals, the healing process of a piercing is faster when there is enough blood supply to the pierced area and more flesh than bone. These areas have more antigens that come together to heal wounds on the body when there is an

opening.

The area would feel tender and appear swollen. Discharge is likely to emit from the piercing but over time, it reduces and dries up. Depending on the type of body and pierced area, the healing process has a varied time frame. To this end, body piercing is a

big decision and one should consider before embarking on a journey that would harm your one's life.

Medical experts have advised that proper care should be taken before piercing any part of the body, because the disadvantages are more than the advantages.



# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## LALONG, SULE AND OTHERS AT FUNERAL SERVICE OF AREN EGGON

*Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State, APC National Chairman, Sen. Abdullahi Adamu and others recently attended the funeral service in honour of Aren Eggon, HRH Bala Angbazo at ECWA, Nasarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State*



**L - R: Sen. Abdullahi Adamu, APC National Chairman putting heads together with Governors Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State and Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State**



**A cross section of Royal fathers, flanked by family members of the deceased**



**Governor Lalong (left) exchanging greetings with officiating clergies**



**L - R: Governor A. A. Sule, Sen. Solomon Ewuga and Governor S. B. Lalong at the funeral service**



**Engr. Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State and Barr. Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State condoling one of the children of the deceased monarch**



**Governor Simon Bako Lalong (left) one time Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State, Prof. Onje Gye-Wado**



**A cross section of children of the Royal father**



**Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong going through pages of the programme**



# Road Runner

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SAFER TOGETHER

## Resistance to learning from experience

IT has been established over time that we are not very good at learning from experience. Most drivers involved in a crash do not accept that they contribute to it. The danger here is that if you think you did not contribute in causing a crash, you are most likely to repeat the same mistake. This is because you are likely to think that you have nothing to learn from. With such mindset, your driving technique, together with any faults that contributed to the crash, will remain unchanged.

To become a better driver, we have to recognize the resistance in ourselves to accepting responsibility and take steps to overcome it. The first step is to recognize that we all have resistance to learning. Once we have learnt to do something routinely, we are very reluctant to alter that routine, even in the face of obvious evidence that it does not work.

**Every near miss and narrow escape from a crash needs to be seen as an opportunity to re-evaluate and improve our driving techniques.**

An ability to be self-critical and learn from experience is one of the key attributes of a good driver. Again, there are other positive and negative attitudes that influence driving skill.

### What makes a good driver?

Good drivers have a quiet efficacy in their actions and this derives from:

- A good level of attention
- Accurate observation
- Matching the vehicle's speed and direction to the situation
- Awareness of the risk inherent in particular road and traffic situations
- Acting to reduce identified risks to a minimum
- Awareness of their own limitations and those of the vehicle and the roads
- Skillful use of vehicle controls.

It is not simply the speed of your reactions that determines whether you are a safe driver but your ability to identify and respond to hazards. Ability to respond quickly to simple stimuli such as noise and light does not in itself reduce risks of road traffic crash. Young,

inexperienced drivers typically have very fast reactions to simple stimuli but have slow reactions to traffic hazards.

The ability to detect hazards is learnt like any other skill and depends partly on experience. More experienced drivers develop a sensitivity to the early indications of possible trouble. When risks arise, older and more experienced drivers monitor them at a subconscious level in readiness for quick response if the situation develops into a dangerous and life-threatening one. Because they are more aware of potential danger, they are more alert while driving and this helps to sustain their concentrations.

### How attitude affects good driving

How would you describe your attitude to:

- Other road users?
- Speed?
- Risk taking?

Studies have shown that drivers' attitudes to other road users, speed and risk taking are a good guide to their likelihood of having a crash.

### Attitudes to other road users

Good driving depends on constructive attitudes and consideration for other road users. There is already a great deal of potential conflict on the roads without adding to it by selfish levels of other drivers and increases the risk of crashes. Many drivers become unnecessarily angry when other road users interrupt their progress. You can reduce the risk of crashes for yourself and everyone else by being more tolerant and avoiding actions which create unnecessary stress.

### Attitude to speed

The speed at which you drive is one of the most important factors in determining your risk of having a crash. The faster you go, the less chance you have of taking avoiding actions and the greater your risk of having a crash. Speed is largely a matter of choice- the occasions when it is absolutely necessary to drive fast are fairly limited, good driving requires driving at a speed that is safe for the conditions.



## NEWS

### I am not running for any election

By PALANG KASMI

- Dariye

FORMER Governor of Plateau State, Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye has disclosed that he is not nursing a political ambition.

He said it had become necessary to clear the air, based on various media reports that had claimed he is planning to run for a position in the Senate.

Dariye stated this during a visit to his Maitama home by a high powered delegation led by the State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong over his recent release from prison after being granted Presidential Pardon alongside former Governor of Taraba State, Rev. Jolly Nyame.

Governor, Lalong was accompanied on the visit by his wife, Mrs. Regina Lalong, National Assembly members as well as members of the State Executive Council.

Dariye expressed gratitude to God for being alive and for making his release possible by using Governor Lalong and President Buhari to grant his release.

He debunked insinuations and rumours going round that he is running for Senate, describing it as unfounded and untrue. He pointed out that he has not purchased any form.

He said "I was there and I heard that I am running for Senate and I asked where?"

"I am not running for Senate. I am not running for any election", he said.

He narrated his ordeal in prison and said it was a difficult moment but God saw him through and made him survive.

He advised politicians in Plateau to unite and rally round the Governor in promoting the interest of the citizens saying governance is an opportunity for those in charge to do their best and leave posterity to judge their efforts as no one can finish the business of Government in a



Dariye day.

Lalong told Governor Dariye that the entire State received the news of his release with joy because they have been praying for him since his travails and incarceration happened.

