

**Is Labour Party capsizing on the Plateau?**

Page 12



**News:** Plateau govt to synergise with NIS on security

Page 30

**Sports:** Sports Ministry splashes \$25,000 on Nigeria medalists

Page 39

**Politics:** 35 women candidates for 2023 elections in Kaduna

Page 5

# Sunday Standard



TRUTH EXALTS A NATION

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

VOL. 13 NO. 756

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022

N250

e-mail:nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com



**Nigeria threatens to exit ECOWAS over lopsided recruitment**

> Page 2

**Some of Nigeria's security challenges are imported**

-Buhari

> Page 2



## Naira free fall: Are Nigerians ready for worse?

*The slump of the Naira against major currencies especially the United States dollar is now giving policy makers, business owners as well as millions of Nigerians sleepless nights as it plunges into a scary digit and by implication, the nation's socio- economic environment is about to witness the worst distress in recent history if the Federal Government fails to apply the necessary drastic measures that can prevent a total collapse of the economy.*

### Birmingham Commonwealth Games: How far so far?

Since last week, countries under the auspices of the Commonwealth of Nations have gathered in Birmingham, London competing for various laurels at the ongoing 2022 edition of its games. This year's event which is being attended by 35 countries is envisioned to foster harmonious working relationship and friendliness through various sporting activities for the duration of this historic event and beyond.

As encapsulated in the core prospectus of the games, it is aimed at uniting the commonwealth family through sporting activities projected to enhance the values of humanity, equality and destiny; inspiring athletes to compete for various medals in the spirit of fair play.

Nigeria started participating in the games in the 1950 edition where it won a silver in the men's high jump event. It is also on record that ever since then, the country has continued to win medals in every such games they took part in with that of Victoria 1994 being the most successful.

Thus far, at the ongoing Birmingham games, Nigeria is sitting eighth on the medal standings with seven Gold, three Silver and six bronze. This positive turnout of event is coming on the heels of the world record set by the country's global sensation, Tobi Amusan, during the just concluded World Athletic Championship in the 100 meters hurdles held in Oregon, the United States of America.

Despite some of these impressive performance, Nigeria has of late not been able to stamp its mark in the international sporting world. This is so as Super Eagles failed to secure a ticket to the World Cup in Qatar and the Super Falcons also failed to retain their title at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco where they finished without a medal. Equally, it has also not been well with the country's Basketball Federation after internal wrangles forced President Buhari to suspend the nation's participation at international competitions before the decision was subsequently reversed.

Participating in the Birmingham games 2022 has also not been without some hiccups. The nation's delegations of 94 athletes arrived the United Kingdom after struggling to secure some kits to use during the event. Reports subsequently indicated that a British sportswear brand stepped in to help the country's athletes who were let down by their original kit supplier just days before the start of the games.

Despite these hiccups, Nigeria has managed to pull itself together with the intension of doing the nation proud during this event. As the event enters its crucial stage, all the needed support must be given this contingent to enable them represent the nation well.

We make bold to say that Nigeria as always; has the potentials to make the nation proud if the necessary support would be given. Therefore, in order to avoid some of these problems bedeviling our sports sector, all stakeholders and administrators must re-strategize towards overcoming these challenges.

As our athletes continue to represent us in international sporting events, they must continuously be educated and enlightened to stay off any performance enhancing drugs which at the end always ruins the prospects of any athlete.

We are equally hopeful that the ongoing Birmingham Commonwealth Games will open new vistas in our contingents' quest to engrave Nigeria's name in gold in the sporting world henceforth.

## Government has no money to meet ASUU's demands -Keyamo

**The Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Festus Keyamo, has said the federal government has no money to meet the demands of the striking Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).**

Mr Keyamo, newly appointed as the spokesperson for the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaigns, asked parents to beg ASUU members to return to classes because the federal government would not borrow money to meet the demands of the lecturers.

He said this on Friday during an interview on 'Politics Today', a programme on Channels Television.

Mr Keyamo said the meetings ASUU had with the Nimi Briggs committee were done without the input from the Ministry of Finance and other agencies with roles to play in the implementation of the recommendations.

The minister said the federal government could not meet the financial implications of the Briggs committee, hence the need for fresh negotiation.

He described the proposals in Brigg's committee report as "unrealistic" adding that other

unions in the education sector are also opposed to the content of the report.

"At a point, we set up the Nimi Briggs committee to receive the complaints of ASUU and look into how the report could be accommodated within the framework of the finances of the government.

"When the committee began to sit with ASUU, there were critical institutions of government that were supposed to be in those meetings. National Salaries Income and Wages Commission, Budget Office of the Federation, Head of Service, Ministry of Finance. ASUU at a time rejected these agencies from sitting down with them.

How can you sit down with the Ministry of Education without those with the purse of government? Without those who know ... how people are to be paid? That was what ASUU did with the Briggs Committee. They sat down and fixed their own salaries and emoluments with the Ministry of Education without the other critical stakeholders."

Mr Keyamo said that he is willing to beg on air if that would placate the lecturers to return to school.

The proposal ASUU is talking

about is N1.2 trillion. I will tell the parents, go and beg ASUU. Like the president said, those who know them should appeal to their sense of patriotism.

"Do you want me to kneel down and beg ASUU on air as a parent also? I can kneel down to beg them. The nation cannot grind to a halt because we want to take care of the demands of ASUU," he said.

He added that the additional wage bill proposed by ASUU is about N560 billion in addition to the normal N412 billion that FG was already paying for salaries and emolument.

Government-owned universities have been locked since 14 February when ASUU declared strike over the federal government's inability to meet several agreements signed.

On Monday, ASUU extended the strike for another four weeks, citing government's failure to conclude the process of renegotiating the 2009 FGN/ASUU Agreement, deploy the University Transparency and Accountability Solution (UTAS), pay outstanding arrears of Earned Academic Allowances (EAA) and others.

## Nigeria threatens to exit ECOWAS over lopsided recruitment

Nigeria has threatened to withdraw its membership of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), if the regional body does not suspend its ongoing recruitment exercise as recently directed in the 2022 First Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Parliament in Abuja.

Nigerian representatives at the ECOWAS Parliament issued the threat to protest the alleged lopsided recruitment exercise at the Parliament, which was discovered to be manifestly skewed to serve the personal interest of member-states to the exclusion of Nigeria. Some principal officers in the regional bloc allegedly embarked on the "illegal process of recruiting their relatives and cronies."

The lawmakers cited the huge financial commitments that Nigeria makes to the body amid its internal security challenges. They said there was no commensurate return on investment to show for everything the country has done for the regional body from its inception in 1975.

Leader of the Nigerian delegation to the Parliament and Deputy Speaker of the Nigerian House of Representatives, who is also the First Deputy Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament, Ahmed Idris Wase, said it has become imperative that Nigeria review its relevance and membership in the bloc.

"If you are in a system, and you are not getting the right results where you are investing your money, it pays best to walk out of the union. In a situation where we are having an infrastructural deficit and witnessing security challenges, why should we continue to invest our money where it will not benefit our country? Yes, we will pull out if we don't get the desired result from this.

We are asking for justice not just for Nigerians alone, but for the entire ECOWAS community. That is



Wase

what MPs are asking for. There are few countries that want to run ECOWAS like a cabal, but we will not tolerate that.

"I may not know if such protestations existed in the Fourth Assembly, as at today, these protestations are evident before us and we are duty bound to attend to them like we have indicated and in the cause of our engagement we are not restricting ourselves to what has happened today.

If you listened to our intent on the floor, we said that for the past ten years, whatever it is that had happened in the past ten years, the one that has to be remedied, the one that requires sanctions, I am sure that at the end of the day, without preempting the resolve of the committee, we will get to that point", he said.

Wase, who said Nigeria has done so much for ECOWAS, explained that over 60 percent of ECOWAS funding comes from the country.


"We have staffers who are of Nigerian origin that may have done

better or progressed rapidly in their career if they were within the bureaucracy of the Nigeria civil service. Their colleagues and contemporary in the Nigerian civil service are now directors and even permanent Secretaries and those of them in ECOWAS institutions have stagnated for years. They are not promoted because they are engaged as casual staff. We cannot subject these staff to remain at the same level for more than 10 years. ECOWAS employed them as casual staff and kept them as casual staff for that long.


"It offends the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Convention on Forced Labour. I was an activist and a unionist, before joining politics. We cannot keep an employee for more than six months on a casual basis, it is against international law. But here we have kept them for a number of years, up to nine years, it is inhuman.

"What the Parliament is talking about is transparency, and doing the right thing in the right manner. I heard them saying that the audit report was inconclusive, it then means that there were issues. Whether inconclusive or not, in Parliament, there is what we call an interim report. So, there was an interim report, and that is what some members were relying upon, it does not mean that because they were unable to conclude, then there was nothing. There was something on the table, and I will refer to that inconclusive report that the Secretary-General mentioned as an interim report before the Parliament, which of course should be used, and considered because it raised issues regarding the imbalance in the composition of the staff", he added.

According to Wase, the Nigerian Constitution in Section 14 (4) provides that the composition of government shall be in a manner that reflects the federal character.



With  
**Katdapba  
Y. Gobum  
On Sunday**



[gobum\\_katt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gobum_katt@yahoo.co.uk) 07037977744 (sms)

**"As a layman, I am tempted to ask: If the giver is punished, what should be done to the one(s) who were freely given part of the money? Does the law not provide that those who benefit from the 'largesse' not be punished also? Did they not encourage him, and yet they were left to walk freely while he languished in jail?"**

# Dariye: Should we tell the President?

WHEN yours sincerely set out to write this, I did not have Jeffrey Archer, the famous English author, who wrote in 1977 'Shall we tell the President' in mind. In fact, I wanted to achieve one purpose: Interrogate why, despite the presidential pardon since April 14 this year, Chief Joshua C Dariye is yet to leave the Kuje Correctional Facility back to the embrace of his family, friends and political associates.

His conviction and incarceration has been a subject of partisan consideration by different people. Those who know are quick to point out that his case and that of his co-traveler, Rev Jolly Nyame are allegedly shrouded in political manipulation and worthy of consideration; if only we could situate his voyage without being accused of being partisan also.

It has been opined, if his 'sins' are placed side by side with those of his colleagues who served in other states during the same period, today, Dariye should be walking free on the streets of Abuja and elsewhere. For me, and indeed many others, that is the irony of how life has been skewed to treat some Nigerians. In this category, Dariye's case falls squarely; for which it is proper to examine, if only a cause could be fought for.

Not many of us would have been close to former Governor Joshua Chibi Dariye of Plateau State, but the fact that he was once the governor of my state makes him a candidate for my prayers. It should not stop there; his state of health deserves to be my concern also, if we are interested in honouring those who offer service to the state.

But even if that is not a reason to be considered, for me and many staff who worked and are still on the payroll of Plateau Publishing Corporation (publishers of) The Nigeria Standard, to his credit; they are able to access their gratuity and pension when they retire.

Working with the Plateau Publishing Corporation as its Chief Accountant enabled him to become acquainted with the plight of its workforce on retirement. Therefore, in 2005, while serving as governor of the state in his second term, he set in motion the process for the scheduling of the corporation.

Today, hate or like him; he is highly revered for his magnanimity and setting in motion a process that puts into consideration the toiling of many who would have returned home to their families and friends in penury and perhaps using their new station to go about begging for pittance to survive from different sources. No one can take away the openhandedness of Senator Joshua Dariye; in fact, many can go to town protesting on his behalf, if any person thought otherwise.

But the Khawung Mushere, and one who is today popularly referred to as the Head Boy of Plateau politics, without doubt, cannot be limited just for the consideration of individuals. Beyond what we may have thought he did for organizations in the state and all; he has gone through hell and back in the course of service to his state. It is for this reason that people are asking for his freedom.



Dariye

Governance can be tasking as well as demanding. Sometimes during the life of any administration, mistakes could be made against the state. The travails of Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye admittedly were against the state, and during his trial which took some time, he reportedly consented to that in a statement. It should be noted that former

**“ At that point, and always in any court, that is the season where heroes are either made and villains could be left to be remembered. Truth, he took his fate with equanimity; and today, the Lord has turned his captivity into dancing. He knows that when there is a casting down, certainly, a lifting will take place, on account of the one who is seated in heaven and guides the affairs of men. Before long, the Khawung Mushere, Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye will be back to where he belongs. And you can be sure; the Head Boy shall be welcomed! ”**

Governor Joshua Dariye has never admitted to being a Saint, neither do I confer on him the staff of such an office. His case can be described as one who has risen from grace to grass; but, like the beetle, it will be difficult to kill its resilience.

Many have been worried long before now and wondering why if those who allegedly took home bigger sums belonging to their states are today playing roles that determine the course of Nigeria; the case of Dariye cannot be swept under the carpet; even though a judgment was entered, but more importantly that the Council of State had recommended for his pardon. That changed his story and put smiles on the faces of his family members, friends and associates.

The trial of Dariye, which was prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for a 23-count charge bordering on money laundering and diversion of funds, on the strength of a statement he was alleged to have made in 2007 forming the thrust of the proceedings.

His trial before Justice Adebukola Banjoko of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Gudu, Abuja had commenced on January 25, 2016 with the EFCC presenting exhibits, including the statement, alleged to have been given to All States Trust Bank, (now defunct), on the disbursement of the said N1.162 billion diverted from the Ecological Fund meant for the state, to private companies and individuals.

As a layman, I am tempted to ask: If the giver is punished, what should be done to the one(s) who were freely given part of the money? Does the law not provide that those who benefit from the 'largesse' not be punished also? Did they not encourage him, and yet they were left to walk freely while he languished in jail?

Did the court not order the EFCC to

repatriate the N80m and other funds recovered during investigation to the coffers of Plateau State government? Why was it that the court however did not make any pronouncement on the N100m said to be paid to Marine Float, a company said to be owned by former Vice President Atiku Abubakar? How long will it take the EFCC stay on the matter investigating? What about the N100m collected on behalf of the PDP South/West by Yomi Edu former Minister of Special Duties and N66m for PDP in Plateau which was shared among the 274 wards?

Senator Dariye, who was governor from 1999 to 2007, was jailed for laundering public funds to the tune of N1.162bn and sentenced to 14 years in prison. Dariye's prison term was later reduced to 10 years by the Court of Appeal in Abuja, while his conviction was affirmed by the Supreme Court.

But, it is in the clemency granted by President Muhammadu Buhari that we would like to situate our concerns and draw the attention of the president considering that much is expected.

The spokesperson for the Nigerian Correctional Service, Abubakar Umar, had hinted that the NCS was not responsible for the delay. According to him, the duo could not be released by service until a correspondence from the Ministry of Justice stating so was received. 'The moment we get that, we will affect their release. It is a presidential pardon, no doubt, but there must be a document to back their release. They can't be released on pronouncement alone.'

That indeed is a fact; however, what should interest all who have followed the case is the quality of Nigerians who have joined the fray for the struggle to allow the former governor return home to the embrace of his family.

Former Governor of Kaduna State, Colonel Abubakar Umar's call on the Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, to issue the warrant for the release of ex Governors Joshua Dariye and Jolly Nyame; is, if anything is instructive for the struggle to free Dariye.

He had in a statement said: 'The Attorney General should, in obedience to the directive of the President, transmit the warrant to the agencies responsible for the release of Governors Joshua Dariye and Jolly Nyame without any further delay. Besides, I am sure the President will remain steadfast in implementing a decision approved by the National Council of State even if it might seem somewhat unpopular with a section of the public.'

We have maintained, so also is Colonel Umar that in ensuring that the duo's release is made possible, it should be noted that: 'At a time when most Nigerians are calling for equity in every aspect of our national life, Governors Dariye and Nyame do not deserve to be singled out but treated like everybody else'.

It should be noted that if you take the travails of the two former governors as personal, then the vigorous war that will be waged for equity and fairness concerning their treatment may not make headway. Regrettably, 'both spent two years in

detention, while their trial lasted. They have now served a further four years after their conviction, making cumulative six years of a ten year sentence.

'It is remarkable that the two are so far the only former Governors who have been convicted and have remained in jail even though their colleagues Governors have similarly been accused or facing prosecution. A few were actually found guilty and jailed—but still managed to remain free!

'Regrettably, the public's antagonism might well have intimidated the government resulting in the Justice Ministry's hesitancy in issuing their release warrant to the Ministry of Interior and the National Correctional Service'.

We are, like many others, worried about the alleged 'seeming selective nature of the anti-corruption war targeted at the two governors while their colleagues walk free.' It is expected that in the interest of justice and fairness, Nigerians should walk the streets calling for the conclusions of cases involving other former governors. Justice is the meat meant for all, it should not be selective.

His counsel, Paul Erokoro (SAN) during the trial had 'begged the court to be lenient on Dariye, stating that the offence was committed in 2001, two years when the 1999 Constitution came into effect and that Dariye as part of the first sets of leaders after the enactment, was ignorant of the financial laws'.

He had said to the Judge, 'mistakes were made, my Lord, should this man be punished by our mistakes? My Lord, appeals against your judgment hardly succeed. When we get there (appellate and apex courts), they tell us you were right in your judgment, so we are appealing for a non-custodial sentencing.

But the prosecution counsel, Rotimi Jacobs (SAN) would not want to hear any of that, as he urged the court to impose the maximum sentence to serve as deterrent. It was at this point that, Dariye, irked by what was to befall him signified to the court that he wanted to say something.

Given the chance, Dariye, who was visibly angry that prosecution counsel said he didn't show any remorse, said, "You cannot predict my state of mind. Let us not spoil tomorrow because of today. Can you raise your hand to swear there is a saint in Nigeria?"

You could be right to ask, like Senator Dariye: Is there a saint in Nigeria? Could we not like Col Umar also demand to ask the same question?

At that point, and always in any court, that is the season where heroes are either made and villains could be left to be remembered. Truth, he took his fate with equanimity; and today, the Lord has turned his captivity into dancing. He knows that when there is a casting down, certainly, a lifting will take place, on account of the one who is seated in heaven and guides the affairs of men.

Before long, the Khawung Mushere, Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye will be back to where he belongs. And you can be sure; the Head Boy shall be welcomed!



## 'The heart of man is desperately wicked'

There are a lot of lessons to learn from every day life. Instead of stewing in one's hurt, bad memories and or looking at our scars with bitterness, we can draw life from it. A lot of people are doing that on the social media and it is a healing therapy. It also enlightens others and keep them off the wrong path. Here are some life lessons.

Some time back in Kaduna, some market women decided to pool their resources together and do *adashi* (contribution, where a stipulated amount is agreed upon and this amount is collected and given to each member of the group on her chosen month). This is one of the ways small-time traders carry out their projects without touching their capital or killing their business.

Everything was going smoothly until one of the women approached Mama Ebeji and begged her to exchange her month with hers since it was Mama Ebeji's turn and her turn was down the line. Mama Ebeji refused and explained to the woman that she chose that month deliberately to enable her purchase a printing gadget and its accessories for her twins. They had just completed their training and were waiting eagerly to start the business. The woman was not happy but she had to accept the explanation.

Shortly after that, Mama Ebeji's twins, their younger brother and a friend were in the sitting room when the house suddenly went up in flames. Neighbours ran to their rescue and tried breaking the door or windows but they won't give in. All efforts to save them was futile. Their loved ones and neighbours watched in anguish as their wailing expressed their pains and as their voices slowly died down.

This event shook the state that even the governor of the day paid the bereaved family a condolence visit. I was told that it was on Network News but I heard this story from a third party, a resident of Kaduna.

However, things took a different turn when a taxi driver picked a passenger for a drop. Just as they took off, the woman started arguing with an invisible being at the back of the car. She was begging him that he was not part of the plan. That what she wanted was for the twins to die in the fire not any other person. She was virtually shouting and pleading earnestly as she struggled with that invisible being.

The driver carefully manoeuvred his taxi to Mama Ebeji's neighbourhood and called the people around to come and witness what was going on. From every indication, she was struggling for her life with Taiwo, the younger brother of the twins who also died in the fire. By the time understanding dawned on the people that gathered as they heard it from the horses mouth that all these lives were lost because Mama Ebeji refused to forfeit her *adashi* month to that woman that approached her (who was the woman in the taxi), it took the grace of God to save her. She ran into a church and the pastor refused to hand her over to the angry mob until security operatives arrived and he handed her to them.

Forced by the invisible being whom she referred to as Taiwo, she exposed herself. She said she decided to kill the twins because their mother refused to exchange her *adashi* month with her because she wanted them to start business. So, she decided that she would see how they would do the business. That was why that ungodly fire engulfed them and no one could break through and save them. But it was not meant for Taiwo nor their friend. It was just unfortunate that they were there.

Getting wind of what had happened to

their mother, the woman's children rushed home and took what they could take and took off. Right on cue, the angry mob located her home and destroyed it. Their intention was to kill her children. It didn't matter that children should not be punished for the sins of their parents and vice versa. People wanted her to feel the pain they felt too.

So many strange things happened in relation to the death of twins and Co. For one is the fact that their grandmother who was in the village when the unfortunate accident occurred, had some August visitors. They told her that that their younger sister who was often sick, was down again and she was needed by their mother. They accompanied her to the bus terminal, paid her fare but refused to board the bus. They told her that they needed to do some things. Grandmother arrived her daughter's home only to find her daughter and all family members in mourning. To her utter amazement, she was told that twins and their younger brother were dead. Confused, grandma informed them that it couldn't be true because it was the twins that came to the village to inform her that she was needed in town and they paid for her fare but refused to board the bus.

That same week, the security guard that use to guard the cemetery where the twins and Taiwo and their friend were buried came over to the house and told their parents that he was concerned about the way and manner the twins usually come out, sit on their grave and wail every night. He said the sound was unusually unsettling and very sad and disturbing.

The guard said he needed to do something but he needed money, just #200 from the parents' pocket. They gladly gave the Fulani guard knowing they are good with herbs and issues like this. They also wanted the souls of their twins to finally rest which it did.

In a this next story, a secondary school student came to admire some girls who were untouchable and yet did as they liked. They were the envy of every worldly girl as far as looks, material needs and provisions were concerned.

One day, she summed up courage and approached them. She asked them: "what is it that makes you tick?"

"You want to know?" They asked her and happily, she said yes. They arranged an appointment and on that day, they took her to a Babalawo. He gave her everything he gave the untouchable girls and they came back to school.

This girls fame (let's refer to her as Larai), grew like wildfire. In no time, she dethroned the 2 untouchable girls. She had guts, power, looks, and confidence and feared no one. The school was in her hands. She did as she wanted and even the other girls bowed to her. These girls stayed in school as long as they wanted because they could go for weekend and could have any man they wanted.

Finally, Larai agreed to graduate. This time around, she became very destructive to homes and marriages. She took any man she wanted and if the wife stood in her way, she killed her through diabolical means.

To cut a long story short, at last she met a man she agreed to marry and all her boyfriends gave her what she asked for, even if it meant depriving their family of food or children's school fees. Her wedding was the talk of the town. But after that, she began the long wait for fruit of the womb until she decided to take matters into her hands. This too is another story for another day but under a different topic.

Keep a date with me for more interesting stories.

## NEWS

# Lalong performs ground breaking of two housing estates

To meet the housing deficit of citizens, Plateau Governor Simon Bako Lalong has laid the foundation for two housing estates in his state.

Performing the foundation laying ceremony of the two estates on Friday 5th August 2022 in Jos, Lalong expressed optimism that the projects will provide the accommodation needs of Civil Servants and the people.

The two housing estates are the Palm Estate located in Dwei, Du District of Jos South Local Government Area constructed by Odigbo Properties Ltd., and the Workers Housing Estate carried out by the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and Drallop Services Ltd. a Private Developer.

At the foundation laying and unveiling of the Palm Estate in Dwei Du, Governor Lalong said the initiative was one of the benefits of the restored peace and stability in Plateau State.

He commended the developer for choosing to come to Plateau State to provide housing for the citizens who are in need of houses due to the huge deficit in the sector.

He said government has signed other Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) through the Ministry of Housing to partner with other private developers to create adequate housing for Plateau people.

Chairman of Odigbo Properties Ltd Mr. Chikezie Tony said his company decided to embark on the project at because of the peaceful atmosphere that has been created by Governor Lalong, as well as his business friendly policies on land administration, and ease of doing business.

He disclosed that the estate which will have about 300 houses of 3, 2, and 1 bedrooms will be constructed with the highest quality and sold at affordable prices.

He also disclosed that about 500 youths have been employed from Plateau to work on the site while the project which be conducted in phases will have educational facilities, organised green area, medical facility, commercial facility, security and technical services among other things.

The Governor thereafter moved to Zanwra Nkienwhiea in Miango, Bassa Local Government for the foundation laying of the 844 units Workers Housing Estate in Bassa LGA.

The Governor said the housing will assist civil servants to own their houses and live in comfortable environment that will increase their productivity and performance.

Head of Service (HOS) of Plateau State, Engr. Sunday Hyat in an address at the Bassa project site said government had approved 40 hectares of land to enable civil servants own their own houses and lamented that many households are living in deplorable conditions.

The HOS assured that

Stories by PALANG KASMI

government would improve staff welfare and create affordable houses to address the housing challenges in the state and country especially for low income earners.

While appreciating the host community for giving the land for the project, Hyat stated that with such projects, civil servants can have the capacity to access loans by using the property as collateral.

NLC President Comrade Ayuba Wabba, represented by Comrade Benjamin Anthony from the NLC National Joint Council described the construction of the estate, Named after Governor Lalong as one of the key projects by the NLC.

While praying for the project to be concluded before the 18 month completion period, he said the NLC has always been concerned about the well-

being of their members particularly as it relates to home ownership, and added that similar projects are ongoing in other States.

He also called on the host community to give the developers support, urging that the houses should be subsidised and made affordable to workers.

One of the developer, Managing Director MD and Chief Executive Officer of Drallop Services, Mr. Aburime Pollard said the project will employ thousands of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled-labour and called on youths to come and be engaged on the construction site.

There was goodwill speeches by the Brra Ngwe Irigwe, Paramount Ruler of Irigwe land Rev. Ronku Aka, representative of Federal Housing Authority, Plateau Commissioner for Housing, Site Managers, and Plateau state NLC Chairman.



Lalong

## I was appointed Tinubu Campaign DG - Lalong

Plateau State Governor Simon Bako Lalong has been appointed the Director General of the campaign organisation of the APC Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

Following his appointment, Lalong disclosed that his choice by Tinubu to handle the job was based on trust and his ability to deliver the Party to success in the upcoming 2023 General Elections.

Asiwaju Bola Tinubu along with APC National Chairman Sen. Abdullahi Adamu had on Thursday 4th August 2022 presented Governor Lalong to President Muhammadu Buhari at the Presidential Villa Abuja as the DG Tinubu Campaign Organisation.

National Chairman Abdullahi Adamu also announced that Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Festus Keyamo has been appointed as interim spokesperson for the APC presidential campaign council.

Speaking on how the party arrived at the choice of Governor Lalong as the campaign Director General, he said it was simply based on Lalong's ability to deliver.

Governor Lalong who immediately departed Abuja for Jos after the appointment was received by a large crowd of APC stalwarts and supporters including his Deputy Prof. Sonni Tyoden, and top government officials who came to welcome him at

the Yakubu Gowon Airport Heipang.

Shortly after arrival, the Governor thanked the people of Plateau State for their support to his administration and the APC which has continued to make him to be identified at the National level and trusted with very critical assignments.

He said his appointment as the DG Tinubu Campaign Organisation is a clear indication that the APC is well accepted in Plateau State and the state has the capacity to deliver in the forthcoming elections.

According to him, the Campaign Council will work very hard to mobilise the party towards canvassing the votes of Nigerians across all lines.

The Governor said the APC is sure of victory as it will continue to work towards improving the lives of Nigerians.

On how he intends to manage his campaign for the Plateau South Senatorial District seat alongside this new responsibility, Lalong said he has capable hands in the State that will continue to work for the party anytime he is away.

The State APC Chairman, Rufus Bature who expressed happiness with the development said the appointment of Lalong is due to his track record of achievements both at the state and national level.

POLITICS

# 35 women candidates for 2023 elections in Kaduna

**T**HE Kaduna State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Dr. Asmau Maikudi, has stated that 35 women are among the various political parties' candidates for the 2023 general elections in Kaduna state.

Addressing a one day sensitisation and enlightenment meeting with women contestants and other stakeholders at the Kaduna state INEC headquarters, Asmau called for more political support and political position for Nigerian women. She said women constitute more than half of the population, more than 50% of registered voters in Nigeria and contribute more than men to the socio-economic development of Nigeria.

The INEC REC, who commended Governor Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna state for raising the bar higher by having 47% composition of women in his cabinet instead of the 35% women affirmation, said, "women constitute slightly more than half of the world population. Their contribution to the socio-economic development of societies is also more than half as compared to that of men by virtue of our triple roles in the productive, reproductive and community management spheres."

"Yet our participation in formal political structures and processes, where decisions regarding the use of societal resources generated by both men and women are made, remains insignificant, as we have just seen in the NASS decision of rejecting Affirmative Action in the Constitutional Amendment of the Electoral Act, 2022."

Among the five gender bills rejected by the parliament, were the affirmative action bill to ensure 35% positions for women, the bill on ministerial or commissioner nomination, the reserved seat bill to create additional seats for women at the Senate, House of Representatives and the States Houses of Assembly.

"The rejection has only further energized women in Kaduna state to push for elective and representative positions. Today we have 35 women politicians that have emerged victorious in their party primaries. There's no gain saying that women in positions of leadership have shown competence and diligence in their service. Any nation that does not recognize its women and their capacity is doomed to fail. Women need men to support them to achieve their full potential and bring in their expertise to move the country forward."

