

Lalong, Wase, APC candidates embark on consultation visits



**News:** Vehicle owners bemoan state of roads

Page 2

**Sports:** English FA to honour Nigerian

Page 39

**Politics:** I pity Dakum over efforts to snatch my ticket -Margif

Page 29

# Sunday Standard



TRUTH EXALTS A NATION

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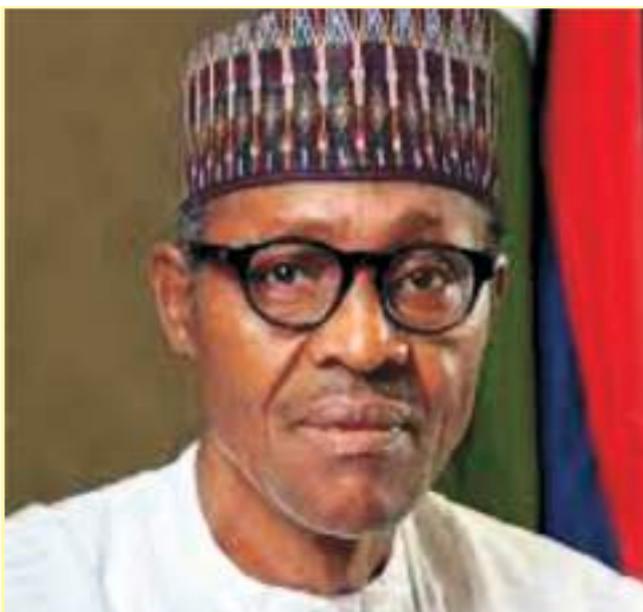
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## Nigeria: Doctors abandon homeland for greener pastures

*In the past few decades, the dilapidating health infrastructures couple with inadequate attention given to the Nigeria's health sector has continued to affect the citizens of the country. Though the Federal Government has decried the abated increasing member of its officials unrepentantly engaged in acts of medical tourism, the negative attitude shown on the need to revive our medical sector has left much to be desired, BULUS GAMBO writes.*

Pages 10, 31

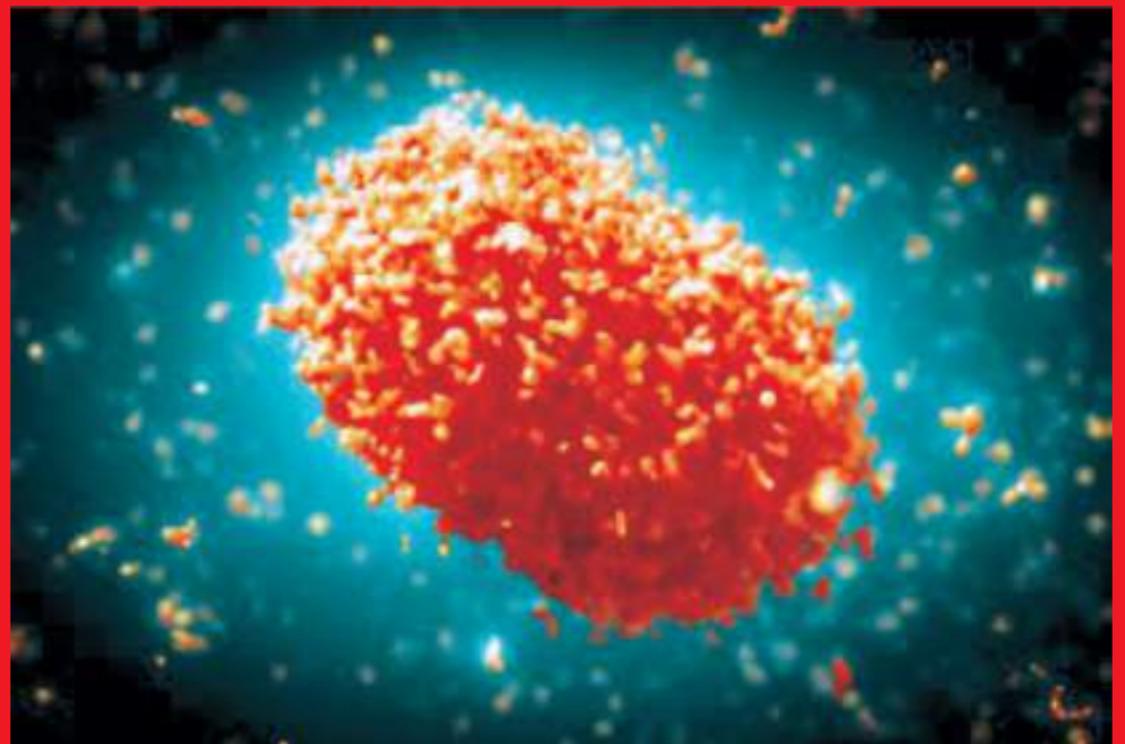


### Nigeria's economy continues to grow despite strong headwinds

-Buhari

Page 2

## Monkeypox: Nigeria leads as Africa records 524 infections



Page 2

### NMA strikes: One too many

The Nigerian Medical Association recently issued a 21-day ultimatum to the Federal Government at the end of its National Executive Council meeting held in Benin City, Edo State. The NMA and all its affiliates threatened to embark on all round strike action should the government fail to resolve all contending issues including other agreements signed with doctors in the country.

Resident doctors under the aegis of the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD), with over 16,000 members, had on August 2, 2021, embarked on a nationwide industrial action to demand for the implementation of agreements reached on payments of owed salaries and arrears, hazard allowances, residency programme attainments and payments of life insurance benefits to families of members who died of Covid-19 among others.

During a parley, the President of NMA, Prof Ujah this time around noted that should the Federal Government fail to implement these agreements; NMA will be forced to declare a nationwide strike action. Ujah in a statement jointly signed by the Secretary-General, NMA, Dr. Philips Uche Ekpe, disclosed that the various industrial disputes involving the different affiliates of the association were exhaustively reviewed at the meeting and the association would not allow any doctor to be victimized for participating in the strike instituted by NARD.

NMA's contentions over the years have been hinged on the quest to improve healthcare delivery in Nigeria and the welfare of her members. Others include infrastructural development in all Nigeria's hospitals. On the other hand however, the Federal Government recently also disclosed that it had set aside N4.8 billion as residency training fund for the striking resident doctors. No doubt, any strike action by medical personnel would not augury well for the citizens of this nation. We, therefore, believe that any such industrial action is inimical to the existence of the institution and of our citizens.

Even though we share the same sentiments with NARD that Nigeria's medical institutions are in a very deplorable state lacking some fundamental and necessary infrastructure, working tools; lack of maintenance culture has greatly affected these facilities.

No wonder our medical personnel are leaving the country in their numbers seeking for greener pastures to our detriment. This is coming on the heels of several resources expended training them with no pragmatic iota of sacrifice to change the ugly narratives back home. To help curb this menace of massive exodus of medical personnel, government should invest more in the health sector. This, if done, would significantly discourage the issue of medical tourism and encourage our young medical personnel to serve their fatherland and resist any temptation of abandoning our country which is almost overwhelmed by dilapidated facilities.

The Federal Government should consider partnering with the private sector for more development. They must be seen to walk the talk, not the slow and steady attitude that achieves little or nothing, like the ASUU lingering issue was handled.

### Nigeria's economy continues to grow despite strong headwinds -Buhari

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari says despite the disruptions in global economy and internal troubles, the Nigerian economy has continued to be resilient and maintain an upward trajectory.

The President stated this at the inauguration of the Presidential Committee on the National Economy, on Friday in Abuja.

According to him, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the loss of substantial volumes of oil have had negative impacts on the Nigerian economy.

He said: "Starting with COVID-19 and now the conflict in Ukraine, the past three years have been turbulent ones for the global economy. Global interdependence has become more apparent as we have had to deal with volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity.

"In this period, challenges faced by the world have been many including: lockdowns as COVID-19 raged; disruptions to supply chains around the world, and sharp fluctuations in prices.

"Just as the world was beginning to recover from the coronavirus, the conflict in the Black Sea region between Ukraine and Russia worsened the challenges already being faced and created additional problems to which policy makers are having to respond.

"Our economy continues to grow despite the adverse effects of rising interest rates, a stronger US dollar and higher inflation across the world."

Mr Buhari noted, however, that some of the problems could be addressed internally, making the constitution of the seasoned economic experts expedient.

It is, however, important to note that some of the issues we must address are peculiar to us.

For example, the decline in our production of crude oil. It is estimated that last month, August 2022, we produced less than 1mn barrels. The fall in production is essentially due to economic sabotage.

"With the high price of oil in the world markets, producing at about half our OPEC quota has deprived us of much needed revenue and foreign exchange. Government is working tirelessly to reverse this situation," Mr Buhari said.

He, however, assured Nigerians that despite these hiccups, necessitating borrowings from financial sources, "the current administration remains committed to the welfare of the citizens, especially the implementation of the Social Investment Programmes.

"While citizens' concern about borrowing is well understood, our resort to borrowing must also be appreciated in the context of the resources required to deliver on the infrastructure, health and other socio-economic needs of our citizens.

"It remains a major goal of this administration to continue pursuing its social protection programmes.

"These programmes provide support to the most vulnerable of our citizens."

The Nigerian leader stressed the need to upscale resource mobilisation and utilisation in the country as more could be achieved in this direction.

According to him, his administration is also not unaware of the debates about resource mobilisation and utilisation.

On resource mobilisation, our performance as a nation continues to be a source of concern.

"Tax revenues are approximately 8 per cent of our output. This compares very badly with those countries against which we measure ourselves that achieve 15-25 per cent.

"In the absence of revenue, our ability to deliver the most basic services is limited," he added.

According to the president, while he understands the concerns arising from the huge expenditure on fuel subsidy, it is expedient that a right balance be struck not to scare away investors.

He said: "With respect to expenditure, our objective remains to ensure that spending is efficient and result oriented. In this regard, the debate around fuel subsidies is well noted.

"However, the right balance needs to be struck to ensure that as we protect our citizens, we do not leave room for inefficiencies and leakages.

"It is also important to ensure that our national investment environment is such that local and international private investors can be attracted and retained.

"Sustainably dealing with the challenge of policy predictability and coherence is an important element in this regard."



Buhari

### Vehicle owners bemoan state of roads

By PETER TITLE

**R**oad crashes in Jos and Bukuru metropolis which had resulted to unspecified casualties and deaths as a result of deplorable nature of the roads have become a matter of concern to motorists and citizens of the state.

As a result of the ugly incidences, people and well-wishers have made a passionate appeal to the state government to come to their aid by rehabilitating the roads within the metropolis in order to curtail the sad incidences being witnessed on a daily basis.

Investigations carried out by our Correspondent revealed Anguldi-Vom Road, Mararaban Jama'a-Police Staff and Building Materials market roads all in Jos South Local Government Area are in bad shape due to pot holes coupled with the washing of roads by the heavy down pour witnessed in the past weeks which motorists are not finding easy.

**SUNDAY STANDARD** investigations further revealed that despite the presence of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) personnel on those axis, accidents due to the deplorable nature of the roads occurred daily.

Our man who went round to see things for himself reports that pot holes were glaring in the places mentioned just as it is at the Hill Crest School-Plateau Hospital to Hill Station Hotel Junction in Jos North Local Government Area were also accidents occurred now and then as a result of pot holes and in some cases the roads are nearly cut off because of the heavy rains which has resulted to unspecified casualties and loss of lives.

Our Reporter investigation further revealed that the road from the Bingham University Teaching Hospital which leads Ola Hospital

down to Apata and Massalacin Juma'a is in a sorry state that urgently needs the attention of the Plateau State Government as well.

Apart from the crashes, our correspondent further reports that traffic gridlock has become the order of the day in and around Jos metropolis as a because of the deplorable roads which also has caused motorists losses as a result of engine overheat.

A cross section of people who spoke to our man lamented over the bad state of the roads and called on the state government for urgent attention.

Mr George Bandung, a cab driver who shuttle within Jos axis said it was always hectic for him due to pot holes and other related challenges saying he now prefers to travel long distance where the road is good than to move in a millipede speed where he always experienced overheat which had caused him a lot.

Another respondent, Ben Ochai

lamented the road situation is getting worse by the day especially during the raining season and urged the constituted authority to do the needful adding journey that ordinarily would have taken 20 minutes now is over an hour which he said was unfortunate.

Our correspondent who was in the office of state commissioner for works, Hon. Pam Botmang twice but could not meet him as he was said to be too engaged but a senior official in the ministry who would not want his name printed said they were aware of the problems bedeviling roads in the township.

According to him, they would soon mobilised their workers for direct Labour to ease the pains motorists and commuters always go through stressing that the government was not sleeping over the matter adding that it will soon be a thing of the past.

### Monkeypox: Nigeria leads as Africa records 524 infections

**D**ata from the World Health Organisation (WHO) has revealed that Nigeria currently leads on the log of African countries with monkeypox infections and fatalities.

The WHO Regional Director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti, who spoke during a virtual press briefing on Meningitis, said as of 8 September there are now 524 confirmed cases and 12 deaths across 11 African countries.

Ms Moeti said Nigeria topped the list of the cases recorded, and is followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ghana.

According to Ms Moeti, Nigeria recorded six of the 12 deaths, while Ghana reported four and two recorded in the Central African Republic.

Checks on the CDC monkeypox

global map shows that as of 9 September, Nigeria has 220 infections, followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo with 19 cases and Ghana with 7 cases, while the global infections now stand at 57,527.

"Although no single monkeypox vaccine has been administered to any high-risk group in any of the African countries reporting cases, WHO has provided 39,000 kits to countries, enabling improved testing rates," Ms Moeti noted.

Speaking on Africa's progress with Meningitis Group A, Mrs Moeti acknowledged that not a single case has been reported on the continent in the past five years but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed vaccination campaigns targeting more than 50 million African children.



With  
**Katdapba  
Y. Gobum  
On Sunday**



**"There are issues which must be addressed in the case of Plateau, nay, Nigeria generally: Justice is central to peaceful living. Truth has only but a colour. No matter how it is twisted, we cannot make a head way; but until it is established only then can we sleep not thinking of any one attacking communities in the dead of the night."**

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# 21 years of repeated pains on the Plateau

SOME call it the 21 years of madness on the Plateau. However you wish to call those years, one thing is certain: They are years one would never wish to be visited on any community again. Except perhaps those who wish they return are sadists, the state has had enough share of its tribulations.

For those who remember that black Friday afternoon of September 7, 2001, the day Jos went up in flames and for days, the city was engulfed in the most atrocious violence it would ever be witnessed, there is nothing so outstanding about the incident except that, it remains one of the saddest days, amongst other, in the history of Plateau State.

Taking arms against one another could be a harrowing experience on a people. Indeed it was sad, while it lasted. While it was surreptitiously planned by some crisis merchants, those who were caught off guard paid the supreme price. While it lasted, uncountable of people were wasted; thereby leaving scars on individuals, families and of the communities that make of the theater of the violence.

Today, many remember that had the crisis not taken place, brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers would today have become notable in various human fields of human endeavour. They were regrettably cut short, wasted for no fault of theirs. From the Congo-Russia junction where a group of Muslim had converged for their Friday prayers; a certain Christian woman had made to pass, the argument which ensued soon became a conflagration of fire on anything was seen as the enemy's.

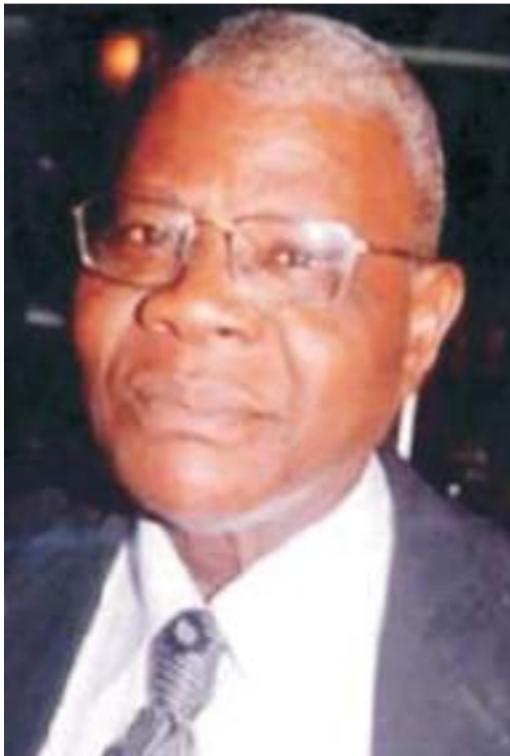
Since September 2001, the metropolitan city of Jos and Bukuru became divided on religious lines. Areas that hitherto had a mixture of both adherents of the two religions, Christianity and Islam could no longer contain adherents practicing them to live together.

Several years after the Jos crisis, some may have forgiven, but there are yet others who walk with the scars and find it difficult to let it go. Some few years ago, it was Governor Simon Bako Lalong who established the Forgiveness Center in the heart of the city. It was meant to stimulate those who have been wronged to see reason why the past must be put behind in the life of the state and its people.

In fact, the attacks on the state persisted up till 2021. There are yet grievances from members of those communities that have repeatedly been attacked. They need assurances from government that they can be protected; and even when they suffer loss, some help should be extended to them by government agencies responsible for emergency management.

It was indeed sad, brothers and sisters who, before the crisis had co-existed together for decade took up arms against each other and chased their 'enemies' out of those communities. Sadly, as it stands all together, the city is segregated along tribal and or religious lines. Entrances to communities and neighbourhoods are not done until one was sure of his or her safety first.

This development has made



**Ajibola**



**Tobi**



**Fiberesima**

business in the city difficult, as it is different from what used to obtain in the past. Life has been a hell relating to one another. Everyone is a suspect of the other; those vendors who before now went around the city unchallenged are today cautious of where to enter to sell.

Beyond the reasons that may have been advanced for the violence, it is certain that since September 7, 2001, the orgy of attacks has been sadly replicated in all local government areas of the state. That is why the number of the death harvested in the last two decades is regrettable.

It is exactly 21 years last Tuesday since the religious crisis in Jos took place. It was the year mistrust and hatred was brought to live with the people of the state-and even in the communities that make up the state.

Perhaps for a few weeks of the incident, no one could categorically say they knew the reasons for the crisis. The buildup was the disappearance of private parts of men at different points in the city and the hot exchange by youth who wrote threats on wall and threw caution to the wind by telling whoever wanted to know that they were ready to face each other. The security failed to act; in fact, they should have known better what was to hit the city.

It's been two decades and nobody can tell you exactly what started the crisis and or who was arrested or prosecuted for desecrating the peace long enjoyed in the state.

Sadly for 21 years, the state has refused to move. Sadly also, the state is still walking within the perimeter of distrust, angst and cosmetic peace'. It can be observed that the slightest of provocation no matter how far it is to Jos, people take up arms against each other, thereby, venting their anger on others as if the state has become a center for revenge. Recall what happened on the University of Jos after the killings of the Ondo 22 last year.

For these long years running, everything we ever prided ourselves of has been lost. Had but kept our

peace, no state would have been our rival in tourism and commerce. The market that made many envy us was bombed in 2002. Sadly the effort to rebuild the market has become contentious. We are where we are today because we have lost sanity and cannot get out of the quagmire on account that justice and truth have been denied us.

It has been stated: 'Nobody is a winner in a war. We lost properties, lives, businesses, opportunities, our cherished peace, and most importantly, the humanity in us was substituted with hunting human beings as games. May the state never experience those dark days again but return Plateau to our Home of Peace and Tourism'.

Sadly also, lands have been grabbed in Bassa, Bokkos, Barkin Ladi, Mangu and Riyom local government areas. It was in the course of these sad developments that some travelers who were enroute Ondo from Bauchi were attacked on Rukuba road and killed. Sad as it was, it is important to recall what may have happened before that event. While there is no justification of the killings, that took place when terrorists sustained a vicious degree of attacks on Irigwe communities of Bassa and Yelwan Zangam inhabited by the Anaguta; a sleepy community on the outskirts of Jos North local government area in 2021; after a repeated siege on Riyom, Barkin Ladi, Jos South, Mangu and Bokkos local communities.

The sustained attacks were so intense to the point that questions were asked: Do the people not deserve justice? Can the government and security find a way out of attacks? Can't there be reprieve for these communities? Do they not deserve to be protected? All Nigerians deserve to be protected, no matter where they come from; whether they are Christians or Muslims.

We have repeatedly said that justice is the meat for all, and not for a select group. No government can function when they select to give

justice to Christians and or Muslims alone. Nations survive and prosper, so long as justice is given to all.

Truth has been established: The state remains marked. The communities are targets for these actions that had been hatched in secret dark places. Regrettably, we are a country that denies justice for its people; no wonder, there is always a cry for it whenever there is an attack. The people have every reason to believe that they are treated as second class citizens-always demanding for their rights

It is even more regrettable that in the course of the years, a state of emergency was slammed on the state in 2004. It was as a result of the Yelwa-Nshar killings in May of that year that led to reprisal killings of Christians in the northern city of Kano. That led Secretary General of the Christians Association of Nigeria in the north, Saidu Dogo to question the rationale behind the imposition of the state of emergency.

He had told journalists thus: On the principle of justice, the decision to impose emergency rule in Plateau is wrong. If he had done the same in Kano it would've made sense. Many people were killed in Kano, and it was the governor (Ibrahim Shekarau) that went on radio to urge muslims to demonstrate'.

The state soon got round the ashes of the destruction. The decisions of the peace conference during the emergency period by General Chris Ali were far reaching. Not only did the state decide on the way forward, the peace conference established the fact that Jos belongs to: Berom, Anaguta and Jarawa people. For many, they reasoned: What could have been better than the outcome of a well coordinated peace conference meant to establish respect and togetherness in the fractured state?

The circle of violence in several other communities had followed after, claiming several hundreds of lives, displacing people from their ancestral lands in the process since September 2001. Total strangers now occupy those lands; and it does

appear that nothing can be done, because when they make attempts to return to take possession they are repelled, killed and thereby compounding their problems the more. Such has repeatedly happened in Barkin Ladi, Riyom and Bassa local government areas.

But for how long should this ill-treatment persist? How long can the people remain traumatized, even when promises have been made and not fulfilled? There cannot be anything sadder to be treated as shabbily when the aggressor is regarded as the victim. How it feels is only when one may have visited the displaced persons that had been scattered in different improvised facilities in different communities; or staying with relations whose living conditions is nothing to write home about.

Over the years, whether it is the Justice Niki Tobi, Justice Jotham Aribon Fiberesima or Justice Bola Ajibola who chaired a few of the commission of inquiry into the various crises that tore the heart of the city into shreds, they have been able to establish one area of concern; sadly however, governments over the years at the level of the state have failed to act and deal with the perpetrators.

That is one aspect which the people of the state will continue to blame the government. Action has not been taken to assuage the feelings and expectations of the victims towards finding a lasting solution to the plight of communities. The question to ask concerning this is: Why have governments been reluctant about implementing the outcome of the findings? Governments can't spend huge sums of money only to allow the outcome rot in the cabinet files of the Ministry of Justice.

There are issues which must be addressed in the case of Plateau, nay, Nigeria generally: Justice is central to peaceful living. Truth has only but a colour. No matter how it is twisted, we cannot make a head way; but until it is established only then can we sleep not thinking of any one attacking communities in the dead of the night.



## Waste management: Enemy to Plateau's beauty

A house well swept but with its overflowing cannot be said to be clean. It's an understatement if one says the dustbins are filled. To be candid, the best description is that the house is filthy.

It does not matter the efforts made to tidy the house, they are all exercises in futility if the garbage collected remains in the area that has been swept. In most cases, the whole area will be an eyesore. And instead of the place being fresh and refreshing, it will most likely be smelling very bad due to accumulated dirt. A situation that is usually a breeding ground for disease vectors.

This is the narrative of Jos and environs where thousands have been employed to sweep every nook and cranny of the city. Every effort is geared towards keeping Jos and the environs clean. However, poor waste management has rendered all these efforts futile.

In the past, a private company was saddled with the responsibility of waste management. It was the practice for each household to package its garbage well in either polythene bags or garbage bins in expectation of the visit of the managers of the garbage. At the end of each month, every household used to pay five hundred Naira (N500) only. We were living in Rikkos then, I wouldn't know how much high brows areas were charged per household.