He said so much prayer and appeal was made towards the pardon granted to him. And thankfully, the President was magnanimous to grant the pardon.

The Governor while appreciating President Muhammadu Buhari for giving Dariye another opportunity, said this is the time for Chief Dariye to reflect and forgive people that may have offended him as has been his practice during previous challenges.

He prayed God to continue to give him sound health even as he offers advise to the state while making available his vast knowledge for the good of the people.

Thereafter, the delegation visited the residence of former along played towards his

pardon and release.

Taraba State Governor, Rev. Jolly Nyame who also expressed deep appreciation for the role that Governor Simon Lalong played towards his pardon and release.

Nyame said he was highly encouraged by the love and care shown towards him and Dariye, saying the experience of the past will be put behind so that they forge forward.

Governor Lalong while congratulating him over his freedom said the entire people of Taraba and Plateau States are excited about their release because they share historical ties that have bonded them together over many years.

While urging Rev. Nyame to also forgive anyone that might have offended him in the course of his ordeal, Lalong said the act of forgiveness brings total healing and freedom.

Prayers were offered for good health, protection and safety of the two former governors.

### Bauchi NUJ swears in new exco

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Bauchi State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) recently inaugurated four new executive members into the State Working Committee (SWC) of the council following vacant positions created as a result of transfer of members outside the state or shift of positions.

The Chairman of the by elections committee, Mahmood Ibn Yakubu, of NTA Bauchi and state chairman of SWAN said at the inauguration that only four vacant seats were created and contested for where all returned unopposed in the exercise. These were positions of vice chairman, treasurer, financial secretary and auditor respectively.

He pointed over that those who indicated interest in the positions are Ahmed Kaigama, from News Agency of Nigeria, NAN as Vice Chairman, Danjuma Sarki Sale from BRC as Treasurer, Salisu Bala Halliru from BATV as Financial Secretary and Ismail Isyaka Wunti from Globe FM Radio Nigeria as Auditor.

Yakubu explained that the four contestants having satisfied all the elections requirements were elected and returned un-opposed.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Bauchi State NUJ chairman, Comrade Umar Saidu commended the committee for a job well done and a well-coordinated hitch free and peaceful elections.

Comrade Sa'idu used the occasion to once again urge Bauchi state governor, Bala Mohammed, to give approval for employment of casual workers in the state owned media houses to replace those retired.

Sa'idu reiterated the commitment of the Bauchi State council of the union in holding its regular congresses, disclosing that the next congress meeting of the union would hold in the next couple of days.

While performing the swearing-in of the new executive members, NUJ

National President, Chris Isiguzo, ably represented by the National Secretary, North East "Zone E", Alh Sulaiman Baba Gimba congratulated the new members on their new posts, and urged them to work hard in their new assignments.

Alhaji Sulaiman Gimba advised the new exco to use their wealth of experiences by putting keen interest towards uplifting and upgrading the state council of the Bauchi NUJ and the nation at large.

Gimba commended the State Chairman and other executive members of the council for making a historic milestone achievement in the state.

Speaking on behalf of the newly inaugurated members, Ahmed Kaigama of News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), appreciate Almighty Allah for witnessing the day, and assured of a new vigour, style from his colleagues toward bringing new changes in running the affairs of the council in the interest of all members in the state.

NEWS

**Buhari approves chairman CORBON appointment**

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**P**RESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has approved the appointment of Bldr. Samson Ameh Opaluwah as the Chairman of the Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBON)

The appointment took effect following his inauguration in Abuja, as presided over by the Honorable Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola.

Opaluwah was until his appointment, the Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Nigerian Institute of Facilities Engineering and Management, a division of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE).

He is the Group Chief Executive Officer of Khariz Group, Abuja, a group of companies involved in Projects implementation Consultancy, Building/Civil Engineering Construction, Entrepreneurship Development, Property and Facilities Management and Agribusiness.

He has also served in the capacity of the Director of Public Procurement in the Federal Ministry of Works, Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Police Affairs prior to his retirement from the Federal Civil Service on 1st October, 2014.

Prior to his retirement, he was Deputy Director, Sports Facilities & Stadia Development in the National Sports Commission and the pioneer Director of Maintenance at the National Hospital, the Presidency, Abuja.

He graduated from Ahmadu Bello University, where he bagged a First Class Honors in Engineering in 1978, followed by Leeds University, UK, where he was awarded a Masters of Science Degree (MSc



Buhari

(Engineering) in 1983.

He contributed immensely to the enthronement of an efficient management culture in Nigeria especially in the Federal Capital City, and has published two books on the practice of Facility Management in Nigeria for which he was awarded a Doctorate Degree by St Clements University, Turks and Caicos Island.

He is also the Charter President of the Abuja Chapter of the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) and currently the Chairman Board of Trustees of the Nigerian Institute of Facilities Engineering & Management - a division of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE). He was at one time a visiting Lecturer of postgraduate students in Facility Management at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

He has over forty years postgraduate and cognate experience in Facilities Management, Maintenance

Management, Projects Management and Public Procurement.

He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Building, Fellow, Nigerian Society of Engineers, Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Management, Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers; Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Highways and Transportation Engineers; Fellow, Institute of Construction Industry Arbitrators; Fellow, Nigerian Institution of Facilities Engineering and Management; Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Administrative Management of Nigeria; Fellow, Occupational Safety and Health Association (UK); Fellow, Institute of Management Consultants and Fellow, Nigerian Association of Technological Engineers.

His current professional focus is developing home-grown solutions to the housing deficit in Nigeria, strategic facilities management of infrastructure projects, public procurement capacity building and the upskilling of artisans in the

**E**XECUTIVE Chairman of Karu Local Government Council, Hon James Thoma has expressed his satisfaction with the contribution of all the security agents operating in the Council.