"Despite many national and international conventions, resolutions and agreements of which Nigeria is a signatory, Nigerian women have still

remained backward and neglected. We are not given our rightful position in organizations both politically and socially. I must however acknowledge some countries that have found women worthy of leadership and commend such women for proving their worth, Rwanda readily comes to mind here. It is a strong example of how women can be utilized and harnessed."

"Malam Nasir el-Rufai has transformed Kaduna state as a shining example of how to engage women in governance and development. It is the only state that has 47% of women in appointive positions in the state. Women of Kaduna have made invaluable contributions and



**Mahmood**

unrelenting efforts to drive development and growth in the state. The deputy governor, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe is going down into history as the only woman to be elected Deputy Governor for a 1 term and contesting into the same position, for the 2023 elections.

"As at 1st August 2022, women constituted over 50% of the electorates that registered for the CVR

nationwide, and therefore urge you to support each other as the surest way to success in 2023 general elections. We have the numbers. Nigerian policy makers should note that the continued marginalization of women in Nigeria is a huge detriment to its efforts to grow as a stable, democratic nation. Any democratisation process that fails to incorporate a gender perspective is a flaw."

# Atiku, Wike set up committee to resolve differences

**T**HERE are indications that the face off between the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar and Governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Wike, may soon be resolved as the two principal actors met behind closed doors to resolve their differences, on Thursday.

Reports indicate that the meeting which was brokered by the former Minister of Information, Jerry Gana, took place at the Asokoro residence of Jerry Gana, who had served as the Director General of Wike Campaign team.

A source close to the meeting said that both parties agreed to resolve their differences and set up a committee made up of their representatives that will work out the way forward.

"Only the three of them

met and agreed to set up a committee made up of nomination of equal members, to work out modalities for peace to reign," the source said.

This will be the first meeting between Abubakar and Wike, since the PDP Presidential candidate announced Delta State Governor, Ifeanyi Okowa as his running mate.

"It's a very good sign for the PDP and what the party is hoping to do in the 2023 election and it's a very good sign for Nigerians because Nigerians are earnestly waiting for the major characters to resolve their issue," the source said.

"If the PDP is expected to wrestle power from the APC, they have to do that as a united front. That they are even meeting face-to-face now is the beginning of the end of

the resolution of the issues."

He noted that the meeting was cordial and it was a good sign, adding

that "it was a face-to-face membership, but has also threatened the cohesion of the party which had acted as one prior to the June presidential primary."

The acrimony created by the feud had not only fragmented the party

# Osun APC heads to tribunal to challenge Adeleke's Victory

**G**BOYEGA Famodun, chairman of All Progressives Congress (APC), in Osun State on Thursday said that the party has concluded plans to challenge the outcome of the July 16, 2022 governorship election at the Election Petitions Tribunal.

Famodun said the party is ready to drag the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), People's Democratic Party (PDP) and its candidate, Ademola Adeleke to the Elections Petitions Tribunal.

Addressing a press conference held at the party Secretariat in Osogbo, the APC chairman told members of the party not to be discouraged by what had happened that the party would reclaim its mandate through legal means.

Famodun, said legal counsels of the party and its candidate, Governor Gboyega Oyetola told them they have a very good case at the Tribunal.

He said: "We are going to the Tribunal and our lawyers have let us know that we have good cases at the Tribunal."

Speaking on the allegations of anti party activities leveled against the Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola and his loyalists, Famodun said the party had set up a machinery to investigate them in their different wards.

He said, "Whether the

# INEC canvasses support of traditional institutions

cards, and should desist from selling their votes during the election and be vanguards of peace," he said.

Earlier, the Oba Yoruba Kano state Engineer Murtala Alimi otisese said as traditional leaders they would expedite action in enlightening their people in ensuring that they exercise their franchise in achieving

free, fair, and credible elections.

He urged the people of kano state and the nation at large to ensure that they collect their PVCs and come out en mass during the elections to exercise their constitutional responsibility peacefully for the well-being of the nation.



**Okoye**



**Ayu**

**Corona virus is still around, please observe all the laid down protocols**

machinery to investigate the activities of these individuals in their different wards, we will get a report from the ward chairmen as to how they have been behaving in their wards in the past few years.

## SUNDAY POLITICS

## As Tinubu, Atiku roll out campaign teams

**T**HE All Progressives Congress (APC) has named Plateau state Governor Simon Lalong as the Director-General of its presidential campaign for the 2023 elections.

APC National Chairman Senator Abdullahi Adamu said this while briefing State House correspondents after a meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari in Abuja.

The APC chairman was accompanied to the State House by the presidential candidate of the party, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, and his running mate, Senator Kashim Shettima.

He said Minister of State for Labour and Employment Festus Keyamo (SAN), was appointed the interim spokesperson for the APC presidential campaign council.

Answering a question on how the party arrived at the choice of Governor Lalong as the Director-General of the party, the APC chairman said it was based on his ability to deliver.

He said the party's Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket for the 2023 elections is a positive development for the country's politics.

"Yes, we have been hearing concerns being expressed. In the APC, we believe very strongly that no matter what description, no matter what faith you will associate with any one of our candidates, we are first and foremost Nigerians.

"There is no doubt in the fact that we have people whose stock trade is on some of these religious issues. Just like you have people expressing fears or concerns about a Muslim-Muslim ticket, there are Christians that welcome it as a positive development in Nigerian politics. They are Nigerians," he said.

The APC chairman said the party recognised the concerns and would put them to rest before the election which is seven months away.

Adamu said: "We are extremely sensitive to some of these sensitivities of fellow Nigerians or fellow members of our party. But the fact of the matter is, one issue does not determine a candidate or determine victory.

"The party has taken a very careful deep look at the Nigerian situation and the political space. And we believe very strongly that notwithstanding the expression that we're hearing, we will be working on amicable solutions to the sentiment and we're very sure by the grace of God we'll put them to rest before the elections."

Also speaking, the vice presidential candidate, Senator Shettima, said the same-faith arguments were the machinations of a petrified opposition.

Citing the Ribadu-Bafarawa presidential ticket of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) in the 2011 general elections, Shettima urged Nigerians to focus on issues and not the faith of the candidates.

"In 2011, the presidential candidate and the vice-presidential candidate of the ACN. Both of them were Muslims. Nobody raised an eyebrow. Now, the opposition has seen a winning combination and they are petrified, deep down to the marrow of their bones.

"We will not trade on insults, lies and mischiefs. We have established a track record of excellence. Let our opponents show what they have done in their respective states. Ladies and gentlemen, let's discuss issues. How to propel this nation to greatness is much more important than playing on the sentiments of Nigerians. Poverty knows no religion or ethnicity, insecurity knows no religion or ethnicity," he said.

In a related development, the Tinubu Support Organisation (TSO) has unveiled Hajiya Mariam Buhari as new national coordinator.

The group also announced Mrs. Ayodele Fatunsin as the new deputy national coordinator. Announcing the new appointments recently in Abuja, TSO's national secretary, Otunba Gboyega Bada said: "Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu is the political spirit, the moving force that every political party reckons with it. He is the easiest product for us to market. As of today in the present-day Nigerian democracy, the first person you talk about is Asiwaju. He is a political strategist; he is a builder of men, a financial guru."

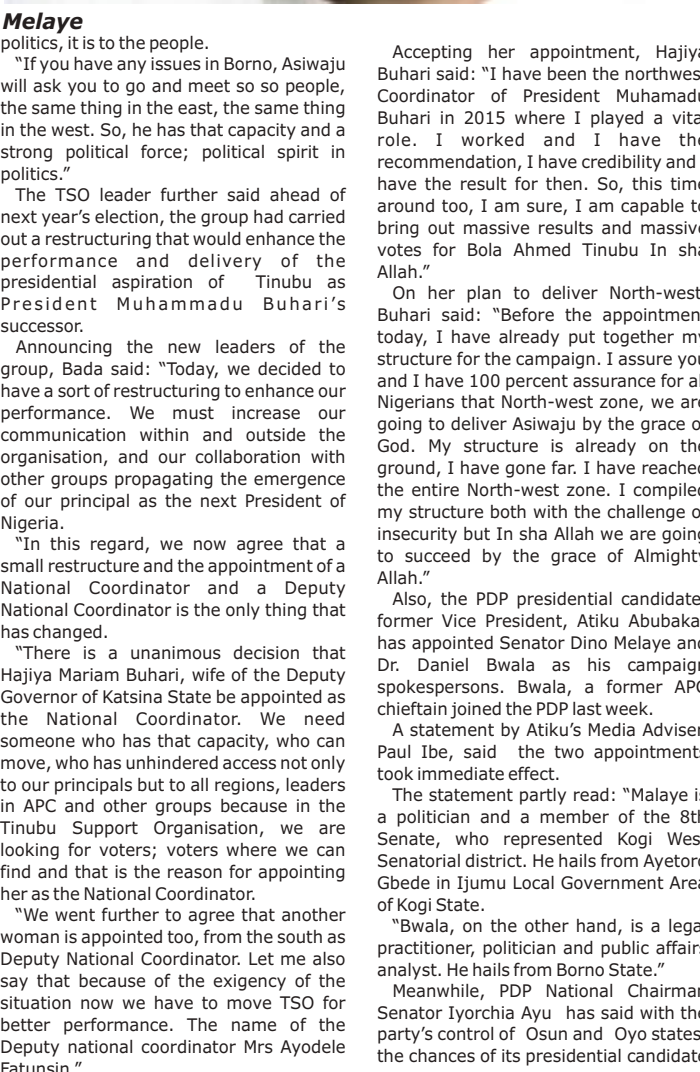
Eulogising the leadership acumen of the APC flag bearer, Bada said: "There is no other person than the Jagaban of Africa who has touched the lives of many, not only in Lagos but across and beyond the country and that is why APC decided to designate him as the National Leader. If you mention the relevance of anybody in



Lalong



Keyamo



Melaye

politics, it is to the people.

"If you have any issues in Borno, Asiwaju will ask you to go and meet so so people, the same thing in the east, the same thing in the west. So, he has that capacity and a strong political force; political spirit in politics."

The TSO leader further said ahead of next year's election, the group had carried out a restructuring that would enhance the performance and delivery of the presidential aspiration of Tinubu as President Muhammadu Buhari's successor.

Announcing the new leaders of the group, Bada said: "Today, we decided to have a sort of restructuring to enhance our performance. We must increase our communication within and outside the organisation, and our collaboration with other groups propagating the emergence of our principal as the next President of Nigeria.

"In this regard, we now agree that a small restructure and the appointment of a National Coordinator and a Deputy National Coordinator is the only thing that has changed.

"There is a unanimous decision that Hajiya Mariam Buhari, wife of the Deputy Governor of Katsina State be appointed as the National Coordinator. We need someone who has that capacity, who can move, who has unhindered access not only to our principals but to all regions, leaders in APC and other groups because in the Tinubu Support Organisation, we are looking for voters; voters where we can find and that is the reason for appointing her as the National Coordinator.

"We went further to agree that another woman is appointed too, from the south as Deputy National Coordinator. Let me also say that because of the exigency of the situation now we have to move TSO for better performance. The name of the Deputy national coordinator Mrs Ayodele Fatunsin."

Accepting her appointment, Hajiya Buhari said: "I have been the northwest Coordinator of President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015 where I played a vital role. I worked and I have the recommendation, I have credibility and I have the result for then. So, this time around too, I am sure, I am capable to bring out massive results and massive votes for Bola Ahmed Tinubu in sha Allah."

On her plan to deliver North-west, Buhari said: "Before the appointment today, I have already put together my structure for the campaign. I assure you and I have 100 percent assurance for all Nigerians that North-west zone, we are going to deliver Asiwaju by the grace of God. My structure is already on the ground, I have gone far. I have reached the entire North-west zone. I compiled my structure both with the challenge of insecurity but In sha Allah we are going to succeed by the grace of Almighty Allah."

Also, the PDP presidential candidate, former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar has appointed Senator Dino Melaye and Dr. Daniel Bwala as his campaign spokespersons. Bwala, a former APC chieftain joined the PDP last week.

A statement by Atiku's Media Adviser, Paul Ibe, said the two appointments took immediate effect.

The statement partly read: "Melaye is a politician and a member of the 8th Senate, who represented Kogi West Senatorial district. He hails from Ayetoro Gbade in Ijumu Local Government Area of Kogi State.

"Bwala, on the other hand, is a legal practitioner, politician and public affairs analyst. He hails from Borno State."

Meanwhile, PDP National Chairman Senator Iyorchia Ayu has said with the party's control of Osun and Oyo states, the chances of its presidential candidate



Keyamo



Bwala

in the 2023 election has become brighter. Ayu stated this Thursday at the meeting of the party's national working committee (NWC) with former national publicity secretaries, zonal, state publicity secretaries and other stakeholders in Abuja.

He stressed the need for the party to maintain relationship formed on realities with the Nigerian people, adding that "the Nigerian people as long as we continue to do the right things, they will believe us and they will definitely give us their mandate.

"We try to convince Nigerian people of the disgusting realities that they find themselves in, thanks to the APC and all the lies they told against the PDP."

"I think that message is getting through by the series of elections we've gone through. The elections in Abuja in the six area councils, people voted massively for the PDP.

"The elections in Ekiti and Osun, again, it was clear that the preferred party that the Nigerian people want to take over power next year is still the PDP. This is not based on lies, it is based on realities. "It's based on the reality of these two states elections Ekiti and Osun, never mind we had a hiccup in Ekiti for reasons which many Nigerians and party members know, we still keyed in on a very important state of Osun.

"This means we now control the heartland of the Southwest. We control both Osun and Oyo, and if you control the heartland of the Southwest, you are likely to win in the rest of the Southwest in Ondo, in Ogun and of course the big prize in Lagos," he said.

He urged the party publicity secretaries at all levels to convey to

Nigerians the failure of the APC-led administrations.

"We are definitely going to win the next election, we'll increase the number of governors, we'll control the National Assembly, House of Representatives, most state houses of assembly and of course the big price friends, we shall return to the Villa," he added.

Earlier in his remarks, PDP National Publicity Secretary Debo Ologunagba had said the APC came to power through propaganda and lies.

Ologunagba who stressed the need for unity to defeat the lies of APC, said: "We believe that together we can pilot the affairs of this party, and of course our nation by ensuring that we have this conversation."

He further said: "We came out with the mandate that we will as a party confront and engage in conversation war with the liars, the liars of the APC. From that moment, we directed our communication in ensuring that the communication that we have is to expose the lies of the APC with which they hoodwinked Nigeria in 2014."

In a related development, a former deputy governor in the immediate past APC government in Bauchi state, Audu Sule Katagum, alongside commissioners and other aides recently visited Governor Bala Mohammed to announce their official defection from APC to PDP.

Governor Bala, who received the defectors expressed gratitude to them for finding it worthy to dump their former party and joining the ruling PDP in the state.

Reacting to the development, the PDP chairman in the state, Hamza Koshe Akuyam, welcomed the defectors to PDP, expressing the confidence that their coming would add value to the success of the party in next year's general elections in the state.

"We are grateful to Almighty Allah for this day which is historic to us, and it means a lot to us as PDP in Bauchi state," Akuyam said.

## SUNDAY POLITICS

# Futility of the M-M ticket in Nigeria

***In politics, things happen. One of the most happening things in the game is choice making. The act of choice making can be so difficult and in most cases so uncertain. One choice(s) could make or mar the chance of winning in political contests or life opportunity, generally. AYUBA YILGAK' HA writes.***

**I**N recent times, political parties in Nigeria conducted their primary elections. After the emergence of party flag bearers, especially, for presidential and governorship seats, the candidates who emerged victorious were faced with great difficulty of whom to choose as their respective running mates to an extent that some of the candidates had to resort to the appointment of Vice Presidential (VP) placeholders to meet up with Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC's) deadline for submission. A placeholder is a Vice Presidential Candidate who is, temporarily, nominated to stand in the position pending his replacement with a substantive one as provided by law. The legality or otherwise of this arrangement is subject to legal contestation, anyway.

The Presidential Candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Alh. Atiku Abubakar who was Obasanjo's Vice President for eight years nominated and presented his running mate, Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, up front; although, not without challenges. The choice of Okowa is threatening to polarise the main opposition party and lower her chances of winning. This is apart from zoning considerations which saw Atiku's emergence as 'stealing' the chance of Southern Nigerians. The debate surrounding this development is endless: That is the beauty of democracy.

The Presidential candidates of some political platforms found it difficult settling the issue of their respective running mates at once. For instance, the candidate of the Labour Party (LP), Mr. Peter Obi had to go for Dr. Doyin Okupe which made it a Christian-Christian (C-C) ticket before Alh. Yusuf Baba Ahmed was later found and replaced him; the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Chief Bola Ahmed Tinubu (BAT) opted for Alh. Ibrahim Masari which made it a Muslim-Muslim (M-M) ticket before Alh. Kashim Shettima, former governor of Borno State, replaced him (M-M ticket retained!), thereby generating wide condemnation, especially, from the Christendom which is tended to worsen the balance of peace and unity of Nigeria.

The reasons for the wide condemnation of the M-M ticket is obviously connected to two outstanding issues: The relative diversity of Nigeria and the relative novelty of the choice. Nigeria with an estimated population of over 200 million is a multi-ethnic nation-state with over 500 tribal groups which are spread across Islam, Christian and traditional religions, on the one hand, and atheism (free thinkers) on the other. The M-M ticket is relatively novel because after the 1993 Presidential Election which saw the emergence of Social Democratic Party's (SDP's), MKO Abiola of Blessed memory and Babagana Kingibe which was eventually annulled, it never happened again. More so, is that things have changed and Nigeria has never been this openly divided, especially, along religious lines as it is today.

Conspiracy theories and deep seated suspicions on both sides of the divide has continued to consume the fibre of the Nigerian State. There



Tinubu



Shettima

are many votes mobilisation platforms, one of which, is religion but when religion becomes the main tool for votes mobilisation in a religiously diverse and delicate country, it causes suspicion and could open old wounds. That is the problem with the present M-M ticket in Nigeria.

Chief Tinubu who should know better ought not to have cited competency as justification for choosing Shettima as running mate if he must do so; but instead, winning votes threshold since it's argued there are more Muslims in Northern Nigeria. In as much as the man, Shettima, can be competent, it is not correct to assume there is no single competent Christian APC member who can be running mate from the north.

The protagonists had told the antagonists of the M-M ticket that the party is not a Christian organisation but they forgot there are Christian members of the ruling platform who cannot be de-linked from their faith.

In his poem titled, "BAT", D. H. Lawrence, referred to the Bat as "Flying madly." The poet further said that, "In China, the bat is a symbol of happiness" but concluded: "Not for me". Millions of spirited and patriotic Nigerians, irrespective of creed, tribe and regional inclinations are not happy with the BAT's M-M ticket. The political giant has committed needless and avoidable political harakiri by omitting or discarding very significant Christian voting population.

The APC Presidential Candidate had unusual opportunity to demystify the Nigerian jinx but squandered it. How beautiful could it have been to have a minority Muslim president from a majority Christian South and a minority Christian Vice President

from a majority Muslim North? The reality of such combination would have brought Nigeria close to overcoming religious politics which has been our greatest albatross, for decades.

It is unfortunate Tinubu had the chance to balance his political game and balance Nigeria's political chemistry but wasted it. If the insinuation that fake bishops were hired to attend the unveiling of the Tinubu's Vice Presidential candidate is true, then foul. Politicians cannot achieve by political simulation what can be achieved, practically, through natural wisdom.

What hypothesis does Tinubu want to test with the M-M ticket after he himself opposed it in 2011 as recently revealed by his bickering with Atiku (Turakin Adamawa) who is one of his top challengers? And should he win or lose, how will Nigeria look like beyond 2023? Your guess is as good as mine! Tinubu's quest for political (democratic) correctness has taken Nigeria miles backward. His choice has amplified, further polarised and deepened the country's faultlines. And it's sad the extension of this sharp division is coming from a supposed elder Statesman who should know better.

By this choice, Tinubu has decided to throw statesmanship to the wind and, consequently, reduced himself to the status of a typical politician with religious inclination. A typical politician is selfish and thinks only of winning the next election. On the other hand, a statesman is selfless and thinks, primarily, of the next generation, sustained national cohesion and stability amongst all contending forces in a country

or nation (nation-state). The hypothesis here is that with a Muslim-Christian (M-C), mixed ticket at least, anyone could win elections in Nigeria provided the candidate is credible enough. Such victory will be victory for equity and fair representation, at least at the religious levels. It shall be victory for unity and mutual respect too, at least, for now.

There is no need flying madly, as a statesman. Hirelings, simulated Bishops cannot make for massive criticisms that greeted Tinubu's "competency" gab which he cited as excuse for denying Christians a chance to be part of his ambition to govern diverse Nigeria. M-M ticket is possible but cannot be easy sell in contemporary Nigeria. With the wide criticism, the APC Presidential Candidate has practically realised that such arrangement is unsettling on a scale he least expected and doing everything with his power douse the tension that is threatening to consume his long planned and most cherished ambition to be president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Tinubu was cautioned but he seems arrogant and rigid about his predetermined decision to go with M-M ticket. This is not surprising to this author, really. This is because, arrogance and rationality do not go together, just as anger and rationality do not get together; arrogance and rationality do not go together, just as fear and rationality do not go together; arrogance and rationality do not go together just as sensation (excitement) and

rationality do not go together. In other words, when a man gets arrogant, angry, afraid and or too excited, he does not think, rationally, anymore. Whatever it is, some have argued democracy is not about rationality but simply the tyranny of the majority.

In times like this all manner of things happen. Point is, any decision that does not translate into making Nigerians more united cannot be rational under any guise. Any electoral victory that does not translate into the unity of Nigeria is pyrrhic and of no national consequence. What is desired in development centred democracy is to win popular votes and to win the peace; not to win the votes and lose national peace and unity.

Anyway, in any electioneering season, political schemers always plot all sort of schemes but, ultimately, the rightness or wrongness of their choices shall be determined at the ballot stations. Therefore, all Nigerians are challenged to show enthusiasm and willingness to actively participate in the process by freely voting candidates of their choice in the next election.

The 2023 General Election is loading. Delegates of political parties have made choices of their respective candidates. Those candidates who are required by law to have running mates have also made their choices. It is now the turn of the citizens of voting age to use their voting power to elect leaders who will govern their respective constituencies in the next four years. Let us pray God to guide our fingers so we vote in the next poll. We should also pray the electoral process goes rancour free and the best of leaders should emerge for Nigeria and its sub-national levels.

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## GOV. LALONG TRIUMPHANTLY RECEIVED

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong was on Monday well received by a mammoth crowd at the Yakubu Gowon Airport, Heipang on arrival after being unveiled as the Director General, Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council by the All Progressives Party



APC State Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature, Secretary to Government of the State, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu in a group photograph with APC State Assembly candidates at the Airport



Governor Simon Bako Lalong acknowledging cheers from the mammoth crowd to welcome him



Governor Lalong being received by his Deputy, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, APC Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature, SGC, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu on arrival



Mr. Silas Vem, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Governor (left) with Hon. Sylvanus Namang, APC State Publicity Secretary



Director General, ITF, Sir Joseph Ari dancing to Gamai cultural group at the Airport



Dr. Mrs. Regina Soemlat, Commissioner of Finance (right) and Barr. Mrs. Alice Asaije Dimlong, APC Woman Leader, Plateau State



Executive Chairman, Barkin Ladi LGC, Hon. Jock Alamba (left) with his Pankshin counterpart, Hon. Kakmena Audu Goteng



A cross section of crowd advancing to welcome the new DG Presidential Campaign Council, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong

Photos: DANLADI DUK



It is not every time that one gets to see a legislator who has the best interest of his constituents at heart. In as much as the primary responsibility of the legislator is that of making laws and performing oversights, going a step further in lobbying for government's presence for the people through the provision of certain infrastructural development would not be out of place. One would also agree that issues of governance over the years have become so cumbersome that providing all that they need is now nearly impossible. For this reason, the legislator ought to intervene in certain areas.

For Hon. Amurudu Usaini Ateu who is the member representing Bokkos constituency at the Plateau State House of Assembly, his desire to serve his people first of all prompted him into joining politics and eventually becoming their representative. His motivation to put smiles on the faces of his constituents stemmed from the fact he has always been a rural person, having lived in the village. While growing up as a child, he witnessed the many challenges his community and other communities had to face. Some of which are bad roads, lack of clean water, poor healthcare, lack of conducive learning environment and inadequate classrooms etc. In short, having access to the basic social amenities was a huge problem then.

It is for this reason that when the opportunity to serve presented itself, Amurudu grappled it with all seriousness and never lost focus. And so for three days, Bokkos local government was agog for the commissioning of about thirty projects embarked on by the lawmaker which cut across security, water, sanitation, health, education and road. Seventeen (17) of the projects were executed by him while thirteen (13) were executed through the intervention of the state government. However, there were about eleven (11) projects that required rehabilitation and maintainance that were also carried out by the Hon. Member. It is pertinent to note that these projects spread across the twenty different wards which make up Bokkos local government council. The fact that each of the communities benefitted from one or more projects according to their pressing needs earned the lawmaker respect and admiration.

The euphoria of the whole ceremony showed that the various communities have never had it this good. As they witnessed an unusual presence of dignitaries from all walks of life, including a motorcade of vehicles to the different communities where the projects are to be commissioned, all that resonated on that day showed that indeed it was an August event. No wonder, the people came out in large numbers to see things for themselves as both women, children and even the aged were not left out.

The event kicked off with the commissioning of the constructed Police Out Post at Richa and was done by the Executive Governor Simon Lalong who was represented by the SGS, Prof. Danladi Atu. With the many security challenges bedeviling the state, this security outpost could not have come at a better time. For Prof. Atu, this singular gesture which is in line with the recent initiative launched by the state government referred to as 'Operation Know Your Neighbour' is the beginning of the end of insecurity in the state. He also did not hold back words as he showered accolades on the lawmaker for embarking on such enormous projects.

He categorically stated that only a

person of integrity will do what Amurudu has done. His next utterance and statement which was like some sort of revelation left many surprised. According to him, some lawmakers collect constituency funds approved for projects but never use them for that purpose. The truth is that it was an eye opener because most of the constituents do not know that their representatives actually collect monies in the name of constituency projects.

Highlight of the commissioning was the donation of four walkie-talkies purchased by the lawmaker to aid security agencies in their surveillance duties. They were presented by the SGS to the police, civil defense, vigilante and hunters association. While presenting the



## Setting the pace in constituency intervention



walkie-talkies, Atu warned members of the community against harbouring kidnapers in their homes as anyone caught would be severely punished. In his opinion, assisting the police with necessary information especially through the know your neighbour initiative should help communities identify people with suspicious and questionable characters.

Water they say is life, the need for water as an essential basic amenity cannot be overemphasized. Knowing this fully well, Hon. Amurudu thought it wise to assist by drilling seven hand pump boreholes, including two motorized at Maboh, Kwatas, Kuba, Bargesh, Ngoksar, Tukyies, Fulbe, Toff and Daffo communities. Health is something that should not be taken for granted, going by the saying 'health is wealth'. For this reason, the legislator single handedly constructed, renovated and completed Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) at Hokk, Amban, Mbor and Gawarza Mangar which were all commissioned. Worthy of note is the installation of a transformer by the lawmaker at the Bokkos Cottage Hospital which was also commissioned. For hygienic purposes, a convenience facility was constructed in Bokkos town.

Uplifting the standard of education

and ensuring that indigenes in the different localities go to school is second to none for the legislator. With this in mind, he took it upon himself to construct, renovate and complete several primary schools, including building an office space at Siken, Danbwash Gida, Metzset, Digot, Ambul, Horrom, Kukut, Tishau- Karfa. While a science laboratory was built and handed over to Government Secondary School Sha.

No doubt, most communities in Bokkos are agrarian. Thus having good roads will in no small measure help in boosting farm products and by extension, uplift the economic standards of the communities. Amurudu who is an Engineer by profession and also the Chairman House Committee on Works and Transport supported the reconstruction of the Danbukuru bridge by providing bags of cement. The bridge is the link between Danbukuru and Butura communities. For easy mobility, he also assisted in building culvert boxes in Mudor Bot, COCIN Daffo and others. The lawmaker was said to have lobbied for communication network antennas and equipment which was installed in several communities. This is in order to help keep the people abreast with happenings outside their localities.



## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Emefiele



Ahmed

## Naira free fall: Are Nigerians ready for worse?

*The slump of the Naira against major currencies especially the United States dollar is now giving policy makers, business owners as well as millions of Nigerians sleepless nights as it plunges into a scary digit and by implication, the nation's socio-economic environment is about to witness the worst distress in recent history if the Federal Government fails to apply the necessary drastic measures that can prevent a total collapse of the economy. KENNETH DARENG writes.*

**N**IGERIA is considered the most powerful economy on the continent of Africa with vast human and natural resources with major investments in the oil and gas alone running into billions of dollars which makes it a power house and a major player on the economic front.

However, that narrative is about to change as the country has now found itself in an economic mess where the Naira exchange rate against the dollar now stands at N700.00 and may likely keep slumping. According to economic experts, the reason for the Naira's fall is as a result of severe pressure on the foreign reserves, which had been dropping in recent times despite higher oil prices which also forced the Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN], to cut down on dollar sales thereby creating scarcity of the greenback on the market.

It would be recalled, the CBN had devalued the naira several times in the past few years, as it succumbed to demand's pressure amid worsening scarcity of the greenback which most analysts consider a dangerous omen for the country being Africa's most populous and largest producer of crude oil.