The arrangement was very convenient and within most residents' reach. Shop owners had their arrangements. If one wanted one's garbage to be disposed, one paid a token to the boys that used to come around with their wheelbarrow at the end of each day and they would gladly do the needful. I know that because I was a shop owner at Ahmadu Bello Way.

Somehow, everyone claimed responsibility for his or her garbage. That meant everyone had to have a garbage bin where one collected ones garbage and paid for the disposal. There were murmurings but it paid off as garbage was well managed. Fortunately, it also discouraged random disposal.

Recently, a relation and I were at the market Ahmadu Bello Way till around 8:00 pm. At about 7:00 pm, when shops owners started locking up, we were shocked when right by our side, the shop owners started disposing their dirt after sweeping their shops. They dropped their garbage without remorse, right there on one part of the road as if it was designated for that.

Government has pampered us so much that we have become so careless, inconsiderate and

insensitive. Our nonchalance has given Jos a new look- eyesore. Government has taken the responsibility to manage waste disposal. The least we can do is to make the work easier for government by packaging and disposing in the designated areas.

As a result of our carelessness, those saddled with the responsibility of waste management are not finding it easy. The other day I went to dispose of garbage at Topp, Rayfield, just around the clinic. I met some scavengers who were looking at me expectantly. The moment my well packaged garbage were thrown into the incinerator, they did not allow it touch the ground but grabbed each one and carefully loosened the polythene bags where they were packaged and shook off the dirt before rummaging through the garbage.

This is the stock in trade of scavengers. Every find is worth a dime. Empty containers of Swan or disposable containers of drinks or medicine bottles etc are good finds including the polythene bags in which the garbage was packaged. It does not matter what the garbage was like, the polythene bags would be resold to market women.

The empty containers on the other hand have a large market. They are usually sold to palm and ground nut oil sellers, gruel (*kunu*) and zobo sellers etc. It does not matter what they were used for after their original content was taken. Thinking of only self, scavengers also scatter the heaps of garbage looking for valuables. All this add up to make the work of waste managers cumbersome. As it stands now, the Ministry of Environment is overwhelmed with the work on ground.

Government can bring sanity to the system by inviting the private sector to take over waste management. Apart from ensuring our streets assume their former status, that move will reduce the number of the unemployed.

There is no gainsaying that there is untapped wealth in waste management for the private sector. Places like Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt have given the free hand to the private sector who have become wealthy through such an opportunity.

If government will consider this, please, let it not be given to just one individual. Provide employment to thousands by specifying each person's area to cover. For example, one person should be given the whole of Rayfield which is very large. Another person should cover Hwolshe. The criteria is to have the trucks, working tools.

Let's use every disadvantage to our advantage. Once again, our slogan 'home of peace and tourism' will carry weight.

## NEWS

### Nigeria, Tanzania seek for collaboration in technology transfer

MINISTER of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. Adeleke Momora has said that rapid socio-economic growth of the African continent cannot be achieved without collaboration of African countries.

Dr. Momora said this when a delegation from Tanzania Commission for Science, and Technology led by the Director-General of NOTAP, Dr. Dan-Azumi Ibrahim paid a courtesy visit to him in his office in Abuja recently.

According to him, National Office for Technology, Acquisition and Promotion, (NOTAP) has the mandate of Technology Transfer and acquisition in Nigeria.

The Minister further stated that Nigeria is operating in a global village where no one is an Island to himself stressing that African nations should synergize, share knowledge and experiences in order to move the continent to greater height.

He noted that African countries have common history, ancestry, culture, and challenges which would enhance easy synergy for the economic emancipation of the continent.

According to Dr. Momora, Africa is in the age of 4th Industrial Revolution which is technology driven and it involves the concept of Science, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) pointing out that most countries of the

From  
DORCAS PANKYES,  
Abuja

world are moving from resource based to knowledge acquisition economy, necessary for the desired development and progress of Africa.

To this end, Dr. Momora said that the Forum for African Research Innovation (FARI) was launched recently and Nigeria will be privileged to host the maiden edition in October, this year.

Earlier, Leader of the Delegation, Director-General

of NOTAP, Dr. Azumi Ibrahim informed the Minister that after due consultation with Tanzanian Commission for Science and Technology the Agency identified areas of collaboration which will be of mutual benefit to both countries and decided to lead them to the ministry.

Speaking, the Director-General, Tanzanian Commission for Science and Technology, Dr. Amos Muhunda Nungu informed the minister that the aim of the visit was to seek for collaboration in Technology Transfer with Nigeria.



Momora

### Bala charge appointed Commissioners, Advisers to work in harmony

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has while swearing in 6 newly appointed Commissioners in the State charged them to be prudent, accountable and transparent in managing the meagre resource available to the State.

The Governor at the new Banquet Hall of the Government House Bauchi recently, also advised the 6 commissioners to work harmoniously with their respective Permanent Secretaries in order to enhance their performances and move the state forward in line with the focus, policies and agenda of the administration.

He explained that the appointments followed the

From  
ABBAS GUNGURA,  
Bauchi

resignation of some members of the State Executive Council (SEC) who contested and lost the last primary election of the PDP.

The six new Commissioners and five Special Advisers were assigned portfolios as members of the Bauchi State Executive Council immediately after taking - oath of office conducted by the state Chief judge Justice Rabi Talatu Umar.

Our correspondent who covered the swearing in ceremony reported that the newly appointed Commissioners who took the oath of allegiance and office are Abdulkadir Ibrahim who

returned as Commissioner Ministry of Works and Transport; Hajiya Zainab Baban Takko, Ministry of Commerce and Industries; Alhaji Adamu Babayo Gabarin, Ministry of information and Communication, Ahmed Aliyu Jalam, Ministry of Water Resource; Maryam Garba Bagel, Ministry of Power, Science and Technology as well as Dr Sabi'u Audu Gwalabe, Ministry of Health.

The Special Advisers include Alhaji Babayo Muhammad, Abubakar Bello Nawaila, Mr Gashom Daniel Danna and Sabo Sunusi Khalifa.

Speaking on behalf of the new appointees, the Commissioner of Works and Transport, Abdulkadir Ibrahim thanked the Governor for finding them worthy of the appointment among many other eminently qualified people across the state.

He expressed their commitment to making positive contributions in the formulation of policies that would improve the quality of life and standard of living of the good and loyal people of the state.

The commissioner however, assured the governor of their total loyalty and that they would do everything humanely possible to work for his success to return as Governor of the state in 2023 election.



Bala

# SUNDAY POLITICS

## PDP chides Tinubu on insecurity, hardship

From JIDAUNA YANUNG Abuja

**T**HE People's Democratic Party (PDP) has told the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu that he is involved in bringing a government that has imposed insecurity and bloodletting, economic hardship, unemployment, disunity and low life expectancy on Nigerians in the last seven years.

PDP in a statement by the National Publicity Secretary Debo Ologunagba accused the APC candidate of diverting attention from the main issues of the failures of the APC government by making derogatory remarks on the PDP.

"Such fixation on the PDP only exposes Asiwaju Tinubu as a paper candidate who is confused, nervy and intimidated by the PDP's presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar and had achievements of the PDP, which stare him in the face in mortal fear of failure ahead of the 2023 general elections, the party said.

Meanwhile, the presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, said the party is going to decentralize its campaign for next year's



Tinubu

election to polling unit level.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) said ban on campaign for presidential and National Assembly election would be lifted on September 28.

Atiku in his weekly letter to PDP supporters, noted that because every election was won and lost at the polling unit, the party has agreed to decentralize its campaign to involve members at that level.

"What that means is that folks like you are the potential managers of my campaign. It

is a system that takes power away from the centre and returns it to where it belongs: to the people," he said.

The former vice president told them that after enduring many years of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) "practically kneeling on our neck, September heralds the commencement of our freedom from the APC's strangleholds.

"For many Nigerians, this year's September is a month that comes with great deal of joy and great expectations.

**A** Civil Society Organization (CSO), Connected Development, has advised women and youths in Kogi against vote selling, and the need to collect their Permanent Voters Card (PVC) and vote for credible candidates in the 2023 elections.

Amb. Hamzat Lawal, the Executive Director of Connected Development, gave the advice when he empowered over 350 women with cash at Upogoro/Odenku ward in Okene Local Government Area of Kogi State.

Lawal, who is an International Election Monitor, said the cash donation was to boost the women's petty trading as part of effort to improve the livelihoods of the people at the grassroots.

He added that the empowerment was also part of the sensitization advocacy to the grassroots against vote buying and selling during elections.

Lawal stressed that the empowerment is a token to appreciate women for their support when he declared to vie for the ticket of House of Representatives under the platform of the All Progressive Congress.

According to him, he was in Upogoro/Odenku ward to kick start a door to door, house to house and ward to ward sensitization advocacy for the collection of PVC.

He added that it was to also educate the

## CSO caution Kogi youths, women against vote selling

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

electorate ahead of 2023 general election on the need for them to do away with vote buying and selling associated with elections in the country.

He described vote buying and selling as a great threat to the political development of Nigeria and urged voters, especially women to resist any attempt by money bag politicians to deceive them with rice, cloth, maggi and money at the detriment of their future.

"As a mobilizer working with grassroots, my simple message is that if politicians that are corrupt come to you to induce you with petty items, you should reject their offers.

"Do not collect money rather vote on issues, listen to them and ask them salient questions about their ideas and what their plans are.

"You should vote for people you can hold to account for their stewardship and people that can deliver dividend of democracy to you in order to improve your well-being.

"Democracy is about development and welfarism of the citizens but a situation where you decide to sell your vote to wrong candidates you

continue to dwell in abject poverty while the politicians swim with their family in opulence and comfort" he said.

Responding, the women leader, Mrs Bilkisu Ahmed, commended the organization for the pre-campaign sensitization and assured that women in the ward would heed to the advice of no selling of votes.

"If we sell our votes, the politicians that buy the votes will have to recoup their money and at the end of the tenure they will not be able to deliver dividends of democracy.

"I am also using this medium to advise our youth that are used to cause electoral violence to have a rethink because the politicians that use them their children are abroad schooling" she said.

Also speaking, Comrade Usman Abdulsalam, a youth leader, said he was impressed by the sensitization carried out by the organisation ahead of 2023 general election.

He said that the meeting had opened many people's eyes to the negative effect of selling votes to politicians who have nothing to offer in return.

Abdulsalam assured that henceforth their votes will be based on capacity and antecedent of candidates.

## Insecurity poses no threat to 2023 election -IGP

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

**T**HE Inspector General of Police (IGP), Usman Baba, has assured that the security situation in the country poses no threat to the 2023 general election.

The police chief said the drew his strength from the robust security threat analysis carried out, using global best standards to ascertain the trend of expectation for the electioneering processes".

Adamu's position was conveyed in a statement, recently by the force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), CSP Olumyiwa Adejobi.

The IGP's assurance is coming on the heels of what many have described as worsening insecurity

occasioned by banditry, kidnapping, terrorism and other violent tendencies assailing the country.

Also, there are reports that suspected bandits are superintending over some territories in Kaduna State, among other general areas.

The Inspector General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba, has stated emphatically that there is no threat to the 2023 General Elections in the country. This stems from the robust security threat analysis carried out using global best standards to ascertain the trend expectations for the electioneering process," the FPRO said in the statement.

He said the police boss made the confidence-boosting disclosure during the United Nations Chief of Police Summit (UN-COPS) in

the United States of America, and during his meeting with Todd D. Robinson International Narcotics and Law Department of States as part of events rounding up his attendance at the UN summit.

## Chairman inspects offices destroyed by fire outbreak

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**T**HE Karu Council Boss has inspected the scene of the fire outbreak at the Council's Secretariat, and promised to take all necessary precautionary measures against future reoccurrence.

Earlier during the week, the Executive Chairman of Karu Local Government Council Hon. James Thomas had inspected the two offices that were destroyed as a result of fire outbreak in the local Government Secretariat.

The fire accident occurred recently as a result of electrical faults at the office of Director for Social Services and electrical unit office of the council secretariat.

The chairman expressed deep sadness over the unfortunate incident and promised to take all necessary action to stop further fire outbreaks in the Council secretariat and prayed to God for continuous protection as no life was lost.

It would be recalled that this is the second time such unfortunate incident occurred at the Karu Local government Council Secretariat.

Meanwhile, the office of the Executive Chairman of Karu Local Government Council after due consideration, following the imposition of curfew and subsequently the restrictions of vehicular

movement across the Local Government Area, aimed at checkmating incessant attacks and lawlessness in some parts of the country, especially the FCT Abuja, which they share boundaries with, and curfew imposed recently.

However, with the positive results so far, the curfew has been lifted and the ban to only restrict the movement of Okada riders and the tricycle motorists (Keke) from 9:00 pm to 6:00 am every day.

He equally urged the good people of Karu LGA to comply as usual with security agents, as maintenance of peace and order is of top most priority.



Thomas

## PDP publicity secretary resumes office

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

**T**HE new Sokoto State Publicity Secretary of the People's Democratic party (PDP), Hassan Sahabi Sanyinnawal has resumed office on Wednesday.

The resumption followed a formal handing over by his predecessor, Hon. Abdullahi Yusuf Hausawa, who was appointed as Commissioner by Gov. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal.

In his remarks, while

ensure the success of his assignment.

Responding, the new Publicity Secretary, Hassan Sahabi Sanyinnawal, promised to work hard and use his wealth of experience to ensure the success of the PDP at all levels.

He used the medium to seek for total support from the outgoing publicity Secretary, and all the stakeholders to succeed in his assignment.



Alkali

# SUNDAY POLITICS

## 2023: We have no reason not to deliver - Lalong

By PALANG KASMI

**A**HEAD of 2023 General Elections, Governor Simon Bako Lalong Saturday tasked party stakeholders from the Southern Senatorial district to work hard to deliver their wards and candidates, assuring that his administration will not hand over unpaid salaries to his successor.

The Governor stated this during a consultative meeting he tagged "APC the way to move forward" at the Sustainable Development Goals Office (SDG's) Shendam urging the stakeholders to work hard for the success of the party in the 2023 elections.

The meeting had in attendance stakeholders, candidates, and Elders of the party from the district including House of Representatives Deputy Speaker, Ahmed Idris Wase, Director General Industrial Training Fund, Sir Joseph Ari, General Manager Plateau Publishing Corporation, Hon. Boniface Gwotbit, Former ITF DG Prof. Longmas Wapmuk, Former University of Jos Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sebastian Maimako, political office holders, government officials, Youth Leaders, Women Leaders, and Party Leaders.

He urged the stakeholders to realise that it is time for hatching ideas and working to secure the party's victory in 2023 advising them not to leave their party and go to an entirely new one because they will miss out.

He said already the party has recorded huge success by sweeping all the chairmanship seats in the state, and therefore called on the stakeholders to record more victories with more structures and commitment.

"Everybody is going to be involved when we officially flag off campaigns and by the grace of God, we will carry everyone along and move the campaigns to the Local governments, wards and polling units".

He advised the stakeholders to be active party leaders who will govern their polling units.

The Governor who is also the Director General (DG) of the party's Presidential Campaign advised those who have lost the Primary elections to submit themselves to reconciliation promising that he will ensure the party's reconciliatory committee addresses all grievances of members.

Based on that, the Governor equally encouraged them to realise that losing elections is not the end for them, and some aspirants have lost elections many times, before eventually emerging winner.

He also urged the stakeholders not to be distracted by politics that is based on ethnicity and religion and went further to warn them to be aware of the antics of politicians who are always bent on preventing laudable development projects of his administration from thriving.

"Such politicians do not want



Lalong

my administration to record any success, they did not want the overhead bridge to be built but as I am talking to you, it is almost reaching completion".

He however used the forum to urge the stakeholders to shun politics of violence and focus on issues not hatred and calumny.

House of Representatives Speaker Wase encouraged party members to ensure they shun politics of religion and ethnicity and promote the laudable development strides and achievements of the Lalong led Administration.

He said for the first time in the history of Plateau State, the APC led government has brought many dividends of democracy to the state.

Also speaking, one of the stakeholders, the DG ITF Sir Joseph Ari urged women to participate fully and come out

## Gbajabiamila restates need to prepare children for challenges

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

**T**HE Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt Hon. Gbajabiamila has restated the need to prepare Nigerian children for future challenges and global competition with the right modern tools.

Gbajabiamila said the need to make Nigerian children globally competitive was responsible for his several interventions in the nation's education sector through proactive laws and personal efforts.

One such effort among others was the Gbajabiamila Summer Coding Camp held across five secondary schools in Surulere 1 Federal Constituency, where children from all parts of Lagos State were taught about coding to introduce and enhance their computer literacy and artificial intelligence.

Speaker Gbajabiamila launched the Gbaja Summer Coding Camp facilitated by Pearl Africa on August 16.

During the closing ceremony via zoom, participating students made presentations about what they learnt at the coding camp to the excitement of guests and a panel of judges, Fent Hughes from Harvard Business Group, Ms. Adefunke Akinola, a computer engineer who scored the technology-driven solution presentations by the young participants, and Abisoye Ajayi-Akinfolarin, CEO of Pearls Africa Foundation.

The participants presented ten projects in total with two projects from each centre.

At the Ajigbeda Centre, Life Comrades, a platform that helps

for all party meetings.

He also urged them to engage actively in the party's policy of door to door campaigns once the official campaigns are flagged off.

He said the party must secure a win in 2023 and called on the Governor to officially commission some of his administrations completed projects.

## Member promises accountability, commitment for constituency

**T**HE member representing Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency, Hon. Musa Agah Avia will clock six (6) months in office tomorrow 10th September, 2022. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to God Almighty for granting him the opportunity to serve and he promised not to betray the mandate. He also thanked the constituents for their unalloyed support and

assured them that his outstanding record of achievements when he was in the Plateau State House of Assembly representing Irigwe/Rukuba Constituency. The statement explained that the prolongation of the Bye-Election affected the constituency badly since it was not captured in the 2022 appropriation which was assented by Mr President around December, 2021 some months before his emergence. No single project was penciled for the constituency to attract dividends of democracy to the constituents.

## Member promises accountability, commitment for constituency

He has also commenced move for the allocation of abandoned Labor Office domicile in Ibrahim Katsina Ward, Jos North to the host community to be used for community school. He moved a motion of Urgent Public Importance on the rising cases of cutting and destructions of farmlands in Rigwe Chiefdom of Bassa LGA and other parts of the Constituency and also called on Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and NEMA to assist the victims with relief materials.

He has also commenced synergy with the appropriate authorities to meet the plight of the people pertaining potable water supply across the constituency. In view of the current security challenges bedeviling our communities, he has secured Solar streets light which are been installed in some carefully selected communities within the Constituency to reduce threat to our collective safety. Other projects are still on the way. Also facilitated employment slots to some constituents and still pursuing more. He has also secured a Constituency office which will soon be put to use in order to ease people's access to him. This has automatically put to rest the claim that he distant himself from the constituents as aired in some media outlets. He therefore noted that the good people of Bassa/Jos North are urged to remain calm and hopeful about the capacity of Hon. Agah to deliver masses driven representation and should not be distracted by the tribunal judgement as it is just a temporary setback which God will put to rest divinely.

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Gbajabiamila

**T**HE Chairman, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Board of Trustees (BoT), Sen. Walid Jibrin, has resigned from his position.

Jibrin, who announced the resignation during the board's meeting in Abuja, Thursday said his decision was in the interest of the party and its Presidential Candidate, Atiku Abubakar, ahead of 2023 general elections.

"All we want is to make sure that Atiku becomes the president of Nigeria by all means. That is why I decided that me Sen. Walid Jibrin, I am stepping down from the BoT."

"I discussed this with the candidate and he agreed with me. If the party wins I will be given a bigger position," Jibrin said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the former President of the Senate, Sen. Adolphus Wabara, has been appointed the acting Chairman of the board.

Jibrin's decision, however, received wide commendation during the party's 97th National Executive Council (NEC) meeting, which held immediately after the BoT meeting.

## PDP BoT Chairman, Jibrin resigns

The party's National Chairman, Sen. Iyorchia Ayu announcing Jibrin's decision to NEC members said the former BoT chairman as a foundation member had served the party meritoriously over the years.

"We want to, on behalf of the party specially thank him for all his services over the years, which culminated in his being secretary of the BoT and ultimately the national chairman of board. He asked all NEC members for a standing

ovation for Jibrin.

On his part, Abubakar appreciated Jibrin's sense of patriotism and services to the party, while Wabara said that Jibrin by his action had demonstrated that BOT is truly the conscience of the PDP.

The Chairman of the PDP Governors' Forum, Gov. Tambuwal of Sokoto State, also thanked Jibrin for his show of commitment and sacrifices to the success of the party.



Jibrin

# SUNDAY POLITICS

## Youths: Taking back the country and Nigeria's political vision

*The recent eruption of mammoth crowds in various states of the federation brings new energy to the political process in Nigeria. The invisible social media warriors are taking concrete forms in our towns and streets. While some may see this as evidence of the mass appeal of a particular candidate, it is actually a coalescence of a routinely muted Nigeria's political aspiration that has for long remained within the realm of unattained desires and wistful passion, NNAEMEKA EZEMA writes.*



Nigerian youths

**E**VEN though this movement has found its most passionate expression around Mr. Peter Obi, the Labour Party presidential flagbearer, it is not really about him personally. It is clearly a reflection of the multiple underlying yearnings for political freedom and economic prosperity, a strident expression of disenchantment against the establishment and an aggressive longing for a comprehensive overhaul of the polity.

Nigerian masses are tired. Administration after another, the Nigerian political system continues to groan under gross misrule. Ghana and Egypt, not Britain or America, have become countries 'the Giant of Africa' is enjoined to emulate in governance and development. Many Nigerians now insist that Nigeria is under curse; that God is angry with us.

Certainly, the idea of involving the supernatural in man's predicaments is not new. The ancient Greeks believed that 'from ills given by the gods there is no escape.' Such is the philosophy reflected in the extant tragedies of Sophocles and

Euripides.

Bad leadership is now an inescapable ill by the gods in Nigeria. This, however, does not agree with the basic principles of modern democracy, which entrusts power upon the people. Jean-Jacques Rousseau's articulations on the principles of social contract upon which modern democracy is founded wrestles the collective fate of the people from unseen forces and places directly in their own hands.

Periodic elections are conducted to ensure that the government does not deviate from the pursuance of the people's collective will.

While Nigeria has consistently organised periodic elections since 1999, the collective will of the people is only observed in the breach. In clear terms, Nigerians need public infrastructure, food, security, good education, employment opportunities as well as good and affordable health services.

While these basic needs have remained a recurring decimal in several campaigns and manifestos of different political parties, they have not received

the required grit of determination by past and present administrations.

The multiple economic crises of high inflation, insecurity, unemployment and underemployment, massive borrowing, free fall of naira, frivolous spending and the seeming nonchalance of government officials to the gruelling economic condition of the people create a mass disenchantment and despair, confounding both government's warmest admirers and most passionate defenders.

It is clear that the active involvement of the youths in 2023 election is not necessarily a demonstration of hate or love for any presidential candidate. These youths are neither the most acerbic critics of this present administration, nor an assembly of major opposition. This mass movement is a necessity that should out-live this surging passion.

It is a spontaneous awareness of the power that rests on the people. Shakespeare's character in Julius Caesar acknowledges this much, 'Men at some times were the masters of their fates. The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings'.

The fate of Nigerian masses has for long been on the whims of the politicians. The sudden reawakening of Nigerian youths is a decisive step to determine their fate. The 2023 election is going to be a testing ground between the will of the minority elite and that of the majority poor suffering masses.

The disruptive entrance of this movement into Nigerian political



Dare

space, without pecuniary inducement, is upsetting the political class, the two major political parties, its large financial chest and wide political structures.

The political class will, definitely, not remain quiet to be overrun by the present mass movement. Consequently, political machinations, intrigues, calumny and propaganda will be unleashed against this movement. The easiest strategy among the political warlords is to evoke tribal and religious sentiments and other fault lines of the Nigerian state.