The Chairman made this statement when he received in audience, the Vigilante Group of Nigeria, Nasarawa State Command led by its O.C., Commander El-Uzman Adamu in his office on Friday.

He said " Security is everybody's business, and the issue of security is very important to us VGN are one a voluntary organization that handle security from the grassroots.

We hold you in high esteem, our modest efforts to tackle the lawlessness in our area is the reason we imposed night curfew which will be effective from Thursday 11th August, 2022." He concluded

They came on a courtesy

**Chairman satisfied with Karu security agents' contribution**

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

visit to thank the Executive Chairman for the donation of Hilux Van to the Karu LGACOMMAND of VGN to ease their movement.

He congratulated GajereDanlami and AbdullahiMaiwada who were appointed Zonal Commander and Local Government Commander respectively, recently.



Sule

**Gombe advised to address security challenges**

WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

**G**OMBE State government has been strongly advised not to remain complacent because of the relative peace enjoyed in the state.

It has therefore been called to address by the nipping in the bud the challenges of cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom, political thuggery, gang violence and communal disputes before they escalate to constitute significant security threats.

The call was contained in a 22-point communiqué issued at the end of a three day first Gombe State Peace and Security Summit held at the Banquet Hall of the Gombe Government House from 8th to 11th August, 2022.

Participants at the summit included representatives of all security agents in the state as well as stakeholders which comprised religious, traditional and community leaders/rulers and various organizations in the state they brainstormed on security issues affecting Gombe.

They advised that for the relative peace enjoyed in the State to be improved upon, the State Government under Alhaji Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya must apply a proactive approach in addressing what could escalate to major security threats.

The summit noted that, "while the present security situation in the state is relatively stable and calm, there are sporadic events of real security concern which needed to be nipped in the bud

before they escalate to constitute significant security threats.

"These challenges include cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom, political thuggery gang violence, communal disputes and conflicts", the communiqué stressed.

The summit equally commended the foresight of the Inuwa administration for convening what it described as an important summit at this crucial moment of Nigeria's history.

The summit resolved that the various initiatives of the state government such as the establishment of the citizenship and Leadership Training Centre, Boltongo, the creation of GOSTEC, are timely and commendable steps that could help further strengthen the current security arrangements in the state.

In particular, the summit applauded the government's zero tolerance approach to the issue of political thuggery and other social vices perpetrated by the dreaded Yan Kalare thugs, which culminated into the launching of the security initiative code named "Operation Hattara", at the commencement of the summit.

It called on the operation to take advantage of the findings and resolutions of the summit especially in terms of compliance with law and order.

The summit applauded the functional cooperation and collaboration between the state government and all federal security agencies in the state while recommending that this cordial relationship needs to be maintained, deepened and strengthened.

The summit had in attendance, the Inspector General of Police, Usman Baba Alkali who gave the keynote address of the summit and later launched 28 operational vehicles for the 'Operation Hattara'

**Minister directs RMRDC on revenue generation**

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**M**INISTER of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. Adeleke Olorunmbe Mamora has directed the Governing Board of Raw Materials Research and Development Council to ensure that raw materials are transformed to finished and revenue generating products.

Dr. Adeleke said this during the inauguration of the Governing Board of Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC) recently in his office in Abuja.

The Minister called on the members of the board to be grateful to Mr. President, Muhammadu Buhari, for choosing them out of millions of Nigerians and appealed to them to work assiduously towards industrialization and meaningful progress of the country.

He noted that meaningful progress cannot be achieved in the absence of peace, unity and collaboration in any organisation and enjoined them to work as a team in order to achieve the national

progressive goal.

He further said that the board should use its wealth of experience to lift the agency to greater height, adding that potentials remains potentials until translated into useful product.

The Minister warned that the Board should not interfere with daily administration of the organization, rather it should make policies that can drive the growth of the agency.

Dr. Adeleke then encouraged the board members to work with "5Cs principles" which are collaboration, communication, cooperation, coordination and cordiality to contribute its quota towards the development and growth of the country.

Earlier, the Minister of State for Science, Technology and Innovation (FMSTI) Chief Henry Ikoh in his remarks, said that board members are selected based on track records as Nigeria is moving from resource to knowledge based economy.

He assured them that FMSTI will always encourage them and work with (RMRDC) for meaningful progress.

Speaking, the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mrs Monilola Udoh assured the members of the ministry's readiness to ensure success of the organization.

To this end, the Chairman of the Governing Board, Hon. Isa SadiqAcida, in his acceptance address said that the Governing Board considers today a golden opportunity for its members to make a mark in economic development of Nigeria.

He further stated that Raw Materials, Research and Development Council is an important catalyst in bringing about speedy growth and development in the country through its mandate of development and utilization of Nigerian industrial raw materials.

He also reiterated that raw materials and development will make a greater impact on the nation's economy by ensuring

that more resources are harnessed to build our industrial and agricultural

sectors which will improve our balance of payment in international trade and raise the living standard of Nigerians.



Mamora

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Sterling would meet Chelsea fan that abused him

**R**AHEEM Sterling has said he would have no issue meeting the Chelsea fan who was handed a lifetime ban for racially abusing him in 2018, saying he has "no hatred or malice towards the individual." The incident occurred during an encounter between Chelsea and Manchester City at Stamford Bridge in which the away side won 2-0, however the game was overshadowed by events off the pitch.



**Sterling**

**Goal** said that, the England international now plies his club trade for the Blues after completing a summer move from Manchester City.

The club handed a lifetime ban to one individual and sanctioned five others, however no criminal charges were brought due to a lack of evidence to suggest the language used was racially motivated.