According to Moses Obinna, a Jos based businessman in a chat with **SUNDAY STANDARD**, "It is sad that Nigeria is going through such

terrible times at this moment when businesses are already strangled by years of economic harsh realities, declining fortunes in terms of inconsistent Government policies and unfriendly environment for doing business to the level of general insecurity across the country.

"And if we continue like this, perhaps we may be looking at Nigeria going the same economic pattern with Zimbabwe whose currency has gone through several devaluation and at every twist and turn ended with a valueless currency that cannot purchase goods and services. It is only in places like Zimbabwe that one goes to the market with millions of Zimbabwean dollar just to

buy snacks. This is the kind of scenario playing out right now in Nigeria where slowly, we are beginning to see our naira getting valueless against the U.S dollar and other currencies."

The Deputy President, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry [LCCI], Gabriel Idahosa, was quoted in **THE NATION** publication of Tuesday, 2 August, 2022, lamented that the naira crisis spells doom for the real sector. He said, "for instance, the real sector operators will experience aggravated levels of what they are in already. Such as, increased losses, scaling down of operations, and cutting down of staff etc."

According to Idahosa, this will

lead to further decline in production at enterprise and national levels. "As a result, the unemployment situation and related social and security issues which will escalate, and with a growing population of able bodied young Nigerians without viable source of income may turn to crime" he said.

The LCCI chief further lamented that the ability of operators in the real sector to do medium and long term planning is seriously hampered in a rapidly inflationary environment. Noting further that, the steady decline in Foreign Direct Investment [FDI], seen in recent times will continue at the fastest rate as confidence in the local currency drops.

Also speaking on the same issue in the same publication, the President, Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture [NACCIMA], Ide J.C. Udeagbala, drawing attention to the National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], recent report that the nation's FDI had declined by as much as 81 percent which by implication the economy is badly affected by insecurity that is contributing to rising production costs and reduced consumption of goods and services.

He also decried the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria which he noted has become a major concern for the operators of the sector. According to him, this is so because the 33.3 percent rate of unemployment often quoted by the NBS does not take into consideration the impact of Covid-19 pandemic as well as the current conflict in Ukraine against the back drop of more than the 22million Nigerians that are unemployed.

The Acting Director -General of NACCIMA, Mr. Opeyemi Alaran, aligned with Olumide that the current sorry state of the naira was not surprising, "what is happening now is what NACCIMA has been hammering on since the beginning of the year that immediate action should be taken to address all the economic indices that point

“  
**The real sector operators will experience aggravated levels of what they are in already. Such as, increased losses, scaling down of operations, and cutting down of staff etc. According to Idahosa, this will lead to further decline in production at enterprise and national levels. As a result, the unemployment situation and related social and security issues which will escalate, and with a growing population of able bodied young Nigerians without viable source of income may turn to crime.**  
 “

*Continued on page 31*

NEWS

# School owners warned against commercializing education

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

**K**OGI State Government has warned school owners against commercializing education.

The Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Hon Wemi Jones gave the warning during the speech and prize giving occasion of Marvelous Academy in Lokoja.

Hon Jones, who stressed the need for proprietors of schools to continue to invest and reinvest in their schools, said ownership of schools is not a business and entrepreneurship, hence the need for them to see the establishment of schools as avenues to give back to the community.

The Commissioner stressed that the administration of Governor Bello takes serious all that concerns sound orientation for the young ones, noting that it was the only way they could breed a better society.



**Bello**

He praised the Governor for his quality touches in infrastructure in the the state, noting that the upgrade has given public education a comparative advantage over private sector schools in the state. On his part, the commissioner for information and communications, Hon

Kingsley Fanwo, who was also a guest at the occasion, enjoined teachers to ensure sound moral education to students as any knowledge that would rob the young ones sound moral well being was no education. Fanwo particularly applauded the foresight of Governor Bello in proscribing unions in higher

institutions in the state which has given the education sector the stability it deserves, unlike other states of the country where the ongoing strike by ASUU has shut the doors of universities. He advised students to take their academic seriously as education is the bedrock of the society, while proprietors of schools to introduce moral lesson unto their students so as to become better leaders in the Society. He equally encouraged them to introduce vocational education into their curriculum to ensure their graduants become employers of labour in the future. The proprietor of Marvelous Academy, Hon. Elijah Olarewaju who thanked government, and parents pupils in the school for their support, expressed his commitment towards improving the quality he has brought to the institution.

## NYSC DG: Assures corps members safety

DIRECTOR General of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brig. General MK Fadah, has reiterated his administration's commitment to the safety of all corps members nationwide.

He said adequate security measures have been put in place towards ensuring the protection of Corps Members during Orientation periods, while at their lodges and in other NYSC formations.

Fadah gave the assurance on Monday while addressing Corps Members at NYSC Katsina State Orientation Camp, Mani road, likewise their colleagues that were deployed to Borno State but having their Orientation Course at the NSCDC Training School in Katsina.

In a statement by the Director, Press and Public relations Eddy Megwa, the DG appealed to the Corps Members not to endanger their personal safety but be security conscious at all times.

"We have put everything in place to ensure the safety of all Corps Members nationwide. We are still working round the clock to ensure that you are more secured during and after the Orientation Camp periods. He advised members to avoid night movements and other dangerous expeditions," he said.

He encouraged Corps Members to embrace Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the Scheme and acquire vocational skills that would make them self employed.

## NDLEA intercepts tramadol tabs

ABOUT 2.7million tablets of tramadol 225mg weighing 1,650 kilograms worth N1.37 billion have been intercepted at Apapa port in Lagos by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

The consignment packed in 55 cartons of Tapentadol and Carisoprodol types of tramadol were seized during examination of a container marked SUDU 7538656 on Saturday, July 30, following credible intelligence.

NDLEA's Director, Media & Advocacy, Femi Babafemi, in a statement, on Monday, said that the action came on the heels of similar efforts by anti-narcotic officers at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) Ikeja, where it was by drug traffickers to export various psyonner choactive substances to London, United Kingdom (UK) and Dubai, United Arab Emirate (UAE) through the Lagos airport in the past week.

According to him, at least, five suspects have so far been arrested in connection to the attempts.

## Lalong unveiled as APC's presidential campaign DG

THE ruling party, All Progressives Congress (APC), has announced Governor Simon Lalong of Plateau State as the Director General of the presidential campaign organisation.

The National Chairman of the APC, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, made the announcement on Thursday after a meeting behind closed doors with President Muhammadu Buhari at the presidential villa, Abuja.

Adamu was accompanied by the presidential candidate of the APC, Bola Tinubu, vice presidential candidate, Senator Kashim Shettima, and Governor Lalong.

He said the APC settled for Lalong because of his "ability". Adamu also announced the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Festus Keyamo, as the interim spokesman of the organisation and Hannatu Musawa as the deputy spokesperson.

While fielding questions from state house reporters, Adamu said the Muslim-Muslim ticket of the party would not affect its victory in the 2023 elections.

He assured that the concern over the Muslim-Muslim ticket would be settled before next year's elections. Lalong, while speaking on his appointment, said he was chosen because of his ability and not on the basis of his Christian faith.

He said, "The party said I've been nominated because of my ability. I have been a very loyal member of the party. I joined APC because I believe in APC".

## Ex-IGP, Tafa Balogun, dies

FORMER Inspector General of Police, Mustafa Balogun, died Thursday night at the Reddington Hospital, Lekki, Lagos after a brief illness.

Balogun, who was born on August 25, 1947 at Ila-Orangun in Osun State, retired on January 17, 2005.

He was a member of cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Course. Having worked in various Police commands throughout the federation and earning his promotions as at when due.

Tafa was at a time, Principal Staff Officer (PSO) to former Inspector General of Police, Muhammadu Gambo; Deputy Commissioner of Police Edo State, the pioneer Commissioner of Police in Delta State. He was also CP in Rivers and Abia states.

Tafa, a fellow of the premier highest military institution in Nigeria, National War College, later became the Assistant Inspector General of Police, AIG, Zone Kano, from where he was named the IGP of Police on March 6, 2002. His infamous trial drew global attention in 2005. On April 4, 2005.

## Court sentences killer, Akwa Ibom Job seeker

JUSTICE Bassey Nkanang of the Akwa Ibom State High Court on Thursday sentenced Uduak Akpan to death by hanging for the murder of Iniubong Umoren.

Umoren, a graduate of Philosophy, University of Uyo, was killed on April 2021. She was job-hunting while awaiting mobilisation for the compulsory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme.

Uduak's father, Frank Akpan, and his sister, Anwan Bassey (second and third accused) were discharged and acquitted.

Finding Akpan guilty of rape in the over two hour judgment, the judge said the prosecution had proved beyond doubt the case of rape and murder against Akpan.

After the judge read out the judgment, the convicted rapist attempted to escape from the courtroom but was overpowered by security officials.

When the convict first appeared in court on July 26, 2021, he pleaded guilty to murder, but not guilty to rape. Having admitted to murdering the victim, the court, however, entered a not-guilty plea for the murder of Ms Umoren.

Compiled by **HOSEA NYAMLONG**

# Gunmen abduction rector, kill one

From **JOHN FWAH Kaduna**

**G**UNMEN on Tuesday abducted Amos Magbon, Rector of Federal School of Statistics, Manchok, in Kaura Local Government of Kaduna State.

Reports said the gunmen also killed Daniel Yatai, the father of Philip Yatai, a correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria in Manchok and also abducted his niece, Brenda.

The victim, Daniel Yatai, 86, retired from the Nigeria Railway Corporation in 1991.

The second child of the victim who witnessed the incident, Christiana Yatai, said that the gunmen came to the house at about 11:15pm.

"We were five in the house; myself, my dad, my mum, two of my nieces and a nephew.

"They asked us to open the door and when we refused, they broke the main entrance and gained access to the house.

"My father was in his room and one of them wearing a mask, who was outside, shot him through the window and the bullet hit him from the back.

"Those who entered the house later went to his room and finished him up.

"They went away with one of my niece, Ms Brenda Friday, 21, a final year student of Kaduna State

College of Education, Gidan Waya," she narrated.

Another child of the deceased, Joseph Yatai, said, the gunmen had contacted the family and demanded for N15 million to release the girl.

Similarly, brother to the rector, Innocent Magbon, said, the gunmen had also reached out to the family to ask for a N15m ransom.

When contacted on the issue, Kaduna Police Command spokesperson, DSP Mohammed Jalige, promised to get back to our reporters.



**Alkali**

# Bala signs bills for Vigilante, Youth Empowerment Scheme

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

**G**OVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi has assented to 12 bills passed by the State House of Assembly into law.

The bills that were signed into law are the bill for the establishment of Bauchi state Vigilante and Youth Empowerment scheme and other related purposes 2022.

The objectives of the bills is to explore opportunities in job creation and providing training for Youths in skill acquisition that will enable youths to be gainfully employed and self-reliant for their purposeful future.

Governor Bala was speaking shortly after signing the bills into law at the Exco chambers of the government house, where he stated that other bills that were signed into law include a bill to provide for the establishment of Bauchi state and local government Contributory pension scheme and other related matters 2022, bill to repeal the Bauchi state Urban planning and development board 2012 and enact the Bauchi state physical planning and development control board 2022.

Other bills according to the

governor include a bill to repeal the Bauchi state College of Agriculture 2013 and enact a law to establish Divisions of Agricultural colleges in Bauchi state university and for related matters 2022, a bill to provide for the establishment of Bauchi infrastructural development and maintenance agency 2022.

"Others include a bill to repeal the Bauchi state separation of account judiciary law, a bill to provide Bauchi state tourism development corporation, a bill to repeal the Bauchi state university establishment law 2010 and enact a law to establish Sa'adu Zungur University 2022, a bill to establish the Bauchi state security Trust fund and other related purposes 2022"

"Also bills to be signed into law are a bill to establish Bauchi state environmental Trust fund 2022, a bill to repeal the Bauchi state house management law 2017 and enact a law to provide for the management of funds accrued to

the Bauchi state House state house of Assembly from the consolidated revenue funds of the state and a bill to establish Bauchi state road and transport agency law 2022" he said.

Mohammed further commended the state house of Assembly for studying the details of the bills before passing them into law, pointing out that this reveals the cordial relationship between the legislature and the executive arm of government.

Speaking earlier, the Speaker of the Bauchi state House of Assembly, Suleiman Abubakar said that all the laws if properly implemented, will have direct bearing on the lives of the people of the state as well as protect their lives and properties.

He called on the people of the state to continue to support the present administration, saying that the infrastructures and other development recorded in the state are the product of cordial relationship and Mutual Corporation between the legislature and the executive arm of government.

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Is Labour Party capsizing on the Plateau?

**Even as the 2023 general elections approaches in Nigeria, all the intractable political parties are momentarily neck-deep into their scheming and employing efficient strategies to hopefully up-set the ruling party, All Progressives Congress, (APC) in the country. Aside this main conventional opposition party and the People's Democratic Party, (PDP), many political commentators are also of the opinion that pockets of the nation's populace are trying to find solace in the Labour Party, (LP). BULUS GAMBO writes.**

**S**INCE the emergence of its presidential candidate, Mr Peter Obi and his running mate, the party is fast becoming the talk of town. This is not to however say that other political parties would be a pushover during the forthcoming elections, far from this notion. Here on the Plateau however, the journey has equally been averagely impressive for the Labour Party not until the recent tussle over the state gubernatorial ticket which is threatening to tear the entire party apart.

Thus, the dreams of the party's desire to give the ruling All Progressive Congress a run for its money during the 2023 forthcoming Gubernatorial elections in Plateau State is momentarily under serious threat following the internal wrangling which emerged after the alleged substitution of Amb. Rihanna Yipwan Margif, the tentative governorship candidate of the party without due consultations by the powers that be.

While Dr. Patrick Dakum in an interview after his affirmation last Friday claimed that he had emerged the sole gubernatorial candidate of the Labour Party for the 2023 elections in the state, Margif during a phone interview with our correspondent from Abuja, Nigeria's capital on the other hand explained that he had written to the National Independent Electoral Commission, (INEC) reminding the electoral body that he still remains the only authentic candidate and had not relinquished his candidature for anybody and or anyone. According to Ambassador Margif, "I have never for once thought of doing that or discussed anything like that with him"

Investigations however revealed that trouble allegedly started after Dakum met Margif and urged him to relinquish the ticket for him to enable him contest for the forthcoming Plateau State Gubernatorial polls which he refused. Dakum it could be recalled was one of the candidates who contested for a ticket under the platform of the All-Progressives Congress, (APC) but later staged a walkout during the primaries. Investigations further revealed that this time around, several meetings were held within the Labour Party hierarchy in Abuja after which Dr. Dakum's name was endorsed at the national level of the party before they decided to come back to Jos, the Plateau State capital to affirm the position.

Though most of the members summoned for an emergency meeting had no prior knowledge of unfolding development, they later were briefed and eventually ratified the decision. Eventually, after various marathon meetings, Dakum later emerged before the media claiming to be the blessed candidate of the party.

Before Dakum's endorsement in Jos last Friday, many members of the party had expressed reservations on whether he would be eligible to efficiently and effectively represent the party after going through an earlier exercise under the platform of the APC. For many others also, they are of the opinion that Dakum lacked the intimidating credentials to be given the party's ticket considering the prolife of candidates of other parties in the state. Earlier Friday morning,



Dakum



Margif

Ambassador Margif himself was reportedly abducted in Abuja after he decided to direct his lawyers to write to INEC further reminding them that he had not traded his ticket or decided to step down for anybody all this while. Whether the alleged abduction had anything to do with the lingering problems is however yet to be ascertain.

Margif during interview with our reporter on the phone also confirmed his ordeal. Later in a statement titled IAM NOT DEAD, AMB. MARGIF WRITES INEC, the Labour Party Gubernatorial Candidate explained that he had written a letter to the nation's electoral body through his lawyer, AJ Rotimi SAN over the plot to substitute him illegally by some highly classified non registered members of the Labour Party, he accused Patrick Dakum describing him as the mastermind of the failed political coup.

Margif further noted that Dr. Dakum approach him to relinquish the ticket to him some months back, which "I told him that I can't do so, I wonder why an educated person such as Dr. Dakum will allow himself to pay 20 million naira dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to unknown persons for the purpose of obtaining fake nomination form and to desperately arrange kangaroo primaries aimed at replacing him despite knowing that Amb. Margif contested and won the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Labour Party Gubernatorial primaries in Plateau State and holds the party's ticket as well as INEC certificate as candidate.

"The only situation that can guarantee my substitution is voluntary withdrawal or death. As you can see, I am not dead and have never written any letter intending to withdraw from the race or mandate given me by God." Surprisingly however, the

Labour Party in a letter captioned, LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL AND DATE OF PRIMARIES dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 to the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) Zambezi Crescent Maitama Abuja explained that following the letters of withdrawal of interest to contest for the gubernatorial elections by some candidates from Delta, Kano, Kaduna, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Kebbi and Plateau, Taraba, Zamfara, Lagos, Sokoto and Bauchi States, the party has decided to conduct primaries which would hold on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

The letter signed by Barrister Julius Abure, National Chairman and Alhaji Farouk Ibrahim, National Secretary further explained that for the state Assembly, Imo, Kaduna, Kogi, Kano, Lagos, Benue, Delta, Plateau, Osun and Kwara States would also participate.

For Plateau State however, it was further alleged that though the gubernatorial candidate had not agreed to be substituted, a letter was written on his behalf and not endorsed by him but submitted to the authorities that he had agreed with the arrangement which is against the electoral act.

Earlier in a letter to the National Chairman of the Labour Party dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, Margif through his counsels, S.O. Magondo and Associates had written complaining over the desperate and spirited efforts by the opposition politicians to disorganize and scuttle Labour Party structure in Plateau State ahead of the 2023 general elections.

In the letter, Margif through his counsel explained that "it is our brief that some opposition parties in Plateau State, to wit: All Progressive Congress, APC and

Peoples Democratic Party, PDP are planning to scuttle and disrupt the Labour Party structure ahead of 2023 general elections. Please recall that, prior to the emergence of His Excellency, Peter Obi and our client, Ab. Yohanna Yilpwan Margif as the presidential and gubernatorial candidates of Labour Party respectively, Labour Party was in comatose, particularly in Plateau State, but for the emergence of our client as the party's flag-bearer sequel to the party primaries held in June 2022 and the subsequent certificate of return issued him, Labour Party became one of the cherished and most enviable and deserving party."

According to an insider, some influential personalities earlier lobbied the LP explaining to them that only Patrick Dakum had the numerical strength to upset the ruling party in the state and must be given the ticket to make the desired impact. This analogy triggered the endorsement of the Dakum ahead of others before he came back to Jos for the decision to be affirmed. This turnout of events would no doubt slow-pace the acceptability of the party in the state. So far, many of the other stakeholders in the party are over hurt by the gimmicks which had endorsed Dakum even against the provisions of the electoral Act which emphasized only when any candidate wishes to withdraw or in the event of death would his name be substituted.

Though in politics, such an intrigue of overtaking is allowed, many political commentators are wondering over how the state LP would resolve this issue while knowing too well that time is fast running out. The question others are also asking is whether Dakum would remain a happy man to the end.

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Lionel Peterson: A Lord's general never dies...

**A couple of years past, I had an ample chance of meeting one of the greatest international worship leaders of our time, Lionel Peterson one-on-one. The South African globally applauded gospel singer, Peterson happened to be in Jos, the Plateau State capital in north central Nigeria for a critical concert in April 2013, when we through God's divine providence bumped on each other. He was accompanied to the concert by many other wonderful worship leaders and men of God including another powerful and anointed woman consistently working in the vineyard of the Lord, Pearl Kgomotso Kupe. BULUS GAMBO writes.**

**T**HAT year, Plateau born gospel musician, Dalyop Gwom, AKA Daps organized an annual gospel worship extravaganza tagged **Feast of Incense**, under the auspices of the International Conference of the Ancient Floodgates Ministry and invited the late Peterson to be one of the major artistes to be featured during the show. The fire brand gospel musician was billed to participate at the epoch and historical making event with much enthusiasm. Though the gospel singer even in death still remains one of my favorite veneration leaders, I had never predicted that I would have the chance of meeting him in this life. For the fact that we were quite a distance apart, I couldn't for anything have dreamt that he would come to of all places, Jos, Plateau which then was threatened by high sense of insecurity, violence and total chaos.

For several decades back then, Jos was engulfed by an unimaginable turmoil necessitated by humanly and politically motivated ethno religious conflicts in the state. The city and by extension some parts of the state back then was up in flames and pragmatically looking for remedy without much success. As the gates of hell continued to prevail against the church, many citizens in the state had given up their struggles to navigate out of this jungle of ruthless aggression. In eagerness of the performance, we all had our bundles of excruciating problems waiting for the healing power of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I was equally sure that many were already weak and thirsty with no spiritual water to quench their thirst. We were almost worn out and consumed by the undiminished quandaries of interminable calamity which had refused to come to an end.

That fateful day however, I was reliably informed by one of my colleagues in the office, Fwenji Goa'r that Lionel Peterson had accepted our request for an interview which expectantly would be published during our next publication. Though Goa'r was my colleague in the office, by divine grace, Daps and himself had a good working relationship during the concert. In fact, it was Goa'r who went out of his way to ensure that the interview eventually came to fruition.

Before we met Lionel Peterson, I had two things in mind, firstly the desire to be refreshed and experience an impactful kind of worship which I had looked forward to long before then. Secondly, after Peterson's record breaking single, "Jehovah Knows" and "Rejoice Africa" if my memories have not failed me, I



Peterson with Bulus Gambo and Fwenji Go'ar when he came to Jos for a concert in 2013



Peterson

had longed for this kind of a special grace of God which would eventually touch me at the point of my need.

As Lionel Peterson climbed the stage to minister to the people of God, my guilt and short comings found me. In the midst of the congregation, God found us and His mercy overwhelmed us as the prince of peace eventually took over the affairs of men.

After the worship, we met Lionel

through genuine repentance. This revelation knowledge intuitively presages the apparent datum that without God, man cannot achieve sustainable peace in this fragile world. As a man of peace and genuine reconciliation as encapsulated in his songs on peace, he was highly optimistic that Jehovah, our God of peace was still in absolute control.

Though it has been many years after the deceased left the shores of this country, the memories of this historic event still lingers on the minds of some of us who saw him performed with great passion. Peterson died on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 at the age of 74 after battling with long term health issues since 2017.

The deceased who was known for his African folk music was initially in a band named Miracles in 1969 and later joined the Rhema Church where he recoded many of his songs. One of his albums, Rejoice Africa amongst many others subsequently took the world by storm and spiritually uplifting thousands of down-cast souls.

Lionel Peterson was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1947 in Alexander Johannesburg in South Africa and started playing as a professional in the late seventies with a number of Rock and R&B bands notably the Miracles and

Thunderballs from Johannesburg. He later joined other prominent groups touring some European countries.

Also known as Mr. Music, Peterson started playing music at the age of ten after he was inspired by musicians in the likes of Elvis Presley, Tom Jones, James Brown, Otis Redding and Wilson Pickett. In 1987, he became a born again Christian and joined the ministry of the Rhema Bible Church in Randburg, Johannesburg on a full-time basis as a praise and worship musician and a preacher. His long and illustrious career was a huge success even as he was said to have been inspired by quite a number of musicians including Ernie Smith, the guitarist from Duban and Johannesburg born gospel singer, Patrick Duncan. It is also on record that Peterson worked with other Jamaican reggae and gospel singer, Chevelle Franklyn, Neville D and Judith Sephuma.

Unfortunately, due to prevailing health issues, the legendary musician stopped performing in 2016 after his health situation deteriorated and eventually took a turn for the worse. No doubt, the deceased has left behind great works which would be in our memories for a long time.

**W**E conclude on Kunle Anyanwu's Polio ride. In the course of my ride, I discovered that Nigerians badmouth their country. I rode across 14 countries including Nigeria. After Morocco and riding down, I observed that in all the other countries I went through, none can be compared to Nigeria in terms of infrastructural development and even the economy. Nigeria is the biggest economy in Africa in terms of infrastructural development. But do you know what I discovered? none of the country men and women I met said bad things about their country.

Nigeria is the only country where people call their own country a zoo. They call their own country a bad place. I think that people say this due to lack of exposure and lack of patriotism. Mauritania is nothing compared to Jos. Jos is better than Mauritania. With what I have seen of Jos, it is better than Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania. But I saw the Mauritanian man talking about his country as if it is the best place in the world. Nigerians need to see their country in a different light and show more patriotism because it is what we call our country that other people will call it. If we say that our country is good, others will see it as good. I have been to about 75 countries all around the world. Of all the continents I am telling you that I am happy to be a Nigerian. I thank God for making me Nigerian. Nigeria is a great country. I am a Christian. I do not believe in reincarnation but if there is anything like that, my prayer will still be for God to bring me to Nigeria.

We do not know what we have in Nigeria. We have the Nigerian spirit the tenacity, the resilience, that determination, the never-quit attitude. Most of these countries do not have it. Nigerians are vibrant. We see challenges, we don't quit. people ask why is it that all the white men have not tempted to do this, but I have. I said because I am a Nigerian and I have the Nigerian spirit. We face challenges, but yet we do not quit because we know it won't kill us and what does not kill you makes you stronger. That is how we leave.

**Life lessons as a motivational speaker and rider**

I like Denzel Washington. He is my favorite actor. He said in a speech, that without commitment you will never start but more importantly without consistency you will never finish. So, keep walking, keep doing those things that you do, keep doing it through the difficulty, through the pains, keep doing it. One day, the light will shine. It may not be in one year. It may not be in two years, maybe not in 5 years. But take a cue. The Journey of 14 days took me 365 days to plan. Does it make sense? it does not but it is the thing that does not, make

sense that changes the world. People say that I am a crazy biker. Yes, I am crazy, but it is crazy people that change the world. They call Bill Gates crazy, and he revolutionized computer, they called Steve Jobs crazy that is why we have all these touch screen phones. They call Elon Musk crazy now he is flying satellite to space, so it is crazy people that change the world.

I was with the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo. He received me at Aso Rock and

hospitality was the biggest. The Brotherhood is beyond language, culture, and race. In Bamako, in spite of the fact that I had made all budgetary arrangement for hotel accommodation for two days, I was hosted by my brothers for five days. They paid for my accommodation, feeding, fueling. You name it. I had never met them before then. They gave me a very warm welcome. On my way out of Mali, my alloy rim got broken. They bought me



**Leave no brother behind: Ride for polio**



when he was giving his address, he said that there is some form of craziness in this. He explained why he thought so. He said that someone sitting down in the comfort of his home in London decided to ride a motorbike from London to Lagos. He said that this is not normal because if it is normal, people would have been doing it. There is no sign of normalcy there. He said that it is that idea, that spirit of challenging what is normal and breaking ground that is the Nigerian spirit. People tell us Nigerians that something is unique about us. It is the Nigerian spirit

**Bangles: I understand that your code is "leave no man behind"? Were you in touch with your African rider brothers? Did they assist you along the way?**

Concerning my warm welcome to Africa. I met my biker brothers and sisters and they all welcomed me at the borders of their countries and brought me into the capital of each country. They knew I was coming because they were following me on the internet. They would wait for me at the border town and usher me into their countries.

In Mali the brotherly

a new one, got a mechanic and a car to bring it to me and fix my tires. 700 km away from the city center. This they did at their own cost. That is love and humanity. It was the same in Cote d' Ivoire, Ghana and Togo in Benin Republic and in Nigeria. The Love.

Mr. Kunle Adeyanju is the biker who rode from London to Lagos for Polio. He has the support of UNICEF and the Ministry of health of all the countries he has been to. He rode for the eradication of Polio on the wings of Rotary international. He is the President of the Rotary club of Ikoyi, Lagos. He has been received by the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, our Governor, His Excellency, Simon Bako Lalong and a host of other dignitaries. The Vice President and Our Governor have applauded his sacrifice for the eradication of polio. Kunle Adeyanju will be writing a book on his adventures, and we look forward to reading the rest of his story.

Next week, we conclude this series as we hear from the leadership of this community and the charity and philanthropy that the community undertakes quietly.



**W**E have been sharing life changing series from the word of God and we have entitled this series FEAR NOT, TRUST GOD. There are two paths that every child of God can walk on in this life. In life you are going to have the opportunity to do two basic things. Things are going to come at you and Jesus never said because you trust in him or know him that you'll never go through any trials or temptations, or you'll not face situations in your life that could be challenging or daunting.

As a matter of fact in John 16:33 He said, *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* In this world you will have challenges or pressures but be of good cheer, I have over the world. The good news is that no matter what is going on in your life today, you have inside information; you are already the victorious one.

No matter what news you are hearing about your country of residence, no matter what news befall you today, no matter what seems to be threatening your life or existence, or whatever

area of life you're going through a challenge today, understand this, almighty God has already gone ahead of you. In Christ Jesus, you are the victorious one. He has already called you the victorious one.

Now as you learn to trust him and refuse to be afraid, you open the door for his power to begin to work out the favourable outcome that he has already guaranteed to you in Christ Jesus. And the good news about it is that if you are not a child of God, you need to make Jesus the Lord and savior of your life.

knowing Jesus and being able to understand what he did for you in redemption is the answer to anything you'll ever be going through. That is why we say that Jesus is enough. For any circumstance of our lives, we must understand the word of God and how to trust him, understand how to cooperate with God and to function with God's divine principles and laws and we will begin to enjoy this redemption in this life.



## Fear not, trust God (19)



pass. When you shut down the fear of lack, it opens the door to God's provision in your life.