Nigerians easily fall flat for this. However, many Nigerians are

already aware that bad leadership does not discriminate; it affects everyone. The recent economic woes have proved this much. We all go to the same market.

No matter the preference any administration has for one region or religion over another, no region can be exclusively shielded from the overall effect of bad economic policies. Good leadership benefits all too.

Nigerians are now wiser and will definitely take charge of their destiny. The determination of ordinary Nigerians to define their future should be respected. Any attempt to thwart this democratic revolution may have unimaginable outcomes.

**"No matter the preference any administration has for one region or religion over another, no region can be exclusively shielded from the overall effect of bad economic policies. Good leadership benefits all too. Nigerians are now wiser and will definitely take charge of their destiny. The determination of ordinary Nigerians to define their future should be respected. Any attempt to thwart this democratic revolution may have unimaginable outcomes."**

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## LALONG ON CONSULTATION VISIT TO SOUTHERN ZONE

Plateau State Governor and Director General of APC Presidential Campaign Council, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Friday held consultations with stakeholders ahead of the lifting of ban on campaigns for 2023 general elections in Shendam his hometown



Governor Lalong, Chairman of Shendam and APC Zonal Chairman acknowledging cheers from the mammoth crowd



Chief John Dafaan (right), Hon. Naanlong Daniel of the State Assembly and other stakeholders



APC Presidential DG, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong addressing stakeholders



A cross section of stakeholders during the Governor's consultation visit



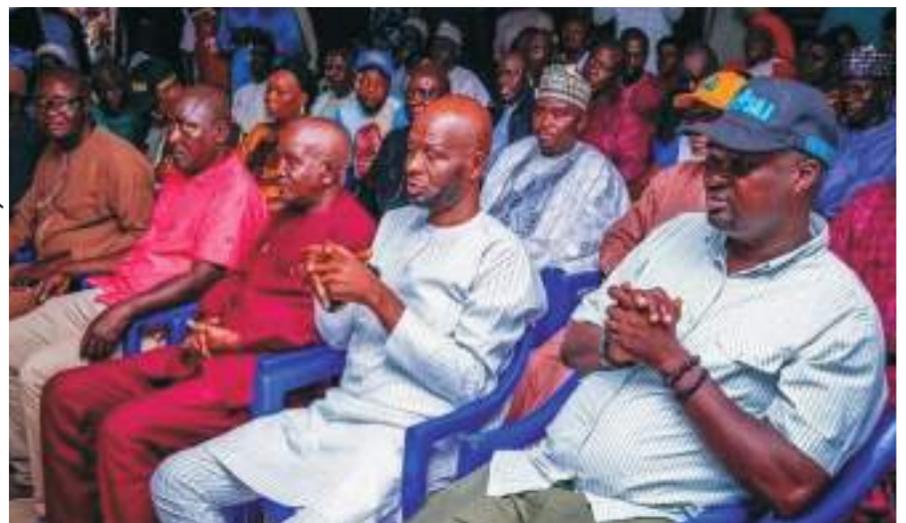
L - R: First Lady, Mrs. Regina Lalong, Deputy Speaker House of Reps., Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase and Shendam LGC Chairman, Hon. Alex Naantum



HRH Miskoom Martin Shaldas, Long Gamai of Shendam (standing) responding to the Governor's courtesy call message



Governor Lalong shaking hands with the Ponzhi Kadarko and the Ponzhi Zinni and other Royal fathers



Dignitaries at the Long Gamai Palace listening to the speeches

Photos: DOPPA'S OFFICE, GOVERNMENT HOUSE RAYFIELD, JOS

**P**LATEAU State House of Assembly has again, made a case for some communities ravaged by severe flooding. This was contained in a motion on adjournment moved by Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan, member representing Jos North North constituency and was seconded by the member representing Pankshin North constituency Hon. Philip Peter Dasun. According to the lawmaker, heavy flooding was witnessed recently in parts of Rikkos and Gangare communities of his constituency resulting in the death of two persons. Many have also been rendered homeless while property worth thousands of naira were destroyed.

While contributing to the motion, Hon. Dasun disclosed that similar situation occurred in Nyelleng, a community in his constituency. He said the heavy rainstorm took many by surprise, destroying houses while a family of three (father, mother and child) lost their lives in the process. The case was no different in Langtang South as the member Representating the real Hon. Zenchang Zimting revealed that one person, a woman also lost her life. Resolution arrived at was that the state government and relief agencies should come to the aid of victims by providing relief materials for immediate succour.

Year in year out, several communities in Plateau have been caught up in havocs caused by flooding as a result of heavy rainfall. Even though a natural disaster, certain measures if put in place can help ease or curtail the menace. In all of this, the state assembly has never relented in contributing its own quota to see that something was done about it. It will interest you to know that each time a case of flooding was brought before the floor of the House, committees were either set up or standing committees mandated to visit all areas affected with a view to proffering immediate solutions.

With the several motions of urgent public importance and committees set up concerning the issue of flooding in our various communities, one would have thought that government particularly that of local and state would have made enough impact in addressing the major issues responsible for the many cases witnessed. What is the state government doing in mitigating the issue? Clearly not enough, not with the poor drainage systems and situations where people build houses and live in unplanned areas or settlements known to obstruct free passage of water.

Fostering healthy relationships amongst legislators in Africa is no doubt an essential ingredient in the promotion of democratic values in the continent. It is in line with this, that the Plateau State House of Assembly recently played host to members of the Oromian Parliament of Ethiopia who were on a working visit to their counterpart in Plateau. The visit which is a first of a kind for the Oromian Parliamentarians afforded them the opportunity to witness the day's sitting to see how things

are done. Before the proceedings commenced, it was first of all time to get to know one another by way of personal introductions. Note that the visit was facilitated by Center for Humanitarian Dialogue in Nigeria, who were equally part of the delegation. For the benefit of hindsight, the center is saddled with the responsibility of mediation in cases of conflicts. It is safe to say that the center helps in building the path of stability and development for people, communities through peace making projects around the world.



## PLHA: Activities and plenary proceedings



For the Speaker of the Plateau State Assembly Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda, the visit was significant in the sense that it will give legislators from both sides an avenue to rub minds and learn from each other while creating a common ground for building an effective legislative framework for the African continent. According to him, even though Africa has diverse cultures, there exist certain similarities between that of Nigeria and Ethiopia hence the need to promote their shared culture and values.

Giving the August visitors an insight on how the House is run, the Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency Hon. Na'anlong Gapyil Daniel said the PLHA is governed by certain rules, known as the House Rules which has over the years ensured robust deliberations, whilst churning out people oriented motions and bills. On the issue of peace and security in the state, the majority leader informed the Oromian lawmakers that an Executive Bill for the establishment of the Plateau State Peace building Agency was passed by the

House, and that has contributed in the peace being enjoyed today.

Speaking extensively, he said passage of the bill was necessitated by the many crises and insecurity witnessed in the state. Hence, the desire to have an agency that would be saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that peace was returned by constantly bringing together

roundtable for dialogue and eventual settlement. To him, the need for cross fertilization of ideas by both parliaments cannot be overemphasized.

Ms Se'ada Abdulhaman who is the Oromian Parliament Speaker and leader of delegation could not hold back her excitement with the warm welcome accorded them. She was particularly awed with the happenings witnessed

relationship established between the two parliaments. To her, there is nothing better than working together for the betterment and upliftment of the African people. She thereafter on behalf of other members, expressed appreciation to the House for availing them the opportunity to share ideas and learn from the Plateau assembly.



## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Ngige



Ujah

## Nigeria: Doctors abandon homeland for greener pastures

***In the past few decades, the dilapidating health infrastructures couple with inadequate attention given to the Nigeria's health sector has continued to affect the citizens of the country. Though the Federal Government has decried the abated increasing member of its officials unrepentantly engaged in acts of medical tourism, the negative attitude shown on the need to revive our medical sector has left much to be desired, BULUS GAMBO writes.***

**T**HIS in turn has continued to tempt most of these Doctors to have a rethink between their patriotic obligation to the country and their quest to better and or upgrade their living standard. As it is; statistics provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) as at 2013 showed that there were about four doctors for every 10,000 Nigerians (one for 2,500), far below the organization's recommendation of a doctor to 600 patients.

Also, according to official data from the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, (MDCN), as of December 2017, Nigeria had over 39,000 registered medical doctors; this implies that with an estimated population of 193 million as at 2016, Nigeria had one medical doctor to about 4,845 citizens, less than 20 percent of WHO recommendations.

Speaking on the issue however, Nigeria's Labour and Employment Minister, Chris Ngige claims that the country has enough medical doctors to attend to the needs of Nigerians. Speaking on Channels Television programme Sunrise Daily, Ngige however did not provide any facts to back up his claims.

When asked by the presenter to comment on the brain drain in the country and if the

deliberate recruitment of Nigerian doctors by foreign embassies is detrimental to the nation's health sector, the minister said, "No, I am not worried about doctors leaving the country, we have surplus. If you have surplus, you export. I was taught chemistry and biology by Indian teachers in my secondary school days. There is surplus in their country, and we also have surplus in the medical profession in our country. I can tell you this. In my area, we have excess."

According to him, "I know a couple of them who practice abroad but set up medical centers back home. They have CAT scan, MRI scan which even government cannot maintain. So, I don't see any loss. Who said we don't have enough doctors? We have more than enough. You can quote me. There is nothing wrong in them travelling out. When they go abroad, they earn money and send them back home here. Yes, we have foreign exchange earnings from them and not just oil."

However, there are evidences to the fact that Nigerian doctors have over the years left the shores of this country due to consistent economic or financial reasons. This development has consequently led to a massive brain drain in Nigeria's health sector in most recent years.

Intermittently, Nigerian

medical doctors migrate periodically to the United States of America, Canada, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom including other promising nations of the world. Therefore, it is estimated that at least 12 Nigerian doctors leave the shores of this country to practice overseas, weekly. According to UK General Medical Council which has records of doctors in UK, 5,250 Nigerian doctors were working in the UK as of April 2018.

The questions many concern individuals have continued to ask is; why are our medical doctors leaving the shores of this country in such an alarming and great number? How can Nigeria government come to the reality of this obvious challenges and how can it overcome it?

There is no doubt that the consistent strike action by medical doctors in Nigeria has contributed to the issue of brain drain in the country. This development is aside the problem of incessant strikes in the system. Just this week, the doctors issued a 21 day ultimatum to the Federal Government at the end of its meeting held in Benin City, Edo State that the body and its affiliates would be left with no other alternative than to embark on another strike action if their demands are not met.

The Resident doctors under

the aegis of the National Association of Resident Doctors, (NARD) with over 16,000 members had on August 2, 2021 started a nationwide industrial action to demand for the implementation of agreements reached with the Federal Government on payments of owned salaries and arrears, hazard allowance and payments of insurance benefits to families of members who died of Covid 19 during the peak of the pandemic in the country.

In a statement signed by the President of NMA, Prof. Ujah, explained that "after due consideration, the National Executive Committee (NEC), put the Federal Government on the 21 day notice to fully resolve all the issues contained in the various agreements signed with affiliate members of the NMA including MDCAN and MEDSABAS.

Certainly, these various strike actions have continued to affect the standard of the healthcare sector in the country. This development has equally discouraged many doctors from putting their best in their expected obligations.

Even though the Federal Government this time said that it has set aside the sum of 4.8 billion as Residency Training Fund, much needs to be done to encourage medical personnel from abandoning the nation for

greener pastures.

In their submission, Monye Hassan, Olajide Buowari and Ogbanna Omolawal explained that medical migration is a global challenge though its impact may be more evident in low and middle income countries mainly because of the attendant brain drain. For instance, in Europe a study on the emigration of early-career doctors in Ireland reported that among 232 early career doctors 57 percent had intentions to emigrate but return later in life.

According to them, "In developing countries, the problem of medical migration is even more evident. With 54 percent of its graduates working hard abroad, mainly in the United States of America and graduates with the highest academic achievements are the most likely to emigrate. In Ghana, 60.9 of physicians had left the country, with 50 percent emigrating within 45 years of graduating. Similarly, in Zimbabwe, 68.7 percent of physicians surveyed had migrated after working for less than five years. Indeed, an analysis of 10,819 doctors from 28 sub-Saharan African countries showed a more than 50 percent increase in emigration from Sudan to the United States over a decade."

Before the 1970s, Nigeria had recorded her first cohort of

*Continued on page 31*

NEWS

# Lalong, Wase, APC candidates embark on consultation visit

By PALANG KASMI

Plateau State Governor Simon Bako Lalong and the Deputy Speaker House of Representatives Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase have led other candidates of the APC from the Southern Senatorial Zone for a consultation visit to the Zone.

The team who arrived Shendam, the Headquarters of Plateau South Senatorial District last Friday disclosed they went for consultations ahead of lifting of the ban on campaigns for the 2023 general elections.

Governor Lalong, alongside his wife Regina, and other APC candidates were received by a mammoth crowd including party supporters, stakeholders and members.

Also on the team were House of Representatives Candidate for Mikang/Kwanpaan/Shendam Federal Constituency Chief John Dafaan, and the Langtang North and South Candidate Hon. Vincent Velmak.

The first port of call was the Palace of the Long Gamai of Gamai land, HRH Martin Shaldas III where the Governor and the team paid homage to the first class traditional ruler and informed him that they were in Shendam to consult with stakeholders from the Senatorial District on the preparations for the 2023 elections.

"Although campaigns have not been lifted officially, we are making consultations.

I am not campaigning but we realise that for anything we are doing, we must first seek the blessing of our Royal father to move ahead, so that is why we are here", Lalong said.

The Governor who is also the Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign



Lalong

Council called on the Royal father to continue to work with security of his domain for a smooth political transition in 2023.

He thanked the Traditional Ruler for his prayers, support, and blessings over the years which he said has paved way for him to succeed in leadership and serve the State and Nigeria at various levels.

The Long Gamai welcomed the team to his Palace, and assured them of his prayers

and support.

The Royal Monarch commended them for working for the peace, progress and development of the State, Southern Zone and his domain.

He congratulated the Governor on his appointment as DG APC Presidential Campaign Council and thanked him for his swift action against recent attack on his Palace by hoodlums who wanted to instigate crisis using religion and other

antics.

Shaldas while wishing the Governor and other contestants the best in their political quest, appealed to them to always put the interest of the people at heart and work for the progress of the State.

At the APC Zonal Party office in Shendam, Governor Lalong thanked the party faithful for their support and cooperation during past elections including the Primaries where they emerged candidates for the the party.

He maintained that his emergence as Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council is a great boost for the fortunes of the party in Plateau State which enhances the chances of winning elections and drawing from the dividends of democracy in the next dispensation.

Lalong urged them to sustain their consultation from house-to-house and deepen the party's achievements which are spread not only in the Southern Zone but all across the State.

The Governor also appealed to the APC members and the citizens of the State to shun all forms of divisive tendencies using religion, ethnicity and political interests which are very inimical to development.

## PLSG to work with agencies for quality health care

By Dumah Randon

Plateau State government said it would continue to work with health agencies in the state to provide quality health care for its citizens.

Governor Simon Lalong gave this indication while playing host to the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors, ARD led by their President, Dr Ishaya Dari who paid him a visit at Government, House,

Rayfield, Jos, Friday.

Represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, Lalong explained that as a way of reciprocating the gesture of competence, hard work and dedication to duty of doctors and other health workers both in the Ministry and other agencies, government will provide the enabling environment for them to work.

The Governor appreciated the Association of Resident Doctors for chosen to serve their people in different communities despite the mass exodus of doctors for greener pastures.

Governor Lalong assured the ARD that government has taken note of their request and would respond appropriately.

President, Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors, Dr Ishaya Dari had commended the Lalong administration for ensuring the completion of some health projects embarked upon by the last government in addition to the establishment of two General Hospitals each in the 3 Senatorial zones of the state as well as the priority given to the welfare of doctors.

Dr expressed delight for the commencement of residency training at the Plateau Specialist Hospital noting that the benefits of such programs will go a long way to improve health care delivery in the state.

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, he said has acknowledged state among the few in the country for establishing the Covid-19 Test Centre with the capacity to test and confirm diagnosis of infectious diseases.

He appealed to government to ensure the implementation of the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure for doctors and the residency training in family medicine as well as Obstetrics and Gynecology.

## Foundation empowers 200,00 persons

From GYANG PAM, Yola

An intervention programme by Ennamu foundation and coinciding with its two years since coming on board has not only empowered over 200,000 persons just as it empowered about 60,000 person during the celebration of its two years of existence.

At a massively attended distribution of food and non food items to residents of the State in Yola the Adamawa State capital recently, the distribution took place at the Mahmud Ribadu Square.

During the flag off Emmanuel Nathan Musa stated that the foundation has touched lives in areas of Health Education, Sports, vocational skills and many other areas of Human interest. Considering the plight of the common people, the latest empowerment package will ameliorate the people suffering.

"Today, we are unveiling a special intervention

programme which will in no small way ameliorate the hardship of our people across the state", says Dr.



Adamu

Emmanuel.

Dr. Nathan disclosed that the assorted food and non-food items running into hundreds of tons was targeted at reaching out to about sixty thousand beneficiaries across the state.

The lorry loads of items displayed were meant for Adamawa Central Zone with the Adamawa South and North which is to follow later. Dr. Emmanuel revealed his concern for especially victims of economic misfortune suffered by families on account of the inglorious Boko Haram insurgency, hunger, starvation and the inflation in the country.

He equally stated that his foundation is involved in the construction of 200 houses and another 200 public toilets across the state for the benefit of vulnerable people. Ten thousand assorted text books were distributed to 1570 orphans, Nathan disclosed.



### Petrol will cost N462 per litre without subsidy

Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) has said that without the federal government's subsidy on Premium Motor Spirit (petrol), consumers would be paying N462 per litre.

Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs Division, NNPC Ltd, Mr. Garba Deen Muhammad, in a statement recently, explained that presently the government was paying N297 per litre for the 68 million litres of petrol consumed daily.

### Yellow fever hits, 14 die, 1,179 cases in 35 states

A total of 1,179 cases of yellow fever and 14 deaths were reported from 35 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) between January 1 and July 31.

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), in its situation report, said 416 local government areas were affected.

It said that the cases were reported thus: Abia (36), Adamawa (18), Akwa Ibom (9), Anambra (84), Bauchi (38), Bayelsa (13), Benue (24), Borno (100), Cross River (26), Delta (8), Ebonyi (27), Edo (14), Ekiti (29), Enugu (67), FCT (5), Gombe (14), Imo (43), Jigawa (81), Kaduna (8), Kano (4), Katsina (81), Kebbi (21), Kogi (15), Kwara (21), Lagos (4), Nasarawa (24), Niger (25), Ogun (25), Ondo (62), Osun (19), Oyo (73), Plateau (45), Rivers (23), Sokoto (16), Taraba (33), Yobe (31) and Zamfara (13).

The report said: "Fourteen deaths were recorded from suspected cases in Abia (1), Bayelsa (1), Benue (1), Imo (1), Kaduna (1), Katsina (2), Kebbi (1), Taraba (2), Yobe (1) and Zamfara (3)."

### Liz Truss replaces Boris Johnson as UK Prime Minister

After weeks of heated and divisive party leadership contest, Britain's Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, has defeated Rishi Sunak, a former finance minister, to become the new leader of the governing Conservative Party, taking power as the next prime minister.

The announcement on Monday brings the Boris Johnson leadership era to an end, and sees Truss assume power at a time when the country is facing a cost-of living crisis, industrial unrest and a recession.

Boris Johnson who was forced to announce his resignation in July after months of scandals would travel to Scotland to meet Queen Elizabeth to officially tender his resignation.

### INEC set to publish list of registered voters

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has concluded arrangements to publish a comprehensive list of all registered voters in the country.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, disclosed this on Tuesday in Abuja at the Stakeholders' Validation Meeting for the 2022 Revised Framework and Regulations for Voting by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Yakubu added that the list would integrate the fresh registrants in the recently concluded Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) in the existing register of over 84 million voters.

### Queen Elizabeth II dies at 96 years

Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-serving monarch, has died at Balmoral, aged 96, after reigning for 70 years.

Her family gathered at her Scottish estate after concerns grew about her health earlier on Thursday. The Queen came to the throne in 1952 and witnessed enormous social change.

Her eldest son, Charles, becomes King Charles III, and the Head of State for 14 Commonwealth realms.

He said the death of his beloved mother was "a moment of great sadness".

In a statement, His Majesty the King said: "We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished Sovereign and a much-loved Mother. I know her loss would be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world."

### Protesting oil workers demand action against pipeline vandals

Abuja-oil and gas workers on Thursday protested the rising level of crude oil theft in the Niger Delta and demanded that the Federal Government took action against the vandals of pipelines.

Marching under the aegis of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, PENGASSAN, in Abuja, the workers said companies in the industry were struggling to stay afloat due to loss of revenue.

Addressing members at the Unity Fountain, the President of PENGASSAN, Comrade Festus Osifo, said the group decided to stage the protest after several engagements with stakeholders and the security agencies failed to stem the tide.

Compiled by Hosea Nyamlong

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Curbing the menace of rape in the society

*There's a gross reduction in the moral values in our society. Moral decadence signifies a fall or collapse in the societal values, norms, beliefs and ethical standards, CHRISTY TAMAI writes*

**R**APE is seen as an unwanted sexual intercourse that involves the use of force, and the lack of consent. It is a form of sexual penetration, committed by perpetrator against the victim without their consent.

Rape is a major public health crisis that significantly hinders development and education of girl child, particularly in Africa including Nigeria where the practice is high (National Population Commission 2009). One looks at the occurrence as though they have become our normal, acceptable way of life, what has become more dangerous is that the victims of this evil mostly young men, women as well as children are either killed after being raped or left to social discrimination and stigmatization. The constant rise in the number of reported cases of rape makes it more of a national disaster, which a school of thought associates with moral decadence and poor parental upbringing. Though nothing justifies the condition of being rape, but our parents must be alive to their responsibilities for instance dressing mode of most parents run short of decency, let alone their children, some parents encourage their children to wear skimpy and seductive dresses to the public glare.

Nigeria has reported seven hundred and seventeen rape cases between January to May, of which some are brutally to death, according to premium Times 15 June, 2020. Despite the widespread outcry over the raising cases of rape and defilement in Nigeria and Plateau state in particular there seems to be no end to the nemesis. There is no day in the country without a reported case of sexual violence especially rape and defilement of a minor.

Sexuality issues have been one of the most fundamental aspects of human existence, which is directly related to both the physical and psycho social wellbeing of an individual. Psychologists have always believed that boys and girls achieved sexual maturity early in adolescence and physical maturity by the end of it. One of the fundamental human rights, according to the United Nations education scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO, 1978) is the right to protection from harmful influence, abuse and exploitation. United Nations children Emergency fund UNICEF (1989) reiterated that its mission is to advocate for the protection of Children's rights, especially children under the age of 18 years, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potentials. These rights among others include: the right to protect Children from rape, sexual harassment and abuse, and right to be educated.

The most vulnerable sub-group in the society today are the girl children and women, rape as defined as unwelcome oral, anal or vaginal penetration achieved through the use or threat of force. Eradicating sexual violence is an issue that modern society should make a top priority. Why do men rape is a question that is been asked every day. All men feel sexual desires, but not all men rape. Rape is viewed as an unnatural behavior that has nothing to do with sex, and one that has no corollary in animal world.

Undoubtedly, individual rapists have a variety of motivations, a man rapes because, for instance, he wants to impress his friends by losing his virginity or because he wants to avenge himself



against a woman who has spurned him. How could a rape take place at all without sexual motivation on the part of the rapist? Is not sexual arousal of the rapist the one common factor in all rapes, including date rapes, rapes of children, rapes of women under anesthetic and even gang rapes committed by soldiers during war.

The victims of rape find it hard to give details, they are emotionally scarred by their experience, they become anxious about fear of threat to death by the rapist, and even about going out in public, they find it hard to sleep and even concentrating on what they are doing. Rape victims suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder in which symptoms such as anxiety, memory loss, obsessive thoughts and emotional numbness linger after a deeply disturbing experience.