Sterling took to Instagram after the match to challenge the reporting of young black and white players, and commented on the incident saying he laughed because he "don't expect no better."

Sterling, who completed a £47.5 million (\$58m) transfer from Manchester City to Chelsea in July, has suggested that he would be prepared to meet the individual in question saying to *The Sun*: "That's something that I could do right here, right now or tomorrow. That's not an issue."

He explained how he believed the incident opened his eyes to what else he could achieve besides football. He said: "I think that conversation opened the door for me personally in the sense it made me understand what my true purpose is other than football."

"Of course, football is my main goal and my main talent, but it's the other thing that gives me the most joy. That's helping people. So from that incident, I've moved away from the racial

side of it and am focused more on helping and nurturing young black people."

Quizzed on whether he had given any thought to the incident in question before opting to make a move to west London, the England international forward said: "No, that's the first time I've actually even remembered it."

"It wasn't a thing that played on my mind at all."

"I can't let an incident from individuals change my perception of the club."

## Burnley sign Nigeria prospect from Southampton

**E**FL Championship side Burnley have confirmed the signing of Nathan Tella on loan from Premier League side Southampton.

**Goal** said that, the midfielder

has joined Vincent Kompany's Clarets for the 2022-23 campaign.

Tella, who is eligible to represent Nigeria at international level, began his senior career with the

**L**IVERPOOL attacker Harvey Elliott has revealed how Egypt captain Mohamed Salah is playing a vital role in helping his development as a player and taking his game to the next level.

**Goal** said that, recently the teenager signed a long-term deal with the Reds after playing a vital role in helping the club perform arguably well last season.

The 19-year-old recently extended his stay at the club after signing a new long-term deal. The new contract was a reward for the 22 senior appearances made last season, as the Reds won the League and FA Cups.

When asked who has been influential on his Anfield career, the youngster was quick to explain how the Pharaohs attacker and captain Jordan Henderson have impacted him.

"To be honest, all of them have done it. They have all helped me along the way. But I think I would say more Salah and the skip, to be fair - Hendo," Elliott told the club's [website](#)

## 'Salah give me things to work on'



**Salah**

"Just because I have been playing on that right side now, it is more kind of in their positions and around their playing qualities. So, for me, it is the two who have helped me out and brought me aside and said you need to do this, or you can try this."

"Especially Mo, he is always giving me different things to work on. He is

always telling me to follow him in training or follow him in the gym so he can help me out along the way and stuff. I mean, everyone, as I said, has done it in the journey so far and they're all willing to help whoever."

The 2022/23 campaign has already started and the teenager believes it is another opportunity to show his worth.

"I think [this feels like the biggest season of my life]. I think for myself, personally, I have a lot to prove and the team has a lot to prove," Elliott continued.

"Last season, unfortunately, we didn't win the Prem or the Champions League. We were so close to doing it, it was unfortunate for us, but I think for the team and myself it's a big season."

"It's always going to be a big season. No matter where you go in your football career a season is going to have a lot of ups and downs and a lot of pressure."

"It's just down to you whether you can handle it and make sure you perform under this pressure, especially at Liverpool."

The English youngster further insisted it is a privilege to play for the club and will go the extra mile to show how much wearing the Reds jersey means to him.

"It's such a big club, there are world-class players around the team so there's no room for slacking or not performing to the best of your abilities, so there's always that in the back of my mind," he added.

"At the same time, it's always a pleasure and it's always a dream of mine to play for Liverpool so that's why I'm always trying to give 110 percent and always trying to go that extra mile just to give to the fans [and] show how much Liverpool means to me and how much I care about this team."

## World Cup 2022: Tournament will start one day early



**Qatar's opening Group A game against Ecuador was originally scheduled for Monday, 21 November at the Al Bayt Stadium**

**T**HE World Cup will start a day earlier than planned on Sunday, 20 November with hosts Qatar facing Ecuador.

**BBC SPORT** said that, the game was due to be played on 21 November as the third game, with Senegal against the Netherlands set to be the opening match earlier that day.

However, the administrative arm of world governing body Fifa submitted a proposal to

move the Qatar game. Kick-off will be at 16:00 BST and means the tradition of the hosts or holders starting the tournament continues.

The proposal followed discussions with Qatar and their opponents Ecuador, after receiving a request from the South American confederation Conmebol.

The change will not affect the release dates for players,

and Senegal against the Netherlands will now be at 16:00 on the Monday, given only three games will be played instead of four.

England's Group B match with Iran, which is being played at 13:00 on 21 November, is unaffected, as is Wales' opening match against the United States of America at 19:00 on the same date.

Saints after his youth career at Arsenal.

During the 2021-22 campaign, he featured in 14 Premier League matches for the St. Mary's Stadium outfit - with 10 of them in the starting XI.

Article continues below  
New Season, New Goals: Victor Osimhen begins new Serie A season

The Nigeria striker is expected to lead the line for Napoli when they take on Verona in matchday 1.

Nevertheless, he will continue his professional career at Turf Moor under the supervision of manager Vincent Kompany.

"Burnley Football Club are delighted to announce the loan signing of Southampton winger Nathan Tella," a [statement from the Burnley website read](#).

"The 23-year-old joins the Clarets on a season-long loan from the Premier League side and is eligible to play at Vicarage Road on Friday evening against Watford."

"The Lambeth-born youngster, who will wear the number 23 shirt at Turf Moor, now has 40 senior appearances for the Saints in all competitions, with 33 Premier League outings."

[In his first interview at Burnley](#), the 23-year-old said he was attracted to playing for the English second-tier side after speaking with Manchester City legend Kompany.

"I see this as a Premier League Club. Getting relegated last

season, I know the ambition will be to go straight back up and I want to play part in a team that gets back to the Premier League," he told the club website.