When you shut down the fear of sickness and disease and begin to trust Jesus as your healer, it opens the door for the healing power of God in your life. When you shut down fear in any area of your life and begin to now trust God, replace the fear by trusting God in that area of your life, to opens the door for God's power to flood your life and gives God permission to begin to manifest his blessings in your life. And the blessings of God makes rich and adds no sorrow to it according to the book of Proverbs 10:22. The blessings of God will displace absolutely, replace every negativity the devil has. So that is very important for us to understand. We are not to tolerate fear; we are to resist it.



**What Jesus did on the cross, what he did in dying for mankind, in being raised from the dead has opened the door to God's infinite unsearchable, inexhaustible riches. So knowing Jesus and being able to understand what he did for you in redemption is the answer to anything you'll ever be going through. That is why we say that Jesus is enough. For any circumstance of our lives, we must understand the word of God and how to trust him, understand how to cooperate with God and to function with God's divine principles and laws and we will begin to enjoy this redemption in this life.**



You need to make that life changing decision. Not only will it guarantee your eternal security and destiny, it will also open the door for God's active participation in your life. To constantly preserve you, protect you, deliver you and abundantly provide for you all the days of your life as you learn to trust him.

Our text has been Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. The salvation God has made available to us is Jesus. The word salvation here is the Hebrew word Yeshua which the name Jesus. The word Yeshua talks of welfare, preservation, lifting, security, defence. Yeshua or Jesus is all these things to mankind.

As many as will receive him the bible says in John 1:12 he gave the authority to become children of God. So being born again is not just being saved from hell to go to heaven, being born again is coming into a place of safety and security in God. It is coming into a place of preservation, protection and abundant provision in God. As a matter of fact, it is the answer to everything you'll ever need in this life.

What Jesus did on the cross, what he did in dying for mankind, in being raised from the dead has opened the door to God's infinite unsearchable, inexhaustible riches. So

In Isaiah 12:2 he said, behold God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. So the business of life is trusting God and refusing to be afraid. We have made this very important observation and we continue to repeat it because of how important it is that Satan has no authority or power to manifest his wicked works in the life of any individual that refuses to be afraid. Fear is Satan's primary access into the believer's life.

Now if you shut that access up, he is paralyzed, impotent, and absolutely powerless to manifest himself and his wicked works in your life. Let us assume you are living in a house, and the house has a gate and the gate of the house is the primary access into the house. If the gate is well defended or secure, nothing that can threaten the security of the residents of that house can pass through the gate. That is how it is.

Fear is Satan's access to steal, kill and destroy but once you learn to put a gate on fear, block or shut fear off and its operations, Satan's ability to manifest himself is removed. Now that is very important for us to understand. The bible makes us understand in Hebrews 2:14-15 that Jesus took upon himself the likeness of flesh and blood just like us and then he came and died for us so that through his death, he might destroy, disannul or deactivate Satan's ability to steal, kill and destroy and all he

stands for, is deactivated when the spirit of fear is contained.

The Bible says that it is through fear that all of mankind are subject to bondage in their lifetime. So once the spirit of fear is dealt with, Satan has no ability to operate in our lives and that is good news. Once you shut down the fear, Satan cannot manifest himself. Now the way you do that is by trusting God and by resisting the devil. We have also understood in 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. So fear is not one of God's gifts to humanity.

Fear is abnormal. We must learn to see as abnormal what God calls abnormal. Fear is of the devil we found out from Hebrews 2:14-15. We also found out in the book of Genesis that it was when the first man Adam disobeyed God and fell that fear was introduced so fear is of the devil. If fear is of the devil then James 4:7 says Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. So if fear is of the devil, resisting the devil is resisting fear. Fear is to be resisted not tolerated.

That is the command of God's word for us that we should shut down the devil by resisting fear. To resist means to stand against, to set up an opposing action against the motion of fear. Stand against fear and do not accept it as normal. Resist it because the moment you shut down fear, that which fear is suggesting will not come to



**The bible says that it is through fear that all of mankind are subject to bondage in their lifetime. So once the spirit of fear is dealt with, Satan has no ability to operate in our lives and that is good news. Once you shut down the fear, Satan cannot manifest himself. Now the way you do that is by trusting God and by resisting the devil. We have also understood in 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. So fear is not one of God's gifts to humanity.**



## INTERNATIONAL



A covered Russian tank outside the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

## Ukraine: Russia using nuclear plant as cover

**R**USSIAN forces at Europe's largest nuclear power plant in Ukraine are employing "terror tactics" by using the site to launch rocket attacks on civilians, the BBC has been told.

"Every morning we wake up and see that they have hit only residential homes," a local businessman told us.

Russia controls the Zaporizhzhia plant and surrounding areas, close to

Ukrainian-held territory.

Western officials have sounded the alarm about Russia's tactics there.

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant lies in the south-east of Ukraine along the eastern bank of the Dnipro river. It is currently still being operated by Ukrainian employees under Russian supervision.

It consists of six pressurised water reactors and stores radioactive waste.

In its daily intelligence

update, the UK defence ministry said Russia was using the area to launch attacks - taking advantage of the "protected status" of the nuclear power plant to reduce the risk of overnight attacks from Ukrainian forces.

The head of the UN's nuclear agency, Rafael Grossi, warned this week that the plant was "completely out of control".

Any accident at the power station could have catastrophic consequences.

## US-Russia ready to discuss prisoner swap

**T**HE US and Russia have indicated they are ready to hold talks over a prisoner swap, a day after basketball star Brittney Griner was convicted of drug smuggling and sentenced to nine years in prison for carrying less than a gram of cannabis oil through a Moscow airport.

Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters in Cambodia that the Kremlin is "ready to discuss this topic, but within the framework of the channel that has been agreed by the presidents," state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

"There is a specified channel that has been agreed upon by [Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Joe Biden], and no matter what

anyone says publicly, this channel will remain in effect," Lavrov reportedly said Friday at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit.

Shortly later, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at the same summit that the US will "pursue" talks with Russia.

"We put forward, as you know, a substantial proposal that Russia should engage with us on. And what Foreign Minister Lavrov said this morning and said publicly is that they are prepared to engage through channels we've established to do just that. And we'll be pursuing that," Blinken told reporters at a press briefing.

The comments from each side suggest that a

negotiation process, which has already proven complex, could accelerate in the coming days.

Russian government officials requested last month that a former colonel from the country's domestic spy agency, who was convicted of murder in Germany last year, be included in the US' proposed swap of notorious arms dealer Viktor Bout for Griner and Paul Whelan, multiple sources familiar with the discussions.

Whelan, a US citizen, has been held by Russia since 2018 and was convicted by a Russian court in 2020 on espionage charges that he has strenuously denied. Griner's conviction has raised similar concerns that she is

**C**HINA'S Foreign Ministry announced new countermeasures against Washington on Friday, including the suspension of climate talks, in response to Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, hours after it announced sanctions against the US House speaker.

The measures include the cancellation of future phone calls and meetings between Chinese and US defense leaders, for which future dates had not been announced, and the cancellation of annual naval meetings under the China-US military maritime consultation mechanism.

China also suspended cooperation on the repatriation of illegal immigrants, legal assistance on criminal matters and the combat of transnational crimes, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a briefing Friday.

It suspended its anti-drug cooperation with the US, which has already been strained in recent years. The US has blamed China for failing to stop synthetic opioids reaching the US as both Beijing and Washington disagree on how to counteract the problem.

China's Foreign Ministry also said it would suspend climate change talks, a major area of cooperation despite escalating tensions in recent years.

The moves come after Beijing announced that it would sanction Pelosi and her immediate family over the visit to Taiwan, and as it stepped up military drills and warplane incursions around the island.

## Pelosi -China suspends cooperation with US



US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at a news conference

Earlier, China's Foreign Ministry condemned Pelosi for what it described as her "vicious and provocative actions," saying her trip to Taiwan amounted to "seriously interfering in China's internal affairs."

"U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi insisted on visiting Taiwan in disregard of China's serious concerns and firm opposition, seriously interfering in China's internal affairs, seriously undermining China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, seriously trampling on the one-China principle, and seriously threatening the peace and stability across Taiwan Strait," a statement from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Pelosi's visit to Taiwan on Wednesday, when she met President Tsai Ing-wen and other leaders, has infuriated China's Communist Party, which views the self-governed democratic island as its territory -- despite never having controlled it.

At a news conference in Tokyo

during the last stop of her Asia tour, Pelosi struck a defiant tone, saying China had sought to isolate Taiwan from the international community but would not prevent US officials from traveling there.

Ahead of the visit, Beijing had warned it would take "forceful measures" if Pelosi went ahead, and on her departure it launched live-fire military exercises and sent missiles over Taiwan for the first time.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said several Chinese military jets and warships had conducted exercises around the Taiwan Strait and crossed the median line -- the halfway point between the island and mainland China.

Taiwan's military responded with radio warnings, air patrol forces, naval ships, and shore-based missile systems, the ministry said.

According to him, China sent 22 warplanes into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ), all of them crossing the median line.

A number of countries, including from the G7 grouping of some of the world's largest economies, have criticized China's drills, urging Beijing not to change the status quo in the region.

In her comments on Friday, Pelosi said the visit to Taiwan had been about maintaining the status quo.

Pelosi also rejected suggestions by some critics that her visit had more to do with burnishing her legacy than benefiting the island, calling the claim "ridiculous."

She pointed to Taiwan's "free and open democracy," successful economy and relatively progressive LGBTQ rights. "This isn't about me -- it's about them," she added. "It's about Taiwan, and I am proud to have worked over the years to showcase the concerns that they have with mainland China."

Meanwhile Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Friday called for an immediate halt to China's drills, saying they were "a serious issue concerning the security of our country and its people."

Earlier, Japan lodged a formal complaint after five Chinese missiles landed in its Exclusive Economic Zone.

Amid worsening relations, China canceled a planned meeting between the Chinese and Japanese foreign ministers.

China's Vice Foreign Minister Deng Li summoned envoys to China from European countries, the EU and Japan in protest of their statements regarding Taiwan.

The G7 statement "distorts the facts" and is a "blatant political provocation," said Deng, who accused the countries involved of interfering with China's internal affairs.

Pelosi's visit to Taiwan was the first by a sitting House speaker in 25 years, since then-House Speaker Speaker Newt Gingrich's visit in 1997.



Lavrov



## INTERNATIONAL

# Kenya election: How a murderer haunts the poll

**A bungled poll and the gruesome murder of a senior official in charge of voting technology in 2017 still haunts Kenya, ahead of the elections next week, DICKENS OLEWA writes.**

**T**HE chairman of the independent electoral commission has repeatedly sought to reassure a sceptical public that his team can deliver a credible vote, but he has also been warning about a co-ordinated campaign, especially on social media, to malign and intimidate his workers.

"Our staff in the commission, especially [those in] ICT are now frightened... I just want to urge the people behind it to stop what they are doing," Wafula Chebukati told journalists.

He has valid reasons to be worried: five years ago his then head of technology, Chris Msando, was kidnapped and brutally murdered, along with his friend 21-year-old Carol Ngumbu.

Their bodies were found in bushes on the outskirts of the capital, Nairobi - and no-one has been arrested or charged for the killings which remain shrouded in mystery.

"Surely with a professional police service and a professional and effective government we would have some closure on this matter... The nation does not know who took the life of an elections official who was handling a very sensitive part of the elections," Amnesty International Kenya's Executive Director Irungu Houghton told a local TV station recently.

With a friendly and calm manner, Mr Msando had been a regular on local TV stations, demonstrating the measures he had taken to ensure the election was not rigged.

"Dead voters will not rise on my watch," he said in one interview.

He had put his confidence in biometric data to verify voters using fingerprints and an electronic system to transmit the results.

The use of such technology was adopted following the fallout of the 2007 polls when accusations of ballot stuffing triggered weeks of violence in which at least



**Msando**

1,200 people were killed and some 600,000 fled their homes. At the time the then electoral commission chairman even admitted he was not sure who had won.

This election looks like it too will be a tight presidential race - between frontrunners Raila Odinga, a long-serving opposition leader who is running for president for a fifth time, and Deputy President William Ruto.

Making things more dramatic, outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta is rooting for Mr Odinga, a nemesis-turned-ally, to succeed him following a breakdown of his relationship with Mr Ruto.

Voters will also be choosing governors, senators, MPs and county assembly members.

Yet the increasing use of technology in the three polls

since 2007 has not delivered credibility - and in 2017 it led to the Supreme Court overturning the vote and ordering a new election.

"Despite the failures in 2013, more tech was procured in 2017. The cost of the election jumped from \$10 [£8] per registered voter in the first election to \$25 in the rerun, earning Kenya the dubious honour of holding the most expensive elections in Africa," Nanjira Sambuli, a technology and governance analyst, told the BBC.

"Technology is not democracy," Ms Sambuli said.

The Supreme Court ruled the August 2017 vote "invalid, null and void" as some 10,000 polling stations failed to transmit the votes.

"This was a significant number, plus the electoral commission gave excuses when they were

asked to open computer servers for a review of what happened," constitutional lawyer James Mamboleo told the BBC.

"They said the commission must be accountable to the people in all processes from voter registration to an effective transmission system."

The ruling dented confidence in Mr Chebukati, but he managed to stay in the job despite relentless pressure for him to resign.

This time round the commission will reuse tens of thousands of election voter verification kits bought for the October 2017 rerun and has tightened up its procedures.

Only people who can be verified by the electronic system will vote and a photo of the results will be sent digitally from more than 50,000 polling stations instead of a text message, which was the method previously used.

This is how it will work for the presidential ballot:

All voters will have to be verified using either a fingerprint or an identity card

After polls close, an image of the results form, signed by the presiding officer and party agents, will be electronically transmitted using the integrated voting kit to the tallying centres at the constituency and national levels

A copy of the form will be given to party agents and posted outside of the polling station. Voter verification kits will be geo-locked to individual polling stations to prevent fraud

The winner will only be announced after the physical

results form is received by the commission to verify it against the photo initially sent.

"We are going to make it very difficult in this election for people to go to court to challenge the results that we have, because we are so transparent that even if they want to go to court, they would be very embarrassed to do so," one of the electoral commissioners, Justus Nyangaya, told the BBC.

He also said that the voter identification kit would be sending information to the national tallying centre every two hours, which he says will scupper attempts to stuff ballot boxes.

Mr Chebukati is a man on a mission to redeem himself after the last election was annulled

Still tormented by the last election, the electoral commission chairman has also urged the media, political parties and civil societies to do their own tallying of votes.

"Chebukati is intent on making amends by taking full responsibility as the chair, and instituting a system that will guarantee a free, fair, transparent and verifiable elections to exonerate himself from the legacy of the chairman known for bungled elections," political analyst Hesbon Owila told the BBC.

"As an individual he has learnt from the past, but as Kenyans, we can... also be vigilant."

Mr Mamboleo agrees: "Has the electoral commission tried to live up to the high standards set by that 2017 Supreme Court ruling? In my view, it's yes. They have engaged political parties, candidates, and the public in ways we haven't seen in past elections."

By law, the electoral commission has seven days after the vote to declare the winners - and by encouraging the media and others to tally results Mr Chebukati hopes the transparency will vindicate him and the commission.

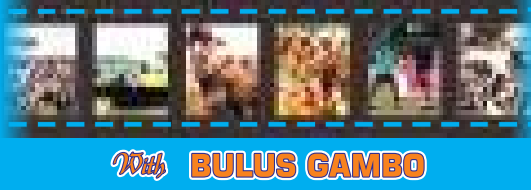
It would certainly be an important milestone for Kenya if this was achieved.

As Mr Msando and Ms Ngumbu's families marked the fifth anniversary of their murders last month, they again said Kenya's democracy should be anchored in the rule of law - and hoped one day they too will get justice.

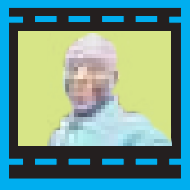
"We pray that one day we get to know the truth," Mr Msando's family wrote in an obituary in one of the local papers.

**Source:BBC News**

***"Dead voters will not rise on my watch," he said in one interview. He had put his confidence in biometric data to verify voters using fingerprints and an electronic system to transmit the results. The use of such technology was adopted following the fallout of the 2007 polls when accusations of ballot stuffing triggered weeks of violence in which at least 1,200 people were killed and some 600,000 fled their homes. At the time the then electoral commission chairman even admitted he was not sure who had won. This election looks like it too will be a tight presidential race - between frontrunners Raila Odinga, a long-serving opposition leader who is running for president for a fifth time, and Deputy President William Ruto."***



With **BULUS GAMBO**



## 'I hate talking about my private life'

*Chiege Alisigwe came into limelight after starring alongside Ramsey Nuoah in the blockbuster movie 'My Love' in 1998. She has since become one of the most-sought-after actresses in Nollywood. In this interview, the delectable actress talks about her NGO, which she recently set up to cater for the welfare of the less -privileged people in our society as well as her plans to establish a studio among other issues.*



**You recently set up an NGO. What is it all about?**

What I had in mind when I set up my NGO was to use the platform to reach out to the less privileged people in our society. You know, somebody might be looking good but inwardly, he or she has a lot of problems bothering him. So, we really want to see how we can assist them in our own little way.

**Have you reconciled with your husband?**  
I don't know. I hate talking about my private life. But what I know is that I have a child now.

**Which part of your body do you like most?**

There are certain things God blessed with that make me to feel like a real woman. They are my boobs and my face. I am not saying that anybody who is flat chested is bad, the person still looks good. But if I dress, i will first admire myself before the mirror, I always thank God for making me a complete woman.

Like something you know many are paying to have, I have it naturally. And I thank God the way he made me. I am very grateful, I cannot ask for more.



**Like how much can you insure these places you like most?**

Money cannot be enough when it comes to those areas. I don't pray for anything to happen to these places. I am ok the way I am.

**Are you comfortable with the kind of movies that are coming out of Nollywood?**

I am not comfortable at all. Though there are some good movies, the fact remains that Nollywood needs to step up its game in the area of production. Because, majority still need amendments here and there. I want them to come out with something more challenging.

**How has married life been with you?**

Well, married life is good. Though there are ups and down, it is sweet at the same time, it is sour. You cannot just say it is all bed of roses but it is good. It is good because when the going is sweet, you love it the more but when the going is bad, you will still be there provided it is not life and death.

**Does your married affect your career (Acting)?**

No, it does not.

**You stopped acting for a while now, what happened?**

No, actually, I didn't stop. But somehow, you do not need to act one million movies in a day. You have to advise yourself, I am the married woman that wants to combine my family with my career, and then you have to compromise. You think about your family first. No matter what you do, your family comes first.

**How did you start acting?**

Well, that was in 1998. When I left secondary school, I took JAMB; and I entered into the movie industry. To me then, it was a sort of whiling away time while I was still waiting for my JAMB result. Not like now you see people desperately want to act. It was not like that for me.

**Was it like a passion you wanted to use to pass time?**

Number one, I love acting because, I use to act drama in secondary school then. Secondly, I was waiting for my JAMB result so I want to use

Continued on page 26

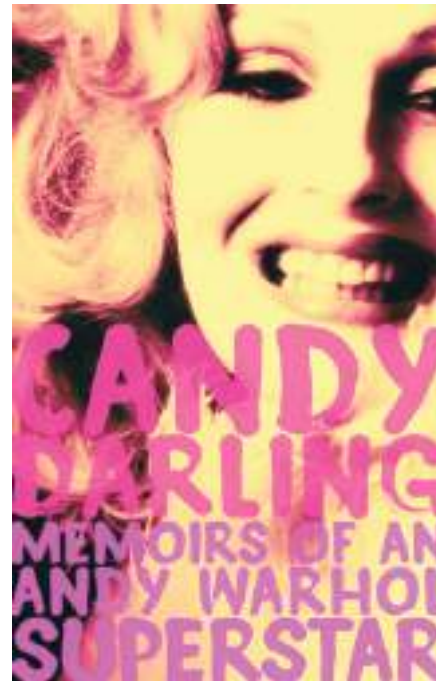
## Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

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



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

### Candy Darling



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

### Free Woman



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

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

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

Continued on page 26

# THEY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

# Understanding second marriage challenges

By **RACHAEL PACE**

**R**ELATIONSHIPS come and go, and that's to be expected. What's not typically expected is becoming a second wife.

You didn't grow up thinking; I can't wait until I meet a divorced man! Somehow, you probably have always pictured someone who has never been married.

It doesn't mean that it can't be wonderful. It doesn't mean that it won't last. It just means that being a second wife comes with a lot of challenges along the way.

Here are challenges of being a second wife to watch out for:

**Negative stigma**

"Oh, this is your second wife." There is just something you feel from people when they realize you are the second wife; like you are the consolation prize, only second place.

One of the disadvantages of being a second wife is that for some reason, people are far less accepting of a second wife.

It's like when you are a kid, and you have had the same best friend since you were a baby; then, suddenly, in high school, you have a new best friend.

But by then, no one can picture you without that first friend. It's a hard stigma to run away from and can lead to many second marriage challenges.

**The statistics are stacked against you**

Depending on the source, divorce rates are pretty scary. A typical statistic out there now says that 50 percent of first marriages end in divorce, and 60 percent of second marriages end in divorce.

Why is it higher the second time around? Could be many factors, but since a person in the marriage has already gone through a divorce, the option seems available and not as scary.



Obviously, it doesn't mean your marriage will end, just that it is more likely to than the first.

**First marriage baggage**

If the person in the second marriage who was married before didn't have children, then chances are they never have to even talk to their ex again. But that doesn't mean that they aren't a little wounded.

Relationships are hard, and if things go wrong, we get hurt. That's life. We may also learn that if we don't want to get hurt again, to put

up a wall, or other such adjustments. That kind of baggage can be detrimental to a second marriage and undermine any benefits of being the second wife.

**Being a stepparent**

Being a parent is hard enough; in reality, being a stepparent is out of this world hard.

Some children may not accept a new mother or father figure, so instilling values or upholding rules with them may prove difficult.

This can make for a challenging

home life from day to day. Even if children are more or less accepting, the ex more than likely won't be ok with the new person in their child's life.

Even extended family like grandparents, aunts, and uncles, etc., may not ever see you as an actual "parent" of the other person's biological child.

**A second marriage gets serious quick**

Many first marriages start with two young, giddy people, unfettered by the realities of life. The world is their oyster. They dream big. Every possibility seems available to them.

But over the years, as we get in our 30s and 40s, we mature and realize that life just happens, no matter if you plan for other things.

Second marriages are like that. Second marriages are like the mature version of you getting married again.

You are a little older now, and you learned some harsh realities. So second marriages tend to have less of the giddiness and more of the serious daily life attached.

**Financial issues**

A married couple that stays together can rack up plenty of debt, but what about a marriage that ends?

That tends to bring with it even more debt and insecurities.

There is splitting the assets, each person taking on whatever debt there is, plus paying attorney fees, etc. Divorce can be an expensive proposition.

Then there is the hardship of making a living by yourself as a single person. All of that financial mess can translate into a financially difficult second marriage.

**Nontraditional holidays**

When your friends talk about Christmas and having the whole family there together—you're over there thinking, "The ex has the kids

for Christmas..." Bummer.

There are many things about a divorced family that can be nontraditional, especially holidays. It can be challenging when you expect those normally happen times of the year to be a certain way, but then they aren't so much.

**Relationship issues we all face**

While a second marriage can be successful, it's still a relationship composed of two imperfect people. It is still bound to have some of the same relationship issues that we all face from time to time.

It can be a challenge if wounds from old relationships aren't quite healed.

**Second wife syndrome**

Even though there can be many advantages of being a second wife, you might feel inadequate when filling the spaces left behind by the ex-wife and kids.

This can lead to a much-known phenomenon known as the 'second wife syndrome.' Here are some signs that you have allowed the second wife syndrome to fester in your home:

- You constantly feel that your partner knowingly or unknowingly puts his previous family before you and your needs.
- You get easily insecure and offended as you feel that everything your spouse does revolve around his ex-wife and kids.
- You find yourself constantly comparing yourself with his ex-wife.
- You feel the need to establish more control over the decisions of your partner.
- You feel stuck and feel as if you do not belong where you are.

Being a second wife to a married man can be overwhelming, and if you are not cautious enough, you might find yourself stuck in a loop of insecurities. Hence, before you embark on your marital journey, you must understand the second marriage problems and how to handle them.



# EVIE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Relationship

### Common reasons unhappy couples stay married

By **MARTIN HAREID**

**T**HERE are many reasons why people decide to stay together even though they're dissatisfied with their current relationship or marriage, from financial reasons to religious pressures and even just the fear of what life would be like without their significant other. However, people overlook the fact that there are negative consequences of staying in an unhappy marriage.

To discover the most common reasons why so many of us decide to stay in an unhappy marriage or in relationships that don't make us happy found that the most common reasons why people prefer staying in unhappy marriage are as follows:

#### For the kids

"A common claim for why people will stay in an unhappy marriage is that they are staying together for the children," "A common misconception is that the children will be better off if the two unhappy spouses stay together.

While it is certainly true that divorce will affect children, it is a complete myth that children will be immune from their parents' unhealthy and unhappy marriage".

#### Fear of hurting our partners

Another common fear of getting divorced or ending a relationship is hurting your significant other. A study published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology in 2018 found that frequently, people are motivated to stay in relatively unfulfilling relationships for the sake of their romantic partner rather than putting their interests first.

This can make things difficult, drawing out the process even further.

Watch this video to get a clearer



idea about hurting others and post betrayal syndrome.

#### 3. Religious beliefs

"A spouse might opt staying in an unhappy marriage if they believe there is a stigma in the idea of marriage or refuse to recognize the concept of divorce for religious purposes," says Arthur. "While the divorce rate is approximately 55%, many people still refuse to accept the idea of divorce no matter how unhappy they may feel in marriage.

"Over the years, I have represented clients who, notwithstanding having been physically and emotionally

abused by their spouses for decades, have fought to stay married for religious and cultural reasons.

In one instance, my client literally had a stack of photographs showing various bruises over the years and yet was pleading with me to help her contest her husband's complaint for divorce as she could not accept the religious ramifications".

#### Fear of judgment

As well as possible religious ramifications, those thinking about getting a divorce can often be worried about what their

friends and families may think. A recent study found that 30% of US adults think divorce is unacceptable, no matter the reason.

While a further 37% say, divorce is only okay under certain circumstances. As a result, it's pretty understandable that many of those thinking about getting a divorce experience fear of judgment and criticism from those around us.

#### Sense of identity

Those who've been in a relationship for quite a long time say they can sometimes feel unsure of how to 'be' when they're not in the relationship. That's because a marriage or long-term relationship such as this can often play an integral role in our sense of who we are.

Being a girlfriend, wife, husband, boyfriend, or partner is a massive part of our identities. When we're no longer in a relationship or marriage, we can sometimes feel lost and unsure of ourselves. This can be a pretty daunting feeling that appears to contribute to many peoples' reasoning behind staying with their current partner, despite their discontent.

#### Fear of the unknown

Lastly, one of the biggest and possibly most daunting reasons why so many unhappily married couples stay together is because of a fear of what might happen, how they'll feel, or how things will be if they take the plunge and opt for a divorce. It's not just the divorce process that's a daunting prospect, but the time afterwards.

'Will I ever find someone else?', 'How will I cope on my own?', 'Isn't it better to just stick with the

status quo?'... These are all widespread thoughts for those who are contemplating a divorce.

#### What should I do if I'm in this situation?

If any of these reasons resonate with you – know you're not alone. Whilst every marriage is different, many couples share similar experiences, leaving them feeling uncertain about their future and worried about the prospect of divorce. Getting out of a daunting relationship is far better than staying in an unhappy marriage.

Divorce doesn't have to be a daunting or stressful process. There's so much accessible information out there, alongside people who can provide judgment-free support, advice, and help, whether that's friends, family members, relationship counselors, divorce lawyers, or dedicated and reliable information sources on the topic of divorce and separation.

Taking that first step and asking for help or confiding in a close friend or family member can make all the difference in setting you on the path to a happier and brighter future.

You need to identify if you are unhappy in marriage. Do you feel suffocated in your marriage? Do you advocate that you are unhappily married? There are so many factors that need evaluation when it comes to marriage, but if you are looking for reasons to stay in your marriage, there is something definitely off.

Talk to your partner or go to therapy. Even if you want to get out of it, you should take some consultation, but you need to take charge and ensure that you are not staying unhappily married.





# Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi  
peekembo@yahoo.com  
08036417305, 08095322786

## Identifying some best positions for breastfeeding

**A**s Nigeria joins the world to mark the 2022 World Breastfeeding Week with the theme "Step up for breastfeeding: Educate and Support", various stakeholders like the media and Civil Society Organisations have raised the bar to use the week to call on mothers to understand the benefits of breastfeeding.

In a joint statement by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell and WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to mark the 2022 world breastfeeding week, mothers were challenged to take breastfeeding of their babies seriously.

"As global crisis continue to threaten the health and nutrition of millions of babies and children, the vital importance of breastfeeding as the best possible start in life is more critical than ever".

The statement called on governments to allocate increased resources to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding policies and programmes especially for the most vulnerable families living in emergency settings.

While stressing that breastfeeding acts as baby's first vaccine protecting them from common childhood diseases the statement warned that "Fewer than half of all newborn babies are breastfed in the first half hour of life, leaving them more vulnerable to disease and death, while only 44 percent of infants are exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life which is short of the World Health Assembly target of 50 percent by 2025.

According to medical news today, although it is a natural activity, breastfeeding is also a skill that takes time to learn. It tends to get easier with practice, as both a woman and baby master the breastfeeding strategies that work for them.

The best breastfeeding positions enable a baby to latch on to the breast well and comfortably, do not strain the muscles, and reduce the risk of nipple injuries and pain.