Psychological implication, women who report rape to police are usually sent to an emergency unit in the hospital for immediate medical examination. Many suffer from nightmare and others from psychological trauma which needs a therapy and counselling to restore her self-worth. Rape can involve a wide range of sexual activities including oral sex, penetration by fingers, penis, or any other dangerous objects. Poverty is the cause of hawking while sexual abuse or rape is caused by many factors such as cultural conflict, sex myth, innate sexual drive, drugs, exposure to sexual modernity, rituals, indecent dressing and inadequate law etc.

The primary emotion expressed by victims is one of fear, most of them usually say that they felt they were going to be killed or badly injured. When an individual is subjected to extreme stress, psychological mechanism are evoked in an attempt to cope with this stress. Women who have reported to Police have a number of immediate task to perform, the making of statement, identifying the alleged offender, repeatedly recalling the details of the assault, under taking a

medical examination.

State actors need to rise to the occasion and deal mercilessly with rapists in order to curtail the crime in the society. There are perceptions that rape cases have been under reported especially to the Police, because the victims feels the offender often don't face the dictates of the law against the crime even when reported to the Police. Therefore, the State needs an action policy and legislation that will curb the menace of rape in Nigeria and also ensure that victims get the justice they deserve. The Police handling rape needs to jail the rapist and charged the case to court to be given quick hearing, thereby restoring confidence in the minds of victims. If rapists are caught and jailed on time, it can serve as a form of deterrence to future offenders.

The relevant law enforcement agencies must double their fight against rape, and the sales and consumption of drugs that push offenders off the cliff of sanity.

The fight against the sales of cocaine, crack, tramadol, marijuana and other substances must be intensified, if the fight against rape and rapists must be won.

Parents have critical roles to play, sex education should not be viewed as immodest, parents should teach their children the real names of genital organs and not phony names. Children should be taught that some parts of their bodies are private and should be treated as such, anybody that trespasses should be reported to the parents. Teach your children early particularly the male child from age three (3) that rape is an unacceptable act and it has dangerous consequences. It's high time you warned your daughters or Sons not to sit on anyone's lap, no matter the situation including Uncles. Parents should find out what type of game or play their children do because young people abuse themselves sexually. Once your child complains about a particular person don't keep quiet

remember, you are the parents who will raise future parents. Educate carefully about the current values of sexuality because if you don't the society will teach them wrong values.

Parents, churches, mosques and the community needs to educate their children on sex education and the danger of rape, instilling these teachings in their minds, again parents must device engaging model to keep their children and wards busy, occupied and focused. They must equally guide their children aright in the choice of friends because "evil communication corrupts good manners". Likewise, an idle mind is the devil's workshop.

Indecent dressing on the other hand is the improper and provocative way of dressing relative to the society or culture of the youths. Indecent dressing is morally unacceptable, is any form of dressing that does not conform with the acceptable moral standard of decent dressing. Lack of virtuous and good moral upbringing is responsible for the attitude of female folks that dress to show off parts of their bodies, such as the breasts, buttocks, or even underwear that need to be covered, this practice is contrary to the acceptable norms and values of the society. These dress patterns show the extent of moral decadence in the society of our time.

The way you dress is the way you will be addressed. It's safer to dress modestly and do not attempt to invite or attract unnecessary attention to yourself because of your style of dressing. Dressing halfway, naked in the name of fashion can expose one to the risks of rape. The time to act is now, contribute your own quota towards the fight against rape and rapists. Let's all become voices that challenge the unacceptable act of rape.

**CHRISTY TAMAI, Ministry of Information and Communication, Plateau State**

## SUNDAY FEATURE

**Abandoned to die: Lady begs for food, unsettled hospital bills**

*A man named Donald Sabastine, an indigene of Adamawa State is at large after abandoning a lady he impregnated named Asabe Sawalda at Bingham University Teaching Hospital (BUTH) Jos, Plateau State for over three months now. This development has resulted in the victim accumulating bills without any hope of settling this hospice. The pathetic situation of this lady calls for help from well meaning Nigerians to salvage her from being held "captive" by the sanatorium until all the incurred bills are settled. JENNIFER YARIMA writes.*

**I**T'S sad to know that some people take pleasure in humiliating others not for any fault of theirs. The much talked about excellent humanity values in inbuilt in most individuals seem to be vanishing, giving room for only conditional love which brings our selfish interest that makes us come to the aid of people at will. The question still remains, where is this applauded distinguishing humanity in us?

The sad and pathetic story of this young lady who is presently left stranded has sent shivers down one's nerves wondering whether true love really exist in our contemporary society. One tends to believe a writer who says verbal expression of love to someone is not convincing enough because it has to be matched with action that is touchy. In the case of Asabe Sawalda, the excitement that comes with the arrival of a new born baby into a family has for now eluded her as she has been left stranded with the new baby in the hospital with no one coming to their aid.

The ordeal of Asabe Sawalda who also hails from Adamawa State started when she fell in love with one of her lecturers at Federal Polytechnic, Adamawa where she was a student of International Relations. According to her, they had dated for about two years but quite unknown to her; he was planning to marry another lady aside her. "I submitted myself to him but little did I know that he was just playing pranks on me. He put me in the family way and deceived me that his parents reside in Jos, he therefore quickly brought me here and dumped me among our tribal people and disappeared."

This lady was shocked to realize after a while; this false lover of hers had his white wedding sometimes back in January which she didn't know. This shocking revelation came to her when her supposed to be in-laws pressured him to send some money to her which he reluctantly offered two thousand naira for her upkeep. What can that do in the midst of this harsh economic situation we are facing in our country today?

When certain relationships are a threat to your life, you can quit is the advice always given to vulnerable individuals dating. Certain people including some parents might advice one to stay in this faulty relationship for obvious reasons associated to name calling or the fear of whom else would one marry after this nasty experience? So the best option others would postulate is to endure such a toxic affair.



**Asabe Sawalda**

This young lady was left at the mercy of her neighbours who showed her kindness by assisting her with what to eat as she had gone to bed severally without food. The man never bothered to buy the necessary delivery kids that were required for the admission of pregnant mothers by

most hospitals.

She was rushed to a nearby clinic when she was in labour but unfortunately she needed to be attended to by a bigger health facility and that was how she found herself at Bingham University Teaching Hospital (BUTH), popularly known as

Jangkwano, where her life and that of the baby were eventually saved.

"When I was caught up with labour, he refused to show up and I was left between life and death because there was no one to help. I am an orphan who only has siblings but not in Jos to help me. I was left struggling in labour for three days before my neighbours came to my rescue". They are the reason why she's alive today.

Asabe delivered a baby girl on 4th June, 2022 and since then; she has been in the hospital because the mother and the baby's bill had accumulated to about two hundred and thirty four thousand, one hundred and forty naira only (234,140.00). This figure was disclosed to us by Dr Amaku Chiemezie, the acting CMAC of the hospital.

It might interest you to know that this lady survives in the hospital base on the goodwill of people who have heard her pathetic story and have decided to come to her aid. "I sometimes go hungry or eat groundnut if I have little money to buy that". All efforts to reach Donald by the management of the hospital proved abortive.

The leadership of Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) Plateau State chapter is appealing to well meaning Nigerians on behalf of Asabe who is stranded in the hospital to come to her rescue to offer help either in cash or kind to enable her reunite with her people in Adamawa state, Nigeria.

This unfortunate situation this young lady found herself should be an eye opener to other young girls. Before engaging into serious relationships therefore, it requires that one makes thorough background checks to avoid either being victims in the hands of ritual killers or a punching bag in an abused marriage.

Life can be better again for any lady that makes such mistake only if you are determined to succeed. Asabe currently has two carry over papers to rewrite after her graduation from school and here she is in the wrong hands. She desires to make up her papers if God helps her to come out of the mess she found herself. It will take the grace of God for this lady to make up for the lost times since she has an added responsibility of a motherly role.

I request that this man wherever he is should avail himself or else nemesis will catch up with him if her God fights squarely for her. Further investigation revealed that he is studying a Masters Degree programme in one of the tertiary institutions in Nasarawa state.

Recently, the United Kingdom launched a Visa and work scheme. A list of universities and countries was given. If you graduated from any of the universities, you qualify to apply. If you do not, you do not qualify to apply. Nigerian Universities were left out... I did not wonder why. I know why. It is called employability. A lot of our graduates from the Nigerian school system are half-baked for many reasons and it is not the fault of any country that chooses to leave out Nigerian graduates. It simply means that we have to put our house in order.

Some of our graduates come out of school half-baked or even unbaked because certificates are bought and sold like commodities in many cases. They know next to nothing about their disciplines and if they are employed because they have one powerful uncle or the other, it is Nigeria that suffers because they cannot give what they do not have. Lack of professionalism and mediocrity as well as many catastrophic consequences result from these academic outcomes. It is affecting us at home and abroad.

I will not throw the baby with the bad water. There are still a number of schools that put their foot down and insist on high standards. You take it or you leave. We marvel in the quality of graduates that they churn out based on performance. However, there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the education sector to address this anomaly and all the stake holders must put their hands on deck if we are to salvage our declining educational level.

#### The death of meritocracy

We live in a society where mediocrity is celebrated and meritocracy is downgraded most of the time. It is not about what you have upstairs but whom you know. The western society places premium on certificates that have been earned and skills that can be demonstrated and not just paper qualification. In our own case, we are neither here nor there. If there is a vacancy, it is not the person who earned a first class in that area of his or her expertise and can demonstrate same that gets job, rather it is the nephew of the MD, the candidate of the Minister and the sister-in-law of the Senator. Why then do we think that students will strive to work hard and apply themselves to education? This systemic injury creates a laid-back attitude in students who hear of these and see the consequences of this mediocrity in the lives of colleagues who have graduated.

#### Glorification of money culture

We glorify money and make it a culture. From buying admissions that, students are not qualified for to selling jobs. We create the environment where students question the rationale of working hard for good grades. Why should I burn the midnight candle and make good grades only to come out and buy a job? This is the same culture that pushes students to engage in advanced fee fraud and prostitution instead of studying, simply because society values the rich illiterate above the poor, and educated. In essence, our value system, where money is placed over and above education is filled with people who are rich but in the area of formal and informal education, no substance. When that type of person makes his or her way into politics, it will be foolhardy to expect education to be a priority area of development for

him or her.

#### Social media

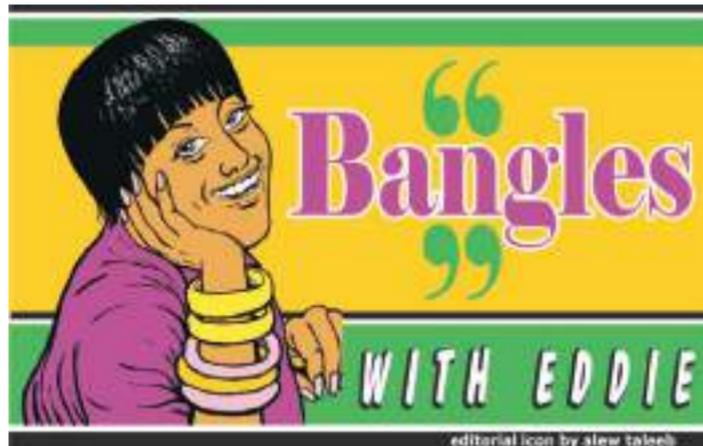
The face of Janus, the two edged sword. Social media contributes productively to learning and education. However, it steals from our education. A lot of students spend study time surfing the internet from one social media handle to the next. This translates into poor quality graduates who can barely speak English not to mention holding their own in their discipline. When one does not master a discipline he or she has spent years studying, how can he or she attain expertise in that area?

homework for them and buy certificates for them.

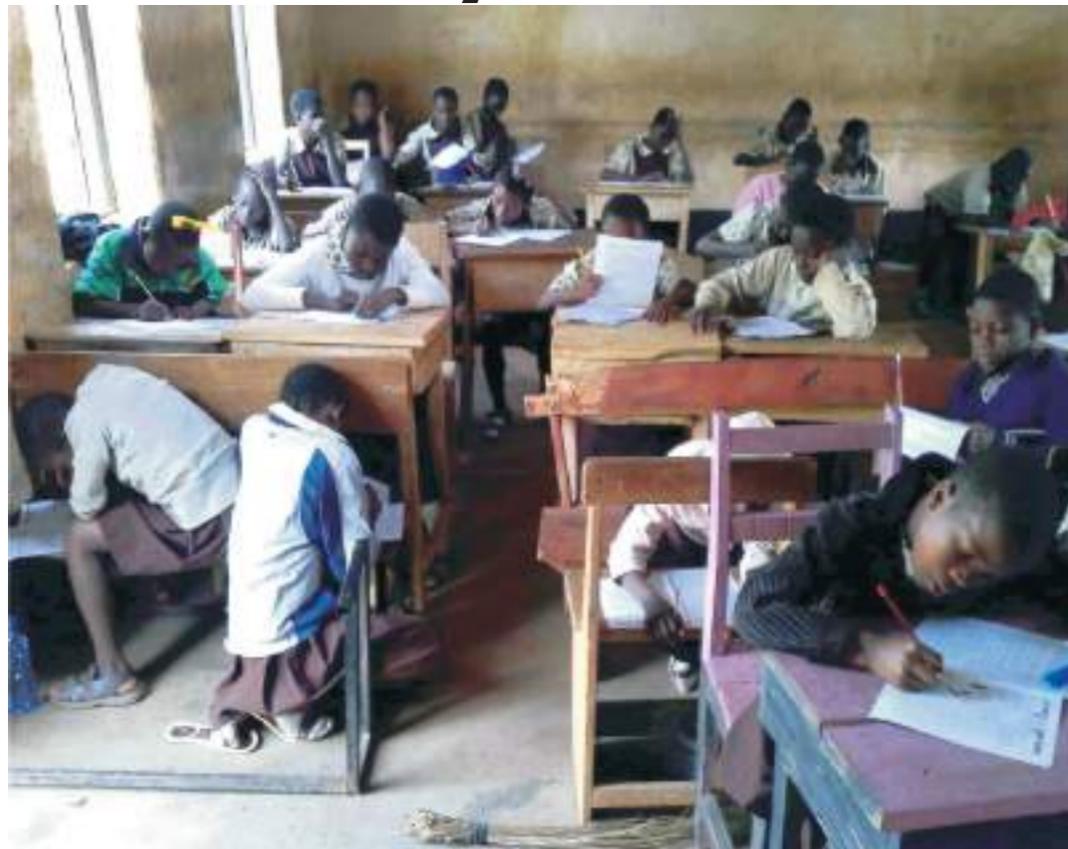
The following is food for thought. The Universities that make the list for the UK visa and the countries they come from do not have two heads.

New UK Visa Exempts Graduates From Nigerian Universities, by Afeez Hanafi, Daily Trust, Fri 06 May 2022 15:47:51 GMT

The United Kingdom is set to commence issuance of a new visa that allows holders of bachelor degrees, masters and doctorates to travel to the country and work in



## The steady decline of education



This is how mediocrity is created and how society grows southwards.

#### Teachers and Parents Association

This group is very pivotal in uplifting and safeguarding the standard of our education. I have heard that parents do homework for their children. What is that? Love? A child gains deeper understanding by doing his own homework. The child learns to face intellectual challenges. He or she develops confidence in the subject matter in question. When a parent does a child's homework, he or she is depriving that child of the opportunity to grow the skills mentioned. This is also a subtle way of teaching children how to cheat at examination, add to that, parents buying their children results.

#### Government vs ASUU

The biggest responsibility for the state of our education lies with the Government. What the government does in terms of policy formulation and implementation will go a long way in developing the educational sector. University strikes have remained unshakable. Students spend up to six years for a four-year course because of strikes. Sometimes, it is the lecturers who sell grades for sexual favour in the form of good grades and sometimes it is the students who seduce these lecturers. At the end of the day, the students bear the biggest brunt when they come out of the university, half-baked or unbaked. Add to that, a background where parents do

fields such as science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The visa allows applicants to relocate to the UK without a prior job offer or sponsorship but some of the requirements exempt those who graduated from Nigerian universities. UK is one of the choice destinations for many Nigerians seeking to relocate abroad. The new visa policy, which is expected to take off on May 30, requires prospective applicants to have graduated from top 50 schools featured in renowned world university ranking. According to the UK Minister of Safe and Legal Migration, Kevin Foster, the "High Potential Individual" visa route is targeted at attracting high-skilled foreign university graduates, who will be allowed to work and stay in the UK for two or three years. On the expiration of the visa, the holders can switch to "permits under the skilled worker, start up and innovator, exceptional talent, or scale up route" for continued stay in the UK. Checks by Daily Trust, however, revealed that no Nigerian university features among the top 50 universities in the latest reports of the three global university rankings recognised by the UK government.

The government said the list would be compiled annually and would comprise institutions included in the list of "the top 50 universities in at least two of the following ranking systems." The ranking systems are: Times Higher Education World University rankings, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University rankings and

the Academic Ranking of the World Universities.

Furthermore, the applicants must have been awarded a degree, equivalent to "not less than UK bachelor's degree." "The new High Potential Individual route will make it as simple as possible for internationally mobile individuals who demonstrate high potential to come to the UK. It will enable those who have already demonstrated their potential through academic achievement to come to the UK without a prior job offer," Foster said in a statement. Applicants are also required to show the equivalent of at least £1,270 in their bank account for a continuous 28-day period not later than 31 days prior to making the High Potential Individual visa application. The statement further read, "If you've been resident in the UK for more than 12 months, you might not need to meet this requirement. Graduates with a bachelor's or a master's degree will be given a two-year visa. PhD or another doctoral level graduates will get visas valid for three years. This visa can only be granted once and will not be available to those who have already had Graduate visa. "You will be able to bring your dependants, such as a partner or children under the age of 18, with you. "Partner" refers to either a spouse, civil partner, or unmarried partner. However, unmarried partners must show that they have lived together for at least two years, and that their relationship is genuine, according to reports." The forgoing should have woken

us up to the reality of our educational sector. We are giant of Africa but our Universities are not. Nigerians send their kids to school abroad. It is a shame because anytime they travel; their Nigerian passports are on them like white on rice. It is a thing of pride if we can develop our educational system instead of sending our children abroad and enriching the educational sectors of the countries. The rich send their children to school abroad but who says that other countries cannot send their children to Nigeria to go to school? We have all it takes if only we can sit up straight and put our foot down, roll up our sleeves and go to work on our educational sectors. I will make a few suggestions:

#### Finishing school

My Editor sent me a video of a graduate who spoke worse English than a complete illiterate man. He spoke his English with all confidence and it was hilarious. I dare say that as a fresh graduate, he would soon start nursing ambitions of going to work abroad and end up as a caregiver. What is the way forward? A finishing school. An employability finishing school that would take a half-baked graduate and put him through the fire and panel beat him into shape for the local and international labour market. This can be a business or private sector initiative. This can be done in partnership with some universities on the global ranking and even the UK Government.

To the brass tags, the government needs to have an introspection about the state of our education. It is not only good doctors that are leaving the country. The lecturers are leaving too. Capital flight is the order of the day in the education sector with parents opting to send their children to neighboring countries. It is time to break the circle of strikes that have been normalized for years immemorial. It is not doing our polity any good when we grapple with mediocrity in every sphere of our polity.

To parents and teachers, do your jobs well. Parents, let your child learn and do his or her homework. Let him or her repeat a class if the child does not do well. Let the child develop intellectually and embrace learning as a way of life for success.

It is in doing our best for our educational sector that we can grow our national intrinsic value as a nation, gain the intellectual respect of other countries and develop solid backbone and capacity for national development and growth. The value of education is sacrosanct and should not be muddled up with national politics or jingoism nationalism.

**W**E have been sharing on this thought, Fear Not, Trust God. Our text has been Isaiah 12:2 which says, **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.** It is interesting that in this passage of scripture, the word salvation is referenced twice; there is a double emphasis on the word salvation.

The word translated salvation in this scripture is the word Yeshua. This is the title of Jesus in His office as Messiah or saviour of the world. This mean we could read this passage of scripture as: God is my Yeshua. Jesus is actually God's remedy for the salvation of mankind. For the deliverance of mankind from every work of darkness whether it is sickness, disease or any kind of threat against the human life or existence.

When God thinks about the salvation of the human race, He thinks Jesus. It is important for us to establish that there is no salvation or deliverance or well-being outside of the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, the word Yeshua is also directly translated as prosperity, welfare, deliverance, rescue or safety. God has literally packaged all that would be desirable for the human being living on the face of the earth along with the redemption of mankind in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, whatever it is that you are going through or whatever the circumstance, according to the word of God, your deliverance or your ability to receive help in that situation is directly tied to Jesus and the work that God sent Him to do upon the face of the earth. Hence, our response should be, 'I will trust and not be afraid'.

God's provision to deliver you from any form of fear you may be going through is in the salvation He has made available to you in Christ Jesus. I love what the Psalmist said in Psalm 34:4, **I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.**

Indeed, we have been talking about the subject of fear because fear is so rampant upon the face of the earth today. People have fears, worries or anxieties about all kinds of things in their lives and you will agree with me that as long as you are living on this earth, you will face challenges all the days of your life. Nobody is exempt from them.

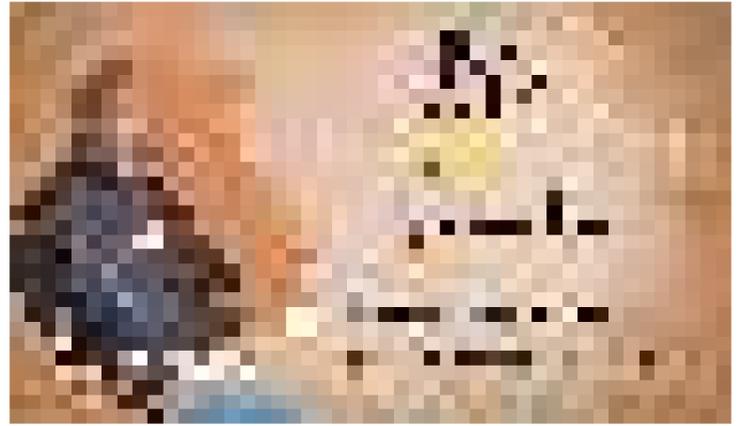
The Bible does not promise us a challenge free life but rather a victorious life over challenges. We are to receive help to get favourable outcomes for every challenge through our faith in the Lord Jesus

Christ. Again, Psalm 34:19 says that **many are the afflictions of the uncompromisingly righteous but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

Now fear is associated to this fallen life. The word of God in 1John 5:19, says; **And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.** The wickedness that this world lies in is directly associated to the sin of our forefather Adam. When he disobeyed God, it opened the doorway for sin to come into the world. And when sin came, death

**sound mind.** Fear is a spiritual force that proceeds directly from Satan because of the sin of mankind against God. However, we thank God that through our Lord Jesus Christ, we have redemption.

We do not have to be slaves to fear. Fear is to be resisted and rejected and we have established that fear is Satan's forerunner and he can do nothing outside of fear. Fear is the devil's tool to establish death and destruction. In fact, the devil can do nothing in the life of a human being; particularly the life of a believer outside of fear. Fear is an assignment



# Fear not trust God 24



concern today, trust God. You may be faced with a need that is bigger than you or a challenge that seems impossible to meet, but you must understand today that there is nothing bigger than God. Understand that you have two choices to make every time you are faced with challenges in life. It is either you choose to trust God and get him involved in the situation through your faith or you choose to yield to the devil and be afraid.

The truth is that fear is trusting the devil and exalting his ability over God's ability. Fear is trusting in the devil's ability to harm you over and above God's ability to protect, defend, help, provide and to be whatever it is that you need Him to do in your life. This is why our Bible text says **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.**

If you want the help, welfare and deliverance that is available to you in Christ, you must make a quality decision to refuse to be afraid. It is your choice to make. God will not ask you to do anything He has not empowered or granted you the grace to do. If He says to you should not be afraid but trust Him, it means He has put in you the capacity to trust Him. Make up your mind that whatever it is you are faced with, you are going to trust God.

In Psalm 56:3 the Bible says **What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.** Let us focus on the fact that it is trusting God that defeats fear. The moment you make up your mind to elevate God's power and His capability to preserve, protect, and provide and to take care of you no matter what you are going through, you literally open the door for God's power to get involved in your life.