"Speaking to the manager, he's told me the game plan and what he thinks about the season as well as how he thinks I'll fit into the team. It's been nothing but positivity."

"The phone call I had with him really sold the Club to me. He really told me how he rates me as a player and as a person, speaking about how he thinks I'll get plenty of opportunities here as well as working one-to-one being tough and critical with me."

"That's something I felt like I needed so it's a very big factor in the move and a reason as to why I came here."

"Once the opportunity arose for me to come here, this is where my head has been at [since]. I've been wanting to play football consistently for a while now, and now the opportunity has come up here, it's one I'm just happy to have."

"I want to play consistently and show people what I can do. I spoke to my family and friends about it, and they all assured me that it's the right decision."

With this move, Tella becomes the second African at Burnley after Congo's Samuel Bastien.



**Burnley**

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## La Liga: Can Barcelona wrestle back the title from Real Madrid?

By ANDY WEST

**W**ITH Real Madrid out to defend the crown they claimed so easily last season and Barcelona desperate to return to winning ways through an impressively restocked squad, a fascinating title race looks guaranteed in Spain.

Before this weekend's kick-off in La Liga, BBC Sport examines the main storylines of the leading contenders.

After cruising to last season's title by 13 points, Real Madrid head into the new campaign with high hopes of claiming consecutive league crowns for the first time since 2008.

Carlo Ancelotti has strengthened his squad with the capture of centre-back Antonio Rudiger from Chelsea and defensive midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni from Monaco.

And although Ancelotti has historically leaned towards fielding his favoured starting XI more often than not, those new arrivals - along with Eduardo Camavinga, Fede Valverde and Rodrygo - should receive plenty of playing time in a season where squad rotation will be more important than ever considering the interruption of the World Cup.

An exception, however, is Karim Benzema. Real's unexpected failure to land Kylian Mbappe means Benzema is the squad's only centre-forward - Luka Jovic has departed to Fiorentina and Ancelotti has never trusted Mariano Diaz.

And the heavy goalscoring reliance on a player who turns 35 in December is the biggest question mark over Real's title ambitions.

There is, however, a potential X-factor. Eden Hazard has been a massive disappointment since his arrival from Chelsea, with a series of injuries restricting him to a paltry tally of just six goals in three seasons.

But now Hazard is fit, with a full pre-season under his belt and boosted by the endorsement of Ancelotti, who plans to use the Belgian in a false nine role.

If he can take that opportunity to finally become the free-scoring superstar we used to see at Stamford Bridge, it would provide valuable depth in the only area where Real look vulnerable.

It has been a sensational summer at Barcelona, where club president Joan Laporta has taken a colossal gamble by selling off chunks of the club's commercial assets to finance a remarkable spending spree.

The arrival of Jules Kounde, Andreas Christensen, Franck Kessie, Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski - with Marcos Alonso and Bernardo Silva possibly still to come - plus the re-signing of Ousmane Dembele, means boss Xavi's request for two top-class players in every position has been granted to a greater extent than he could have realistically expected.

They are still to register any new players before this weekend's opener with Rayo Vallecano, having been wrestling with severe financial issues which need to be addressed to comply with La Liga's



Barcelona

strict financial regulations.

They are confident the issues will be resolved and now the pressure is on the coach to deliver. Barca's quest for an immediate return to glory hinges on a fundamental but currently largely unanswered question - how good a coach is Xavi?

They gained a decent tally of 56 points from their 26 league games under Xavi last season, with the notable high of a run of seven straight wins between February and April including a fantastic 4-0 thrashing of Real Madrid at the Bernabeu.

But there were also some poor performances - home losses to Cadiz and Rayo Vallecano, and a

calamitous Europa League exit to Eintracht Frankfurt - and Xavi's immediate task is to cut out those inconsistencies which would derail their title challenge.

The former club captain certainly doesn't lack resources, and on the evidence so far he won't hesitate to use them.

Although Xavi's base formation is 4-3-3 he also occasionally opts for a three-man backline, and the versatility of an attack containing Lewandowski, Dembele, Raphinha, Ansu Fati, Ferran Torres and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang - most of whom can play in multiple positions - is arguably unrivalled anywhere.

This team should definitely

deliver plenty of goals, but can they stop them at the other end?

Vulnerability against rapid counter-attacks has been Barca's weak point for years, but Xavi will hope the pace of Kounde and Ronald Araujo allows his team to play high up the pitch without being excessively exposed on the break.

Diego Simeone's men provided a feeble title defence last season, often looking a shadow of their former selves and only securing a top-four berth thanks to a strong late surge.

But there have been encouraging signs for the forthcoming campaign. The arrival of impressive Nahuel Molina from

Udinese should fill the Kieran Trippier-shaped hole at right-back, while vastly-experienced Belgium international Axel Witsel will add calm authority in the centre of the field.

Atletico have been in free-scoring form during preseason, culminating in a 4-0 thumping of Juventus last weekend. Joao Felix has been particularly eye-catching, suggesting the gifted Portuguese forward is ready to finally fulfil his undoubted talent on a consistent basis.

If Felix continues to flourish, and Simeone can recapture the defensive solidity that has marked most of his 10-year reign, Atletico could go all the way.



Madrid

# SUNDAY SPORTS



Peseiro

## Peseiro mourns Chalana

**S**UPER Eagles head coach Jose Peseiro has mourned the demise of Portuguese football great Fernando Albino de Sousa Chalana.

**Newsnow** said that, Benfica icon Chalana died on Wednesday, August 10, at the age of 63, due to degenerative disease.

A hero in Portugal and France, Chalana's death has drawn tributes from many in the football world, including former Sporting Lisbon manager Peseiro.