The best breastfeeding position can also change as a baby grows and a woman gains confidence. No single position works for everyone.

Instead, try out a variety of positions to find the ones that work well in different situations.

While not every woman will find the same positions comfortable or effective, the website lists some of the best breastfeeding positions to include:

### Cradle hold

The cradle hold is the classic breastfeeding position. In this position, the baby feeds with its stomach against the woman's body.

To do the cradle hold, hold the baby with its stomach against your body.

Support the baby with the arm that is on the same side as the breast from which the baby is nursing. Keep the baby's head in line with the rest of their body to avoid straining their neck. Try using a nursing pillow or an armrest to support your elbow to make this hold more comfortable. However, some women find this position difficult to master with a newborn. Also, as babies grow, they may become too large to support in this position.

### Cross-cradle hold

The cross-cradle is usually the best latch for newborns. The hold is similar to the cradle hold, but the woman supports the baby with the



arm opposite to the breast the baby is feeding from.

To breastfeed in the cross-cradle position, hold the baby flush against your stomach, with their back and neck aligned. Reach across the baby's back and support their head with your hand, allowing their bottom to rest in the crook of your arm. This hold can be tricky to master at first but allows the woman more control over the baby's latch. This position can be helpful for babies who struggle with getting a deep latch.

### Reclining or lying back

This position is sometimes called biological nursing because it stimulates a baby's instinctive feeding reflexes, and allows the woman to feed from a comfortable, supported position. It may require some shifts in positioning, but the reclining position can also be very comfortable for women struggling with muscle pain or recovering from surgery or childbirth.

To master this approach to breastfeeding, find a comfortable reclining position that supports your head and neck. Imagine watching TV or reading a book while reclining. A reclining chair can help.

Position the baby stomach down on your chest, with their head at breast level.

Ensure that nothing is covering the baby's nose and that their neck is not bent. The baby may find the breast by themselves, but feel free to help as much as necessary. Some women put the baby in an upright position, with toes pointing down. Other women find it more comfortable with the baby slightly reclining against their bent arm.

Experiment with different options to find one that works.

### Sitting baby

When a baby is old enough to support their head, they can breastfeed in a sitting position. This position works well for

small newborns may struggle with side-lying. Babies who squirm when they feel restrained may also like this position. To feed a baby in an upright position, sit in an upright position and support the baby to sit. Younger babies can lean against your slightly bent arm for more support. Older babies may do better sitting up fully, with their legs wrapped around either side of your abdomen. Support the baby's back and neck until they can sit without assistance. Ensure the baby's neck and back are straight and aligned.

Make sure that nothing is covering the baby's nose.

### Side-lying

Side-lying is an ideal breastfeeding position for women recovering from surgery, and for exhausted women feeding at night. Women who co-sleep with the baby tend to use this position. Some women find that it is difficult to get into the right position at first. Very

small newborns may struggle with side-lying.

To breastfeed in a side-lying position, lie on one side, facing the baby. Place the baby so its nose is close to your nipple. Hold the baby close to your side, and support its back with your lower arm or a rolled up blanket or towel. Some babies find it easier to breastfeed from the top breast, while others can more easily reach the breast that is closest to the bed. Women who try this position should note that while co-sleeping is popular, most organizations do not recommend it. This is especially true for newborns who have a high risk of suffocation and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The safest way to breastfeed in a side-lying position is to remove all pillows and blankets near the baby. Avoid falling asleep before returning the baby to its crib.

### Clutch hold

The clutch hold is ideal for women recovering from abdominal surgery or dealing with pain after childbirth. It is also an excellent option for women who want to nurse two babies simultaneously. Many women find this helps babies get a deeper latch, and that it reduces frustration associated with a forceful let-down reflex. This hold is sometimes called the football hold because a woman holds the baby like a football.

To use the clutch hold position, place a pillow on one side of your body or both sides if breastfeeding two babies. The pillow will support the baby's body. Hold the baby face-upwards in your arm with their head near to your breast. Align the baby's head, neck and back support them with your arm and hand. Cradle the baby close to your side with their legs and feet tucked under your arm. Positioning is just one aspect of comfortable breastfeeding. These other strategies can make breastfeeding more comfortable and effective:

Using pillows or rolled blankets for extra support is great. This tactic can be especially helpful if holding the baby causes muscle strain. For example, putting a pillow under the elbow that supports the baby can help reduce shoulder and neck tension. Creating a comfortable breastfeeding area. Stocking one area of the house or room with snacks, water, a nursing pillow, a blanket, burping supplies, a book or magazine, and other necessities can help women manage long breastfeeding sessions.

### Relaxing the neck and shoulders

Some people tense their neck and shoulder muscles to support the weight of the baby. Try actively relaxing these muscles or use a pillow for support.

Supporting the breast. Depending on the breast's size or position, it may cover much of the baby's face. Supporting the weight of the breast with a free hand can make the position more comfortable and keep the baby's nose uncovered.

Pumping after each breastfeeding session. To increase supply and build up a store of breast milk, a woman can pump after each breastfeeding session. This helps to empty the breasts. Some women prefer to save time by pumping on one breast while breastfeeding on the other.

The right position for breastfeeding can change with time as the woman and baby develop a routine and relationship. Be open to experimenting with different positions. While some positions may feel awkward at first, practice can make them easier and more comfortable. Women who experience trouble with breastfeeding should seek help early. It is possible to resolve most breastfeeding problems, but waiting too long can be challenging and trigger frustration in the woman and baby.



# EVER'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

## Living

### Are you sacrificing too much in your relationship?

**C**LOSE relationships require sacrifice. Here are seven questions to ask yourself before you give up too much.

Your spouse comes home from work and excitedly tells you that she just was offered a promotion—in another state. Do you quit your job and move away from your family to an unknown city so that she can pursue her career ambitions? Should you?

Close relationships require sacrifice. In fact, many people include sacrificing in the very definition of what it means to truly love another person—and indeed, research has shown that couples are happier and more likely to remain in their relationships if the partners are willing to sacrifice for each other. Sometimes that sacrifice can be life-changing, such as deciding to move to a different state in order to be with your partner; other times it might be something small and seemingly mundane, such as seeing an action movie instead of the comedy you would have chosen.

Sacrifice also raises questions of power: If you are happy to sacrifice early in the relationship and your partner isn't reciprocating, you may find yourself in a situation where you are the one who is always expected to give up and give in. Over time this imbalanced pattern of sacrifice may lead to an imbalance of power in your relationship—a recipe for long-term unhappiness and resentment. **1. How committed are you?**

Is this the person you plan to spend forever with, or do you still harbor reservations? In order for a big sacrifice to be worth it, you should make sure that you are invested in the relationship and confident about your future together. Nothing is certain, of course, but a sacrifice becomes much more palatable when it helps bring you closer to the person with whom you want to spend the rest of your life.

**2. Would your partner do the same for you?** Sacrifice is two-sided: While you are deciding whether or not to move across the country to let your spouse take his promotion, your spouse must decide whether or not to sacrifice his promotion in order to let you keep your job. So as you debate whether or not to make a sacrifice.

**3. Does one of you want it more?** When a situation requires sacrifice from you or your partner, the two of you may not be equally invested in the outcome. Perhaps your partner really wants to attend her family reunion, and although you don't relish missing your work event, you know your co-workers will understand, and the family reunion is a one-time thing. As you navigate the situation, make sure you are both clear about your own desires and priorities.

**4. Does your partner know it's a sacrifice?** There is no need to rub your potential sacrifice in your partner's face, or use it against them, but if your partner isn't aware that you consider your act to be a sacrifice, he or she won't be able to appreciate your selflessness. In addition, by not realizing that you are incurring a cost for the sake of the relationship, your partner might not understand when you want her to return the favor the next time a sacrifice is called for. Finally, it is



important to know if your partner disagrees with you and does not see your actions as a sacrifice. Has your partner expressed thanks for your willingness to sacrifice?

**5. Is there a better solution?** Rather than simply trying to pick through the choices at hand, you should be working with your partner to see if there is a solution that doesn't require much of a sacrifice from either of you.

**6. Can you negotiate?** Although close relationships require that you give when giving is needed, it doesn't mean you and your partner can't make an arrangement that suits both of you. For example, you can work it out so that you eat at the restaurant you want, and go to the movie your partner wants to see. This may even work for the bigger sacrifices. You could make the move to the new city, but agree that there will be money set aside in a travel budget so that you can fly home to visit your family some number of times a year.

**7. What's your motivation?** In many respects, this is the most important question you need to ask yourself. Research shows that people engage in sacrifice for many different reasons, and not all of them lead to happily ever after.

Are you moving cross-country to make your partner happy and keep your relationship going—or are you simply trying to avoid conflict? Sacrifices motivated by avoidance can undermine happiness and satisfaction in a relationship.

There is an alternative: When you sacrifice to make your partner happy, that can potentially increase trust and happiness. People who sacrifice for "approach-motivated" reasons—for long-term collective

gain as a couple or to help fulfill your partner's dreams—tend to be happier and have more satisfying relationships.

Although sacrificing to make a partner happy can be a good thing, it may be trouble if you find yourself constantly sacrificing out of a desire to be the "good" partner and satisfy your partner at the cost of your own happiness. People who consistently prioritize other's needs above their own—a situation that can pay a cost in self-esteem and mental health over the long run. Sacrifice is a hallmark of a close relationship, but it should not lead to neglecting your own

needs.

Along similar lines, you should ask yourself whether your sacrifice was motivated by a desire to help your partner—or to hold the sacrifice over your partner's head. Psychologist Aleksandr Kogan has shown that genuine helping is healthy, but using sacrifice as a bargaining chip in your relationship may lead to resentment from your partner.

In addition, although there is nothing wrong with negotiating with your partner, choosing to make a sacrifice and then silently expecting your partner to take the fall the next time may mean disappointment for

both of you. In close relationships, people typically hold mutual expectations—they believe their partner will help them when they need it and sacrifice without expecting to be paid back in kind. Relationships require sacrifice, but we shouldn't give up or give in without thinking it through. It is important to consider the pros and cons, have clear communication with your partner, ask the tough questions, and make sure you are sacrificing for the right reasons. The right kind of sacrifice can bring people together, but sacrificing for the wrong reasons may be worse than no sacrifice at all.



## BUSINESS WORLD

# How Nigerian mentality is killing Nigerian economy

**"For every time we bring in a shipload of rice, we also bring in a shipload of unemployment, because you are transferring your wealth to sustain other economies. Importing toothpicks cost Nigeria \$18 million, and tomato paste, \$400 million". KABIR AKINTAYO writes.**

**T**HOSE were the words of a former Minister of Agriculture, Audu Ogbeh, during a budget defense session at the National Assembly in 2019 where he pricked the conscience of the Nigerian upper and middle class and their obsession with foreign stuff which kills the local economy.

Speaking peaking further, Ogbeh accused Nigerians of importing Pizza from London and UK, a statement that has now been verified to be true. A lot of the money-miss-road people we have in this country are suffering from low self-esteem and inferiority complex. They invest a lot of their ill-gotten wealth importing and consuming expensive foreign foods, drinks, shoes and clothes and other irrelevant items, just for the purpose of bragging among friends and oppressing neighbours. The ignoramuses kill their own country by destroying jobs, rendering the youths useless and helping other countries to develop their manufacturing sector and providing jobs for their youth population.

According to Euro monitor International, a London-based market research company, the consumption of foreign drinks, by Nigerians in 2021 was estimated at around 33.1 million liters compared to 2015 when it was estimated at around 26.7 million liters.

Despite a decrease in importation due to the exchange rate, Nigeria still rated among the top 10 nations that consumed the



Ahmed

highest most expensive drinks. Experts C linked the high dollar exchange rate to importation. It is general knowledge that when there is a high level of importation, the currency of that country will be valueless. Only exportation of good and services should be encouraged.

However, the government of the day tried to boost local production by closing borders for importation and empowering local farmers to produce more consumable

products, such as rice, yam, millet, maize, etc. Unfortunately, Nigerians couldn't bear the pains and make the sacrifice, they missed the foreign rice and complained about the temporary burden of a policy that could have helped the entire populace by putting the economy on a sound footing.

Any society that cannot produce what they consume cannot stand as a Nation. The currency will not be strong. Inflation will always be on the increase, prices will skyrocket

even the midst of dwindling purchasing power, there will be no jobs and then young people will become angry, restless and dangerous, and then insecurity will rise... That is the fate of Nigeria and Nigerians today, unfortunately.

Using Russia as an example, the country's currency, 'Ruble', hit 52.3 to the dollar on Wednesday 27th of July, 2022, an increase of roughly 1.3% and its strongest level since May 2015. How are they able to achieve this pace, despite the ongoing war with Ukraine, with all the sanctions from the United States (U.S) and United Kingdom (UK)?

The fact that Russian is the world's largest exporter of gas and second largest exporter of oil. The European Union depends largely on Russia oil and gas and has been spending billions of dollars per week, to acquire these products, despite the ongoing sanctions.

Russian, after cutting ties with Europe, increases the prices of its product, and while many EU countries are intent on cutting their reliance on Russian energy import, the bloc relied on them for 41% of its gas import and 36% of its oil, according to Eurostat.

Another fact Nigeria needs to learn from Russia is that, after the sanction on Russia, they couldn't import as much anymore, thus, spending less of its money buying stuff from elsewhere.

Therefore, the three methods used are; increased energy prices, capital controls, and cutting off importation.

Nigeria today is the leading oil exporting country in Africa, with a population of about 200 million persons. 60% of the country's populace depends largely on imported goods.

Another issue is that, the government also lacks the political will to instil discipline in the mind of Nigerians, to promote made in Nigeria products and reduce importation to its barest minimum.

Now, Nigerians are complaining about the soaring prices of food items as food inflation figures worsen. From 19.50 per cent in May, the figures changed to 20.60 per cent in June. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the

composite food index rose to 20.60 per cent in June 2022 on a year-on-year basis even as the rate of changes in the average price level declined by 1.23 per cent compared to 21.83 per cent in June 2021. In a report titled "Consumer Price Index May 2022", the NBS stated that the rate of changes in food prices compared to the same period last year was higher due to higher food prices volatility caused by COVID-19.

To the common man, federal government is to be blame, to the learned, it is a collective effort but major stakeholders in the sector must be carried along.

As at today, one dollar is now N710, with a projection that before December, one dollar will valve at N1000. Government must take strict methods to curb the surge before the nation becomes another Sri Lanka or Venezuela.

Another way Nigerians contribute to the country's economic woes is the illegal method they use in acquiring dollar, through sham Visa applications. These persons use invalid visa application to request for dollar at the official exchange rate, after which it will be exchanged at the black market. They do this with the collaboration of Bure De change agents.

Even though government has launched arrests on people doing illegal dollar transactions, many still get involved in the illegal business.

To this end, it will be a collective effort from the government, stakeholders and cooperation of the populace to revive our economy. Without the support of the citizens, it will be a hard job for a any government to stabilise the economy. There is need to instil discipline and embrace our local products and reduce importation. All these should be done with the help of government, by providing conducive environment, training and tools for empowerment.

Nigerians are very creative, hardworking and innovative, there are existing business, companies and ideas that can be promoted to international standards. We need one another.

**Source: BusinessDay**

**"Now, Nigerians are complaining about the soaring prices of food items as food inflation figures worsen. From 19.50 per cent in May, the figures changed to 20.60 per cent in June. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the composite food index rose to 20.60 per cent in June 2022 on a year-on-year basis even as the rate of changes in the average price level declined by 1.23 per cent compared to 21.83 per cent in June 2021. In a report titled "Consumer Price Index May 2022", the NBS stated that the rate of changes in food prices compared to the same period last year was higher due to higher food prices volatility caused by COVID-19. To the common man, federal government is to be blame, to the learned, it is a collective effort but major stakeholders in the sector must be carried along."**

## BUSINESS WORLD

## Governors urge FG to convert loans to bond

**N**IGERIAN governors have urged the federal government to immediately put an end to the Central Bank of Nigeria's financing of the government's budgetary expenditures as part of a coordinated effort to rescue the nation from fiscal collapse.

The governors, who made the proposal at a meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari in July, also urged the government to convert the N19 trillion Ways and Means outstanding loans obtained from the CBN into a 100-year bond with a proposed interest of one per cent.

Officials familiar with details of the meeting, explained that the governors were concerned about the deteriorating state of the economy and a proposal to restore fiscal discipline was presented to the federal government.

The governors lamented that the dollar exchange rate had deteriorated from N197 (and N300 at the parallel market) to N410 (and N652 at the parallel market) under the watch of the Buhari government.

One of the governors expressed worry on how the CBN has printed N19 trillion for federal government expenditures in gross violation of the law, noting that trillions of Naira chasing a few billion dollars will put pressure on the foreign reserves and the exchange rate. The governor also added that CBN's 'fixed exchange' stance discouraged foreign investment (peak of \$90bn investment commitments in 2018, to \$20bn in 2021), and Diaspora inflows (\$20 billion), just as petrol subsidy has wiped out all accruals to reserves.

The governor also lamented how the CBN has resorted to using swaps, deferred Letter of Credits (LCs) and other methods to hide the real levels of the nation's reserves, which is \$15 billion as against \$36 billion it claimed as of end of June 2022.

The recommendations are among the several outlines the governors hope will help stem Nigeria's economic slide. Governors advised the Buhari administration to pay off civil servants who are older than 50 years. We also reported that Nigeria's external reserves amount to only \$15 billion, well below the \$36 billion balance on the gross external reserves claimed by the bank. With the nation spending N5.9 trillion on imports in the first quarter of the year, reserves of \$15 billion would barely cover four months of import.

Policy experts and financial analysts claim this would not have mattered much but for recent difficulties in different sectors of the economy, especially the export constraints that have seen the nation's petroleum monopoly unable to add to the reserves in the last six months. Similarly, The NNPC's inability to remit oil sales receipts to the CBN, despite elevated crude oil prices, is seen as one reason why the naira has nose-dived recently in the parallel market.

A banker who spoke under condition of anonymity said the reported balance on the gross external reserves has long concealed problems. Not only is the gross balance on the



Fayemi

external reserves not an accounting one (according to the CBN, the reserve is a 30-day moving average with effect November 2011), by not excluding the apex bank's contingent liabilities, the report flatters the resources available to the central bank to defend the economy's external position.

Data shows that the Nigerian government's total borrowing from the CBN through Ways and Means Advances rose from N17.46tn as of December 2021 to N19.01tn as of April 2022, representing an increase of N1.55tn within the first four months of 2022.

The N19.01tn isn't part of the country's total public debt stock, which stood at N41.60tn as of March 2022, according to the Debt Management Office. The debt stock only captures the debts of the Federal Government of Nigeria, the 36 state governments, and the Federal Capital Territory.

The Ways and Means Advances is a loan facility through which the CBN finances the government's budget deficits. Section 38 of the CBN Act, 2007, allows the bank to grant temporary advances to the government, but the total amount of such advances outstanding shall not at any time exceed five per cent of the previous year's actual revenue of the Federal Government.

In recent years, the Nigerian government has repeatedly violated this section of the CBN Act, raising concerns among policy experts and international rating agencies. But the Nigerian central bank governor, Godwin Emefiele, has consistently justified why the bank is printing more money to finance the federal government budget, saying "If government cannot finance all its obligations, the central bank should offer support as a lender of last resort."

Global institutions like the World Bank and rating agency, Fitch, have repeatedly warned against unchecked financing of the Nigerian government's budget deficit by the CBN. In 2021, in a report titled 'The perils of deficit monetisation in Nigeria', Capital Economics, a London-based independent economic research outfit, said that over the past six years, around 55 per cent of Nigeria's annual budget deficits has been financed by the CBN.

**T**HE International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated the volume of capital that has left emerging markets, including Nigeria, following the ongoing interest rate cycle at \$50 billion.

It linked the flight, which it described as a slower version of the March 2020 occurrence, to monetary tightening (MT) by central banks of developed countries.

Led by the Federal Reserve System, central banks across the globe have joined rate-raising mania to stem high inflation. The Fed has increased interest rates four times this year, two of which were 75 basis points (bps) imposed back-to-back.

The monetary authorities are also winding down their stimulus packages, most of which were deployed to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 pandemics. The Fed had its balance sheet expanded by about 100 per cent as it threw money into the COVID-19 disruption.

The monetary easing (ME) helped the global economy to survive the COVID-19 locked down with a manageable slump but triggered inflation growth not seen in about decades. As central banks unveiled tightening plans, the IMF and the World Bank warned of a ripple effect on developing economies in the form of massive capital flight if policymakers of the affected countries did not take remedial actions.

In a blog post yesterday, the IMF said capital flow to emerging markets was disrupted by extreme risk aversion triggered by the breakout of the Russia-

## IMF Pegs capital outflows from Nigeria, others

Ukraine war but worsened by subsequent interest rate hike akin to a similar action that followed the COVID-19 global pandemic announcement except capital are flying at a slower speed this time.

"Capital flows to emerging markets were disrupted so far in 2022 by increased risk aversion triggered by the war, with further outflows amid changing expectations about the increased pace of monetary tightening in advanced economies. Cumulative outflows from emerging markets have been very large, about \$50 billion... Monetary policy tightening is driving currency movements as rising inflation is leading many central banks to accelerate the withdrawal of monetary stimulus," the blog that focused on widening current account balances stated.

The Fund expressed concern about the widening current account imbalances across the globe, saying there could be consequences "when the amount a country spends abroad is wildly different from what it receives from the outside world". It noted that revised expectations about the pace of the United States MT brought about sizable currency realignment, which is widening the imbalances.

A current account is measured as the difference between the value of goods and services exported and the value of goods and services it imports. A deficit means that the country is importing more than it is exporting while a surplus implies the opposite.

With some countries' current accounts persistently

on deficits, while other economies accumulate surpluses yearly, IMF said there is a need for global concern about the trend. Among other factors, the blog traced the growing imbalances to the tendency towards protectionism that started during COVID-19.

"When a country runs a current account deficit, it is building up liabilities to the rest of the world that are financed by flows in the financial account. Eventually, these need to be paid back. Common sense suggests that if a country fritters away its borrowed foreign funds on spending that yields no long-term productivity gains, then its ability to repay - its basic solvency - might come into question.

"This is because solvency requires that the country be willing and able to generate (eventually) sufficient current account surpluses to repay what it has borrowed to finance the current account deficits.

"Therefore, whether a country should run a current account deficit (borrow more) depends on the extent of its foreign liabilities (its external debt) and on whether the borrowing will finance investment with a higher marginal product than the interest rate (or rate of return) the country has to pay on its foreign liabilities," it advised. It is also aimed at improving environmental sanitation and management, asset and financial acquisition as well as beneficiaries engagement in sustainable livelihood. (NAN)

## FG to reinstate Cocoa board, improve farmers' earnings

**T**HE Federal Government recently inaugurated the National Cocoa Management Committee (NCMC) to see to the re-establishment of the Nigeria Cocoa Board and also ensure Cocoa farmers benefit from the Living Income Differential (LID) of \$400 per tonne to improve their living standards.

Cocoa exporters in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire have been enjoying the LID introduced by the two countries as a premium on their cocoa and as a tool to complement the prices of the cash crop in the international market.

Unconfirmed reports have it that exporters have been taking cocoa of Nigerian origin to either Ghana or Cote d'Ivoire for them to enjoy the \$400 per ton LDI premium.

Inaugurating the Cocoa Management Committee in Abuja, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammed Abubakar stated that the purpose of the committee is to work out modalities for Nigerian cocoa farmers to start benefiting from this initiative like their counterparts in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire ports.



Abubakar

Abubakar tasked the committee members saying, "One of your immediate tasks is to come up with an urgent draft charter for the operations of NCMC which will enable an Executive Bill to be forwarded to the National Assembly for legal backing so as to meet the demand of joining the Ghana/Cote

d'Ivoire initiative to deliver Living Income Differential (LID) of \$400/ ton, which will, in turn, improve the livelihood of our smallholder cocoa farmers in the country".

The committee chaired by the Director, Federal Department of Agriculture, Garuba Abubakar has the following terms of reference:

"develop a framework for the regulation and monitoring of the activities of the Cocoa sector to make the industry more transparent and also develop a strategic plan towards the establishment of a Nigerian Cocoa Board.

Being an important regulatory body in the Nigerian Cocoa sector, they are to upscale their activities to all cocoa-producing states and also develop Local, State and Federal Government strategic implementation plans for the National Cocoa Management Committee.

The committee is also expected to establish a data bank for all Multinational Companies and Exporters of Cocoa Beans from Nigerian Ports.

Abubakar further urged NCMC to drive the cocoa sector through a pragmatic approach as a coordinating body by providing solutions to challenges affecting the value chain so as to guarantee quality, traceability, transparency and sustainability along the Cocoa Value Chain and to also meet both local needs and export demands.



# ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

## Is your company guilty of Africa's impact-washing problem?

**Impact-washing occurs when an organisation attempts to pass itself off as being "better" than it is, communicating claims of social or environmental impact that have no clear positive or demonstrable evidence. While oftentimes organisations are unaware, because by their own standards they are genuinely giving it the best shot, there are tell-tale signs that an entity is not as true as it makes believe. OLUWARANTIMI OLANIYAN writes.**

**T**HERE are many ways to know what organisations are misleading stakeholders and not future-proofing their impact programmes – the most critical being their own knowledge of the truth.

Yes, we want to align to global best practices and champion sustainable causes, using the vehicles of our organisations. But without consciously doing so, we are doing more harm than good. If not curtailed, impact-washing can have more devastating consequences for business and beneficiary societies. To address this issue, companies must be encouraged to align their activities to wider objectives, global priorities and local realities.

There is no question that sustainability has taken front-row seats in global conversations, as calls for us to adopt more sustainable practices increase and climate-change fears rise. Academia and the third sector alike continue to mount pressure on governments and businesses to champion and adopt favourable policies that encourage social development, achievement of the sustainable development goals, but also drive, unfortunately and unintentionally, impact washing.

In Africa, where ESG funding is slowly, but gradually taking root, impact is still more closely tied to development-focused outcomes than climate effects, carbon footprints, labour, or diversity and inclusion (topic for another day). With its lagging growth, in all honesty, Africa's many developmental challenges seem to aid impact-washing. Socio-economic problems abound; people want solutions to those problems and are more inclined to hold in higher esteem entities that seem to contribute to solving them. Organisations, on the other



hand, hide behind these challenges to proffer poorly thought-out and superficial solutions, with the excuse of limited budgets and incapacity to do more.

Impact-washing is dangerous because it propagates a false narrative of development work and hampers truly committed actors from delivering more long-term solutions to deeply-rooted problems. That's why, as

important as communicators' activities may seem for the good of the company, if not reflective of the truth, they do more harm in the long-term, especially engendering a culture of facades and false reporting, as well as unintentionally laying the foundation for future crises.

This means that, eventually, when the more technical and invisible criteria for ESG practices become law, these would only

have been bubbles. And as anyone who is a student of societies and economies knows, within every bubble is a potential crisis.

Unfortunately, businesses (and their communications or "sustainability" teams) that engage in impact-washing are often unaware of the implications of their activities, usually seeking to do good and contribute their quota in their little corner of the world.

But it is not difficult to determine where an organisation sits and to what degree its activities are authentic. If we look closely, reviewing our activities against global and local priorities, as well as societal needs, we can tell who is true or not.

Organisations guilty of washing can be identified by one or more of these characteristics: infrequent donations usually triggered by guilt or pressure – only giving when it is morally convenient; an unarticulated vision or purpose for impact, especially with no alignment to the corporate strategy; absence of partnerships; one-off communication or advocacy about a critical social issue, usually only delivered during international observance days or on the back of a trend; absent or limited employee involvement;

no intentional structure or vehicle for implementing social impact projects; as well as absent measurement criteria, impact metrics and reporting framework.

I admit that, with the limited resources available to many organisations and the pressure to show some form of social impact beyond their day-to-day operations, impact-washing may seem inevitable. Yet, it is not impossible and definitely more profitable to be intentional about contributing to social development and adopting sustainable practices.

The best way to prevent deliberate or accidental impact-washing is by aligning activities with corporate vision and the relevant priorities. As is usually suggested to self-seeking narcissists, strategy and communications professionals must help our organisations look beyond themselves, not consumed with their own "glory" (or "positioning", as we like to call it), to the actual needs of the communities each one chooses to help. Better still, with a desire to deliver such levels of impact, businesses must make more conscientious efforts at establishing the processes and frameworks for achieving them.

**Source: Economic confidential.**





## 'I hate talking about my private life'



that to while away time. Because, I don't like staying idle. Even as a child, I used to do one or two things. I have always been an independent person. I would say that I started acting because I hate idleness.

**How many movies have you acted this year?**  
I don't really know but it is not much.

**You live outside the country most often?**  
I live here in Nigeria but most times, I travel out of the country because of the project I'm embarking on. I shuttle between Nigeria and the outside world. There are certain things I need to bring from there to this country that is why I travel most often. Like my cameras, I brought them down from there. Like the house of service I told you, I need some in Nigeria and likewise outside the country.

**Like other actors and actresses who have ventured into the music industry. Are you planning to do the same?**

I love singing, I have sang so many songs. But, we cannot keep acting all the time. Because if you continue like that, you can never have your time, you can never give your family that time they need. You act, you get another thing to fall back on in case if you are not there.

At the same time, you cut your shot. What I mean is this, if you are the boss of what you are doing, you can say, let me give this time to my family today and your assistance will take over. Also, tomorrow you can say let me go to work/location today. I don't want to spend all my time in working (acting). Where I can be answerable to somebody without being answerable to my husband.