When you are faced with terrifying situations and circumstances and the temptation is to panic and fear, it is time for you to make the quality decision to trust God.

came and the curse came on the heels of death and scattered God's original plan.

However, we have been trying to establish the fact that fear is not normal and came as a result of the sin of mankind. It is not a gift from heaven but an assault on the human race. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7, **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a**

from hell to open the door to the life of a human being so that the devil can steal, kill and destroy.

Nevertheless, the Bible tells us in John 10:10 concerning the ministry of the Lord Jesus that **the thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly;** contrasting with the ministry of the devil. Satan cannot fulfil his ministry of stealing, killing

and destroying except he gets a man to yield to fear. Shut down fear and you shut down the operation of the devil in any area of your life.

Satan cannot keep you poor, bound or sick. The will of the devil cannot be fulfilled outside of fear. His methodology therefore is to get a person to yield to the spirit of fear. God's answer to this however, is that we trust him. Trusting God is the antidote for fear.

Whatever is the cause for your

**"The truth is that fear is trusting the devil and exalting his ability over God's ability. Fear is trusting in the devil's ability to harm you over and above God's ability to protect, defend, help, provide and to be whatever it is that you need Him to do in your life. This is why our Bible text says 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. If you want the help, welfare and deliverance that is available to you in Christ, you must make a quality decision to refuse to be afraid. It is your choice to make. God will not ask you to do anything He has not empowered or granted you the grace to do. If He says to you should not be afraid but trust Him, it means He has put in you the capacity to trust Him. Make up your mind that whatever it is you are faced with, you are going to trust God."**



## INTERNATIONAL

# Life and times of Queen Elizabeth II

**The long reign of Queen Elizabeth II was marked by her strong sense of duty and her determination to dedicate her life to her throne and to her people. Writes CHRIS LEVINE AND ROB MUNDAY.**

**S**HE became for many the one constant point in a rapidly changing world as British influence declined, society changed beyond recognition and the role of the monarchy itself came into question.

Her success in maintaining the monarchy through such turbulent times was even more remarkable given that, at the time of her birth, no-one could have foreseen that the throne would be her destiny.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born on 21 April 1926, in a house just off Berkeley Square in London, the first child of Albert, Duke of York, second son of George V, and his duchess, the former Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

Both Elizabeth and her sister, Margaret Rose, who was born in 1930, were educated at home and brought up in a loving family atmosphere. Elizabeth was extremely close to both her father and her grandfather, George V.

At the age of six, Elizabeth told her riding instructor that she wanted to become a "country lady with lots of horses and dogs".

She was said to have shown a remarkable sense of responsibility from a very early age. Winston Churchill, the future prime minister, was quoted as saying that she possessed "an air of authority that was astonishing in an infant".

Despite not attending school, Elizabeth proved adept at languages and made a detailed study of constitutional history.

A reluctant Duke of York became King George VI. His Coronation gave Elizabeth a foretaste of what lay in store for her and she later wrote that she had found the service "very, very wonderful".

Against a background of increasing tension in Europe, the new King, together with his wife, Queen Elizabeth, set out to restore public faith in the monarchy. Their example was not lost on their elder daughter.

In 1939, the 13-year-old princess accompanied the King and Queen to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth.

Together with her sister Margaret, she was escorted by one of the cadets, her third cousin, Prince Philip of Greece.

It was not the first time they had met, but it was the first time she took an interest in him.

Prince Philip called on his royal relatives when on leave from the navy, and by 1944, when she was 18, Elizabeth was clearly in love with him. She kept his picture in her room and they exchanged letters.

After the war, her desire to marry Prince Philip faced a number of obstacles.

The King was reluctant to lose a daughter on whom he doted, and Philip had to overcome the prejudice of an establishment that could not accept his foreign ancestry.

Princess Elizabeth's wedding to Philip Mountbatten brightened the post-war gloom.

But the wishes of the couple prevailed and on 20 November 1947 the couple married in Westminster Abbey.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Philip had become, remained a serving naval officer. For a short time, a posting to Malta meant the young couple could enjoy a relatively normal life.

Their first child, Charles, was born in 1948, followed by a sister, Anne, who arrived in 1950.

But the King, having suffered considerable stress during the war years, was terminally ill with lung cancer, brought about by a lifetime of heavy smoking.

In January 1952, Elizabeth, then 25, set off with Philip for an overseas tour. The King, against medical advice, went to the airport to see the couple off. It was to be the last time Elizabeth would see her father.

Elizabeth heard of the death of the King while staying at a game lodge in Kenya and the new Queen immediately returned to London.

Her Coronation in June 1953 was televised, despite the opposition of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and millions gathered around TV sets, many of them for the first time, to watch as Queen Elizabeth II made her oath.

With Britain still enduring post-war austerity, commentators saw the Coronation as the dawn of a new Elizabethan age.

World War Two had served to hasten the end of the British Empire, and by the time the new Queen set off on a lengthy tour of the Commonwealth in November 1953, many former British possessions, including India, had gained independence.

Her Coronation was the first to be broadcast live on British TV.

Elizabeth became the first reigning monarch to visit Australia and New Zealand. It was estimated that three-quarters of Australians turned out to see her in person.

Throughout the 1950s, more countries hauled down the union flag and the former colonies and dominions now came together as a voluntary family of nations.

Her visit to the US in 1957 was just one of many overseas tours.

But the decline of British influence was hastened by the Suez debacle in 1956, when it became clear that the Commonwealth lacked the collective will to act together in times of crisis. The decision to send British troops to try to prevent Egypt's threatened nationalisation of the Suez Canal ended in an ignominious withdrawal and brought about the resignation of Prime Minister Anthony Eden.

This embroiled the Queen in a political crisis. The Conservative Party had no mechanism for electing a new leader and, after a series of consultations, the Queen invited Harold Macmillan to form a new government.

His remarks caused a furore in the press and Lord Altrincham was physically attacked in the street by a member of the League of Empire Loyalists.

Nevertheless, the incident demonstrated that British society and attitudes to the monarchy were changing fast and old certainties were being questioned.

Encouraged by her husband, notoriously impatient with the court's stuffiness, the Queen began to adapt to the new order.

The practice of receiving debutantes at court was abolished and the term "the Monarchy" was gradually replaced by "the Royal Family".

The Queen was once more at the centre of a political row when in 1963, Harold Macmillan stood down as prime minister. With the Conservative Party still to set up a system for choosing a new leader, she followed his advice to appoint the Earl of Home in his place.

It was a difficult time for the Queen. The hallmark of her reign was constitutional correctness, and a



Late Elizabeth II

further separation of the monarchy from the government of the day. She took seriously her rights to be informed, to advise and to warn - but did not seek to step beyond them.

Two years later, Britain had, in Margaret Thatcher, its first woman prime minister. Relations between the female head of state and female head of government were sometimes said to have been awkward.

One difficult area was the Queen's devotion to the Commonwealth, of which she was head. The Queen knew the leaders of Africa well and was sympathetic to their cause.

She was reported to have found Thatcher's attitude and confrontational style "puzzling", not least over the prime minister's opposition to sanctions against apartheid South Africa.

Year by year, the Queen's public duties continued. After the Gulf War in 1991, she went to the United States to become the first British monarch to address a joint session of Congress. President George HW Bush said she had been "freedom's friend for as long as we can remember".

The Windsor Castle fire contributed to the Queen's "annus horribilis".

However, a year later, a series of scandals and disasters began to affect the Royal Family.

The Queen's second son, the Duke of York, and his wife Sarah separated, while Princess Anne's marriage to Mark Phillips ended in divorce. Then the Prince and Princess of Wales were revealed to be deeply unhappy and eventually split up.

The year culminated in a huge fire at the Queen's favourite residence, Windsor Castle. It seemed a grimly appropriate symbol of a royal house in trouble. It was not helped by a public row over whether the taxpayer, or the Queen, should foot the bill for the repairs.

The Queen described 1992 as her "annus horribilis" and, in a speech in the City of London, appeared to concede the need for a more open monarchy in return for a less hostile media.

The institution of monarchy was very much on the defensive. Buckingham Palace was opened to

visitors to raise money to pay for the repairs at Windsor and it was announced that the Queen and the Prince of Wales would pay tax on investment income.

The Queen was committed to the Commonwealth throughout her reign. Abroad, the hopes for the Commonwealth, so high early in her reign, had not been fulfilled. Britain had turned its back on its old partners with new arrangements in Europe.

The Queen still saw value in the Commonwealth and was deeply gratified when South Africa, where she had come of age, at last threw apartheid aside. She celebrated with a visit in March 1995.

At home, the Queen sought to maintain the dignity of the monarchy while public debate continued on whether the institution had any future.

The Queen faced criticism after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

As Britain struggled to find a new destiny, she tried to remain a reassuring figure, and with a sudden smile could lighten a solemn moment. The role she valued above all was that of symbol of the nation.

However, the monarchy was shaken and the Queen herself attracted unusual criticism after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a car accident in Paris in August 1997.

As the public crowded around the palaces in London with tributes of flowers, the Queen seemed reluctant to provide the focus that she had always tried to do during great national moments.

Many of her critics failed to understand that she was from a generation that recoiled from the almost hysterical displays of public mourning that typified the aftermath of the princess's death.

She also felt as a caring grandmother that she needed to comfort Diana's sons in the privacy of the family circle.

Eventually, she made a live broadcast, paying tribute to her daughter-in-law and making a commitment that the monarchy would adapt.

The deaths of the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, in the Queen's Golden Jubilee year, 2002, cast a shadow over nationwide celebrations of her reign.

But despite this, and the recurring debate over the future of the monarchy, a million people crowded into The Mall, in front of Buckingham Palace, on the evening of the jubilee.

The wedding of Prince William to Catherine Middleton was a happy occasion.

In April 2006, thousands of well-wishers lined the streets of Windsor as the Queen performed an informal walkabout on her 80th birthday.

And in November 2007, she and Prince Philip celebrated 60 years of marriage with a service attended by 2,000 people at Westminster Abbey.

There was yet another happy occasion in April 2011 when the Queen attended the wedding of her grandson, William, Duke of Cambridge, to Catherine Middleton.

In May that year she became the first British monarch to make an official visit to the Irish Republic, an event of great historical significance.

A year later, on a visit to Northern Ireland as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, she shook hands with the former IRA commander Martin McGuinness.

The Diamond Jubilee brought hundreds of thousands of people on to the streets and culminated in a weekend of celebrations in London.

The referendum on Scottish independence, in September 2014, was a testing time for the Queen. Few had forgotten her speech to Parliament in 1977 in which she made clear her commitment to a United Kingdom.

"I number kings and queens of England and of Scotland, and princes of Wales among my ancestors and so I can readily understand these aspirations. But I cannot forget that I was crowned Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland."

In a remark to well-wishers at Balmoral on the eve of the Scottish referendum, which was overheard, she said she hoped people would think very carefully about the future.

Once the result of the vote was known, her public statement underlined the relief she felt that the Union was still intact, although recognising that the political landscape had changed.

"Now, as we move forward, we should remember that despite the range of views that have been expressed, we have in common an enduring love of Scotland, which is one of the things that helps to unite us all."

There were continued strains on the family - including her husband's car accident, the Duke of York's ill-judged friendship with convicted American businessman Jeffrey Epstein and Prince Harry's growing disillusionment with life in the royal family.

These were unsettling moments, presided over by a monarch who demonstrated that she was still firmly in control. There was also the death of Prince Philip in April 2021, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, and her Platinum Jubilee a year later.

On the occasion of her Silver Jubilee, she recalled the pledge she had made on a visit to South Africa 30 years before.

## INTERNATIONAL

## World leaders remember a 'kind-hearted Queen'



WORLD leaders and dignitaries have been paying tribute to Queen Elizabeth II, who has died at the age of 96.

They have honoured her deep sense of duty and her resilience, as well as the Queen's sense of humour and kindness.

**France's Emmanuel Macron** led the tributes, remembering "a kind-hearted queen" who was "a friend of France".

US President Joe Biden first met Her Majesty 40 years ago and described her as "more than a monarch - she defined an era".

Remembering his visit to the UK in 2021 as president, Mr Biden said "she charmed us with her wit, moved us with her kindness, and generously shared with us her wisdom".

"Queen Elizabeth II was a stateswoman of unmatched dignity constancy who deepened the bedrock of the Alliance between the United Kingdom and the United States. She helped make our relationship special," Mr Biden added.

**Chinese President Xi Jinping** offered "sincere sympathies to the British government and people" following the Queen's death, adding: "Her passing is a great loss to the British people."

**Canada** - where Queen Elizabeth was head of state - has seen 12 prime ministers during her reign.

**An emotional Justin Trudeau** - who has known the Queen for decades, first meeting her as a child when his father was prime minister - said she had "an obvious deep and abiding love for Canadians".

"In a complicated world, her steady grace and resolve brought comfort to us all," the prime minister said, adding that he would miss their "chats" where she was "thoughtful, wise, curious, helpful, funny and so much more".

"She was one of my favourite people in the world, and I will miss her so," he said, holding back tears. Her Majesty met Canada's Justin Trudeau several times, including earlier this year at Windsor.

#### 'An extraordinary personality'

Flags have been lowered to half-mast around the world - including at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

**EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** said the Queen's "empathy and ability to connect with every passing generation, while remaining rooted in the tradition that truly mattered to her, was an example of true leadership".

**Queen Margrethe II** of Denmark, now the world's only reigning female monarch, wrote to King Charles to express her

condolences.

"She was a towering figure among the European monarchs and great inspiration to us all," she wrote.

She called the Queen's 70-year reign in difficult and positive times an "unprecedented and remarkable achievement".

**King Willem-Alexander** of The Netherlands - who is Queen Elizabeth's fifth cousin - said he and Queen Maxima remembered the "steadfast and wise" monarch with "deep respect and great affection".

**Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf**, also a distant relative to Her Majesty, said: "She has always been dear to my family and a precious link in our shared family history."

And **Belgium's King Philippe and Queen Mathilde** said she was "an extraordinary personality... who, throughout her reign, showed dignity, courage and devotion".

**German Chancellor Olaf Scholz** paid tribute to the Queen's "wonderful humour" and said in a statement that "her commitment to German-British reconciliation after the horrors of World War Two will remain unforgettable".

**Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recalled his "memorable meetings" with the monarch during two UK visits.

"I will never forget her warmth and kindness," he tweeted. "During one of the meetings, she showed me the handkerchief Mahatma Gandhi gifted her on her wedding. I will always cherish that gesture."

#### Remembered in Ireland for reconciliation

QUEEN Elizabeth II reigned for more than 70 years and for 30 years during that time a vicious conflict was fought in the part of her United Kingdom known as Northern Ireland.

About 3,600 people were killed and more than 30,000 wounded from 1969 until the signing of an agreement in 1998, which largely brought peace between those fighting against British rule in the northern province of Ireland, and those battling to preserve and defend the union with Britain.

The fighting, euphemistically known as "the Troubles", was brutal, bitter, and sectarian.

British troops, the Northern Irish security services, Irish Republican Army (IRA) fighters, and pro-British Loyalist armed groups bombed and shot, killed and maimed, as they turned city streets and rural towns into guerrilla-war battlefields.

For generations of Irish nationalists and republicans, the British Crown and its forces were an enemy responsible for the degradation of centuries of colonial rule in Ireland.

Yet, on Thursday, two Irish soldiers lowered Ireland's tricolour flag to half-staff at a government building in

Saudi Arabia's King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman sent their condolences, with the king describing her as "a role model for leadership that will be immortalised in history". Queen Elizabeth II and India's Narendra Modi at Buckingham Palace in 2015.

#### 'A reassuring presence'

As monarch for seven decades, Queen Elizabeth lived through times of extraordinary change, and this was reflected in several tributes.

Mr Macron observed that she "embodied the British nation's continuity and unity for over 70 years" and former US President Barack Obama observed that she lived "through periods of prosperity and stagnation - from the Moon landing to the fall of the Berlin Wall".

**Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida** expressed his "deep sorrow". "The death of the queen, who led Britain through turbulent times in the world, is a great loss not only for the British people but also the international community," he told reporters.

Irish President Michael D Higgins honoured the Queen's "extraordinary sense of duty", which he said would "hold a unique place in British history".

"Her reign of 70 years encompassed periods of enormous change, during which she represented a remarkable source of reassurance to the British people," he said in a lengthy statement.

**Ireland's Taoiseach, Micheál Martin**, spoke of her reign as one of "historic duration" and described the Queen's passing as "the end of an era". "Her dedication to duty and public service were self-evident and her wisdom and experience truly unique," Mr Martin said in a statement. He also recalled her "many gracious gestures and warm remarks" during a state visit to Ireland in 2011.

**António Guterres**, the UN's secretary-general, said Queen Elizabeth was "a reassuring presence throughout decades of sweeping change, including the decolonisation of Africa and Asia and the evolution of the Commonwealth".

In a statement, he paid tribute to "her unwavering, lifelong dedication to serving her people. The world will long remember her devotion and leadership".

## King Charles first declaration

THE King attends a second meeting of the Accession Council, along with the Privy Council. This is not a "swearing in" at the start of a British monarch's reign, in the style of some other heads of state, such as the President of the US. Instead there is a declaration made by the new King and - in line with a tradition dating from the early 18th Century - he will make an oath to preserve the Church of Scotland.

After a fanfare of trumpeters, a public proclamation will be made declaring Charles as the new King. This will be made from a balcony above Friary Court in St James's Palace, by an official known as the Garter King of Arms. He will call: "God save the King", and for the first time since 1952, the national anthem will be played with the words "God Save the King".

Gun salutes will be fired in Hyde Park, the Tower of London and from naval ships, and the proclamation announcing Charles as the King will be read in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

#### The coronation

The symbolic high point of the accession will be the coronation, when Charles is formally crowned. Because of the preparation needed, the coronation is not likely to happen very soon after Charles's accession - Queen Elizabeth succeeded to the throne in February 1952, but was not crowned until June 1953.

For the past 900 years the coronation has been held in Westminster Abbey - William the Conqueror was the first monarch to be crowned there, and Charles will be the 40th.

It is an Anglican religious service,

carried out by the Archbishop of Canterbury. At the climax of the ceremony, he will place St Edward's Crown on Charles's head - a solid gold crown, dating from 1661.

This is the centrepiece of the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London, and is only worn by the monarch at the moment of coronation itself (not least because it weighs a hefty 2.23kg - almost 5lbs).

Unlike royal weddings, the coronation is a state occasion - the government pays for it, and ultimately

There will be music, readings and the ritual of anointing the new monarch, using oils of orange, roses, cinnamon, musk and ambergris.

The new King will take the coronation oath in front of the watching world. During this elaborate ceremony he will receive the orb and sceptre as symbols of his new role and the Archbishop of Canterbury will place the solid gold crown on his head.

#### Head of the Commonwealth

Charles has become head of the Commonwealth, an association of 56 independent countries and 2.4 billion people. For 14 of these countries, as well as the UK, the King is head of state.

These countries, known as the Commonwealth realms, are: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, St Christopher and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu.



and gained independence from London almost a century earlier.

During her four-day trip, the queen wore green - the symbolism not lost in a county referred to as the "emerald isle".

She laid a wreath at a monument dedicated to those who had fought and died for Irish independence from Britain.

She stepped onto the pitch at Dublin's Croke Park stadium, the home of traditional Irish sport and the scene of a mass killing of 14 people by British forces almost 100 years earlier.

Then at a dinner in Dublin Castle, the former nerve centre of British rule in Ireland, the queen spoke some words in the Irish language.

The queen's use of Gaelic, once banned under British rule, to begin her speech drew an audible gasp of surprise and a spontaneous round of applause from guests in attendance.

The queen's visit - during which she expressed regret for centuries of conflict between the two countries - was a powerful gesture of reconciliation for Britain's bloody past in Ireland.

Her description of the two countries as "firm friends and equal partners", and her many other gestures, had the power to reset relations with Britain for more than one generation in Ireland.

"During those memorable few days eleven years ago, the queen did not shy away from the shadows of the past," President Higgins wrote in his message of condolence.

"Her moving words and gestures of respect were deeply appreciated and admired by the people of Ireland."

#### Healing history

A year after her visit to Ireland, the queen met and shook the hand of former IRA commander and then-Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, the late Martin McGuinness, in Belfast.

That handshake was historic.

The IRA had killed the queen's cousin Lord Louis Mountbatten - the last viceroy of India - in 1979 when they blew up his fishing boat in Donegal Bay, in the republic's northwest. Three other relatives of Mountbatten died in the attack.



*With* **BULUS GAMBO**



# Israel Vibration's Cecil Skelly' Spence takes a bow:



statement. His death comes 2 years after the passing on of Albert "Apple Gabriel" Craig, a co-founder of Israel Vibration, who died in March 2020.

The group has now one member left, Lascelle "Wiss" Bulgin. They have given us songs like Rude Boy Shufflin', The Same Song, My Master's Will, Vultures and We A De Rasta. They have released more than 20 studio albums and toured the world, carrying their message in all four corners of the earth.

Formed in the early '70s after they had met in a rehabilitation clinic where they were treated for their polio infection, Lascelle "Wiss" Bulgin, Albert "Apple Gabriel" Craig and Cecil "Skelly" Spence played on the streets of Kingston for years before being discovered and supported by Hugh Booth, a member of the Twelve Tribes.

Despite their palsy, they recorded important Roots Reggae staples and rose to international success, showing us that nothing can stop you once you put your mind to something. Nothing but death that is.

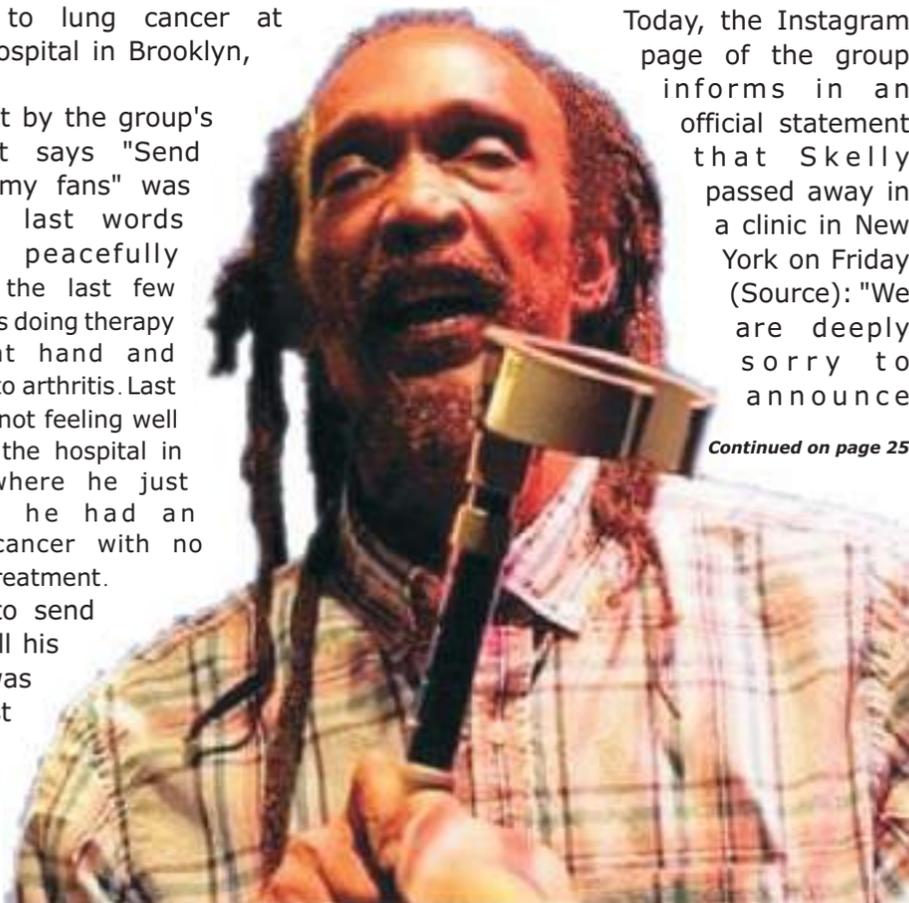
Today, the Instagram page of the group informs in an official statement that Skelly passed away in a clinic in New York on Friday (Source): "We are deeply sorry to announce

*Continued on page 25*

**C**ECIL 'Skelly' Spence, leading founder of world's renowned reggae group Israel Vibration has died, aged 69, family confirms. The singer succumbed to lung cancer at Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn, New York.