On his Instagram page, Peseiro wrote (translated): "Fernando Chalana, the Little Genius, left. An unavoidable

figure of Portuguese football, who will never be forgotten. My sincere condolences to all friends and family. Rest in peace, Chalana."

Meanwhile, Premier League club Nottingham Forest have agreed to a £17million (£9billion) deal with Watford for the procurement of Super Eagles striker Emmanuel Dennis according to reports.

Dennis had a sterling individual campaign with Watford in the Premier League last season with ten goals and six assists in 33 league appearances.

Despite joining the Hornets from Club Brugge

for €4million, the Super Eagles striker turned out to be the shining light in a dark campaign that saw Watford get relegated.

However, Dennis' displays did not unnoticed, as he has attracted interest, with West Ham, Villarreal, and Newcastle all linked with a potential move.

However, a transfer to newly-promoted Nottingham Forest has grown stronger in recent days. According to Transfer news live, Watford have accepted a €17million bid for the 24-year-old, and a deal is set to be completed soon.

## NFF seeking immediate results, not development

**F**ORMER Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Bolaji Abdullahi, says the problem of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) is getting immediate results and not the development of the game.

**Newsnow** said that, Abdullahi, who is the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP)

candidate for Kwara Central Senatorial District for the 2023 general election, made the declaration on Wednesday in Ilorin.

He spoke at the 33rd Media Parliament of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kwara council, held at the NUJ Press Centre, Ilorin.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Media Parliament was

themed "Retooling Nigeria for Emerging Challenges".

According to him, the problem of the NFF is that they are too focused on getting immediate results, rather than strengthening the institutions that will ensure total development of the game from the grassroots.

Abdullahi, who was the minister of sports when the Super Eagles won the 2013 Nations Cup, 19 years after doing the same, said that the fact that it took the nation that long to win it again was a reflection of total neglect of the development in football in Nigeria.

"We won the Nations Cup in 1994 and why didn't we win the following edition? Waiting for another 19 years to do so was not good enough. And again, how we won the AFCON in 2013 is a story for another day," he said.

The former minister, who was the brain behind the introduction of the youth development system, tagged National Youth Games in 2013, also said that the Games were a deliberate plan to build athletes for the future, a platform that is yielding positive results today.

"We critically analysed the National Sports Festival, which



Abdullahi

**I**MMEDIATE past Coach of Shooting Stars popularly known as 3SC of Ibadan, Edith Agoye has come out to those who care to listen that he is not the problem of the Ibadan-based premier club.

**Newsnow** revealed that, Agoye told Journalists in Ibadan after meeting with club management and Governor Seyi Makinde before he tendered his resignation on Tuesday.

The dark-skinned coach said he had tried his best for the club in the last nine years insisting that he is not the problem of the club.

"I know I'm not the problem of the club but I have to resign to save my head. Some people are bent on sinking the ship of the club, believing that they should be in the saddle to run the club," said Agoye after he bowed out as a chief coach of 3SC.

He, however, thanked

## NPFL: I' m not the problem of 3SC, says Agoye



Agoye

Governor Makinde and club management for giving him the opportunity to serve the club in the last nine years saying that it is time for him to find a new challenge.

"After nine years in the club,

I have decided to leave my position as the head coach of the club. I feel it is high time for me to leave the shooting stars club in pursuit of new challenges," added Agoye, a graduate of the University of Ibadan.

## Falconets beat France in group opener

**T**HE Nigeria women's U-20 team got off to a winning start at the 10th FIFA U20 Women's World Cup in Costa Rica on Friday morning as they battled to a 1-0 win over France in their first Group C match.

**Newsnow** said that, the Falconets, who are two-time runners-up in the competition, overcame torrential rain, an hour delay and more rain to defeat Europe's top team, France, 1-0 in their group opener.

Flourish Sabastine, top scorer for the Falconets in the African

qualifying series, was the heroine against France as her solitary strike in the 85th minute was enough to give Chris Danjuma's side the maximum three points on offer.

The weather conditions in San Jose, the Costa Rican capital, hindered fluid football which was the hallmark of both the Falconets and their French opponents.

That nonetheless, Esther Onyenezide who operates from the Falconets midfield still caused panic in the French team's vital area with an intelligent free kick barely seven minutes into the game.

With the rains still pouring, Mexican referee Francia Gonzales opted to stop the game in the 20th minute as visibility was increasingly becoming impossible for both teams.

The suspension lasted exactly one hour.

Eight minutes after resumption, Magnaba Folquet had to desperately head the ball away from goal as Nigeria pushed forward.

However, within two minutes as the first half wound down, Nigeria skipper Oluwatosin Demehin and France defender Kysha Sylla were cautioned - a measure of the intensity of the battle.

In the second half, both teams fought even harder. Two minutes before the hour mark,

Mercy Idoko failed to connect properly at the end of a sweet team move, and 20 minutes from time, goalkeeper Oyono Omini provided a critical block in the vital area as France surged forward.

In the 72nd minute, substitute Chiamaka Okwuchukwu was hindered from getting anything positive as Flourish Sabastine got a cross into the French vital area.

The game flowed from end to end as both teams attacked with zest and defended resolutely.

Substitute Jade Nassi thought she had put France ahead when she slotted home from a goalmouth melee that followed a corner kick in the 80th minute, but referee Gonzales consulted the Video Assistant Referee which correctly ruled out the strike for a foul on Omini.

Five minutes later, Nigeria got the goal that their effort and enterprise deserved when Flourish Sabastine raced onto a brilliant Mercy Idoko pass, kept her composure and slotted past goalkeeper Marie-Morgane Sieber with some flourish.

The Falconets' next game is on Sunday against Korea Republic at the Estadio Alajuela Morera Soto. Victory in that game will automatically assure Nigeria of a place in the tournament's quarter-finals.