So, you have to initiate something on your own by so doing, you can tell your workers, go and do this thing and you will go and relax. You can also be doing other things that will give you time to attend to your family. That does not mean I would not act for anybody anymore. I will act for people but I can never be the same like when I started as a young girl who does not have anybody to answer to.

**Does it mean you choose the roles you act now?**



Yes. I choose. I see the script. If I am not satisfied with it, I will tell you that I cannot act the script. If I am satisfied with that, I will go on with the script.

**Do you think you still have a chance in the industry considering the number of actresses who are eager to act?**

Well, I don't look at people's faces. I believe that whatever you are, it is on your own. If you are good, it is for your own good. I always tell people to be confident in themselves.

If you have self-confidence and a dragon is by your side, you can even say hi to the dragon and go your way the dragon would even turn back to follow your footsteps. Just be contented with yourself, how you act, do you thing in your own way.

Don't mind how people do theirs. You will find out that a lot of people are out there who are following your footsteps without your knowledge. So I am not scared.

**What are the challenges you are facing now?**

Talking about my challenges now, I think it is what I am building up that is giving me lots of challenges. The other challenge an actor/actress can face is that professionalism in the field, knowing what you are doing. By God's grace, we have the professionals in the industry. In fairness, I even love challenges so much.

**What is your driving force in creating your own studio?**

I decided to create my own studio because, I wanted something different apart from my acting. It is a kind of gradual step you have to take when you want to be there. I do not really want to have



problem when I am there I will start looking for cameras or anything. I want to gather everything before I start the NGO. So that when I am out, they can finish everything without problems.

**What do you intend to do with your NGO?**

Ok, we want to reach to people because, so many Nigerians are hungry and I think I am happier if I am eating and the person beside me is eating as well. If am eating and the person beside me is hungry, I feel so unhappy. I derive joy in making people happy.

**When do we hope to hear about the NGO well?**

Not now because we are still working on it.

**Tell us about your background?**

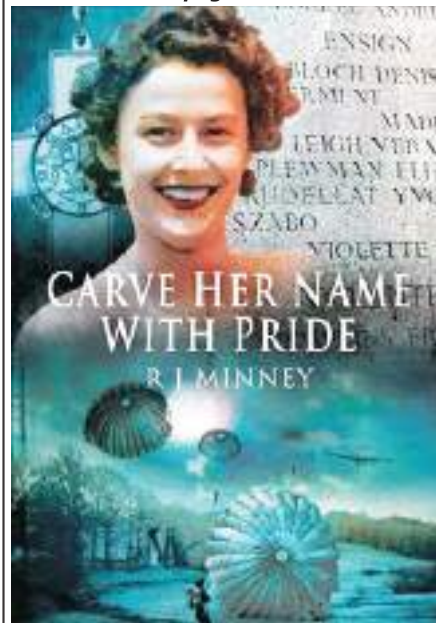
I am Chiege Alisigwe from Orlu Local Government Area of Imo State. I am the last in the family of Eleven. I read fine and applied arts. I did my OND at Federal Polytechnic, Oko, before proceeding to IMT Enugu for Higher National Diploma. I did my youth service and now on the verge of doing my masters.

Source: Naira Forum

## Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

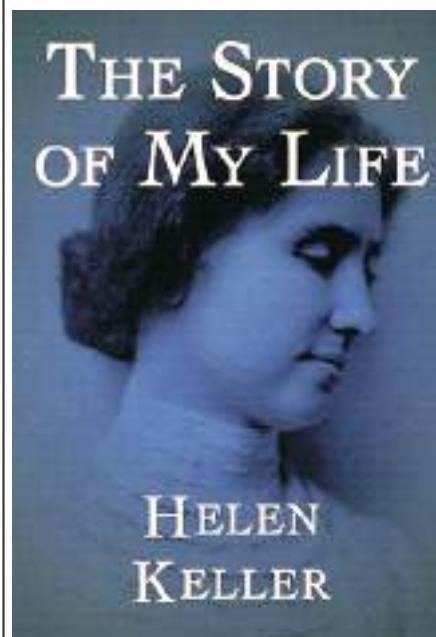
Continued from page 18

### Carve her name with pride



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

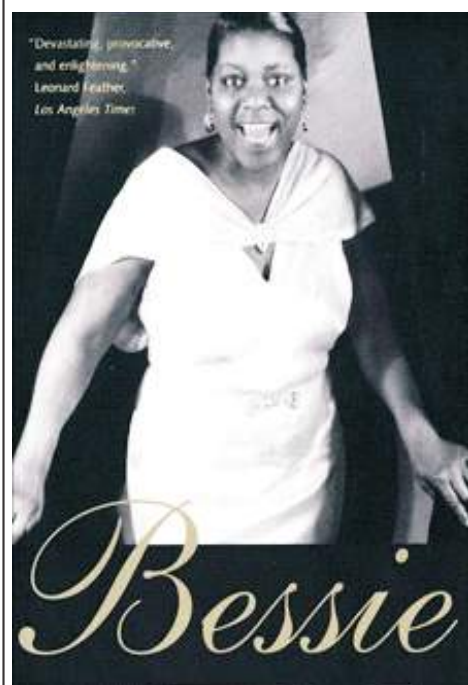
### The Story of my life



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

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

### Bessie



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

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

To be continued

# Businesses: Growing threat of substitutes, second-hand goods

*The COVID-19 pandemic and economic turbulence have had a significant impact on businesses, manufacturers and households, including individual lifestyle and well-being in recent times. The direct consequence of this has been rising inflation with quite serious implications. Globally, no country is immune to inflation. Around the world, inflationary pressure has been experienced in the USA, the UK, and many other developed and developing nations. But in Nigeria, the peculiarity is that inflation has been getting higher steadily for the last two years.*

Nigeria is one of the countries where inflation has grown the fastest and it has been a concern for many businesses and the government due to its severe impact. Lately, we have witnessed continued and unexplainable increases in the price of practically every known item and service across the country. The troubling trend is that most of these basic and essential necessities are increasingly out of the reach of many people, indicating that the country's cost of living has risen at an alarming rate.

That is the rise in household spending required to maintain a decent quality of life has been a source of anxiety for many. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) says Nigeria's headline inflation rate increased to 18.24 percent on a year-on-year basis as at June 2022. The percentage change is the highest in the last five years, according to the records.

Although academic literature has pointed out that once inflation exceeds a certain level, on average above 15 per cent, it starts to have a negative impact on the economy, principally on economic stability, growth, employment and investment attractiveness. Even so, the author thinks that the real inflation in an economy is shown by the rise in prices of food, groceries, and other goods and services that people use every day.

Without a doubt, the food inflation trend over the last two years has been overwhelming. The proportion of the majority's income that is spent on food has remained ridiculously high. The persistent rise in inflation results in a decline in the buying power of Nigerians, who are therefore getting poorer. Because they will be forced to prioritise significant spending and the affordability of essentials will continue to decrease. The consequences of high inflation are a spike in unemployment numbers, a rise in poverty rates, declining savings, a high number of jobless youths, crimes, and unrest.

A report by Aljazeera titled, 'Inflation rises in Nigeria amid fuel scarcity and insecurity,' indicated that four out of 10 Nigerians are living below the poverty line. So, with this trend, the author has noticed a spike and sharp rise in the demand for substituted products and services by the majority of the citizenry in the country. The substitution effect usually happens when consumers replace very expensive items with cheaper ones due to price changes or when their financial conditions regress, and vice-versa.

However, the point is about the decline in purchasing power due to inflation and its attendant consequences. The cost of purchasing products and services required to maintain a given quality of life continues to be a major worry for many families and individuals in the country. According to the substitution effect, people switch from more expensive products and services to less expensive alternatives when prices rise or income



declines.

For the majority of businesses, the persistent inflation in the country has made the high cost of running and maintaining independently generated power unbearable, particularly the cost of diesel. This has resulted in a high cost of running businesses. However, this cost is passed on to the consumers without notice. When this cost is passed and consumers find it intolerable, then a change in demand by switching to substitute products and services prevails. The propensity for this trend is high and it has been the order of the day.

Substitute products or goods are alternative goods that could be used for the same purpose. Therefore, in the presence of inflation, substituting means that consumers seek out alternatives that are frequently low in price most of the time, low in quality, inferior and largely unregulated. The demand for substitutes continues to rise because the masses need to survive at all cost. So who has the blame?

The consumers or the businesses? As long as the price of goods and products continues to increase, demand for their substitutes will continue to rise. Consequently, business operators need to be aware of this. For instance, numerous salary earners have been forced to reduce the quality of the food they purchase, and business owners continue to replace family food basket staples

with any affordable alternative. Meanwhile, the expenses of transportation, school fees, electricity, cooking gas and rent are equally on the rise, adding to the burden.

From a business perspective, substitute products create rivalry, loss of revenue, weak sales, loss of potential customers or consumers, low or no patronage, and threats to business survival. The main absurdity is that businesses cannot even identify the providers of these alternatives, because they remain largely in the dark. For instance, canned Titus Sardines is expensive, but Sardine Estus, an alternative, is available and affordable while the producers are faceless and unknown.

Many of such competitors are available in the Nigerian market with a huge market share and competitive pressure. However, the quality of these readily available cheap alternatives is significantly compromised and market leading companies and products could even suffer business continuity issues if the lower-priced alternative continues to gain market share and interest of the masses.

As a response, it is a time for businesses to re-strategise, engage in high marketing and promotional campaigns, as well as innovate in line with customer expectations and patronage-improving products, and lower

prices. Again, businesses can review their pricing model at this time to accommodate consumers and customers with waning purchasing power.

It is also important for the government to play a bigger role in regulating substandard, inferior, and bad products, especially those that are dumped on the Nigerian market. Right now, it is important to look at and understand how substitution can affect the economy, businesses, and environment in order to stop high death rates and illnesses.

Businesses can fail entirely as a result of substitute effects and substitution products outperforming the original. In a market where there are fewer substitute products, there is a higher probability of businesses earning greater profits, but the reverse is the case, with inflation and the current realities. So, entrepreneurs, business owners, and SME operators need to clearly understand that their businesses may just suffer from a substitution effect, which can weaken the sales of their products and may be attributed to consumers switching to cheaper alternatives just because they no longer have affordability or the price hike is unbearable.

In the view of the author, consumers largely make their choices based on their available spending power and make constant adjustments based on price changes, most of the time

on impulse. In a time of hyperinflation and low consumer spending, cheaper substitutes and second hand (used) items) are the available alternatives. An observation of the surroundings reveals every accessible space or place for micro businesses to operate. It is an avenue to trade in second-hand items, which most people now prefer as alternatives, owing to dwindling income and affordability at this time due to inflation. This can make it harder for well-known brands or established businesses to get patronage and remain in business, if differentiation or other business strategies are ignored to stay cost competitive.

Many Nigerians are unaware that the high inflation rate in the country is one of the major reasons why the naira is losing value. Therefore, the authors recommend that the Federal Government should make a deliberate effort to tackle the key issues in the country: insecurity, incessant power issues, continued exchange rate instability and non-availability of forex to genuine business operators and exporting companies. Inflation could remain an issue unless these issues are given headlong attention.

*Olubiyi is an entrepreneurship and business management expert.*

NEWS

# Fintiri unveils female Deputy Governor

From GYANG PAM, Yola

THE new Deputy Governor to Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri has been unveiled officially to the general public at a well attended gathering of people at the Banquet hall of Government House

Governor Fintiri who unveiled her to the public said, he is gender sensitive that was not to say, he has anything against the outgoing deputy Chief Crowther Seth.

"However in politics there comes a time when the gentlemen will move on but we shall complete this tenure as mandated", he said.

Fintiri however described Chief Crowther Seth as a loyal, patient and patriotic person per excellence.

According to him, he however has the prerogative in choosing his running mate, and further disclosed that for three years they have consolidated on many things as the state was virtually in darkness and hunger and now the economy of the state is picking up.

Mrs. Farauta Kaletapwa until this political appointment was the Vice Chancellor Adamawa State University, (ADSU)



Fintiri Mubi.

In his comment, the Chairman Governing Council of the University, Alhaji Awwal Tukur said, this is the first time in the history of the North East that it will have a lady deputy Governor.

Alhaji Awwal Tukur assured that they will strive to see her elevated to that office. His

reason is that Mrs. Farauta was able to stabilize what went wrong in that the institution adding that she is a block in the building of the state.

In a vote of thanks, Kaletapwa said, "the time has come that we will have our own in the seat of power".

She then pledged her loyalty to the government and the people of the state.

# Gov Bello shuts down brothels, bans facemask wearing

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello has ordered the immediate closure of all brothels harbouring criminals and ban on wearing of facemasks in public places for proper identification in the state. The Governor said his action was to curb criminal activities in the state and to ensure that Kogi remains the safest state in the country.

He gave the order on in Lokoja during a meeting with all first and second-class traditional leaders including Local Government Council Chairmen from the 21 LGAS in the state. Bello also ordered the removal and demolition of shanties in Lokoja, Osara, Zango, Itobe, Obajana Okaba and all other areas located in the state. He also ordered the immediate removal of trailers parks within 30 metres on the right of ways

He urged the state

Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Local Government Chairmen, union leaders and security agencies to meet with tricycle and motorcycle riders for proper documentation.

Governor Bello also urged all traditional rulers to guard their domain and ensure all the nooks and crannies of their areas are cleansed noting that the land belongs to them and should know who occupies every inch of it.

The Governor sympathized with the family of the killed security agents in Ajaokuta Local Government Area.

While admonishing all LG council chairmen, and security agencies to continue to do their job without fear or favour, the governor, however, sent a strong warning to politicians of all political parties about their conduct and advised them not

to be involved in anything that could disrupt the peace of the people and the security they presently enjoy.

Bello charged the citizens

and residents in the state to give vital security information to the law enforcement agency and to also cooperate with them for better security.

# Adamawa RECT tenure elapses

From GYANG PAM, Yola

THE Electoral Commissioner in charge of Adamawa, Barrister Kashim Gaidam is set to hand over after his two tenure elapsed last Tuesday.

He served twice as REC in Adamawa State with short breaks in between.

In an interview with journalists, he claimed that he was the longest serving commissioner having served briefly in Gombe and back to Adamawa them in Edo State.

Gaidam, noted that "I feel proud because I am somebody leaving the commission with my head held high as the commission today is a most developed technology-driven institution today".

He disclosed that he expects the same efficiency be shown by INEC in the next general elections.

One of the things achieved during his tenure is that 261,300 voters were registered during the just suspended continuous Voter Registration. Kashim Gaidam hails from Yobe State.

Meanwhile, the election of as Nigeria Association

# Some of Nigeria's security challenges are imported

- Buhari

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has said that the government recognises that some of the security challenges confronting Nigeria were imported by foreign elements.

Mr Buhari, who was represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, stated this at the Graduation of Course 30 of the National Defence College (NDC) on Friday in Abuja.

He said that the nation and indeed the African region had been facing difficult times such as terrorism in the North-east, banditry and other criminal activities across the country.

He added that the military and other security agencies have been given directives to decisively deal with all forms of security challenges and secure the nation.

According to him, the military has continued to counter the terrorism that was very prevalent in the North-east which has resulted in the surrendering of thousands of persons who are being managed by government agencies.

Government is also deeply concerned about the activities of bandits and criminals who have reared their ugly heads in some parts of the country.

"This is because the number of violent unprovoked attacks on citizens appear to be on the increase. This is unacceptable.

"Accordingly, we have given strong directive to the military and other security agencies to deal decisively with terrorists, bandits and other enemies of the country.

We have also adopted



Buhari

bilateral and multilateral arrangements to tackle the trans-border and maritime crimes because we recognize that some of our security challenges are imported into Nigeria by foreign elements.

I want to assure all Nigerians that the government is doing all it can to eliminate or apprehend the criminals or bandits, wherever they are," he said.

Mr Buhari commended the nation's apex defence institution for its continuous effort toward raising disciplined and professional leaders for the armed forces, and security agencies as well as Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

He said the college had since its establishment 30 years ago, continued to fulfil its mandate and had grown to be

at par with similar colleges across the world

He charged the participants to deploy the knowledge they had acquired in making useful suggestions toward addressing the challenges in their areas of responsibility.

The president assured that the government would remain committed to providing needed resources for the security agencies to carry out their assigned tasks.

The Commandant of NDC, Murtala Bashir, said the college had 102 participants drawn from the military, paramilitary, security and intelligence agencies as well as selected MDAs and participants from 16 allied countries.

Mr Bashir, a rear admiral, said the participants comprised of 28 from the Nigerian Army; 20 from Nigerian Navy; five from Nigerian Air Force; 29 from strategic institutions/MDAs and 20 international participants.

He said the college had trained the finest from the military, security agencies and MDAs both from within and outside the country since its inception in 1992, adding that some had distinguished themselves in their careers.

According to him, the mission of NDC is to develop future strategic leaders who are sufficiently equipped with knowledge and skills.

For participants of course 30, this mission was achieved through the pathway of study in nine modules comprising research methodology and strategic writing, state and social political environments, economy and finance, science and technology, international affairs and regional studies.

"Others are policy strategy and national security, military history and conflict studies, peace supports operations and higher defence management.

"The modules were delivered in form of lectures, seminars, study tours, research papers and studies under a broad theme, 'a Whole of Society Approach to Enhancing Human Security in Nigeria'."

"The course also involved exercises that stimulated real-life scenarios and the review of the National Defence and Security Policies," he said.

A foreign participant, Ashwani Tikoo of the Indian Navy, thanked the Nigerian government and the armed forces for giving them the opportunity to be a part of the course and learning experience of a lifetime.

Mr Tikoo, a commodore, said the course had also afforded him the opportunity to make new friends that would help to shape his military career. (NAN)



Bello



Mahmood

of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) around the corner in Yola the Adamawa State Capital, one of the strong contenders to the Chairmanship seat Mrs. Mary Adamu George has picked a form. She picked the form on Saturday at its secretariat at the N.U.J. premises.

Shortly after picking the form in what appears to be a fanfare, Mrs. George, said NAWOJ needs rejigging to meet up with the demand of members.

According to Mrs. George, these are plans to live up to memselfs expectations and will therefore not leave any stone unturned to achieve that.

Mrs. George who is currently the Press Secretary to the wife of Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri is soliciting for support from her colleagues adding that in everything "all of us need the co-operation of one another".

NEWS

# APC chieftain calls for constituency projects probe

From JWANTILA PJ, Minna

The Coordinator Community Relations Officer under Governor Abubakar Sani Bello's administration, Alhaji Awaisu Giwa Kuta has raised alarm on the various constituency projects of members of the Niger State House of Assembly in the last four years.

The alarm is coming on the heels of a 25million naira that was allegedly slashed from a constituency project loan.

Alhaji Awaisu Giwa Kuta raised the alarm in an interaction with journalists in Minna, saying that the assembly has lost focus and people have lost confidence in them.

Awaisu said funds were released for various constituency projects to the lawmakers, hence the need to investigate the funds and implementation of those projects in the interest of the state and the people they represent.

Awaisu Giwa further revealed that the State Assembly stood as guarantor on behalf of the 25 Local



Bello

Governments to obtain the project loan, in which 25million naira was allegedly slashed, urging the State Government to commence an independent investigation into the processes of the loan.

He further added that the assembly's resolution to stop the local government election was unfortunate, explaining

that there is no provision for caretaker committees in the constitution.

Giwa explained that the Niger State Independent Electoral Commission had recently concluded plans to hold the council elections, but was disrupted by the lawmakers, majority of whom had lost in their primary election to return to power.

THE Management of Greenfield University, Kaduna has appointed the Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli as its pioneer Chancellor.

The appointment was part of the University's preparation to have its maiden graduation ceremony next year.

This is coming one year after the institution was attacked by bandits, who kidnapped scores of its students and killed five of them in captivity.

The University's Management led by the Founder and Pro-Chancellor, Engr. Simon Ifediora Nwakacha presented the appointment letter to the Emir at his Palace in Zaria on Thursday.

Receiving the appointment, Emir Bamalli called for the establishment of more universities in Nigeria, to meet Nigerians demand for quality education.

While expressing appreciation to Greenfield University Founder and Management for finding him worthy of appointment as their pioneer Chancellor, the Emir expressed delight that, the university has grown in students population, four times than it was.

According to him, "This is remarkable and it is an indication that there is a lot to be done. We need more

# Greenfield University appoints Emir of Zazzau pioneer chancellor

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna



Bamalli

universities in Nigeria than what we have at the moment and I can say proudly that, being a private university located in Kaduna, you have gotten a good location considering the cost of living and cost of transportation that are very high in other climes.

"Am sure your presence in Kaduna will contribute to

meeting the demands of our people. We use to have only three universities in Kaduna State, the Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna State University and the Nigerian Defence Academy. You have now come as the first private university in the State. Our people now don't have to travel to Abuja before they access quality education."

Speaking further on the bandits attack on the University last year, Emir of Zazzau lamented the state of insecurity in Nigeria, saying that, "I commiserate with the founder and management of the university over the happening of last year which was really disheartening. We pray that Allah continue to protect us all from these happenings.

"This is not the same country we use to know, which was very peaceful and safe for people to have around at anytime. Just yesterday, we saw gory picture of a Police Officer being shot along Abuja road. "We pray to Allah to protect us all against this banditry and other challenges"

Earlier while presenting the appointment letter to the Emir, the Founder, Engr. recalled that, bandits attacked the main campus of the University last year and five 300 level students and a porter were killed, a situation which forced the university to relocate to its city campus inside Kaduna town.

He said the university has since its relocation to the city campus continued with uninterrupted academic programmes, with student's population now four times larger, and it is sent to graduate the first set of its students by next year.

According to him, "by next year, we will be graduating the first set of our students and part of the process is that, at this time we should appoint a Chancellor who will among other functions be presiding over our graduation ceremony. This position has however been reserved in our heart for the Emir of Zazzau, because it was the late Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji Shehu Idris, who prophesied that, Imperial School will one day establish the first private university iate. And that came to pass."

# Abducted rector, NAN correspondent niece freed

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

GUNMEN, Thursday, released the abducted Rector of the Federal School of Statistics in Manchok, Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Mr Amos Magbo and Brenda the niece of NAN Correspondent, after 48 hours in captivity.

Brenda is a 21 year old, and final year student of Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan Waya

Magbon was kidnapped along with Brenda on Tuesday while the father of a NAN correspondent was gruesomely killed by the bandits.

A resident, Victor Galadima who confirmed the incident said the duo was

released on Thursday evening having paid a ransom.

According to him, a sum of N150,000 was paid to secure the release of the lady who is a granddaughter to the late. Father of the NAN's correspondent while the sum of N1 million was paid for the release of the rector.

"Since her grandfather was shot dead they decided to release the lady after N150,000 was paid to the bandits while a sum of N1 million was paid to secure the release of the rector," Galadima said.

He explained that one of the victims told them that the bandits took them to Zangang

community in Takad Chiefdom just few kilometers away from the local government area and

alleged that the bandits were young Fulani boys.

Another source said a

# Governor decries low patronage of state contributory healthcare scheme

From Mathew Jwantu, Minna

NIGER State Governor and Chairman North Central States Governor's Forum (NCSGF), Abubakar Sani Bello has decried the low level patronage by Nigerlites into the State Contributory Healthcare Scheme.

The Governor stated this while receiving a report/presentation of the end of year review and performance of the State Primary Healthcare Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Governor, who blamed the low level of patronage of the scheme to lack of adequate awareness, also believed that people are somewhat cynical because they do not have confidence in the system because, when they pay for premium services they don't get value for their money.

He, however, expressed hope that when people begin to enjoy the benefits, more and more will register adding that the whole scheme is relatively new to the people unlike elsewhere in the world where it is fully operational and even mandatory.

The Governor expressed hope that the health insurance scheme will pickup in the state stressing that it was the only way that the hospitals will be properly maintained and sustainable in the long term.

Governor Sani Bello acknowledged that the health sector requires huge investment and lots of resources stressing that the solution is to ensure that the system fully integrates the healthcare system and fund it adequately.

He assured that the state government will continue to engage and fulfill its obligations to development partners and donors especially with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Governor commended the Ministry of Health and the Primary Healthcare Development Agency who stood firm and ensured that the state government succeeds in the execution of the primary health care policies.

Earlier, the state Commissioner of Health and Hospital Services, Dr. Mohammed Makusidi enumerated the countless achievements and successes recorded by the state

medical checkup was conducted on the duo to ensure they were in good condition.



Alkali

# NEWS

## Gombe to commence construction of 1,000 housing unit



Gov Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State, MD of FHF, Mr. Femi Adewole and Gombe State Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Mohammed Gambo Magaji after their meeting in Abuja.

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

GOMBE State Government will soon commence the construction of 1,000 housing units for low income owners in the State. As part of plans to that effect, the State Governor, Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya, met with Family Homes Fund (FHF) Managing Director, Mr Femi Adewole, at the Gombe State Governor's lodge, Abuja recently. According to a statement sent to our correspondent in Gombe by Ismaila Uba Misilli, DG Press Affairs, Gombe Government House, Family Homes Fund, is an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria. He said, FHF is aimed at facilitating affordable housing delivery by entering into

specific partnerships with supportive State Governments, developers and International partners/agencies that can provide technical support and financing for project implementation. Misilli also stated that the project which will comprise one, two and three bedroom houses, is in partnership with FHF under the affordable housing scheme which seeks to provide 1,000 affordable housing units in the state for low-income earners. He said, the FHF MD confirmed to Governor Inuwa Yahaya that Gombe State has met all the necessary requirements for the implementation of the

scheme in the State and that the FHF will soon release funds required to enable commencement of the project. Misilli also quoted the MD of FHF, saying, his agency, in conjunction with Governor Inuwa Yahaya will agree on a date for the ground breaking ceremony that will signal the commencement of the construction of the 1000 housing units by the Inuwa-led administration in Gombe State. The meeting had in attendance the Hon Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development, Muhammad Gambo Magaji.

## Gov Inuwa praise humanitarian minister over impact of NSIP...

From Willie Attah, Gombe

GOMBE State Governor, Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya, has commended the positive impact of the Federal Government's National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) on the socioeconomic life of the people of the State. The Governor made the commendation through his Deputy, Dr. Manasseh Daniel Jatau at the flag-off of the Cash Grant for Vulnerable Groups and on-

boarding of Independent Monitors Stream 2 in the state where he predicted that the programme is capable of increasing the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by N100m. A total number of 3,541 beneficiaries from 11 local government Areas in Gombe state are expected to receive a one-off Cash Grant of N20,000. The Deputy Governor commended the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, for

extending the Social Investment Programmes to what he described as an 'over populated' Gombe State. He said "all these are ventures which will improve the living standard of the poor and vulnerable. "Indeed, the economic activities of the state stand to benefit One Hundred Million Naira which automatically is an increase of Gross Domestic Product of the state. This is no small intervention. "You will all agree that this intervention is a lift for us in the journey that we have decided to undertake. "Basically, this administration is determined to go beyond ordinary economic growth and ensure economic development. "This is manifested in the development and launch of the 10-year development plan 2021-2030", he stated. The Minister had earlier, while launching the digitized payment for Conditional Cash Transfer, Cash Grant for Vulnerable Groups and on-boarding of Independent Monitors, explained that President Muhammadu Buhari's Administration had

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

AS scheming towards the 2023 general election hots up, Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State has described a suit filed against him and his Deputy by the State PDP and it's Governorship candidate over their eligibility to contest in the election as self-defeatist and unfounded allegations. The Gombe State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had in a suit NO: FJC/ABJ/CS/1301/2022 prayed an Abuja Federal High Court to disqualify Inuwa and his deputy from contesting the election for submitting forged documents and certificates to INEC which were published on 22nd July, 2022.

But reacting, the Governor, through his Director General, Press Affairs, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said the allegations are mere distraction which will not deter him and his administration from delivering dividends of democracy to the people of the state. He said, the PDP and its Governorship candidate, Alhaji Mohammed Jibrin Barde, are being haunted and hunted by their morbid fear of an imminent and inevitable defeat in the 2023

## Suit against me by Danbarde, self defeatist... -Gov Inuwa



Inuwa

elections. He stressed that "it's an effort in futility". The Governor stated that, "Well, We have not yet been served with court process. It's only when we are served that we would be able to constructively issue any statement". The media aide added that, "But for now, all I can say based on the information in the media is that these are full of spurious, self-defeatist and unfounded allegations by a party and its candidate

being haunted and hunted by their morbid fear of an imminent and inevitable defeat in the 2023 elections". "They should rather face the electorate and sell their manifestos rather than coming from the backdoor," he stressed. He concluded that, "The INEC and Judiciary of today are not the ones that can be hoodwinked. We are waiting for the court process and we shall respond accordingly".

## Plateau Govt to synergise with NIS on security

By BENJAMIN DUMA

PLATEAU State Government says it will synergise with Nigeria Immigration Service, NIS, to curb the security challenges



Lalong

bedeviling the country.

Governor Simon Lalong stated this when he received Acting Assistant Comptroller General of NIS, and Zonal Coordinator Zone C Bauchi Ibrahim Baburu and other comptrollers of the six zone in his office at Rayfield. The Governor while commending the Nigerian Immigration officers for their role in addressing the security challenges in the country urged them to intensify efforts in checking the entry and exit of the country's border to check the criminals coming in to the country. Represented by the Deputy Governor, Professor Sonny Tyoden, Lalong expressed his administration's readiness to support the NIS to enable

them carry out their duty successfully. Earlier, the Acting Assistant Comptroller and coordination of zone C Bauchi, Ibrahim Baburu explained that they were in the state for their Zonal Conference and appreciated the plateau state Government for providing the state command with three Hilux and KVA Generator which has assisted them immensely in carrying out their duties. Mr Baburu noted that they have been carrying out their duties at the border with other sisters agency and requested for more logistics for surveillance and access road leading to the command in Jos.