A statement by the group's management says "Send love to all my fans" was among his last words before he peacefully rested. "In the last few months he was doing therapy on his right hand and shoulder due to arthritis. Last week he was not feeling well and went to the hospital in New York where he just discovered he had an aggressive cancer with no possibility of treatment.

He asked to send his love to all his fans. That was one of his last words. Please say a prayer to him", reads part of the



# Nollywood actors/actresses who featured in international movies

*The Nollywood industry has experienced major growth in recent years with the quality of the pictures, script and acting. Some of the biggest Nollywood stars have also transcended the Nigerian space and have caught the attention of international producers. Here are the Nollywood actors who have appeared in international movies:*

**Olu Jacobs:** The legendary Olu Jacobs paved the way for other actors and actresses who have the opportunity to be featured in Hollywood movies now. His first international feature was in the 1980's action drama, 'Dog of War'. He played the role of a corrupt customs officer in the movie directed by John Irvin. In 1985, he played the role of Colonel Nsogbu in a fantasy film set in Africa, 'Baby: Secret of the Lost Legend'. He appeared in Roman Polanski's 'Pirates' in 1986. In the movie, he played the role of 'Boomako, a pirate who was supposed to save his kidnapped captain.



**Jim Iyke:** In 2013, Jim Iyke was casted as 'Zuma' in the American romance movie, 'And Then There Was You.' The movie was directed and written by Leila Djansi, a Ghanian-American filmmaker. Other cast members included Brian White, Lynn Whitfield, and Garcelle Beauvais. The movie is about a woman who was trying to pick up the pieces of her life after her husband leaves her for his secret family.



*Continued on page 25*

# JEVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

By  
**GENESIS RIVAS**

# Signs of emotional manipulation

**E**motional manipulation is the complete disregard of someone else's feelings while strategically trying to persuade them to feel otherwise. This type of manipulation can occur in all relationships, including familial, romantic, platonic, and even professional. It's a form of controlling others by deceitfully pressuring them to feel or act in a way that doesn't align with their values and emotions.

**Common types of emotional manipulation**

Some forms of emotional manipulation are more obvious than others, however, the goal tends to be to gain control over someone else's feelings for the other person's benefit.

**Bullying:** One example of emotional manipulation is emotional bullying, which can involve name-calling or constant criticism, such as "are you stupid?" and "how could you think that was a good meal to cook?"

**Guilt:** Using guilt to control or make someone feel less-than is another method of emotional manipulation. Someone saying, "you don't really love me if you choose to hang out with your friends instead of me," or "your choice to not be a doctor is killing mom" are forms of guilt, says Mascardo.

**What are signs of emotional manipulation?**

There is a clear lack of boundaries. The manipulator will repeatedly violate your boundaries and minimize your concerns. For example, if you establish that you don't want to do something or go somewhere, a manipulator will try to push you to do the very thing you don't want to, which is crossing a boundary you established.

**There are feelings of resentment or anger.**

When you notice feeling resentment or anger, it's an indicator that there's something off about your relationship and that your boundaries are likely being violated. You may not feel safe to bring up your concerns, or you may fear that by speaking up, you'll be abandoned or rejected.

Manipulative relationships have the tendency to be emotionally and mentally exhausting because you're constantly compromising your own feelings and desires to adhere to the manipulator's wants. More often than not, you're feeling drained from your relationship instead of feeling fulfilled. And if the relationship does not feel good, the feelings are usually fleeting and short-term. Typically, you can tell if a relationship isn't in good standing if the manipulator is constantly trying to gain power or control of your thoughts and actions.

**You're acting in ways that aren't aligned with your values to satisfy the other person.**



Typically, this happens as a result of the manipulator controlling your thoughts, feelings, and actions. One hypothetical situation could be a friend threatening to stop being friends with you if you don't help them with a time-consuming task. So, despite expressing that you have a lot of things to do as well, you end up assisting them and, in turn, end up having less time for your tasks.

**You begin to isolate yourself from friends and family.**

Emotionally manipulative relationships benefit from isolating you from your support network. A manipulator may get you to think that you two only need each other, which is just another harmful form of control. "The manipulator may criticize your friends or punish you for spending time with your family and loved ones."

**What Are the Impacts of Emotional Manipulation?**

If you are in relationships where you are constantly emotionally manipulated, you will eventually learn to stop trusting yourself and your feelings because you are always being manipulated out of your genuine feelings and response."

Those feelings of insecurity and lack of trust within yourself can also impact the trust and connection of future



relationships. Constantly enduring emotional manipulation can be traumatic and if dealt with for a long

period of time, it can even lead to other mental health issues.

**How can you protect yourself against emotional manipulation?**

The first step is to **identify the problem** and practice healthy boundaries. "Many people are rewarded for being people-pleasers, even if it hurts them to do so," says Mascardo. "But learning about how to establish and maintain boundaries is a necessary skill for any healthy relationship." In other words, setting up boundaries — essentially expressing your authentic thoughts and feelings in hopes of establishing a better, more equitable relationship — can be a pretty effective way to shield yourself from emotional manipulation.

**Next, create distance.** When you're in the midst of an unhealthy relationship, it can be hard to see what's wrong from up close, so try taking some space (emotionally and physically) to gain some perspective on things". That could mean taking a trip away or attending weekly therapy sessions. While this step can look different for everyone, the goal is still the same: to take some time separate from

the other person (be it your partner or friend) to reflect.

**Consulting your support systems,** such as family, friends, or a therapist, can also help identify toxic patterns and potentially prevent you from getting into an emotionally manipulative relationship altogether. It's much harder to get consumed in an emotionally manipulative relationship if you have a healthy community around you that you regularly receive feedback from.

**How to know when a relationship is over, according to a therapist**

And finally, both Porche and Mascardo emphasize the importance of trusting yourself. Chances are if something feels off in a relationship, it probably is, and it's necessary to listen to that gut feeling so that you can evaluate the situation and make changes accordingly. "So much of what I work on with clients in the therapy room is learning to listen to their inner voice," says Mascardo. "It's often an unlearning process because we're often taught that to survive, we must suppress our instincts, ignore our feelings, and distrust ourselves. Trust your gut."



## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Opposition for rebuilding burnt JMM is political

By SYLVANUS NAMANG

**We Kindly Crave the Indulgence of the Reader to Read This Piece to the End**

The All Progressives Congress (APC) in Plateau State has read, watched and listened with keen interest and concern developments arising from the decision by the present APC Government under His Excellency Governor Simon Bako Lalong to rebuild the Jos Main Market which got burnt in February 2002.

Ordinarily, the APC in the State had thought that the decision to bring back to life this most cherished legacy of our heroes past, especially the legendary Joseph Dechi Gomwalk, the first Military Governor of Benue Plateau State who had to pay the Supreme Price for standing up in protecting his people's interest and the Emancipator-in-Chief, the Late Solomon Daushep Lar, who selflessly served Plateau State (Nasarawa State inclusive), deserves to be applauded.

The Jos Main Market which once stood out as one of the most prized and beautiful edifices to behold in the whole of the West African Sub-Region, remains one of the prides of Plateau State and a permanent reminder that the Vision of Joseph Gomwalk, like the University of Jos and the Nigeria Standard Newspaper will live forever.

Unfortunately, the rebuilding programme of this common heritage has been greeted with so much deliberate misinformation, incitement to hatred, bickering, avoidable bitterness, animosity and acrimony.

The question that agitates us, as a responsible and responsive political party, is whether all these are necessary in view of the fact that the state has more to gain from the reconstruction of the Market, which was bombed by enemies of the State over 20 years ago, than leaving it in ruins as a dead Legacy, as wished by a previous Administration that spent 8 years pursuing a disastrous experiment in ethnic agenda-inspired governance in our hitherto solidly united Plateau State.

That was what informed the decision of Governor Simon Lalong, right from the onset, to promise during his electioneering campaign, between 2014 and 2015, to rebuild the Market which used to account for 40% of the State's Internally Generated Revenue, and which the State needs now more than ever before, in view of the dwindling inflows from the Federation Account.

In the early years of this administration, from 2016, upon realising the increasingly dwindling State resources due to global financial trends and fall in crude oil earnings, the Governor embarked on foreign trips which took him to China, Spain, United Kingdom, USA, and South Africa (all non-Islamic countries) to look for willing Investors.

The Rescue Administration contacted major financial institutions and Investors within and outside the Country for the project. Many came with huge enthusiasm and offers which appeared promising, prompting the government to demolish some existing parts of the structure on May 17, 2019, in preparation for the reconstruction. It is important to note that at this point, a lot of politically motivated propaganda were offloaded and circulated against the effort of the Governor, where it was alleged that billions were spent to demolish the structure. This is false and the height of mischief.

The discussions around the reconstruction became stuck upon request from most of the intending investors and financial institutions, who in summary, required Plateau State to give some or all of the following:

- A Bank Guarantee
- Letter of Comfort to own and



Jos Main Market

manage the market for as long as it took them to recoup their investment

c. Guarantee to Off-Take 70% of the shops (in other words, buy them)

b. Bring 20% of the cost of reconstruction aside the land being its equity etc.

These negotiations which involved many experts and key government officials continued with most of the offers putting the state at a disadvantage. Moreover, the government was not in a position to give Bank Guarantee of almost 20 Billion Naira that some of the investors submitted. It could not also pledge to Off-Take the shops when built instead of buyers doing so. Many would remember that the government was committed to settling backlog of inherited salary arrears from the previous PDP administration and ensuring regular salary payments; completing abandoned projects inherited from the PDP; working to improve IGR among others, which meant it could not give in to such demands made by the prospective investors. Looking at other commitments of the government already tied to its monthly income, it was not possible to enter another funding arrangement that will be a huge burden on the state.

Along the line, there was a bidding process that produced a Preferred Bidder, an indigene of Plateau state, whose terms included a Viability Gap Funding of over N7 Billion from the Plateau State Government (PLSG). The Government neither had this resources nor did the Preferred Bidder demonstrate Financial Capacity to be able to raise the required financing for this project, as required under a PPP Model, then being pursued. The selection Process was therefore terminated as no Official Contract Award was issued by the PLSG.

This necessitated the government to explore other alternative Financing arrangements for the Project which eventually resulted in the option of a Joint Venture Finance arrangement with JAIZ Bank, as financing Partners, in 2021.

#### THE JAIZ BANK OFFER

Governor Lalong, despite the several setbacks, kept hope alive and promised to do his best to fulfill his campaign promise to the people of Plateau state, who gave him their mandate in 2015 and 2019, based on some commitments made, including the rebuilding of the Jos Main Market. This determination yielded positive result when the Governor, upon learning of other huge market projects in various Northern, Eastern and South South states funded by Jaiz Bank Plc, decided to engage them on the idea of rebuilding the burnt Jos Main Market. Talks started in 2021 between the State Government and Jaiz Bank. Series of deliberations were held which brought up the following

offer by the investing Bank:

1. The Bank will finance the reconstruction of the market 100%, with the Plateau State Government not required to pay a Kobo, and with all financial risks to be borne by the Bank.

2. The land (over 7.4 hectares) is the equity of the Plateau State Government which it is contributing to the project.

3. No Lease of any sort will be granted to Jaiz Bank. **(The 40 years Lease being touted in the Social Media is a wicked lie).**

4. The project will be done in three phases yielding a total of 4,321 shops which will be shared in the ratio of 60% (Jaiz Bank), 40% (Plateau Government).

5. The 60-40% Ratio is for the purpose of selling out the shops ONLY. The entire market still belongs to the Plateau State Government.

6. Those who buy the shops from either Plateau State Government or Jaiz Bank will own it for a period of 40 years after which ownership returns to the government.

7. At this point, new investors can purchase from the State Government, or the exiting buyers may repurchase on fresh terms.

8. As soon as Jaiz Bank finishes selling its 60%, it will cease to have any interest in the market as those holding the Leases will deal only with the Plateau State Government, through the management of the Market (Jos Main Market Authority) which is a Parastatal of the Government and the Ministry of Commerce.

9. The entire shops will be sold to interested buyers without prejudice to faith, ethnicity, or political affiliations. It is open for the public to invest in.

10. The First Phase will be delivered and commissioned before the end of the tenure of Governor Lalong.

Having gone through the offer by Jaiz Bank, the State Executive Council further subjected the proposal to extensive deliberations and scrutiny and concluded that the deal was doable; a win-win situation for the state and the investor, hence its approval for the negotiations with the Bank to continue. Besides, the Government carried out its due diligence to study the track record of Jaiz Bank in delivering such Projects. It found out that the Bank, in partnership with the Kano State Government and Private Investors, is constructing a Multi-Million World-Class Drug-Only Wholesale Market, the first of its type in Nigeria, at the Kano Economic City. In a similar arrangement, the Bank in partnership with the Niger State Government, is developing three hectares in the Minna City Center to provide for a Shopping Complex, Modern Underground Parks, Modern Filling

Station, Warehouses, Corner Shops, Restaurants and Recreational Centre. It is also doing so in Kaduna and Enugu States among others. Based on above examples of performance profile and experience, the Plateau State Government became optimistic of the Bank's capacity to finance the redevelopment of the Jos Main Market project and to deliver on its promise.

Facts made available to the APC, reveal that contrary to the allegation in the opposition camp that the State Government was in breach of its own laws on Public Procurement, the arrangement with Jaiz Bank Plc is not covered under the Public Procurement Law, since the funding for the redevelopment is not coming from the public purse but is a finance of the project by a Third Party. The scope of application procurement law we learnt is limited to the utilization of public funds to acquire goods and services.

Regrettably, the outcome of this engagement with Jaiz Bank has been twisted, politicised and reported under the caption **"Governor Lalong cedes Jos Main Market to Islamic Bank"**. This has unnecessarily provoked passions and negative emotions, in our citizens conveying the false narrative that the state was parting with its cherished heritage to an "Islamic Bank". While the Government respects the rights of its citizens to raise questions on every decision and make their observations and displeasure known, the Rescue Administration has allayed the fears being raised as nothing in the deal will work against the state. Rather, it is an opportunity to raise a Sleeping Giant once again - the famous Jos Main Market. A Market that has not added any value to the Government and its people since it was burnt down 21 years ago!

A Market like the Jos Main Market that will engender economic activities and commercial intercourse amongst diverse groups is probably the most unifying institution a polarised state such as Plateau can wish for. It is undeniable that when we go to the market, we are on the lookout for the most favourable bargain. When, as a Christian, you go to the market and trader A, a Christian gives you N5,000 as the price of the item you want to buy. Trader B also a Christian, calls N4,800 for the same item, and Trader C a Muslim calls N4,500 as his price, who will you buy from? Would you buy from Trader A, a fellow Christian, despite his higher price, or from Trader C, a Muslim who gave the lowest Price? Think about it.

Just as in the above given scenario, the government approached many sellers of financial products (Banks and Investors) towards the rebuilding of the Market and found their products overpriced. It decided to go for not only the least priced product on offer, but also the best suited to the present

economic realities of the state. This is pure Economics and not a matter for the peddling of base sentiments as some mischief makers are doing.

The All Progressives Congress Government under Rt. Honourable Simon Bako Lalong, being a populist and listening government, determined to fulfil all its promise to the people, went for a Joint Venture Financing package negotiation with JAIZ Bank in 2021. JAIZ Bank under the proposed terms has agreed to provide the entire funding amounting to N9.4 billion for the 4,321 stalls capacity market, with no interest to be charged as the Bank in line with its policy of not charging interest on loans. It only thrives on profits from its investments.

We wish to reiterate once again, that for providing the entire funding, the Bank would take and sell off 60% of the stalls, i.e., 2621 stalls to recoup its investment and leave, while the State Government, which will provide the land for the project as its equity would take 40% i.e., 1700 Stalls.

Those who will buy the stalls, referred to as Off-Takers would pay and use the stalls for 40 years, after which they would remain the property of the Plateau State Government, under the management of the Jos Main Market Authority.

The beneficiaries of the 40 years duration are the stall owners who once they pay, would use such stalls for that period when their rent would have expired before ownership reverts to the Government.

What the APC in the state finds worrisome and disappointing is that despite the clarity in the terms of the proposals, politics has surreptitiously crept into this purely economic engagement and otherwise laudable project.

Dishonest politicians, from the opposition, have for their convenience, given a religious colouration to the issue. Everybody, ranging from the Government to the Investor, the prospective Shop Owners, the Clerics and Plateau Citizens have unfortunately all become victims of the antics of these opportunists.

The Truth is that the deliberately simulated and orchestrated outrage and resistance to the rebuilding of the Market is all about politics rather than religion - often said to be the Opium of the Masses. These dishonest politicians in the pursuit of narrow political ends, at the slightest opportunity, never hesitate to exploit the divisive and combustible issue of religion to fool the people that they are the worthy protectors of "Plateau Heritage."

It is unfortunate that since the advent of this political dispensation, from 1999 and particularly from the 7th of September 2001 Jos Crisis, religion has become an easy and potent tool for the mobilisation and stirring of dissent for selfish goals. The people of Plateau state should open their eyes and refuse to be fooled by dishonest and bigoted politicians masquerading and strutting about as protectors of "Plateau Heritage."

This brand of politics has been laced with the veil of religion where the wool is heavily pulled across the eyes of gullible Plateau citizens, a phenomenon that has unfortunately spread into our churches like a wildfire.

Let us not be misunderstood as accusing the Clergy.

Not at all. We least blame them, as they are just being misled by politicians who don't want them to know the truth and the advantages of this project to the people of the state. Information is either being hoarded from them or is twisted to satisfy the whims and caprices of these renegade and desperate politicians.

This is what has informed Government's decision to embark on a Sensitisation Programme through the

**Continued on page 21**

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Opposition for rebuilding burnt JMM is political

Continued from page 20

People's elected representatives in the State House of Assembly.

Not to forget that the Plateau Diaspora Community, with whom the Governor had a parley in 2016, at which he mentioned the Jos Main Market Project as a priority, but which did not demonstrate its capacity for assistance, contrary to spurious claims in Social Media. By the way, the Plateau State APC is seriously concerned about the genuineness of the intentions of some of the Diaspora Groups. For instance, one **Rwang D, Chall**, the President of the **Plateau Development Association, UK**, in responding to a mere invitation extended by the State Programmes Monitoring and Result Delivery Office (PMRDO) to a Virtual Conference to discuss the details of the Jaiz BANK Proposals on account vicious Social Media propaganda against the Project responded thus:

**"It has come to the notice of PSA UK that there is a meeting to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August with diasporas regarding the redevelopment of Jos Main Market. In response to that, PSA UK denies any affiliation or knowledge of this meeting. Due process was not followed towards inviting the UK diasporas to the said meeting. We want to categorically state that we do not support the initiative and strongly agree with the Honourable House of Rep. Member, Dachung Bagos to alienate ourselves absolutely from this proposed redevelopment.**

Thanks President PSA UK."

Mr. **Rwang D. Chall**, whose affiliation to the PDP is well known, made this statement, which was all over the Social Media, and took the decision to alienate himself and his members absolutely, from the proposed redevelopment, even before a meeting meant to throw light on the details of the project. If this is not politics, then someone needs to tell us what it is!

So while the APC appreciates the offer from the Diaspora Community to raise funds through Crowd Funding, a process that no doubt will be Long-drawn-out, and which, by the way, will not produce Free Funds, but a Loan to the State to be repaid to the Investors on agreed Terms, the APC notes that the Diaspora Community having now had the correct details of the Jaiz Bank Proposal and not having been able to fault it in any way, should redirect their energies to raising the Funds for the redevelopment of other wasting Legacies of the State, such as the Plateau Hotel, GRA Jos; the Rock International Hotel at Lamingo and even the Hill Station Hotel Jos, in order to boost the Tourism potentials of the state.

We had seen the antics of these desperate Losers and Holier Than Thou Opposition Politicians before, in the ongoing construction of the British -America Junction Flyover, when they quoted and insisted despite official clarifications, a bogus sum of N18 Billion as its construction cost, instead of the actual N9,995,949,835.74 Billion initial Cost. The Cost of that Project was only recently varied by N3,598,826,836.10 on account of spiralling inflation and rise in the prices of construction materials since the commencement of the project, bringing the Total Cost of the project to **N13,597,776,671.84**. They don't want to believe these **verifiable facts** because they know what they can do, having ravaged the State Treasury and mercilessly raped the State of Billions of Naira when they held sway under the immediate past administration. It is natural for them to **see themselves in others** and assume that the leadership of the state under the present Governor is made up of thieves and rogues like them.

These crop of conscienceless



Lalong

opposition politicians, who have nothing to lose by inciting the people against all well intended government programmes, have looted the state enough to last them and their children a lifetime, while the ordinary people who need these facilities more are left to groan in want, penury, agony, and a poisonous diet of base sentiments and religious bigotry, having been brainwashed into believing that every action taken by the current administration in the state is either an attack on their faith as Christians or are efforts to undermine their much cherished Christian Faith!

These renegade politicians, and their mentally interned and captive followers have nothing to lose by leaving the burnt market in ruins for the next 100 Years! That explains why they refused to rebuild it in the 8 Years they were in power, even when they had more than enough resources to do so. They are not bothered by the plight of the former shop owners, many whom have died because of losing their means of livelihood, while those who are still alive operate under very deplorable conditions due to no fault of theirs. They sprawl in the adjoining streets under rain and sunshine, a situation that ought to be an issue of grave concern to any responsible Government.

For how long shall the State, which used to be the envy of all be held to ransom by these gang of lousy but vocal minority whose minds are set in **Default Mode** to oppose and condemn anything that is directed at improving the wellbeing of the citizenry?

These Serial Faultfinders' opposition to the JAIZ Bank Funding initiative and the State Government's decision to rebuild the market, is purely politically motivated. Religion is only being ostensibly brought in as a mere smokescreen!

The same JAIZ Bank has executed similar projects in nearly 100 % Christian States of Enugu and Rivers State without its people being Islamised, contrary to what is being widely canvassed by these deceptive opposition politicians in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Plateau State.

These States and even the Federal Government, with the SUKUK Bonds leverage on such Interest- Free Loans for purely Economic benefits and the massive Infrastructural works spread all over the Country. Plateau people need to rise against these deceptive forces of darkness who have continued to hold back the hands of the Clock of the State's progress.

Before the 2019 Elections, the big propaganda by the same shameless forces, who have since run out of the People's favour for misgoverning the State and squandering the Goodwill of

the People, was that Governor Lalong was going to turn Jos North into an Emirate.

The ridiculous Propaganda disappeared into the thin air when the Anaguta Chieftaincy Stool, in the Heart of Jos North, was elevated from a Second-Class Stool to First-Class Status, with another Second-Class Chieftaincy Stool created for the Afizere - speaking people of the same Jos North.

This Political divisiveness has been further demonstrated by the ridiculous court case instituted by the Honourable Member Representing Jos South and Jos East in the House of Representatives, Honourable Dachung Musa Bagos against the signing of the MoU for the reconstruction of the Market and, in which Suit he is contesting the power of the State Government to rebuild Jos Main Market specifically and other markets in the state generally.

The APC wonders what interest the hitherto respected and youthful Federal Legislator, whom we had wrongly assumed meant well for the entire State, has in a Market which is not domiciled in his Constituency of Jos South/ Jos East.

His main reason for seeking an injunction to stop the process of the reconstruction of the Market, apart from the dubious argument that the State Government has no power to Build Markets at all, is that

**" All his constituents who complained to him were unanimous in their opposition to the plan to enter into a joint partnership to build or manage the market as the government does not own the market so it cannot enter into an agreement to rebuild or manage the market"**

If we may ask Hon. Bagos and his misguided recruits, who then owns the Market and is it located in his Constituency as a Member Representing Jos South and Jos East Federal Constituency? If the State Government has no power to build Markets, where did Governor Jonah David Jang get the power to build the Kabong Satellite Market? Does Governor Lalong possess less powers than Governor David Jang because his Government is APC-Led and not PDP-Led? Did I hear someone shout **"Double Standard"** here!