Falconets

# SUNDAY SPORTS



Williams' total of 23 Grand Slam singles titles is more than any woman in the Open era

## Williams loses to Bencic in first match

**A**N emotional Serena Williams has admitted she is "terrible at goodbyes" following defeat by Belinda Bencic in the second round of the Canadian Open. **BBC SPORT** revealed that, the 23-time Grand Slam champion lost 6-2 6-4 in Toronto in her first match since announcing she will be "evolving away" from tennis. The American, 40, received a standing ovation on court and had the full backing of the crowd throughout. "It was a lot of emotions obviously," said Williams. "I love playing here, I've always loved playing here. I wish I could have played better but Belinda played so well today. It's been an interesting 24 hours. "As I said in the article, I'm terrible at goodbyes. But,

goodbye Toronto." Williams said she was moving towards "other things that are important to me", adding she did not like the word "retirement". she wrote that "the countdown has begun". Following the match, a tearful Williams was presented with jerseys of basketball team the Toronto Raptors and ice hockey team the Toronto Maple Leafs for her and daughter Olympia. "I was really happy to be out here today and play in front of you guys," she said. "Thanks for the support. Thank you." Williams won her first Grand Slam title at the 1999 US Open, aged 17. Her last Grand Slam title was at the 2017 Australian Open when she was eight weeks pregnant with Olympia. She has confirmed she will

play at the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati, Ohio next week as well as at the US Open later this month. World number one Iga Swiatek will join Switzerland's Bencic in the third round after comfortably beating Ajla Tomljanovic 6-1 6-2. The two-time Grand Slam-winner, 21, will face Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia next. The victory was the Pole's 19th successive hard-court win. American Coco Gauff beat Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina 6-4 6-7 (8-10) 7-6 (7-3) to set up a meeting with Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka, but Estonia's second seed Anett Kontaveit is out after losing 6-4 6-4 to Switzerland's Jil Teichmann.

## Draper, Evans through to quarter-finals

**B**RTAIN'S Jack Draper and Dan Evans are through to the Canadian Open quarter-finals but Cameron Norrie was knocked out.

**BBC SPORT** said that, Draper, 20, led Gael Monfils 6-0 0-2 in their last-16 match when the Frenchman had to withdraw with a suspected ankle injury in Montreal.

Evans defeated American 10th seed Taylor Fritz 7-6 (9-7) 1-6 7-5.

British number one Norrie lost 6-3 6-4 to home favourite and sixth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios is also through to the last eight after defeating fellow Australian Alex de Minaur 6-2 6-3.

"Today was really hard mentally for me to go out here and play Alex," Kyrgios said.

"We're such good friends and he's been having such a good career so far and carrying the Australian flag for so long. It was just tough mentally. It's never easy to play a player like that, especially if they're Australian.

"I just got out here and got the job done. I played the way I had to play."

It is the first time that Draper has reached the quarter-finals of a Masters 1,000 tournament.

"I know what it's like to do an ankle," Draper said post-

match. "I did one last year and rebounded. I hope Gael is all right. I wish him all the best for the rest of the season. I guess to be in the quarter-finals is nice for myself, but it's never how you want it to happen."

Draper, who upset third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the previous round, will face Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta next.

Evans, who also beat Fritz in Washington last week, will play another American, Tommy Paul, in the last eight.

In the women's tournament taking place in Toronto, world number one Iga Swiatek was beaten 6-4 3-6 7-5 by Brazilian Beatriz Haddad

Maia. Swiatek, who had a run of 37 straight wins halted in the third round at Wimbledon last month, said: "Next time maybe I'm going to be able to find, even though the conditions are going to be bad, more solutions and just play more solid. Because I did a lot of mistakes that I kind of don't accept."

American 10th seed Coco Gauff is also into the last eight after beating Belarusian world number six Aryna Sabalenka 7-5 4-6 7-6 (7-4).

Gauff will now play former world number one Simona Halep, who defeated Switzerland's Jil Teichmann 6-2 7-5.



Jack Draper, left, and Dan Evans reached the quarter-finals for the first time

## FedEx Cup Play-offs: McIlroy eight behind leader

**R**ORY McIlroy carded a level-par opening round of 70 at the FedEx St Jude Championship to sit eight behind leaders Kim Si-Woo and JJ Spaun.

**BBC SPORT** said that, McIlroy had an inconsistent day with four bogeys, including two in the first six holes, and four birdies.

England's Tyrrell Hatton is three shots back following a bogey-free opening round of five under in Memphis.

South Korea's Kim landed an eagle on the final hole to go into the lead alongside bogey-free American Spaun.

Northern Ireland's McIlroy, who had earlier welcomed the decision to ban three

players from the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series from competing in the play-offs following a court bid, struggled from the off and bogeyed the first.

A second bogey followed on the sixth and, despite a birdie on the following hole, the 33-year-old dropped another shot on the 11th.

Three birdies and another bogey in the final six holes completed the world number three's up and down opening round.

It is McIlroy's first tournament since he finished third at The Open, having led going into the final round - his fourth top-10 major finish this year.

World number one Scottie Scheffler struggled to a 71, while Australia's Cameron Smith, who won The Open last month, is at three under.

American Tony Finau, who won twice on the PGA Tour last month, is with a group of players on six under.

Scotland's Martin Laird is on four under, with compatriot Russell Knox at level par.

PGA Championship winner Justin Thomas sits at three under alongside Spain's Jon Rahm, with England's US Open champion Matt Fitzpatrick and Ireland's Shane Lowry a shot back.

This week's event at TPC Southwind is the first of three tournaments to decide the Tour champion, with the winner picking up \$18m (£14.8m).