Gombe State Deputy Governor, Manasseh Daniel Jatau looks on as Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Sadiya Umar Farouq present cash grants to beneficiaries in Gombe.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



# Naira free fall: Are Nigerians ready for worse?

Continued from page 10

to a possible recession by the end of this year. He said.

NACCIMA, being the voice of the Nigerian business', had raised serious concerns and pre-warned that the economy may slip into a recession by the end of this year based on the fact that the sign of the precarious state of the economy may trigger inflation rate which had already hit 17.17 percent as at May 2022 and going to 18.6 percent in June 2022.

From the foregoing, economic experts are alarmed that the slide of the naira against other currencies whereby the unfavourable exchange rate is taking a huge toll on private sector businesses is already a strong message to all stakeholders that Nigeria

should prepare for the worse.

**SUNDAY STANDARD** gathered that, with the steady crash of the naira, Manufacturers appear to be worse hit by the prevailing unfavourable forex crisis. This is because the importation of goods and other inputs that are desired to keep the economy afloat are not readily available while the scarcity of the dollar is making it extremely impossible for manufacturers to access forex from the commercial banks to do business.

According to Mr. Hycinth Eherem, a Jos businessman who also barred his mind to the **SUNDAY STANDARD** said; "what do we expect of a country where we don't produce anything, our major industries are in comatose. Even the oil

sector we are bragging with is nothing to write home about as the nation's crude is refined outside the shores of the country at above the interest that is supposed to accrue to the sector, while the refineries have remained closed, thereby denying any meaningful economic progress." He said.

Although the naira was able to make some gains against the dollar as at Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022, by 0.34 percent to close at N429.2 to the dollar as against the N430.67 to the dollar. Similarly, **SUNDAY STANDARD** gathered, in the peer-to-peer market, the naira appreciated to N616.5 to the dollar on Wednesday, representing a rally of 5.5 percent compared to the previous day.

This is coming at the heels of a

shocking depreciation recorded in the previous week when the naira fell to N705.00 to the dollar as a result of forex scarcity and panic buying. However, the Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN], is giving Nigerians the assurance that it is doing everything possible to ensure stability within the system.

The CBN'S Director of Corporate Communications, Osita Nwasinobi said the apex bank would continue to take decisive steps to in the forex market to prevent future declines in the value of the naira. He then warned forex purchasers not to fall prey to the speculative practices of some participants in the forex market.

Meanwhile, Economic experts have proffered a way out of the mess which Dr. Olumide said the only way out to force a rebound in the value of the naira is to focus on things Nigeria can export, especially those classified as "low hanging fruits" like technology, talents and agriculture. "We have to reduce the appetite for foreign goods. For instance, we can implement policies to put a stop to importation of foreign cars, clothes, foods and drinks etc. Doing this will make our local industry grow, and within 90 days you will be shocked at the result we will get" Olumide added.

On his part, Mallam Yunusa Mohammed a community leader in Jos North, told **SUNDAY**

**STANDARD** that; "Take a look at countries in Africa like Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Morocco and South Africa just to mention a few, have one or two things they are exporting. Recently, some of them have started manufacturing heavy duty Vehicles for export while we in Nigeria have blown every opportunity that can propel us to greatness." He noted.

As a recipe toward guarding against further fall in the naira, the Acting D.G of NACCIMA, Mr Opeyemi Alaran said, there is the urgent need for concerted efforts to reverse Nigeria's age long import dependency for quite a number of raw materials and intermediate goods.

"We are appealing to the CBN and the Federal Government to attack the root cause of the problem which is the need to ensure private sector participation in production of goods. If there is forex, the private sector will be able to produce more and be able to export." Alaran added.

The bottom line as prescribed by experts is that, Nigeria must begin to look inward by diversifying its economy towards a more productive and result oriented investment that can resuscitate the present state of most of the nation's ailing industries which can also solve the challenges of job creation and even open up the economy from a consumer driven to an export hub within the African Continent.

**“ We have to reduce the appetite for foreign goods. For instance, we can implement policies to put a stop to importation of foreign cars, clothes, foods and drinks etc. Doing this will make our local industry grow, and within 90 days you will be shocked at the result we will get. ”**

“

# METRO-FOCUS

## What's the fate of our moribund industries, uncompleted projects?

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

It would definitely be painful for whoever had once worked and felt the impact of these old functional industries on the Plateau looking at their present conditions. Truly, these industries were products of our founding fathers and the pride of every plateau man, but for decades now, nothing much has been down to resuscitate them.

It is quite unfortunate that, since the return of democracy in 1999, these industries are left without hope. Series of negotiations and signing of Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) were made year-in-year-out, giving hope to citizens, but all went down the drain because no serious action was taken by successive administrations.

It will interest you to know that the intention behind establishing these industries was to create job opportunities to the youth and also boast revenue profile of the state through tourism, mining and agriculture, but these dreams disappeared gradually because of poor maintenance.

You talk of organisations like: the Jos International Breweries Limited; the BARC Farm; the Plateau State Hotel & Gardens; Hill Station Hotel; Jos Wildlife Park; Jos Main Market; Jos Steel Rolling Mills; Luka Bentu Indoor Theater; The Nigeria Standard and lots more.

They were basically designed to take advantage of our rich natural endowment to place the State ahead of others in the area of tourism and industrial development and sincerely, there is no need denying the fact that this was what earlier attracted different people from different states that had trooped into the capital city of Jos, making it a miniature Nigeria.

Today, these industries have remained eye saw in the state and many have wondered why all these dreams and efforts of our founding fathers were left going down the drain without much efforts to salvage or bring back these life changing industries to complement efforts of our past leaders that used to place us high to the envy of all.

Also, other Second generation industries like Plateau Bottling Company, the Sheraton Hotel Lamingo, which still remains uncompleted and the recent Zaria Road Stadium that is 90% completion but still struggles with how to roof it.

If all these organisations were functional, they would have been our economic springboard and we would not be crying for funds to carry out programmes that would have direct bearings on the lives of citizens without relying on the Federal Allocations.

It is sad that, over six to seven decades thereafter, these lifelong dreams were not achieved, leaving us with some uncompleted and abandoned. The inexplicable silence about resuscitating or completing these life changing



Jos Hotel



Jos Wildlife Park



Jos Zaria Road Stadium

projects is what we craved to understand. Could it be that we lost our sense of direction and cannot complete and put to use what took these leaders less than a decade to achieve?

There is no point denying the fact that, our inability to follow the path of our founding fathers' action plans could not be unconnected to our present economic predicament. Lack of political will has been one of the ditch we felt in today and it is high time we begun to look inward and bring back these industries.

Look at the initiatives of great leaders like Late CP J.D Gomwalk and Late Chief Solomon Daushep Lar, who in their short stay in

office, were able to establish these industries and employed thousands of youth to meet up with the societal needs, but maintaining these great initiatives became so difficult a task to us.

It is quite unfortunate that in our more than two decades of democracy, none of these life changing projects is working simply because we are clouded by our political, tribal and religious sentiments that never bring food on our tables! Is it a crime for us to do one good thing devoid of tribes and religions sentiments?

However, this concern took some dimensions when the



Hill Station Hotel



Luka Bentu Indoor Theater



Sheraton Hotel, Jos

present administration thought of revitalising some of these moribund industries and the music later changed. Governor Simon Lalong, first resuscitated the Plateau Bottling Company, and soft drinks and bottle water were brewed were all over the streets but who knows where they are now?

Now that he was trying to sign a Memorandum of understanding with (Jaiz & TAJ Banks), another face of the unknown resurfaced. Some are of the opinion that, with the present state of things in the state, it would not be wise for us to have such transaction with an Islamic Bank. Some say the terms of

agreement of Forty years (40yrs) was too much and should be put on hold.

In as much as we appreciate the bold steps taken by the Executive Governor to revisit the pride of our land that put our youths off streets, it would also be right for us to look at all issues on round table and proffer solutions and see how we can bring back these great industries than outpouring fireworks. Everybody's observation is quite appropriate, but logical approach to issues such as this pays more than hitting the dire devil's drums.



# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## SIMON BAKO LALONG WORKERS HOUSING ESTATE GROUND BREAKING

The groundbreaking ceremony of the Simon Bako Lalong Workers Housing Estate situated at Zanwra, Nkienwhiea, along Miango Rd, Bassa LGA which took place on Friday last week



Governor Simon Bako Lalong (right) shaking hands with the NLC State Chairman, Comrade Eugene Manji (left) middle is the Deputy Chairman of Bassa LGC



HRH. Rev. Dr. Ronku Akah, Brra Ngwe Rigwe (left) receiving the Governor, Head of Civil Service, Engr. Sunday Hyat, mni and others



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (right) being welcomed to site of the project by Alhaji Suleiman Abubakar Imani, Chairman, Imani Groups



Director General, Industrial Training Fund, Sir Joseph Ari (middle) flanked by Chief Executives of Imani Groups and Drallop Services



Comrade Ayuba Wabba, NLC President, represented by Comrade Benjamin Anthony delivering speech



Barr. Samuel Kwamkur, Adviser to the Governor on Job Creation (left) with Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner of Information at the ceremony



Governor Lalong laying the foundation stone being witnessed by Alhaji Suleiman Abubakar of Imani Groups, Aburime Pollard, MD/CEO, Drallop Services and others



A cross section of state NLC officials at the Groundbreaking ceremony of Simon Bako Lalong Workers Housing Estate

Photos: DANLADI DUK

**Road Runner**  
 Michael Agada  
 SAFER TOGETHER  
 magada122@gmail.com  
 +234 803 333 5313

## How attitude affects good driving

**T**HE term 'red mist' is used to describe the mindset of drivers who are so determined to achieve some objective e.g. catching a vehicle in front, getting to an incident in the shortest possible time, meeting up with an appointment, meeting up with a flight, overtaking another driver etc.-that they are no longer capable of realistically assessing driving risks. The minds are not on their driving but on some other goal; they have become emotionally and physiologically caught up in the chase. Red mist can affect all drivers, particularly those on emergency services like ambulances, escorts, convoy, military, the police and paramilitary vehicles etc.

Drivers suffering from red mist tend to ignore normal risk factors such as wet roads, heavy traffic or urban conditions, and the outcome is a significant increase in crashes. It is important to recognize that this happens as much in short pursuits at relatively slow speed as in fast expressway pursuits. It is a significant problem which drivers need to take steps to avoid.

To prevent red mist, drivers need to be able to maintain their usual calm approach when responding to emergencies. The key to this is to concentrate on the driving task at hand rather than on the incident ahead. Above all, avoid thinking about what is happening at the scene of the incident or personalizing the conflict with the driver you are pursuing.

Individuals vary in the strategy they use to help them concentrate on driving in these situations. Some drivers find that deciding to think only about their driving is enough. Others remind themselves of the horrific consequences of driving dangerously, or that the event they are responding to will have changed from the report, no matter how quickly they arrive. Each driver has to find their own method of keeping calm and concentrating, but the key steps in helping to prevent red mist are:

Do not get into a personality conflict with a driver you are pursuing. Be dispassionate about the task and concentrate on behaviour rather than

personality. Use deliberately neutral, non-aggressive language to describe the other driver (to yourself as well as to others).

Do not imagine what you are likely to find at the incident- assess the incident when you arrive at it.

Concentrate on your driving-if you find this difficult, try giving yourself a running commentary on your driving, spoken aloud.

### Other causes of risk taking

Greater risk taking also arises from attitudes that have nothing directly to do with risk assessment. Impatience, aggressive and selfish attitudes can all influence the way people drive. These factors are all linked with excessive speed and a tendency to commit other driving violations that put the drivers at risk (such as driving through red lights, 'undertaking' and tailgating).

A disregard for social values (such as defrauding insurance companies, illegal parking, tax evasion, defaulting in payment of TV licenses and a general disregard for the law) has been specifically identified with an increased risk of auto crash. Rash decision making also increases the risk. If you do not consider all the implications of your decisions, your actions are unpredictable and you fail to take account of traffic conditions.

### Emotional mood and crash risk

Drivers commonly express how they feel about the way they drive, and this can be very dangerous. Drivers who have recently had an argument behave more aggressively than normal and drive too fast and tailgate the vehicle ahead. Research findings revealed that there is a greater risk of a crash in times of stress such as divorce proceedings.

Traffic delays are common source of stress and frustration. Many drivers release this anger and stress by driving more aggressively thereby taking more risks. If you are able to recognize this as a problem and can find other ways of coping with the stress you will improve your driving. Focusing on the present rather than on the purpose of the journey is one way of reducing the stress.



## NEWS

### Foundation organises free summer lessons for vulnerable children

Stories from AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**A**N NGO, Iko-Josh Empowered Foundation (I-JEF), has organized a free summer lessons for vulnerable primary and junior secondary children, with free distribution of educational materials in Lokoja, Kogi State.

Speaking during the flag off at Lokongoma Primary School, Lokoja at the weekend, the Executive Director of I-JEF, Mr Reuben Joshua, said the foundation has realized the need to organise a summer extra moral lesson for vulnerable children in public schools in line with I-JEF mission.

According to him, I-JEF's mission is to engage critical stakeholders through constructive and effective dialogue that would enhance and aid services to assist communities.

He said the free summer lessons would include pupils in Primary 4, 5 and 6, as well as secondary students in JSS 1, 2, and 3.

"This is to enable us engage them positively and prepare them academically for their new classes thereby enhancing their academic performance towards academic excellence in Kogi State.

"We plan to engage qualified youth corps members to teach different subjects. We will distribute writing materials to participants and scholarship to the best performing pupil and student in each category.

"Category one will comprise of 2 primary pupils while category two will have 25 junior secondary students," Joshua said.

He, therefore called for partnership, collaboration and support from individuals and organisations to sustain the initiative geared towards giving quality education to vulnerable children in Kogi and Nigeria at large.

He described I-JEF as a non-governmental and non profit organization, set up with sole purpose of contributing change to outcomes in Democratic Governance, Accountability,

Poverty Reduction, Health, Education, Migration, among others.

He added that I-JEF's vision is to have an African society where poverty is reduced to its barest minimum through children, youth and women empowerment.

In his remarks, the Traditional Ruler of Lokongoma community, Mallam Abdullahi Musa, thanked the foundation for bringing such life enhancing program to his community. Musa, who was represented by the Community Secretary, Hon. Ayuba Ahmodu, described the initiative as first of its kind in the history of the community, saying he was very delighted.

In his remarks, the KONGONET Chairman in Kogi, Mr Idris Muraino, who was represented by Mr Nathaniel Abaniwo, commended the foundation for enhancing the capacity of the children to taking the leadership position in the future.

He assured the foundation of the total support of KONGONET, while encouraging the stakeholders to ensure that the vision became a reality.



Bello

### Kogi NGGA hosts 16 states on capacity building

**D**ETERMINED to change the girl child's perception of leadership roles in the society, the Nigerian Girl Guides Association, Zone C Youth Camp, on Thursday, commenced leadership capacity-building camp in Lokoja, the Kogi state capital. The training with the theme "Raising Dynamic Young Women through Capacity Building" is targeted at boosting their zeal for leadership.

The Kogi State NGGA Commissioner, Mrs Victoria Tafu, while declaring the camp open, at Faith Academy Lokoja, disclosed that the camp of the girls in the state is the first of its kind since the inception.

According to her, the camp which comprises of 16 states NGGA representatives will feature various activities ranging from teaching participants on how to become future leaders and equip the

with various skills to be self dependent. She also emphasised that with the happenings around the world today, there is need to lay solid foundations and build leaders who will become solution providers. Victoria further urged them to pay key attention to all the teachings and strive to be relevant in the society.

While thanking Mrs. Ayo Mohammed and the camp committee members for a job well done, she pleaded with well-meaning Nigerians on the need to support the activities of the association.

In her remarks, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Zone C, Hajia Bola Aliyu lauded Kogi State for volunteering to host the camp for the Zone. She encouraged the participants to take advantage of the camp and come out of their shells and be determined to add value to themselves and society at large.

During the panel section, the Director of Women from the Kogi Ministry of Women Affairs, Mrs Josephine Babatunde charged the participants never to look down on themselves and strive to be the best at anything they find themselves doing. Similarly, the Acting Permanent Secretary from the Kogi Ministry of Youth and Sports, Mrs. Funmilayo Bello tasked the participants, like an athlete to never give up, urging them to have a goal, build skills around it, have a focus and work hard to achieve it.

Representatives from the religious leaders' and legal practitioners all encouraged the participants not to be hold back by any form excuses not to dream big and pursue their dreams.

The ceremony featured panel discussion which gave birth to questions and answers.

# NEWS

## Sack NASS leadership

From JIDAUNA YANUNG  
Abuja

**P**RESIDENTIAL Candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) Dumebi Kachikwu has challenged members of the current National Assembly to first impeach their leadership before impeaching President Muhammedu Buhari.

According to him, President Buhari ought to have been impeached seven years ago during his first year in office, adding that the president had committed all impeachable offences of fences. The presidential candidate pledged to create social support structures for the aged in giving opportunity to serve Nigeria.

Kachikwu while briefing journalists in Abuja explained that Presidents Buhari failures did not start today, it started there. All the impeachable offences National Assembly wants to list now, seven years ago, we should have listed these impeachable



Kachukwu

offences, there's nothing different.

"If they are doing it now, it means they have made Nigerians suffered for nothing, thousands dead, tens and thousands displaced, the economy has collapsed, our streets flow with the blood of the innocent and our borders are porous.

"Our farms are no longer existent we now sell human organs as one of our main business in Nigeria and Kidnapping is on the rise.

There is no area you can say this president has done well. Whatever impeachable offence we are talking about now has existed for the last couple of years, why today, it is self-serving".

He emphasized that before the National Assembly impeach the president, they ought to have impeach the leadership of the National Assembly who is complicit in the failures of the president, and Government is shared responsibilities.

- Kachukwu

**S**TAKEHOLDERS within the education sector have expressed concern over the archaic insufficient and inadequate level of facilities in the Nigeria universities engineering laboratories.

This was the focus of a two day workshop on interventions for the development of engineering laboratories for tertiary institutions held in Abuja.

Speaking with newsmen, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Livia Sof who are the organisers of the workshop Dr Babga Danjuma explained that the workshop was aimed to make a case that the laboratories in higher institutions are not well maintained and equipped with updated technology.

He lamented the state of most universities laboratory saying the universities are 30 years behind in compared to

## Concerns over poor facilities in engineering labs

From JIDAUNA YANUNG  
Abuja

universities are 30 years behind in compared to universities in developed countries.

"It is to show laboratory and teaching staff of higher institutions how to update their skills and expose them to modern, state of the art test and measurement" he said.



Rasheed

## \$2.59b approved for Badagry deep seaport

From JIDAUNA YANUNG  
Abuja

**F**EDERAL Executive Council (FEC) has approved \$2.59billion for the development of Badagry Deep Seaport in Lagos state.

Minister of Transport, Mr Muazu Sambo who disclosed at the end the weekly FEC meeting in Abuja said the project will be carried out under a public private partnership

scheme. According to him, the private sector will inject money into the port and manage it for 45 years.

The Minister stated that he presented a memo at the council, with respect to the development of the Badagry Deep seaport,

under the public private partnership arrangement, where the private sector will inject money for the development of port and at the end of the concessionary period, the port reverts to the Nigerian government through the Nigeria Ports Authority.

He explained that the project court as approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) based on the final business case as approved earlier by the infrastructure concession Regulatory Commission in line with extant laws, stands at \$2.59billion. It is too developed in four phases and the concessionary period is 45 years, he stressed.

Sambo said the decision by the government would further its goals of making Nigeria the maritime hub of the west and central African regions.

The project, he said would help Nigeria generate total revenue of \$53.6billion over the concession period, create jobs and attract foreign direct investment.

## Monkey pox: Gombe confirms cases

From WILLIE ATTAH,  
Gombe

**G**OMBE State Government says it has activated its Incident Management System (IMS) to curtail the spread of monkey pox after it has confirmed three cases within the State capital.

State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Habu Dahiru made the declaration during a press briefing in his office.

He said though there is no cause for alarm, the IMS will take full responsibilities for surveillance and effective response aimed at controlling the outbreak.

He stated also that the State Ministry of Health is requesting the cooperation of the people of the State in order to control the epidemic.

Dr. Habu also explained that between the 23rd of July, 2022 when the World Health Organization (WHO)

declared monkey pox as a public health emergency of international concern and now, Gombe recorded 19 suspected

cases of which their samples were taken for test and three returned positive of monkey pox.

The Commissioner then revealed that all the three

cases had been treated and discharged stressing therefore that there is no case of monkey pox in the State for now.

He however advised

members of the public to imbibe good personal and environmental hygiene and to report suspected cases to the nearest health facility.

## Ehanire harps on productivity

From JIDAUNA YANUNG,  
Abuja

**H**EALTH Minister, Dr Osagie Ehanire has admonished the Guild of Medical Laboratory Directors (GMLD) medical laboratory

private sector in Nigeria to dedicate themselves to productivity, stressing that doing this will show that Nigeria can do more.

The Minister stated this recently at the 24<sup>th</sup> scientific conference and

annual general meeting of the Guild of Medical Laboratory Directors held in Abuja.

He said with the support of development partners, the federal government has strengthened laboratory capacity in the country than ever before in history.

Ehanire explained that the World Health Organisation (WHO) also help in training Nigerian Scientists in improving their capacity to conduct test and get to where the country is today.

In his welcome remarks, the national Present of Guild of Medical Laboratory

Directors (GMLD) Prince Dr Elochukwu Adibo said the major objective is to promote the maintenance of high professional and elliptical standards in private medical laboratory practice.

He added that medical laboratory test results are of highest reliability and applying quality management system and assisting regulatory authorities to uphold these standards and stamp out any form of quackery and malpractice that will impact on the substance and image of the medical laboratory profession and practice.



Ehanire

Change of Name
<b>ISA</b>
I, formerly known as YILKANGA'AH ROMANUS ISA, now wish to be known and addressed as ISA NUNGDALWE ROMANUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
SPACE FOR SALE

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Social Economic costs of learning in Nigeria

**Time to rescue our education sector from perpetual "state of emergency" is now. A Japanese statement you can apply in different circumstances interpret: Good thinking, good product. This statement is not applicable to Nigeria as the overt abandonment of our education sector is daunting and worrisome. DORCAS PANKYES writes.**

Neglecting the education of the present generation of Nigerians would, in many ways, endanger the prosperity of the future. But does anybody actually care? Educating young people today will determine how much progress we make as a country, going into the future. It is evident that with the neglect or near-total collapse of education in Nigeria, the future of our society is uncertain or may be gloomy.

Nigeria is at a tipping point regarding security, human capacity development and economic growth. However, the biggest challenge we face as a country is not about the challenges of today but a bleak future stirring Africa's biggest economy and the most populous black nation in the face.

Looking beyond the 2023 general elections, one sees our leaders' deliberate insensitivity and indifference at various levels to the destruction of education sector that offers us hope to safeguard and recover the future. That is the educational sector.

Recently, Nigeria's education sector crisis has become more evident. The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), which has been on strike since February 14, has extended this by three months. ASUP, the Union of Polytechnic lecturers, has commenced a strike action. There is zero public school registration for the WAEC examination in Sokoto and Zamfara States, and some candidates in some South-East States cannot participate in the UMTE examinations due to the sit-at-home orders of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

There are other horrendous developments in the education sector. What is frightening is the inability of our policymakers to connect the monumental rot and negligence of the education sector today to our bleak future.

Nigeria seems to be retrogressing in all aspects of education and skills acquisition. The net quantity and quality of education in Nigeria, in comparison to past decades, given our population and economy, is negative. The products of our education system cannot measure up to those in India, China or the European Union (EU).

The education sector crisis has been made worse by the intractable insecurity in various parts of Nigeria, the girl child educational inequity, and poverty that have made quality education unaffordable to many Nigerians. There is a total loss of confidence by stakeholders in our education system.

The loss of confidence in Nigeria's education is led by the political and other elite class. Over 95 per cent of the elites in government, business and technocratic professions are educating their children in tertiary institutions in Europe and the United States. Consequently, there is hardly any serious policy discussion about education in Nigeria.

Despite notable interventions of the UNICEF and the Nigerian government, we still have 18.5 million out-of-school children in the country; the second-largest number in the world.

Our education sector needs a quantum overhaul that targets its outcome. We need improvement starting from primary education,



where we see many out-of-school children. Secondary education needs a total overhaul, where we are witnessing declining standards and low attainment in national examinations like NECO and WAEC. The complete collapse of the higher education sector, where workers engage in incessant strike actions, leading to half-baked graduates who are grossly untrainable and unemployable, needs immediate attention.

Education has suffered from insecurity at the basic primary and secondary levels in most parts of the country. The "unknown gunmen" and IPOB agitators have terrorised the South-East and forced a sit-at-home observation on every Monday. This problem has affected schools in the five South-East states, where 20 per cent of the time allotted to education is lost each week. Students in the South-East states missed examinations scheduled for Mondays nationally during necessary national examinations like WAEC, NECO and UMTE.

Governments at all levels have indifferent attitude towards the educational crisis in the country. They have not articulated better ways of managing education to provide the needed quality for our children. Education policies are either not fit-for-purpose or not yielding the desired results, and education monitoring institutions are moribund, at best, where they exist.

As if this is not shocking enough, in Sokoto and Zamfara States, students in public schools did not register for the WAEC examination this year, either because the government did not pay for them, or because of various other militating factors. This anomaly indicates retrogression in teaching, learning and examination for certification.

In other parts of the North, the uptake of the WAEC examination is minimal, even with some state governments paying for the students. Students in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)'s camps are worrying more about survival than getting an education.

Government poorly funds most government schools, and they owe teachers' salaries.

Most government schools in the South of Nigeria are overcrowded and always attended by children from poor backgrounds whose parents cannot afford the prohibitive costs of private primary and secondary education.

As the crisis in the education sector deepens, the attention of our political leaders is fastened upon elections and politics. While elections and politics are essential and must receive due attention, they however should not detract attention from the education sector, which is undergoing decay and needs urgent and immediate attention.

It is disturbing to note that the generation that had good government-funded basic education in the '80s and '90s is struggling to function productively nowadays; how much more will the children of this generation with poor education or no education, in some cases, become productive at all. The irony is on all of us.

The rich and middle class have insulated themselves from this problem. Children of people in these classes go to private schools abroad or at home, which continues to widen the gap between the poor and the rich, and invariably creates inequality.

The children of the poor are half baked. In the past, education was the greatest leveller. Children of the poor often meet and outcompete children from affluent backgrounds in schools. They learn the confidence that comes with knowing that they are as good as anybody with hard work and intelligence, no matter their family background.

Our tertiary education sector is comatose with ASUU and ASUP strikes. The students are unproductive at home or sometimes nuisance to their communities. Imagine the impact on the quality of education of these students.

Governments at all levels have indifferent attitude towards the educational crisis in the country. They have not articulated better

ways of managing education to provide the needed quality for our children. Education policies are either not fit-for-purpose or not yielding the desired results, and education monitoring institutions are moribund, at best, where they exist.

The future we want to build for our children will be worse than what we have now if we do not prioritise education. A stitch in time, they say, saves nine. We must focus and refocus all our physical and intellectual energies to rescue our education from total shambles and, that way, safeguard the future we desire.

It is disheartening that private education providers buy and sell quality education in many states. In some middle class and working-class families, tuition fees and other school-related charges take a chunk of their income.

The recommended average percentage of GDP on total government and private expenditure on education is 5 per cent. Most countries in the developed world spend even more than this average on education. For example, "among the 34 OECD countries' reporting data in 2015, 17 countries spent more than the average percentage (5 per cent) of GDP on total government and private expenditures on education institutions for OECD countries. Norway spent the most on education as a percentage of GDP at 6.4 per cent, followed by New Zealand at 6.3 per cent, the United Kingdom at 6.2 per cent, and the United States at 6.1 per cent," according to UNESCO. However, data from UNESCO also shows that the expenditure on education (as a per cent of GDP) in Nigeria was 0.85 per cent as of 2017. This statistic shows the negligence that our education sector is facing from all sections of the government. This must change!

Two futures are possible with our political leaders' indifference to educational issues. The first is one in which we will continue to relegate education to the rear of our development agenda; and our

youthful population, which ought to be a demographic advantage, becomes a burden. We will entrench and reinforce generational inequality and possibly poverty, insecurity, and, most importantly, dismantle the building blocks of the future. Conversely, we are setting our country up for endless, perennial crises because of the collapse of the essential building blocks of a functional society. Either way, we cannot win.

We know that the growth of the human mind and the broadening of the human intellect reflect man's immediate environment's physical development. Therefore, the development's physicality is just a reflection and reification of the extent of our mental and intellectual development. This idea underscores the importance of training and education as a key to societal growth.

We see this in what happens to a developed environment when undeveloped minds are allowed to inhabit them, and they trash them and reduce the place to the extent of the level of development of their minds, and converse is the case too. This fact underscores the importance of education to the development of Nigeria.

The children we do not educate today will pose a danger in the future, and they may fuel insecurity, criminality, and total dependency on the state for survival, not to mention the lost opportunity cost in productivity they would have given, were they educated. Now is the time to pay attention and call for a "state of emergency" in our education sector.

We must bring all ideas, talents, skills, and resources to the table to resolve some of the crises threatening to mar the future of the next generation of Nigerians. It is not just a policy and monetary issue. We need to focus on teacher education to improve the quality of teachers and engage in their periodic testing and retraining. The promotion of teachers should be tied to the quality of their teaching, personal development, and the impact of teaching on students. We need to provide them with the teaching resources and incentives they need to do a good job. Individual states should set independent standards for teachers' accreditation in their jurisdictions.