The Jos Main Market from the Law establishing it, is solely owned by the Plateau State Government and managed by the Jos Main Market Authority, a Parastatal owned and funded by the State Government. Its location in Jos North is incontrovertible. It is noteworthy that neither the Jos North Local Government, which has concurrent powers with the Plateau State Government for the building of

Markets nor his colleague Representing Jos North and Bassa Federal Constituency who, incidentally, is also a PDP Member are complaining.

Hon. Bagos we believe has goofed on this matter. He and his ilk are clearly busybodies, meddlesome interlopers and conscienceless opportunists who do not mind exploiting the issue of the market to whip up base sentiments for cheap political ends, to make up for the generally acclaimed poor performance of the legislator as a Member Representing Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency. He hopes this opportunistic move of feeding the populace with tissues of lies and misinformation on the project and mobilising them in self-righteous indignation, will help his re-election bid in 2023!

In his obsession to be popular, even without the correct facts at his disposal, he was rash and hasty in his conclusions about the project. He misinformed his followers on the facts. He overstepped his bounds. Hon. Bagos has certainly placed himself on the spot and is now in the eye of the storm!

Is he convinced he is not doing a gross disservice to the State, whose interest he is supposed to project and protect at the National Level? How does he want posterity to judge him with this level of political brinkmanship on his part?

The APC government in Plateau State has been very tolerant and accommodating to all shades of opinion, which is how it ought to be, but such disposition ought not be passed for weakness.

Majority of stall owners and well-meaning Plateau people have been waiting patiently for the Governor to fulfil his campaign promise and restore the burnt down market to its former glory. Any further delay will cost the State several more Billions of Naira going by the current rate of inflation in the country.

The Government should not be held hostage or captive by selfish politicians who are just out to score cheap Political points with their ranting. They have consistently tried to cross the Red Line by behaving as if they are running a parallel Government in the State. This is unacceptable. The Governor made a covenant with the People of Plateau State to rebuild the Market, in line with the wishes of the majority who must have their way, while the minority have their say. That is what democracy is all about, in case Honourable Bagos needs some lessons in that regard!

For the PDP to subject every well intended government policy to often virulent and intemperate criticisms amounts to unnecessary distractions.

The push for the economic growth of the State deserves the support of all discerning minds. We cannot continue to promote and elevate hatred as an ideology or achievement, as the renegade PDP Politicians keep doing. The state needs the intervention of true Patriots, Statesmen and Religious Leaders across the divides, to bring all disparate and divergent groups together, as our strength lies in our diversity.

In Summary, the Jos Main Market remains a cherished Heritage of Plateau People which no one can take away. It ought to have been rebuilt before now if not for the misplaced priority of the immediate past administration.

From available facts, all the Satellite Markets built at Kabong, Farin Gada, New Market and Katako are less than 50% occupied as the traders there have moved to Terminus, Ahmadu Bello Way, Murtala Muhammed Way, and all adjoining streets to the burnt down Market, which has led to frequent traffic gridlocks and environmental hazards. Traders operate in locations where they are better patronised and cannot be moved by fiat.

To allay the fears of our people, the

State government has sufficiently assured that JAIZ Bank's involvement is purely economic, and that the Bank CANNOT because of its funding of the development of the Market reconstruction **"Islamise"** the State, as is being mischievously peddled by the opposition for selfish reasons.

The Market will ever remain the property of the Plateau State Government as **JAIZ Bank has no business whatsoever in managing it for one day not to talk of 40 years**. The much touted 40 years applies only to the Allottees of the Shops in the Market who reside in Plateau State, regardless of their faith or ethnicity.

To those asking, "why embarking on the reconstruction late in the life of this administration which has only Nine Months to go," the APC wants them to know that Government is a continuum. Moreover, the process and efforts towards rebuilding the Market commenced in 2016 and not 2021. Government only opened discussions with Jaiz Bank in 2021 after all the previously highlighted disappointments by other prospective Investors.

It is on record that the Governor David Jonah Jang Administration awarded several contracts less than two months to its exiting. As a matter of fact, the messy Joseph Gomwalk House renovation contract was awarded 3 (Three) days to the end of the tenure of that Administration on May 28, 2015! In the light of these verifiable facts, the actions of Hon. Bagos and his co-travellers in the PDP amount to **HYPOCRISY TRYING TO HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT!**

The rebuilding of the Jos Main Market now, which would be carried out in Three Phases, unlike every other Proposal, **including the one from the Plateau Diaspora**, would not leave the State with any debt, as the **Government is not putting down a dime in the Project**, other than the land it will contribute as Equity. Jaiz Bank which, an Interest -Free Bank, would recoup its funds from the sale of its 60% share and leave, just as it will do in all the States where it operates, including Rivers, Enugu, Kano, Kaduna, and Niger States.

We should be wary of dishonest politicians whose activities revolve around brainwashing our citizens and keeping them as political captives. We should equally be wary of mischief makers, whose antics can keep our people away from benefitting from the allocation of stalls when the market is finally rebuilt, as this will be to their own disadvantage and detriment.

The Government of Plateau State has assured that priority would be given to previous occupants of the market and authentic traders, as a Joint Allocation Committee would be put in place to ensure Fairness, Equity and Justice.

Our State has lately, unfortunately, been at the receiving end of undeserved negative publicity and ridicule by frequent unpleasant altercations and frontal attacks on a sitting Government. This is obviously Politics at its Worst! The passions which had been inflamed by self-seeking Politicians, driven purely by a Bring Him Down Syndrome, should stop henceforth.

Our Citizens are urged not to allow unbridled passions, sentiments and emotions cloud their sense of reasoning. If these odd behaviours are left unchecked, they would continue to discourage investors from coming into our state, thus impeding the economic growth of the state, and depriving us of badly needed investments, from which our sons and daughters stand to reap bountifully, by way of employment opportunities and other benefits along various value chains.

We should bury the hatchet and move on in the direction of progress as, Together We Stand, Divided We Fall.

**Namang is APC State Publicity Secretary.**



# Reality Bites

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## Seeking justice for Joy Owolabi

**L**AST week, when the news and social media became awash with the gory pictures of how a woman was brutally assaulted by a Personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), it sent cold shivers on the spines of many Nigerians.

The woman Mrs. Joy Owolabi is a shop owner in Jos and the incident reportedly happened on Friday September 2, 2022 at Nanmwa Junction, Abbatior Junction in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The place where the incident happened is just steps away from the location of the NSCDC office in Jos.

Many individuals and groups like have come out to condemn act describing as barbaric, inhuman, uncivilised, and a clear abuse of the fundamental human rights of Owolabi. Many people are aggrieved by the actions of the Officer and wonder if it is acceptable for an Officer enshrined to protect the lives and rights of people should act in such a manner.

"Babarcic, man's inhumanity to man"

According to the Project coordinator of Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), Mrs. Jummai Madaki, the brutal abuse of Mrs. Awolabi "Is barbaric and man's inhumanity to man".

Madaki who wondered why such a scenario should play out against an unarmed civilian said the "Security operative should face double, the penalty allowed by law" adding "It's a clarion call for Plateau State Government to get the Gender Commission established and functioning". She called on women groups to join hands to facilitate the take off of the Gender commission in Plateau state so that there will be a recognised structure to conduct and spearhead such affairs concerning violations of rights.

The WRAPA Project Coordinator however said "We are waiting and watching to see how justice will be done, the reaction of how the leadership of Civil Defence Corp will handle this case".

Chairperson National Association of women Journalists (NAWOJ), Mrs. Nene Dung on her part expressed displeasure on the assault meted out on Owolabi. She said "The woman was



assaulted for no just cause by a personnel of the NSCDC and we condemn this act in strong terms". She however said although the State Command has made a commitment to take necessary action, "This does not absolve the culprit, neither will it deter NAWOJ and other sister organizations from seeking justice for the affected victim".

State Chairperson Stand Up for Women Societies (SWS), Mrs. Grace Gora in a statement Tuesday equally called for Justice for Mrs. Owolabi and said the action of the Security Officer is not only an abuse of power, but abuse of the fundamental human rights to her dignity as a human person.

The Human Rights, Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) also in a statement by its National

Coordinator Emmanuel Onwubiko called for the arrest and prosecution of the NSCDC Officer that perpetrated the act, and advised on introduction of compulsory drug testing, on all armed bearing Operatives of the Nations Security forces by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), owing to the prevalent abuses of hard drugs by most of the security operatives.

The Plateau State command of the NSCDC has in a statement described the action of one of its personnel as barbaric, unfortunate, regrettable, uncivilised and has since directed a full investigation into the matter to ascertain the real identity of the suspect.

The State Commandant, Alexander Bissa Barunde, had through a press statement made available to

journalists in Jos on Monday 5th September and signed by DSC CM Longbit CDPRO, Plateau State Command assured the general public that, he would invoke internal disciplinary mechanism of the Corps to deal with the officer involved in this babarcic act against a harmless and helpless woman.

He had condemned the act and wondered why an officer of the Command will condescend to the point of inflicting bodily harm on a woman under any circumstances and also affirmed the Corps' commitment to the protection of lives and property of the citizens, adding "This is just an isolated case of an overzealous officer and the matter would be pursued to a logical conclusion and the concerned officer brought to book".

While apologising to the family of the woman

concerned, he assured that the matter would not be swept under the carpet but that, decisive action will be taken against the culprit as soon as the outcome of the investigation is made available to him and the culprit identified.

The NSCDC Boss warned that he will not condone any indiscipline from any officers of the Command and charged them to remain civil in approach while carrying out their lawful duties, cautioning his personnel to be professional and to respect the fundamental human rights of the citizens because henceforth, any report of human right abuse by any civilian will attract very stringent punishment.

A call for justice

The statement of the NSCDC is apt and is an indication that the security outfit is appalled by the actions of its Personnel.

However more proactive steps should be taken to build confidence in the minds of Nigerians concerning the credibility of the Security outfit, which is believed to be one of the most civilian friendly. No one should be spared, the next line of action aside issuing a statement is for the identity of the personnel that perpetrated the act to be unveiled so that he is prosecuted and punished according to the law, to serve as a deterrent to other security personnel who abuse power. For an organisation with the motto: Defending the defenceless, the expectation is for officials of the NSCDC to be more civil in the line of duty.

Although there are insinuations at various quotas that the there are pleas for the case to be dropped, this must not be allowed to take place. Laws like the Violence Against Persons (VAPP), Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) and the Nigerian Constitution are in place to protect the rights of Nigerians from such violent actions.

Already Civil Society Organisations (CSO's), women and rights groups are working round the clock to call and secure Justice for Owolabi. Their solidarity, collaboration and action is necessary at this moment, to ensure the case is not buried under the carpet. The reason for the solidarity is to send a very strong message against abuse, violence and brutality which must not be allowed to thrive.

# BUSINESS WORLD



Adebayo

## Poor regulation enforcement and Nigerian businesses

*One of the key functions of government is the regulation of practices in all sectors of the economy. This is to ensure that organisations operate within set standards and laws for the benefit of the society. Daniel Obi writes.*

**C**HAOS and disorder in the race for profit and survival are inevitable in any competitive environment without necessary regulation. Regulation therefore promotes fair deal and it is requisite to the good functioning of societies and economies, globally.

While operators, especially in Nigeria, appreciate the importance of regulation, some of them in various sectors have largely kicked against the style and method that regulations and enforcements are being implemented or carried out.

In some instances, outright quest for revenue, sleaze and corruption have underlined and defined regulation rather than government agencies ensuring that directives and spelt-out rules are maintained and infractions punished.

This pervasive exercise of regulating principally for revenue, both official and unofficial, is common among road traffic agencies and some other government bodies. Often times, the traffic officers, without prior warning by placing road signs, wait to apprehend an unfamiliar offender, only to turn around to demand for 'settlement' or issue bill for payment into state government purse.

Media reports allege that some regulating agencies have been turned into revenue machines in some states. While this is an aberration, this mandate, of course will alter regulators' sense of applying the rules which is injurious to individuals, organisations and the society.

Ordinarily, penalty or pardon which is a norm for non-compliance to regulation should be exercised after notices and

cautions have been proven to be given or displayed prominently for practitioners to see or read. But some regulators and their law enforcers, like traffic officers, have deliberately capitalised on hidden rules to dissolutely reap and rip off Nigerians to their chagrin.

Nigeria's Out-of-Home industry, which employs over 4,000 Nigerians and contributes significantly to the country's GDP, is also a victim of disjointed and jumbled regulation capable of relegating or dipping the age-old industry.

In May this year, marketing communication industry frowned at some of the regulatory activities of Lagos State Signage and Advertisement Agency (LASAA) and Kaduna State government. The industry complained of LASAA's arbitrary fixing of fees payable on billboard platforms as well as the Agency's insistence on payment of advert fees on vacant billboards.

The marketing industry under the aegis of Heads of Sectoral Groups (HASG) also accused LASAA of continued granting of individuals that are not registered practitioners to own billboards and operate in Lagos State contrary to the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) guidelines.

HASG also alleged that LASAA plans to concession seven of the major roads in the state to bidders, and the successful ones to own and operate franchises on not fair and just in competition.

Such roads for a period of 10 years. To HASG, this planned concession amounts to favouring some practitioners

which is not fair and just in competition.

It described it as a grave danger and monopoly. "If allowed, the backlash would include the loss of businesses and the means of livelihood of many out-of-home-practitioners." It should be noted that one of the guarantees of regulation is level playing field.

On Kaduna, the body accused the state of giving its members 7 days within which to remove their structures from certain areas of the city. Kaduna's reason, the body alleged, was that the affected areas are be populated by LED (electronic billboards).

"We have since found out that the whole essence is to allow some favoured business owners, close to the corridors of power in Kaduna State to install their LED platforms in those areas, and have the monopoly of practicing there. This is another form of franchising, and HASG frowns at it". If this is true, it is also unfair in a competitive market.

In some states, Out-of-Home industry is seen as a big revenue source. This perception has pushed for certain needless regulations to squeeze funds from the operators instead of regulating to grow and promote the industry. This is telling heavily on the industry, as stated by the operators.

Outdoor Advertising Agencies of Nigeria (OAAAN), the umbrella body of practitioners in the industry, recently expressed confusion and misunderstanding on signage agencies' regulatory pattern.

"Some of the signage agencies

do not really know what they are regulating. Is it the structure, the advert on the structure or both" that they are regulating? the association asked.

Further concerned, the association's President, Emmanuel Ajufo, speaking recently at the OAAAN 37th annual meeting in Lagos said "if, for instance, signage agencies are concerned with the structure, as we believe they should be, then why do they charge per face of a billboard?"

"If on the other hand, they are charging for the advertising on the board, where then is the justice in charging when the board is vacant? Ajufo said most of the debts levelled against OAAAN members by signage agencies are from charges on vacant sites.

Manner of enforcement of regulation in certain instances in various sectors is also a concern and worrisome. There are reported cases of critical patients and pregnant women being arrested by traffic officers.

For outdoor, "We feel that enforcement should not be used to cause more problems for a company than it already has. It is always better that the company concerned should be asked to switch off or blank his/her billboard as this will prevent wanton destruction when officers of a signage agencies embark on the enforcement exercise themselves", OAAAN said.

For 16 years, signage agencies have become central in regulating outdoor business following the creation of LASAA in

2006 which some other states

have copied the model.

"The implication of this is that control and regulation of outdoor advertising in states have, at least for the present, been effectively removed from local government councils and vested in state agencies in these states," said a lawyer, CIC Chikwendu at the OAAAN meeting.

Presently, "It appears that the outdoor advertising agency is the most exposed of all advertising agencies to external control and regulation by the federal, state and local government agencies", the lawyer believed.

While organisations such as OAAAN support government on earning income from out-of-home operations and other services, the OAAAN specifically pleaded that government should not see its industry as major source of IGR after oil. "We believe that signage agencies should rather focus their minds on how to ensure sustainable growth of outdoor industry"

Regulation all over the world has socio-economic benefits which include evasion of monopolies, safe environments, protection of the poor, and growth of industry.

But when regulation and enforcement are poorly handled, it can cause harm than good, hinder industry growth and stifle job creation and innovation. It is therefore important that every regulator and their enforcers should wear human face, be friendly, and re-assess their functions, perhaps in collaboration with operators for suitable regulation for operators and society good.

**Source: BusinessDay**

# BUSINESS WORLD

## Nigeria's trade for Q2 stood at N12.841bn -NBS

**T**HE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) says Nigeria's total merchandise trade stands at N12,841.54 billion, in the second quarter of 2022.

This is according to the NBS Foreign Trade in Goods Statistics Report for Q2 2022 released in Abuja recently.

The report said the figure was lower than the value recorded in the first quarter of 2022 which stood at N13,001.28 billion indicating a marginal decrease of 1.23 per cent.

"However, it was higher than the value recorded in the corresponding period of 2021 which stood at N9,712.02 billion."

The report said Nigeria's merchandise trade slightly fell in Q2 2022 due to a decline in import trade resulting in an improved trade balance.

The NBS said the Total Exports Trade was N7,406.53 billion in Q2 2022 showing a rise of 4.31 per cent when compared to Q1 2022 which stood at N7,100.46 billion.

"The total exports trade for Q2 2022 also increased by 47.55 per cent of the value recorded in the second quarter of 2021 at N5,019.68 billion."

On the other hand, total imports stood at N5,435.01 billion in Q2 2022, indicating a decrease of 7.89 per cent over the value recorded in Q1 2022, at N5,900.83 billion.

"However, the value increased by 15.83 per cent when compared to the value recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2021 at N4,692.33 billion."

The report said that Re-



**Adeniran**

Exports stood at N9.63 billion in Q2 2022.

"The value decreased when compared to the same quarter of 2021 at N64.39 billion and also Q1 2022 at N115.80 billion by 85.05 per cent and 91.68 per cent, respectively."

The report said the value of exports trade in Q2 2022 was dominated by crude oil exports valued at N5,907.97 billion which accounted for 79.77 per cent of total exports.

"While non-crude oil exports value stood at N1,498.56 billion or 20.23 per cent of total exports of which non-oil products contributed N675.08 billion representing 9.11 per cent of total exports."

The report said in the quarter under review, the top five re-export destinations included

Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Cameroon and Turkey.

## Organisation seeks partnership to accelerate SDGs action-plan

**T**HE Global Compact Network Nigeria, has called for private sector partnership to accelerate the action-plan and policies for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in the country. This is contained in a statement by Mrs Soromidayo George, Director, Corporate Affairs and Sustainable Business West Africa, Unilever Nigeria against backdrop of the "CEO Water Mandate Nigeria: Official Endorsement and Nigeria Sign-up."

Soromidayo, also Chairperson, UN Global Compact Network Nigeria, said that the aim is to enhance multi-lateral, multi-stakeholder partnerships and to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. "Two years ago, we launched CEO Water Mandate in Nigeria to commit to endorsement on continuous progress against six core elements of stewardship.

"To understand and manage water risks; we will have official showcase of companies that have signed-up to the CEO Water Mandate, amplify public awareness and interest and attain further sign-ups by Nigerian companies.

"This business council will act as a catalyst for partnership growth and synergy towards realization of sustainable water resources management.

"Although we have huge task ahead of us, there are many change-related opportunities waiting for us; the private sector has crucial role to play in the water space.

"Businesses can significantly advance efforts to tackle national water crisis by banding together, taking collective action and working with other sectors, in many situations partnership is the only way forward."

She further advised that the culture of supporting national SDG action plans and policies should be imbibed in various contexts, specifically SDGs — goals 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

She also mentioned goals 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; 13: Climate Action 14: Life Below Water; and 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

## FAAN achieves 90% completion on Runway

airports in the country that were under its purview.

"So far, I think we have done about 90 per cent and we are on schedule; and remember we are very optimistic, but if anything would make it to be delayed, I would boldly make it delayed.

"I would rather have a good job concluded, safely. Aviation is not about quick fixes it is about long term fixes.

"For 12 years, this is not working, but now you are getting it in a few hours, what is the problem?"

"The bottom line is our target up to this moment, but anything that will hinder and we are sure has to do with the safety, we will not hesitate that is our primary responsibility, but so far there is none.

"And we are committed; this is my 10th visit and there are people here daily, monitoring and supervising the project," he said.

Speaking on Taxiway Bravo, Yadudu said the project had

been stalled due to inflation affecting procurement cost, especially of bitumen.

He noted that the Taxiway Bravo had been at about 95 per cent for the past five months, however, it was affected by issues that had to do with procurement.

"Suddenly we have inflation and the contractor is complaining, but he is working with FAAN and the Ministry to see how we can find a solution to the problem.

"This inflation issue suddenly increased the cost of bitumen and asphalt and we are trying to resolve it quietly, so he also ends up doing a good job."

"We do not want him to do a bad job because he has concerns, and we are addressing those concerns."

"It would have been commissioned four, five months ago, but we need to do a good job that everyone would be proud of," he said.

## Crude oil sales push Nigeria's foreign trade

**D**ATA released by the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics has shown that Nigeria's foreign trade has increased by 47.07 per cent year-on-year to N25.84tn in the first half of 2022 due to increased crude oil sales. According to the data, total foreign trade was N17.57tn, with crude exports at N6.12tn in the first half of 2021. Total imports for the first half of 2021 was N9.57tn and export was N8.01tn with a trade deficit of N1.56tn.

In the first half of 2022, foreign trade totalled N25.84tn, with crude exports at N11.53tn. Total imports for the period were put at N11.34tn, exports were put at N14.51tn, and the trade surplus was N3.17tn.

The NBS, reacting to the foreign trade for the second quarter of 2022, said, "Nigeria's total merchandise trade stood at N12.84tn in the second quarter of 2022, indicating a marginal decrease of 1.23 per cent over the value recorded in the first quarter

of 2022 and 32.22 per cent higher when compared to the value recorded in the second quarter of 2021.

"The export trade in the quarter under review stood at N7.41tn showing a rise of 4.31 per cent over the value recorded in the preceding quarter and also increased by 47.55 per cent over the corresponding period of the preceding year. Furthermore, the share of exports in total trade stood at 57.68 per cent in Q2, 2022.

"On the other hand, total imports were valued at N5.41tn in Q2, 2022 indicating a decrease of 7.89 per cent over the value recorded in the preceding quarter.

However, the value increased by 15.83 per cent over what was recorded in the corresponding period of 2021. Imports' value in the second quarter of 2022 accounted for 42.32 per cent of total trade. The balance of trade in the period under review stood at N1.97tn.

"The value of exports trade in the second quarter of 2022 was dominated by crude oil exports valued at N5.91tn which accounted for 79.77 per cent of total exports while non-crude oil exports value stood at N1.49tn or 20.23 per cent of total exports of which non-oil products contributed N675.08bn representing 9.11 per cent of total exports."

According to NBS, the top five nations the nation re-exported to were Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Cameroon, and Turkey.

The top five export destinations for the quarter of 2022 were India, Spain, The Netherlands, the United States of America, and Indonesia.

In the first quarter, Nigeria imported mostly from China, Belgium, India, The Netherlands, and the United States of America with motor spirit ordinary, gas oil, and durum wheat being the most imported commodities.



**Buhari**

She quoted Ms Naomi Nwokolo, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network Nigeria and Chair, African Regional Network Council, during the sign-ups to have called for more partnerships in such regard.

"We must acknowledge that sustainable development with its three facets — economic, social, and environmental, necessitates an entirely integrated strategy. "Join us in bringing together non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, scientific community, private and public sectors, philanthropic organizations, and other stakeholders to advance corporate water stewardship in Nigeria.

"We are facing challenge of a lifetime when it comes to the SDGs, and time is running out; only through innovation, investment, multi-stakeholder

collaboration, and careful management of services will we be able to guarantee water security for every Nigerian. "We can work together to take immediate action to combat climate change and its effects and to strongly signal the market, accelerating the pathways to water security.

"The choices we make now will have significant impact on the lives of millions of people and the long-term sustainability of this planet; let us keep stepping up our efforts to achieve the SDGs, create more inclusive and principle-based solutions," she said.