## Fraser-Pryce runs fourth-fastest women's 100m ever

**S**HELLY-ANN Fraser-Pryce ran the fourth-fastest ever women's 100m, 10.62 seconds, to win at the Diamond League in Monaco.

**BBC SPORT** said that, the five-time world 100m champion, 35, bettered her

own mark for the fastest 100m of the year, having clocked 10.66 seconds in Poland on Saturday.

She has now run the third and fourth-fastest women's 100m times ever.

Fellow world champion Jake Wightman of Britain won the 1,000m with the fastest time this year.

Fraser-Pryce's fellow Jamaican Shericka Jackson came second in Monaco with

a personal best of 10.71 seconds, while Marie-Josée Ta Lou of Ivory Coast set an African record in third and Britain's Daryll Neita finished sixth.

"I did what I needed to and we had fun and let the clock do the talking. To be able to run 10.60 consistently means a lot. It's remarkable. It's hard to keep up the speed at this high level," said Fraser-Pryce.

"I'm in my late thirties and I feel I have more to give. I look forward to doing my personal best [10.60 run in August 2021] during the rest of the season."

It was a third sub-10.70 run within a week for Fraser-Pryce, who missed the Commonwealth Games, as all seven starters went below 11 seconds.

She becomes the first woman in history to break 10.70 six times in the same season, having also won a record fifth women's 100m world title [last month in Oregon](#).

Wightman bounced back from disappointment at the Commonwealth Games, where he was unable to back up his 1500m world title in Oregon.

The 28-year-old took 1500m bronze in Birmingham on Saturday but posted a time of two minutes 13.88 seconds in Monaco, the ninth fastest 1,000m of all time, ahead of

Canada's Marco Arop in second.

"I did not really know I was in shape to do this today," he said.

"It was just very, very hard. This is a really nice step towards the European championships in Munich where I will run the 800m."

American Clayton Murphy finished third, with Irishman Luke McCann setting a new national record of two minutes 16.40 seconds as he finished seventh.

Elsewhere, 1,500m world and Olympic champion Faith Kipyegon narrowly missed a sensational world record over the distance.

The Kenyan ran the second fastest time ever, three minutes 50.37 seconds, half a second shy of Ethiopian Genezebe Dibaba's world record set in 2015.

America's Noah Lyles won his second 200m race of the Diamond League season, breaking his own meeting record from 2018 with a superb effort of 19.48 seconds.

Erriyon Knighton and Michael Norman came second and third, respectively, to earn a podium clean sweep for the United States.



Fraser-Pryce



# Man City cruise to victory over Bournemouth

**E**rling Haaland could not mark his home debut for Manchester City with another goal, but it made no difference for Pep Guardiola's side who still swept Bournemouth aside with ease.

Haaland, who scored twice on his Premier League bow at West Ham last weekend, took 18 minutes to take his first touch but used it to set up Ilkay Gundogan for City's opener.

City had been dominating the game since the start, and it did not take long for more goals to follow.

The impressive Kevin de Bruyne made it 2-0 with a dazzling solo strike, running to the corner of the area before bending the ball into the bottom corner with the outside of his boot.

And Phil Foden made sure of the points before half-time, running on to a De Bruyne pass and letting fly with a shot that Cherries keeper Mark Travers got his body behind but could



**De Bruyne scored 15 goals and made eight assists from 30 Premier League appearances last season - he has one goal and two assists from his first two games of this campaign**

not keep out.

Bournemouth spent most of their time from the edge of the defending in a compact area.

5-4-1 formation, and They never looked only forced Ederson into

action once, through a Ben Pearson snap-shot

staging a comeback in the second half, which had turned into a stroll in the Manchester sunshine for the home side long before

Jefferson Lerma's own goal made it 4-0.

Lerma was trying to stop Joao Cancelo's low cross from reaching substitute Bernardo

Silva, but only succeeded in sending the ball spinning past Travers to complete an afternoon to forget for his team.

## Salah could be one of the greatest - Owen



**F**ormer Liverpool striker Michael Owen has revealed he's been "totally surprised" by Mohammed Salah's performances over the years at Liverpool since his 2017 arrival.

Speaking to DAZN, Owen couldn't hide his admiration for the Egyptian superstar. He's been left amazed by the forward's meteoric rise to stardom at Anfield.

He explained that "you would be a liar if anyone said they expected 40+ goals [from Salah] in his first season."

"Partly because we had seen him at Chelsea. He certainly didn't look like a goal scorer there. He started to look like a goal scorer in Rome."

Owen continued, "but to come and score 40+ goals in your first season, and then continually do it, I am

totally surprised".

The BT Sport pundit believes Salah is evidence of the fact "you can improve as a finisher" despite his general belief that goal scoring is "instinctive and a natural born thing".

The former Liverpool star went as far as to suggest that if "Salah continues this level for a few more years, we will be talking about one of the greatest of all time".

Salah has already established himself as an undisputed Liverpool legend.

Since joining the Reds, the Egyptian has been the face of Jürgen Klopp's project at Anfield.

He has grown to become the standard bearer for goal scoring forwards in the Premier League.

But one senses this season will be a very important one for the 30-year-old.

He has recently been handed a new deal making him Liverpool's highest paid player of all time and is now the club's clear talisman off the back of Sadio Mané's departure.

There's thus an onus on Salah to maintain his breath-taking goal-scoring record this term, as Jürgen Klopp's most dependable goal scorer.

And if he can once again walk away with the Golden Boot at the end of the season, Owen is right, there's a case to be made that Salah is in fact the Premier League's greatest ever player.

He started the season well from an individual perspective, scoring a late equaliser for Liverpool against Fulham on Saturday.

But the Reds will need even more from their star man if they are going to be able to challenge Manchester City for the title this term.