We must provide all forms of financial and psychological incentives to teachers. We must ringfence their benefits and emoluments in both federal and state budgets and never allow a situation where governments owe them salaries. The reward of teachers must be here "on earth and not in heaven." We should pay them wages when due and pay them a living wage. We must review the pay of teachers on the basis of current economic realities and attract the best to the teaching profession.

The future we want to build for our children will be worse than what we have now if we do not prioritise education. We must focus and refocus all our physical and intellectual energies to rescue our education from total shambles and, that way, safeguard the future we desire.

# SUNDAY SPORTS

By SEYE OMIDIORA

## Africans who could set football alight in 2022-23

**S**UPPORTERS would be pleased with the return of the major domestic leagues after a two-month hiatus that seemed like forever.

With that in mind, a plethora of Africa's finest stars return to action in the coming weeks which ought to excite observers.

From Mohamed Salah to Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, from Sadio Mane to Achraf Hakimi, fans await the reappearance of the continent's best exports with bated breath.

### Africans in Europe to monitor in 2022-23

The new season already kicked off in some minor leagues in Europe with the major divisions slated to begin over the next fortnight.

In this feature, **GOAL** takes a look at some of the continent's stars to be monitored over the next 10 months.

#### Dango Ouattara

After a decent-to-good first year in Ligue 1, Ouattara will aim for more appearances in the new season with Lorient.

The 20-year-old made 25 appearances in his first campaign in one of Europe's top five leagues and will seek more starts in 2022-23, having played from the off only seven times last term.

In addition, the Burkina Faso international will look to add more goal contributions this term, outdoing last year's return of a solitary goal and two assists.

#### Kamaldeen Sulemana

While the Ghana youngster produced more goal involvements (four goals, two assists) than the aforementioned Burkinabe, closer inspection shows his last Ligue 1 contribution for Stade Rennes came in early November — an assist in Rennes' 4-1 win over Olympique Lyon.

Despite his youth, the 20-year-old Ghanaian will demand an improvement on last term's return, especially in a World Cup year, while seeking even more appearances than last year's 20 (11 starts).

#### Hannibal Mejbri

With opportunities likely to be limited at Manchester United this season under Erik ten Hag, a loan move will do the talented teenager a world of good.

Surprisingly included in the final Caf Young Player of the Year shortlist, the 18-year-old needs consistent game time to prove he



**Sarr**

merits a place in Tunisia's World Cup squad.

On an individual front, an upshot of Hannibal's youth means he has

been deployed in several positions, which leaves little room for growth for the green teenager, a situation that cannot continue in

2022-23 wherever he ends up playing.

#### Pape Matar Sarr

While Matar Sarr claiming the African Young Player of the Year award was questioned, the

Senegal midfielder had a strong 21-22 despite Metz's relegation.

Sarr ranked among the top players on his former side for shot-creating actions from open play, forward-thinking passing, tenacity off the ball and tackles plus interceptions per 90.

Indeed, it will be interesting to see how the 19-year-old gets on in his debut Premier League campaign at Tottenham Hotspur, particularly as he is not expected to be a regular starter in Antonio Conte's midfield.

Having said that, reasonable match action in pre-season suggests the teenager will be kept in the first-team squad as Spurs compete on multiple fronts this term.

With Senegal participating in this year's World Cup, will Sarr get ample game time to make the Teranga Lions' squad?

#### Franck Kessie

A departure from this piece's interest in youngsters, Kessie's Barcelona move undoubtedly catches the eye with the new Liga campaign imminent.

Having made a name for himself in Serie A with Atalanta and AC Milan, the Ivory Coast superstar will participate in his first campaign outside Italian football.

It remains to be seen how the ex-Milan start gets on, but the early signs show he is adapting nicely to Xavi Hernandez's style.

Be that as it may, it is still early doors for the 25-year-old whose progress in Spain should be observed throughout 22-23.



**Aubameyang**

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Chelsea sign Chukwuemeka for £20m



Chukwuemeka started his youth career with Northampton Town before moving to Villa aged 12

Chelsea have signed 18-year-old midfielder Carney Chukwuemeka from Aston Villa for £20m. Chukwuemeka, who starred in England's Under-19 European Championship triumph in July, has agreed a six-year deal. He was left out of Villa's pre-season tour to Australia after refusing to sign a new contract. "It's been quite hectic but I couldn't get Chelsea out of my head the last few days so I'm just happy and relieved that it's all done," said Chukwuemeka. "I'm so excited and just can't wait to get on the pitch, meet

all the players and try to win games and trophies with Chelsea." Chukwuemeka, who made 12 appearances for Villa last season, was contracted until the end of the 2022-23 campaign. Last month Villa boss Steven Gerrard said Chukwuemeka had not signed a contract offer which had been in place "for some time". Chelsea chairman Todd Boehly said: "Carney is one of the most exciting young players in Europe so we are really looking forward to seeing him in action at Stamford Bridge. "We are delighted to be able

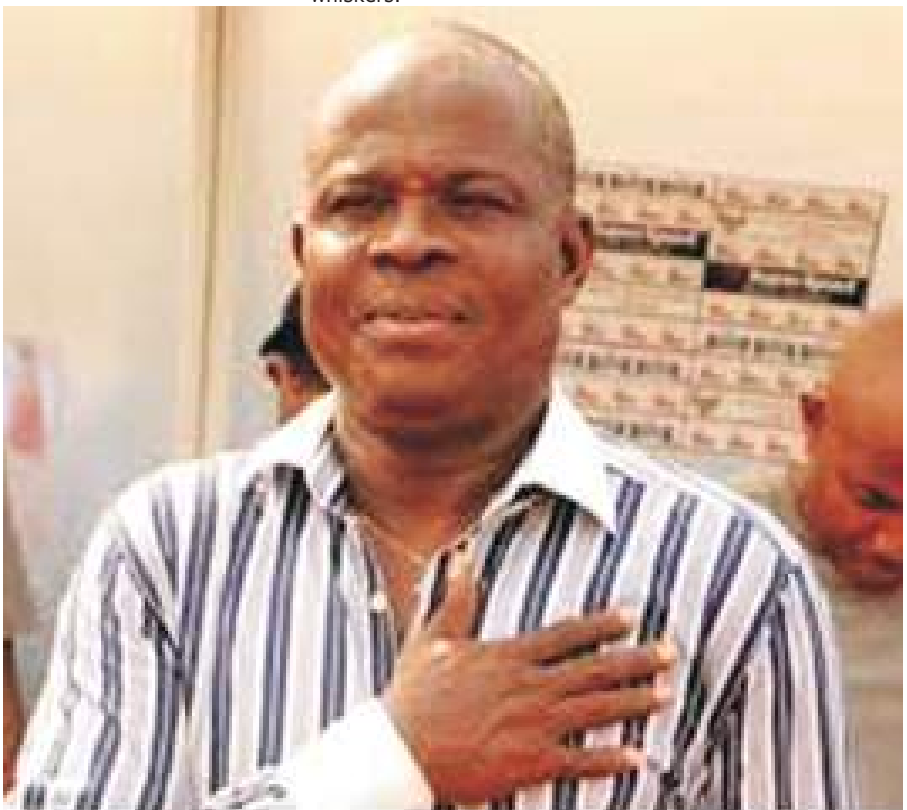
to bring him to Chelsea and add such a talented young individual to our squad for the new season and beyond." This summer Chelsea have brought in England forward Raheem Sterling from Manchester City for £50m and Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly from Napoli for £34m. They also signed 18-year-old American goalkeeper Gabriel Slonina for a reported £12m from Chicago Fire, where he will remain on loan until the end of the Major League Soccer season. Chelsea are on the verge of signing Spain defender Marc Cucurella from Brighton, who rejected a £30m offer from

## NPFL - Remo Stars announce Ogunbote's departure

Remo Stars have confirmed Coach Gbenga Ogunbote's departure after the expiration of his one-year contract, which means Ogunbote will not oversee the club's first continental foray. "We hereby announce the departure of our Head Coach, Gbenga Ogunbote, following the expiration of his contract." Newsnow said that. Remo Stars upon gaining promotion into the NPFL last season, announced the signing of former Sunshine and Shooting Stars' manager Ogunbote to steer the affairs of the Ikenne-based club. Ogunbote, during his one-year spell with Remo, helped them set a record as the first club to earn a continental ticket in their debut season from the second division. Remo Stars finished third in the just concluded NPFL season with 65 points. However, the management of the club appreciated their former gaffer for his "unrelenting effort" during the just concluded 2021/2022 season. "Our most sincere thanks go to Coach Gbenga, who was unrelenting in his efforts to get the club back to competing at the top level as well as sealing a historic continental finish. For this, we wish him nothing but future success."

Meanwhile, Remo Stars have announced that Daniel Ogunmodede would be in charge next season and he will be unveiled on Friday. The rumour mill has it that Ogunbote will probably join his

former side Shooting Stars ahead of the new season. Edith Agoye, the erstwhile coach of 3SC, will not continue in the role on account of the club's relegation battle last season that they survived by whiskers.



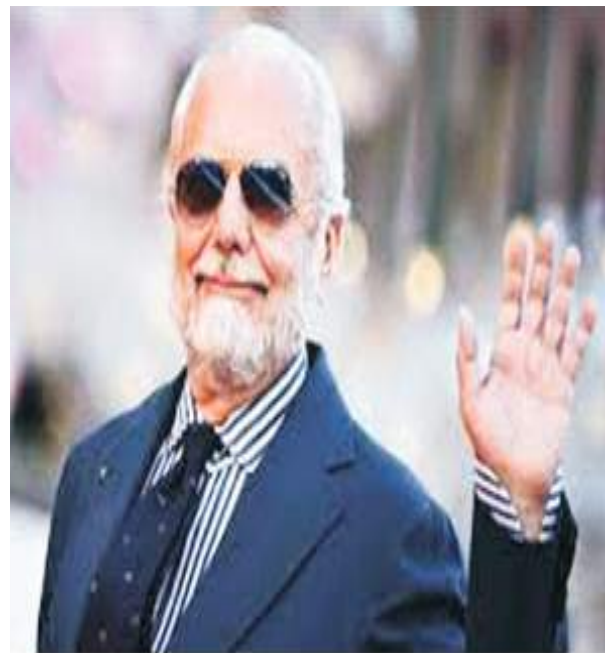
Ogunbote

NAPOLI owner and president Aurelio de Laurentiis says the Italian club will avoid signing any more African players unless they agree not to play in the Africa Cup of Nations.

BBC SPORT said that, Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly - now at Premier League side Chelsea - and Cameroon midfielder Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa missed six Napoli games while on international duty at this year's tournament, which took place in January and February. "Enough of African players, or they should give up playing in the African Cup of Nations. I won't be buying them any more for this reason," De Laurentiis told a Wall Street Italia show. Koulibaly and Zambo Anguissa missed Napoli's 1-1 draw with Juventus in early January and the Coppa Italia defeat by Fiorentina, but the club then managed four league wins in their absence.

Meanwhile, Senegal won the Nations Cup for the first time, to spark wild celebrations back home, while host nation Cameroon finished third. Koulibaly spent eight years at Napoli and responded to De Laurentiis' comments by saying it is important to "respect everybody". "You cannot speak about African national teams like this," the 31-centre-back told BBC Sport. "You have to have respect, and as captain of Senegal it is not a good way to speak. "If he thinks that the team can play without African players, it's up to him. But I think not everybody has the

## Napoli rules out signing Africans committed to Nations Cup



Laurentiis

same idea as him in the club, because I know their supporters and they don't think like this." The timing of the Nations Cup - traditionally played in January and February - has led to repeated disputes with European clubs who are forced to release players in the middle of the season. Former Arsenal and England striker Ian Wright said this year's tournament in Cameroon was "disrespected" by some negative media coverage in the build-up. Napoli's only two Serie A titles came in 1987 and 1990 with a side inspired by

Argentina great Diego Maradona, and De Laurentiis is taking a strong stance with his players in his quest to bring success back to Naples. "We pay the salaries to send them around to play elsewhere in the middle of the league championship," the 73-year-old added. "Or they sign a waiver that for Afcon and the championships in South America [the Copa America], I cannot make them available to participate." The current rules of world governing body Fifa stipulate that players must be released for the Nations Cup despite its mid-season timing in Europe.

## Mane tipped to succeed at Bayern Munich

A Premier League, FA Cup, Champions League and Club World Cup winner with Liverpool, Sadio Mane is now embarking on a new chapter in his career at Bayern Munich. The 30-year-old forward joined the German giants for a fee of £35m after six years at Anfield, where he scored 120 goals in 269 games. Mane, who was key to Senegal's Africa Cup of Nations victory in February, netted on his competitive debut for Bayern as the Bavarian club won the German Super Cup last Saturday. Former Nigeria international Efan Ekoku is backing Mane to adapt to the Bundesliga and be a hit for the six-time European champions. "I think that as a top-class player and professional, he will succeed at Bayern for sure," Ekoku told BBC Sport Africa. "He's made a good choice. If you're going to leave a big club like Liverpool and if you are still at the peak of your powers, then you've got to choose wisely. "Mane has done and gone to a club as storied as Liverpool, over the last 40 to 50 years, in Bayern. The chances of him being successful in the Bundesliga with Bayern are just as great, if not more so." After spells at Metz, Red Bull Salzburg and Southampton, Mane moved to Liverpool in 2016 and went on to score 90 Premier League goals for Reds, finishing his final season with 23 goals in all competitions. Mane told BBC Sport Africa last month that his reason for quitting Liverpool was to seek a new challenge, and he is expected to make his Bundesliga debut against Eintracht Frankfurt on Friday evening.

Yet, despite his growth and remarkable success in England, former DR Congo captain Gabriel Zakuani expects Mane will have to adapt to a new system in Germany. "We know Mane is a workhorse - and he's got the quality to go with it - but it will be difficult for him," Zakuani told BBC Sport Africa. "I think it could be a different sort of challenge for him, because at Liverpool he had a system spot on, in that he had everyone doing the hard work with him. "With Bayern Munich it's completely different - they play a different style, so he may struggle to adapt, but Mane is the sort of player that loves learning. "We've seen the changes he's had since he was at Southampton, and how he's become a world star. Now he's going to Bayern as a big-name player, so I'd expect him to do well, eventually, but it may take him a little bit of time to bed in." Ekoku, however, thinks adjusting to life in the Bavaria should prove no problem for Mane. "If Mane can hit 18-20 goals in the league and 25-plus in all competitions over the last four or five years for Liverpool, there's no reason why he shouldn't be hitting those figures in the Bundesliga," the 55-year-old former Norwich City striker said. "It'd be tough as it'll take him a while to adjust. I think he should acclimatise pretty well. "Mane is a competitor, he's a real warrior. I've got no doubts about him."

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Commonwealth Games:

### Goodness sets new world record, wins gold medal

**T**eam Nigeria's Nwachukwu Goodness has secured Nigeria's fourth gold medal at the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. She did it in spectacular fashion; breaking the world record twice before claiming the top prize.

**Newsnow** said that, the 23-year-old, Nigeria's sole competitor in the Women's Discus Throw F42-44/61-64 event, was way better than her challengers; setting new records with her first two throws.

Nwachukwu before now was the F42 World Record holder with the best mark of 33.35m but on Thursday she improved on that distance with her first throw of 34.84m which she further improved upon with a throw of 36.56m.

While the Nigerian could not throw further in her subsequent attempts, she drew thunderous applause from the fans at the Alexander Stadium each time she took her turn.



**Goodness**

Earlier, **PREMIUM TIMES** reported that two members of Team Nigeria at the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, Adijat Adenike Olarinoye and Rafiatu Folashade Lawal, received special recognition for their record-breaking feats at the Games.

It is expected that Nwachukwu will also be accorded a special recognition before the end of the Games in Birmingham

Meanwhile, before Nwachukwu's gold medal feat, Team Nigeria had won a bronze medal in the Powerlifting event through Nnamdi Innocent in the men's lightweight category. Sebastian Coe, the world Athletics president has said current restrictions on events from the 400m to the mile were "not set in tablets of stone" stressing that gender eligibility rules would not be changed any time soon.

**F**erdinand Omanyala says winning the 100m title at the Commonwealth Games was the "perfect race" that he has "always been dreaming of".

**BBC SPORT** said that, the 26-year-old clocked 10.02 seconds to claim gold in Birmingham on Wednesday, beating defending champion Akani Simbine by 0.11 seconds.

Omanyala becomes the first Kenyan to win the Commonwealth crown, adding to the continental triumph he recorded in Mauritius in June when he saw off South Africa's Simbine in a photo-finish.

"This was the goal we had since the start of the year - to win the African Championships and the Commonwealth Games," Omanyala told BBC Sport.

"We have achieved what we said, so we thank God for this. I am sure it will have a lot of impact, because I'll be training knowing that I'm Commonwealth and African champion.

"This is a big motivation. We are adding more accolades to my success."

Omanyala's success come

### Omanyala's 100m triumph the 'perfect race'



Ferdinand Omanyala is the first Kenyan man to win the 100m at the Commonwealth Games

after disappointment at the World Championships in Eugene, where he failed to make the final after arriving late in the United States because of visa delays.

However, he says he forgot about that experience "after days".

"It is all about just moving forwards and using setbacks as stepping stones," he added. "You have to pick up yourself. Everything happens for a reason."

In June, Omanyala became just the second Kenyan to be

crowned African champion over 100m, emulating 1990 winner Joseph Gikonyo, and expects more sprinters to emerge from the east African country on the back of his triumphs.

"There is so much talent in Kenya, it's just that they never saw anybody ahead of them that has been sprinting.

"With my success, there are going to be so many sprinters coming. You saw one of our guys [Samwel Imeta] get to the semi-finals. Next time we'll all be in the final," he rallied.

### Sports ministry splashes \$25,000 on Nigeria medalists

**T**he Ministry of Youth and Sports Development has splashed \$25,000 on Team Nigeria athletes who have so far won medals at the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

**Newsnow** said that, at a colourful ceremony held at the Hilton Garden Birmingham, the athletes and their coaches were rewarded for bringing glory to fatherland.

Gold medal winners, Adijat Adenike Olarinoye and Rafiatu Folashade Lawal, received \$5,000 each, while their coaches were also given \$3,000 each.

Folashade won gold in the women's 59kg weightlifting event while Adenike won gold in the women's 55kg weightlifting event.

Taiwo Laidi, a silver medalist in the women's 76kg Weightlifting event, received \$3,000 for her effort.

For bronze medal winners, Edidiong Joseph Umaofia, Islamiyat Yusuf and Mary Osijo, they all got \$2,000 each for their effort.

The event had in attendance, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Alhaji Abba Yola, Director of finance at the ministry Olufehinti Olusegun and Dr Simon Ebhojiaye who is the leader of delegation for team Nigeria to the games.

Gold medalist in the 59kg Women's Weightlifting event, Folashade Lawal said "I am pleased we got rewarded even before the end of the competition, I thank the honourable Minister for Sports, Sunday Dare for his proactiveness in this regard".

"It is quite timely for us, as this act will encourage and spur all other athletes to do more. For me, I want to thank the Minister for this and I'm very excited" she said.

As more medals and records

continue to pour in for Nigeria at the games, the sports

minister has again reiterated the fact that athletes' welfare remains a top priority in his administration.



**Dare**

### Nnamdi wins bronze in para-powerlifting

**N**igeria's captain to the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, Innocent Nnamdi, on Thursday won a bronze medal in the men's lightweight para-powerlifting event.

**Newsnow** said that, Nnamdi's successful lift of 190kg for a total point of 132.5 was not enough to secure a gold medal. Malaysia's Bonnie Gustin scored 154.6 points to win the gold medal and set a new Games record.

The silver medal went to Mark Swan from England with 145.5 points, leaving Nnamdi in third place. Another Nigerian, Thomas Kure, finished fourth with the same points total as Nnamdi, but he recorded a lift of 180kg.

In the final of the women's event, Nigeria's duo of Onyinyechi Mark and Latifat Tijani were disqualified.

The **News Agency of Nigeria** (NAN) could however not get the reason

for their disqualification. However, a Team Nigeria official at the Games who asked for anonymity told NAN that an appeal has been sent to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).



**Nnamdi**

### Thompson-Herah races away to 100m gold

**E**laine Thompson-Herah's experience shone through as the Jamaican added Commonwealth 100m gold to her collection in a time of 10.95 seconds.

**BBC SPORT** said that, the five-time Olympic champion was clean away and immediately upon England's Daryll Neita outside her.

Neita, who ran a personal best 10.90 in the semi-finals, could not make up the deficit and ended with bronze.

Kenya's Ferdinand Omanyala claimed the men's title ahead of South Africa's defending champion Akani Simbine.

Omanyala, who only converted to sprinting from rugby in his late teens, came



**Thompson-Herah**

home in 10.02 seconds to add the Commonwealth crown to the African title he claimed in June.

The 26-year-old's shop of a hat-trick of titles this season had been scuttled by a visa delay that meant he arrived at last month's World Championships just two and a half hours before his first heat.

He was eliminated in the semi-finals in Eugene after running a disappointing 10.14.

By contrast, he dominated the Commonwealth final, powering away from Simbine, who finished back in 10.13.

Sri Lanka's Yupun Abeykoon claimed Sri Lanka's first athletics medal at the Games since 1998 by taking bronze in 10.14.

The 27-year-old's success comes amid political and civil unrest in the country that has

extended to its Commonwealth team.

Two members are reported to have absconded from their base in Birmingham.

England's Neita looked in ominous form in the semi-finals, but her new personal best proved a better performance than the final.

"My overriding emotion is that it is nice to get another medal on home soil but I really didn't put the best race together today," she said.

"That makes me want to get back to work right now."

Neita made her first major final at last year's Olympics, finishing eighth in 11.12 seconds after running 10.96 in the heats.

The 25-year-old, who won the British title ahead of Dina Asher-Smith earlier this year, admitted that peaking at the right time across a championship campaign is now her priority.

"I am in fantastic shape but I need to do better in these finals," she said.



# Pinnick insists Nigeria will host 2025 AFCON

Speaking to reporters at the Sheraton Hotels Ikeja on Wednesday, Pinnick revealed that CAF is likely withdrawing the hosting right of the 2025 AFCON from Guinea. But the Confederation of Africa Football, CAF had debunked the claim.

**W**e are putting a bid together for a co-hosting of the tournament with the Benin Republic," he said.

"The Minister of Sports has given his endorsement on the bidding .It is high time Nigeria hosted an international tournament because there are many advantages attached to hosting such competition.

"There are many countries bidding for the competition; we are confident of getting the nod from CAF.

"We are working with the ministry of sports to ensure that Nigeria gets the hosting right," Pinnick assured.

Prior to Pinnick's claims, CAF had denied knowledge of any plan to withdraw the hosting rights it earlier granted to Guinea

"The host for the 2025 tournament remains Guinea and that has not changed," a CAF official told BBC

"We've not discussed anything about a replacement or received any communication from Guinea about the inability to host. At this very moment, everything is on track for Guinea to host and there is no reason to suggest otherwise."

Nigeria last hosted the continental biennial football showpiece 22 years ago when she co-hosted the 2000 tournament with neighbours, Ghana.

Meanwhile, two weeks after they finished 4th in the recently concluded 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, WAFCON and "sneaked" into the country like "deported migrants", players of Super Falcons of Nigeria have continued to



Nigeria's Osimhea celebrate a goal

lament the illtreatment they have continually received from football authorities in the country.

This time, one of the players have accused the Nigeria Football Federation, NFF and ministry of youth and sports development of neglect and treating them like "unwanted child"

The Nigeria squad who finished 4th at the WAFCON are still waiting for NFF and Sports Ministry to pay their outstanding match entitlements.

The Super Falcons boycotted training before their third-place play-off against Zambia, on 22 July, over the non-payment of both bonuses and allowances. They lost the match 1-0

Each player is owed over \$10,000, which includes win bonuses for their three victories en route to the semi-finals in Morocco.

"They said the money had been approved and will get to us in a few days' time - that was before the game against Zambia.

"It's now gone from that to ridiculous excuses like wrong account numbers to network issues. The lies and disrespect clearly shows that they love to treat the women's team like the unwanted child.

"The Sports Ministry was always quick to celebrate our success with big statements, but since this money problem

started they've been very quiet.

"Imagine if one of their own daughters was playing for Nigeria - would they treat her like that," BBC quoted unnamed player of the Falcons.

Daily allowances while the team was in Morocco, totalling \$2,800, and money for a pre-tournament camp in Abuja have been paid to the squad.

But along with their win bonuses in North Africa, Super Falcons players are yet to receive sums relating to trips to Austria and Canada as well as a bonus for beating Ivory Coast over two legs to

qualify for the Wafcon finals.

Some players had feared they would not be paid after the tournament, but cut short their protest and finished fourth after losing 1-0 to the Copper Queens.

"The players should be getting the money this week because it's been processed," an NFF official told BBC over the week

Nigeria, nine-time African champions, qualified for the 2023 Women's World Cup by reaching the last four of this year's WAFCON, before then losing to hosts Morocco on penalties.

NFF's Historic Disrespectful Treatment Of The Falcons

Over the years and in several competitions, instances have proven how the Super Falcons players are treated like second class citizens.

Despite their domineering posture in Africa football with nine trophies as well as eight consecutive appearances in the FIFA Women's World Cup, the Super Falcons are yet to be accorded due respect and honour they deserve.

The Africa's most successful women's side have protested over unpaid bonuses, with the Super Falcons involved in sit-in protests in hotels twice before at previous WAFCON.

Falcons players protesting in Abuja after winning the 2016 Women's AFCON

At the 2019 Women's World Cup in France, the players staged another sit-in protest over unpaid salaries and bonuses after their round of 16 elimination by Germany.

After winning the 2018 edition on December 1 in Ghana, Nigeria's federal government made several promises and fixed dates to host the Falcons but that never happened.

Each Nigeria player in Morocco is entitled to a \$100 daily allowance and \$6,000 for their two wins in the group stage.

Following a recent payment review, the players can also expect \$5,000 for their quarter-final victory, but they missed out on proposed payments of \$7,000 and \$10,000 for potential victories in the semi-final and final respectively.

## Amusan, Ese Brume, Ruth Usoro hit final

**T**HE Nigerian sensation ran 12.40 seconds to finish first in Heat 3 and qualified for the next round alongside Michelle Jenneke of Australia's (12.63) and Canada's Michelle Harrison (12.85).

In Heat 1, Cindy Denver of England came first in a time of 12.67 and progressed to the next round with Jamaica's Danielle Williams, who ran

12.80 to finish in second place.

The times recorded in Heat 2 were also a far cry from Amusans, with Megan Tapper of Jamaica finishing first in 12.68 seconds and advanced to the next round alongside Devynne Charlton, of The Bahamas and Celeste Mucci of Australia ran 12.70 and 12.96 in second and third places, respectively, with the

latter recording her Personal Best.

Amusan became the first Nigerian world champion in an athletics event when she won the 2022 World Athletics Championships 100 metre hurdles gold medal, setting a new world record of 12.12 seconds in the semifinal, followed up by a 12.06 second record in the final to take the gold medal.

She was the 2018

Commonwealth Champion in the 100m hurdles. She's also the reigning African Champion in the event, winning back-to-back gold medals at the 2018 and 2022 African Championships in Athletics and is also a two-time African Games champion in the event.

She won the Diamond League Trophy in Zurich in 2021 in the 100m hurdles, becoming the first Nigerian to do so, also breaking the then African record held by Glory Alozie in the process.

Her compatriots Ese Brume and Ruth Usoro also secured their place in the women's long jump final.

Brume, who competed in Group A, finished second with a jump of 6.81m behind Ghana's Deborah Acquah who topped the group with a jump of 8.85m.

Usoro, who competed in Group B, finished third with a jump of 6.56m to qualify for the final.

The finals of the women's 100m hurdles and long jump will take place on today August 7 at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham.



World champion Oluwatobiloba Amusan posted the fastest time in Round 1 Heat of the Women's 100m Hurdles at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which was concluded this morning.

### WORLD SEARCH Answer the clue and search for the word

G	A	B	R	I	E	L	A	C	H	F	E	R
I	Z	A	C	B	S	D	Y	I	D	G	F	E
G	S	I	T	A	U	B	O	N	O	M	E	D
N	I	K	I	U	T	H	E	F	X	L	S	D
F	U	L	W	Z	L	B	K	A	M	J	T	E
J	R	A	H	M	E	D	Y	N	F	R	U	V
T	Q	R	O	Q	S	C	X	T	D	V	S	I
E	E	U	G	T	N	W	T	I	G	E	R	L
E	M	A	L	A	I	K	A	N	P	I	Q	S
A	E	K	S	M	E	Y	H	O	J	K	O	I
P	N	U	Z	K	A	M	A	R	U	I	L	N
C	M	J	B	P	D	N	G	V	O	F	W	M
A	H	N	I	G	E	R	I	A	M	V	K	X

- World record holder in 100m hurdles (6)
- Malaika ..... (7) German long jumper
- Bala ..... (5) Nasarawa Utd Coach
- ..... Ebi (5) Super Falcons Captain
- Gianni ..... (9) FIFA President
- ..... Musa (5) Super Eagles Captain
- ..... Woods (5) American PGA Player
- ..... Austin (6) Rivers United Captain
- ..... Jesus (6) Arsenal Striker
- ..... Usman (6) Nigerian UFC fighter
- Super Eagles name in the sixties (9)
- Winners of the Atlanta '96 football trophy (7)
- Golf Peg (3)

By IBRAHIM T. LOT