The UN-Global Compact inaugurated its two-year UN programme to promote United Nations Global Compact's Ten Principles and SDGs in Nigeria and contribute to the implementation of the United Nations' broader development goals.

# ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

## MSMEs access to finances: Issues, challenges and prospects

*Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have remained critical enablers of national socio-economic growth. However, there are identified financing gaps hindering MSMEs in Nigeria, but there are also ways to close these gaps. Tunde Mabawonku writes.*

**M**OST customers of Nigerian banks, especially those in the MSMEs sector, regard their banks as mere vaults where they deposit and withdraw their funds. This reputation comes from the banks' perceived unwillingness to offer loans and advances to their customers. This perception persists despite the various programs and windows, which many banks avail their customers to access business or personal financing. The issue here is, does the bank customers' perception reflect reality or is it a mere farce?

To capture the consequences of the poor access to finance in Nigeria, I will recount a story a financial analyst once told us about two young Nigerians who set out on their separate entrepreneurial journeys and how these journeys were botched because they needed extra funding to upscale their businesses.

Chukwuemeka is a graduate of Biochemistry from one of the federal universities in the south-east region of the country. On the completion of his National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) assignment in 2010, he went into distilling aromatic schnapps – a popular drink that has become a major part of every social or cultural celebration in the area. Since this venture was micro-scaled, it kept Chukwuemeka's head above the water, nothing more.

Then the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) came, requesting he get certification. He sought for funds from his bank to upgrade his production up to the standard the agency stipulates for distillers to no avail. His accounting books did not 'qualify' to get loans from the bank. So, it forces him to give up on the schnapps production and go into the labour market.

Unlike Chukwuemeka, Kayode, a pig farmer in Lagos, was 'lucky' to get a loan from one of the microfinance banks in his area which he ploughed into his farm. They tenured the loan for two years and it came at almost 40 percent interest rate. Kayode had thought that he could pay back the loan from the proceeds of the sale of his piglets when they grow. At the end of the tenure of the loan, Kayode could not liquidate the loan, and the bank secured a court judgement and sold off the animals and the land which he had used as collateral for the loan.

These stories, unfortunate as they seem, are realities that many entrepreneurs, especially those in the MSMEs sector, can relate with. According to the Credit Bureau Association of Nigeria (CBAN), only four percent of the 40 million MSMEs in Nigeria have access to credit from the Nigerian banks.

Of all the challenges facing the MSMEs in the country, especially



those in the manufacturing, production and agricultural sectors, access to finance remains the biggest. Those in the commerce sector are a bit more favoured by the banks as their needs for funds are mostly short-termed.

Unlike the large corporate companies, who have more access to finance than them, the MSMEs find the cost of access to financing too exorbitant to make good profit. Some of the consequences of this poor access to finance for the MSMEs are reduced productivity and profitability, stunted growth, and a high rate of business collapse, to mention a few. How does this poor access to financing come about?

The major hurdle for the MSMEs in getting financing is the pigeon-hole that banks try to fit all loan requests. This pigeon-hole, which includes boxes like consistent cash flow position, availability of collaterals, debt-to-income ratio, customer concentrations, availability of credit, personal guarantees, operating history, operating sector, sufficient management among others must be ticked favourably by these loan seekers to qualify for the loan. Expectedly, very few MSMEs can tick most of these boxes to qualify them for credit extension by the banks.

Other obstacles which banks

always float include rise in the volume of non-performing loans (NPLs). The CBN, in pursuit of domestic macroeconomic and financial stability encourages Deposit Money Banks to increase lending to the real sector which includes MSMEs.

However, the capacity of some MSMEs to meet up with their loan repayment obligations is also a crucial factor when using an advanced credit facility. According to the CBN, commercial banks' NPL ratio increased to 5.3 percent in April 2022 from 4.84 percent in February 2022.

As a key player in the financial services sector, the main concern is how to change this unpalatable situation. To address these hurdles, we need to interrogate these challenges and know the issues that lead to their existence. Take qualifying criteria, for instance, the boxes that we expect the prospective borrower to tick are not bad in themselves as it is meant to give the bank some level of comfort that the loan, when disbursed, will not prove too risky to retrieve. Will it not be bad business for the banks to give a loan they could not recover? How can we raise the banks' level of comfort so they could lend more to the MSMEs?

It is important to note that some government interventions like the Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN) come with partial credit guarantees to boost the comfort

level of the lender banks. We can latch on to such guarantees to boost the access to financing for the MSMEs.

Banks have the responsibility to minimise the risk of default, and banks and other financial institutions.

this can be done by training the owners of these MSMEs on how to effectively manage their finances. At Wema Bank, we have an SME business school where we equip business owners with the right knowledge, skills and tools that would enable them to effectively conduct their business operations in such a way to attract easy funding from banks and other financial institutions.

As banks, we can also deploy better risk assessment tools by measuring the customers' credit potential using his or her cash flow. From the cash flows, banks can advance some credit, small at first and scale up after successful outings of the previous. This is how Wema Bank has navigated the comfort issue.

On availability of funds, what banks have in general is smaller than the financial gap that exists in the sector, but if the banks lend all that is available, the sector will burgeon.

The federal government, through many programs and agencies, provides funding aimed at boosting the operations of the MSMEs. Some of such

interventions is the CBN's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund (MSMEDF) that seeks to assist on to over 208,000 MSMEs in its five years of operations.

entrepreneurs with financing needs ranging from N100,000 to N50 million at an interest rate of nine per cent per annum. DBN has disbursed over N482 billion to over 208,000 MSMEs in its five years of operations.

Poor access to finance and other limitations notwithstanding, the fact remains that the global MSMEs sector is the engine room for driving economic growth.

According to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in a joint report released in January 2022, there were over 39.65 million MSMEs in Nigeria as at December 2021. The agencies added that the sector accounted for the employment of over 54 million skilled and unskilled labour, 96.7 percent of businesses while contributing about 45.31 percent to national GDP.

Indeed, the role this sector plays in the economy is the reason banks and other financial institutions should rally around it to ensure that its biggest challenge, access to finance, is adequately addressed so it would realize its full potential.

**Source: Business Day**



# Israel Vibration's Cecil Skelly' Spence takes a bow:

Continued from page 16

that Cecil "Skelly" Spence is gone to rest. In the last few months, he was doing therapy on his right hand and shoulder due to arthritis. Last week he was not feeling well and went to the hospital in New York where he just discovered he had an aggressive cancer with no possibility of treatment. He asked to send his love to all his fans. That was one of his last words. Please say a prayer to him. Rest in Peace, Skelly. We will miss you".

Two years after former member Apple Gabriel, who had left the group in 1997 to pursue his solo career, has passed away (read our obituary [HERE](#)), the unique voice of Skelly has now fallen silent forever. It is up to us now to forever remember his life devoted to Rastafari and Reggae music (the band celebrated their 40th stage jubilee in 2015), a memory preserved by countless recordings and live shows, the JaRIA Iconic Award that Israel Vibration received in 2020, and thousands of blessed encounters with fans, musicians and fellow artists. Rest in eternal peace, Skelly!

As the world awakes to this

sad news, tributes are pouring in from all over the world.

**Foundation**

"Our beloved singer Cecil "Skelly" Spence of Israel Vibration has passed away. Skelly graced us with his voice on our 2022 release ONE ROCK on songs "Original Riddim" and "Iron" ... life is real... you never know what tomorrow may bring; cherish the elders while they're here. Skelly, thank you for all you have given us... we will celebrate you always!"

**Clinton Fearon**

"I'm sad to learn that we lost a foundation member of the reggae community today, Skelly from Israel Vibration. I have nothing but respect for the bredrin. Rest in peace my brother. "

**Arise Roots**

"My first reggae concert ever was Israel Vibration and they absolutely filled my heart and soul with everything I could've hoped for! Getting to share the stage with these legends has been an absolute honor and joy. I can't believe another soldier has fallen. Rest in paradise Skelly... you were one of a kind! "

**Taj Weekes**

"Another incredible reggae ambassador has gone home. Travel well Cecil "Skelly" Spence! Israel Vibration. "

**Perfect Giddimani**

"Keep skankin Skelly! The beat goes on with love and remembrance! "



# Nollywood actors/actresses who featured in international movies

Continued from page 16

**Osas Ighodaro:** Before Osas moved to Nigeria in 2012, she appeared in 5 American movies and three American TV series, including Tyler Perry's 'Meet The Browns'. Osas was part of the cast of the 2015 American movie, 'Where Children Play', directed by Leila Djansi. She played the role of 'Miranda Bailey', a supportive friend to the main character, 'Macy Gray' who was played by 'Teyonah Parris'.



**Stephanie Linus:** In 2016, Stephanie played the role of 'Doris', a compassionate former slave in Boonville redemption. The movie which was produced by American director and producer, Dan Schroeder was set in the old Western country.



**Genevieve Nnaji:** She acted in the 2019 British drama film, 'farming', playing the role of Tolu. Her character is the mom of the main character, 'Enitan', who she had to give up to be fostered by a white woman. The film was produced by British-Nigerian Producer, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje and also featured award-winning British actress, Kate Beckinsale.

As the quality of stories, acting and production improve in Nollywood every day to match its output, more Nollywood actors are going to get recognised internationally. Hopefully, with this recognition, there will be more Nollywood appearances in award-winning Hollywood movies.



# EVIE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

# Dealing with a one-sided friendship

By **SERAPHINA SEOW**

In a time when the need to be physically distant has trumped many a girls' night, maintaining friendships, especially with those you were only "semi-close" to, can be difficult. As such, sometimes friends simply drift apart. Nonetheless, the sting of a lost or one-sided friendship, even among acquaintances, can still leave you feeling raw, hurt, and maybe a little confused.

When a friend doesn't invest as much time or effort into your relationship as they used to (or, if you're being honest with yourself, ever), it's easy to interpret this as rejection.

Even if the person isn't upset with you, "as humans, we have a tendency to personalize things and make it about us," says Ren. That's why, for some people, the hurt feelings from a one-sided friendship can cut a little deeper.

The extent to which you personalize the dismissal depends on many factors including past traumas or relationships. For instance, thanks to previous experiences with rejection, you may find that you tend to seek external validation from others (IRL or online) to feel you're worthy of friendships or someone people want to be around. But your worthiness as a person is not for other people to determine. Putting too much emphasis on what others think about you can be quite damaging to your mental health and general self-esteem, and encourage feelings of anxiety, stress, and depressive thoughts.

So, how can you handle a one-sided friendship or what feels like rejection from someone you considered a friend? Here's how to uncover what's amiss, decide if the friendship is worth saving, and repair and move on.



(guilty!), you'll want to uncover what's really up with your friendship. You may be pleasantly surprised to discover your pal is merely missing your signals or going through their own stuff.

### Imagined Rejection

Your friend may not be deliberately trying to ghost you. Not everyone is going to meet your expectations for, initiating conversations or response time, so you could be misinterpreting these differences as rejection, or what she calls "imagined rejection." In reality, your friend may be struggling to adjust to maintaining relationships or dealing with another personal matter that is dividing their

when it's clear someone no longer wants to prioritize your relationship. Understand that this may have nothing to do with you or your efforts, says Jackson. You and your friend may have different priorities or could be at different life stages. Outgrowing friends and drifting apart is common — it's called the friendship curve — though it doesn't make it sting any less. Your friend might be going through a difficult time or a mental health issue, and they don't have the capacity to invest in others.

### How to make friends as an adult — and why it's so important for your health

Lastly, a painful truth is that not everyone is going to like you and that's okay. Some personalities just don't mesh well together, and forcing a friendship isn't going to make you happy in the end.

### An Unspoken Discord

There could be a more direct reason for the missed connection: a conflict.

Even if your friend doesn't confront you about an issue, you can likely tell something's up if they're suddenly aloof and distant, passive-aggressive, or deliberately excluding you from events or invites. Still, it's common to miss these signals entirely as your friend might be avoiding a confrontation by pretending all is well. The person may rather silently leave the relationship instead of addressing the issue. "Living in this virtual world where you have access to many things, it's easy for people to feel they don't have to put in the work or deal with the stress that may come with a relationship because they can move on and meet other people," explains Beasley.

### Decide Whether to Confront the Issue

Whatever the reason for the falling out — miscommunication, misinterpretation, poor timing,

continues or if you come to some resolution, hurt feelings are still a likely reality. Luckily, you can put the pain behind you with a little effort and self-love. Here, a few expert tips to help get you started on the path to healing.

### Acknowledge the emotions.

Repressing emotions has sticky consequences, such as misguided resentment or irritation that can manifest in indirect ways or impact other relationships, says Ren. Instead, take notice of what emotions arise from your interactions (or lack thereof) with this friend, and acknowledge how you feel — jilted? sad? angry?

Then, do whatever you need to do, whether that's crying or just sitting with the hurt. Be patient with yourself, allowing ample time to let these emotions be, quiet, and then pass. You can consider talking to another friend or a therapist or try writing in a journal as a way to release some of the weight of these emotions.

### Change the negative narrative.

While it's natural to feel as if you're somehow at fault for a flatlined one-sided friendship, moving on means changing that narrative.

Start to observe when you engage



different priorities, or a direct conflict — the only way to know for sure what happened is to talk to your friend directly. But should you? Will that offer closure? Repair the friendship? Or do more harm than good?

Bear in mind your friend may not be willing to clear the air or could brush your feelings under the rug if you do talk, so you still may not get the closure or answers you were hoping for.

If you do reach out, and your friend agrees to have a chat, you want to express how you feel without placing responsibility on your friend. Saying something such as "I feel sad because we're not spending time together. I don't want you to feel obligated, I simply wanted to see if there was anything we could talk about that would help the situation" can jumpstart things. If you can repair the friendship, great, but you may come to realize this is not someone who is my person, this is not a person that I want to bring into my future, or this relationship doesn't serve me as evidenced by how they responded to my attempts to repair it.

Whether or not the friendship

in negative self-talk, such as 'did I talk too much?' or 'am I not enough?' Notice if you're ruminating over these feelings.

### Reconnect with others.

Instead of trying to "replace" this friend, focus on simply staying connected to others. Spend time with people you know you can count on (i.e. a dependable cousin or grade-school friend) to remind yourself about your worth as a friend and confidante. You'll be reminded about the ease that comes from mutually dedicated relationships.

### Think of what lessons you may have learned.

You may be surprised that there are some good things that come out of an abandoned one-sided friendship. For one, sadness and grief highlight that the relationship you lost was important to you. This allows you to start considering what characteristics of the relationship you valued, so you can seek these out in any future friendships. Hold onto the hopeful reminder that this negative experience of a one-sided friendship doesn't determine how your next friendship will go.



## NEWS

## Minister expresses satisfaction with military performance

From Dorcas Pankyes, Abuja

**T**HE Minister of Defence Maj Gen Bashir Salihu Magashi (rtd) has expressed satisfaction with the gallant performance of the Military in the onslaught against criminal elements in the six geo-political zones of the country.

General Magashi stated this at the joint world press conference held at the Radio House Abuja where his counterparts in the Ministries of Police Affairs, Interior and Information and Culture also rendered accounts of their stewardships in tackling myriads of insecurity in the country.

The Defence Minister said the Troops of the Operation Hardin Kai in the North East has gallantly denied ISWAP and the Boko Haram Terrorists freedom of co-ordinated attacks as they continued to suffer huge casualties, depletion and depression.

Major General Magashi whose briefing covered military operations across the six geo-polical zones said the criminal elements have been substantially degraded and defeated in the last four weeks in compliance with the Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces President Muhammadu Buhari.

He said in the period under review sixty-six Terrorists were neutralised, alongside the ISWAP commander, Madu Chaka Bem Bem and twenty others, while fifty-five were arrested and fifty-two civilians regained their freedom from captivity.

General Magashi also put it on records that the troops of Operation Hadarin Daji in Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina and Zamfara in the North West zone have also given a good account of themselves by clearing the doubts of the bandits and kidnapers.

While assuring President Muhammadu Buhari and Nigerians of the total commitment of the Military to the defence of the nation's territorial integrity alongside other security forces he outlined similar Operational successes recorded in the North Central, South East, South South and South West and thanked the C-in-C for the strong backings that the Armed Forces of Nigeria continued to enjoy even in the current participation in Peace Support Operation in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

On his part the Minister of Police Affairs Mohammed Maigari Dingyadi said the Police Force has repositioned, re-equipped and is resolute to effectively change the narratives in all the States of the Federation towards keeping the country safe and secured.

Dingyadi buttressed the successes recorded in various parts of the country including Borno state with two hundred and forty-eight weapons recovered, One hundred and eighty one arrested in Delta



Magashi

State and forty suspects arrested in Niger State among several others in the last four weeks.

The Minister of Interior Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola in his own account warned criminal elements to keep off the correctional centers across the country or they will not survive to tell the story of any dastardly acts.

He advised Nigerians not to obstruct the operation of the Federal Fire Service in responding to the outbreak of fire emergencies.

While acknowledging the support by the Military and sister agencies in joint operational environment the interior minister assure Nigerians that never again shall Jail - break be repeated adding that arsonists and vandals and other criminals will pay with their lives.

In the same vein the convener of the first in the series of World Press Briefings at the National Press Centre, the Minister of Information and Culture Lai Mohammed said while the country may not be there yet, the Military has succeeded and still

succeeding in crushing the criminal elements in accordance with the directive of President Muhammadu Buhari to the security forces.

The Information and Culture Minister said what could have overwhelmed and consumed other nations of the World is what Nigeria is going through in terms of huge security challenges and yet the country remains standing and resolute to end terrorism, banditry and other forms of crimes.

He appealed to Nigerians that security is the business of everyone and thanked the Media for carrying out their watchdog role in nation building and national defence.

The conference was attended by the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Defence Dr Abubakar Ibrahim Kana, mni and that of the Ministry of Interior Dr Shuaib Belgore, the Chief of Defence Staff General Leo Irabor, the Comptroller General Nigeria Immigration Service Isah Jere Idris, his Federal Fire Service counterpart Engineer Abdulganiyu Jaji as well as top Chief Executives of agencies, Parastatals and media.

## Jos North boss condoles media aide

**E**XECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government Shehu Bala Usman has commiserated with his Media Aide Philip Eplong over the death of his elder brother Charles MialmenEplong which occurred on Monday at the Jos University Teaching Hospital JUTH after a prolonged illness.

The Chairman in company of members of his Executive and Legislative arms as well as party stalwart noted that passing away of the deceased is a big loss, not only to the Eplong family, but to the local government at large who also share in the grief.

Though death is a necessary end to all mortals, the Chairman prayed God to give the

family the fortitude to bear the great loss.

Edmond Attahiru who responded on behalf of the family, appreciated the Chairman of Jos North Local Government for his show of love and compassion which has strengthened the family. Similarly, the Adagwon Jos Izere of Jos Izere Chieftdom, Adagwon Emmanuel Ajik in company of the acting District Head of Tudun Wada, Adagwon Peter Nyam has sympathized with the Kwo royal family of Kwande in Quaan Pan Local Government Area over the death of their Son, Charles MialmenEplong.

Adagwon Emmanuel Ajik said the Izere people have a long standing relationship with the Goemai nation, hence the need to

**T**HE National Directorate of Employment (NDE), recently flagged off environmental beautification training and graduate attachment schemes for unemployed persons in Kogi State.

Thirty unemployed persons are participating on the environmental beautification training, orientation and sensitisation while fifty others will benefit from the first phase of the Graduate Attachment Scheme under the Special Public Works Department of the Directorate.

The Director General of NDE, Mallam Abubakar Nuhu Fikpo who was represented by the Kogi State Coordinator, Abubakar Zakari while speaking during the flag off, said that participants on environmental beautification scheme will be trained on moulding, laying of interlock blocks, tiles, plaster of Paris (POP) and raising of nurseries/flowers for a period of three months. The Director General said that other beneficiaries of the Graduate Attachment Scheme are to undergo a three months internship with corporate Government, private and none governmental organisations.

Fikpo said that the objective of the scheme is to close skills gap; improve employability of the youths and build a competent workforce with a view to creating competitive edge to talents for their retention in organisation where they served.

He said that the programme is aimed at enabling beneficiaries become self-employed and

## NDE flags off environmental beautification training

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

contribute their quota to the growth of the nation's economy.

"This programme is a clear demonstration of the federal government to reduce poverty among the the poor and Vulnerable citizens and to actualise government's commitment to lift over 100 million Nigerians out of poverty" he said.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the the Head of Special Public Works Department, Mr. Toyin

Ajibade charged participants to uphold the saying that there is dignity in labour.

He urged them to take their training very serious as it is a privileged opportunity for them to be useful to themselves and their immediate society.

A physically challenged graduate, Mrs Ohize Rofiat while responding on behalf of other participants applauded the federal government for the opportunity given them.



Fikpo

## NUJ mourns Uchola of Information Chapel

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**T**HE Kogi State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ is pained by the sudden death of its member, Rose Uchola of the Information Chapel.

The Chairman of Kogi Council of NUJ, Adeiza Momoh-jimoh in a condolence message recently, said that the news of

the sudden death no doubt, came to the Council as a shock, taking into cognisance the person of Rose Uchola whose humility and peaceful disposition is second to none. The Council therefore, expresses sympathy with the entire members of NUJ in Kogi State, the immediate family and her children over

the great loss.

"No doubt, Rose Uchola will be missed by everyone based on her contribution to the journalism profession. "We are however consoled by the fact that she made positive impacts in the society while alive. "It is our prayers that God Almighty will grant the soul of the deceased eternal rest."

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Usman

commiserate with them over the great loss. Adagwon

Emmanuel Ajik prayed God to grant Charles eternal

rest.

Responding, Miskoom Albert Ari expressed gratitude to the Jos Izere traditional council for identifying with the Kwo royal family over the unfortunate incident and prayed God to strengthen the ties between the two ethnic nationalities.

Prayers were offered for the repose of the soul of the deceased led by the Council Secretary of Jos North Pastor Samuel GyangChollom.

The Late Charles until his demised was a staff of the Industrial Training Fund ITF and an elder brother of Philip Eplong the Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government on Media and Publicity.

NEWS

# I pity Dakum over efforts to snatch my ticket

-Margif

By Bulus Gambo

**L**ABOUR Party gubernatorial candidate Yohanna Margif has said he is sympathizing with Dr. Partick Dakum over his unrealistic ambition to substitute his name in the register National Independent Electoral Commission to become the party's flag bearer for the forthcoming elections in 2023.

Speaking in an exclusive interview, Margif noted that as the authentic candidate of the party, his name is still obvious on the portal of the National Independent Electoral Commission, (INEC) based on the primaries held where he emerged tops.

Margif explained that "I am presently sympathizing with Dakum because of the fact that he is an imposter. An affidavit was submitted to INEC and the LP which is my party stating that I am not relinquishing any such a ticket and that they should not entertain any issue concerning this alleged substitution of my nomination. I am not in negotiation with anybody and I am not relinquishing my ticket. I am still the candidate of the LP and have not conceded to anybody.

If you care to know, Dakum met me at Shoprite in a public place after I asked him to meet me there. I asked him saying that my brother when did you come back from America, and he mentioned that he came into the country just yesterday. I then responded him asking why he did not tell me the day he was coming so that I can welcome him at the airport. I did this because of the fact that I really wanted to work with him. I remembered that I told him that my ticket is for every one of us, and I had been going round making contact more so because of the obvious reason that my ticket is an inclusive one.

I still told him that my ticket was not for sale and I don't need any money. I remembered that I also asked him, all of you are coming for negotiations with me; am I not an indigene of Plateau State? Am I not eligible to be voted for? Where are your reasons for this unending negotiations? Dakum now told me that he wanted me to be the John the Baptist; while he becomes the Messiah. I then responded him saying but my brother, I am presently seated here and the ticket is with my name so if you can support me, I will be very happy."

According to him, "You must understand that the issue of popularity varies, for instance, one can be popular as a stingy man and also be popular as a preacher. Dakum himself asked me this same question and I had to asked him what was making



Margif

him have the guts to think that he is better than me in this regard. And his response was that since he is one of the script writers of COCIN Devotional, he will have the full support of COCIN members. After he said this; I told him that when one is trying to change any system for the better, such a person must face some of these challenges in life."

The Labour Party flag-bearer said that "My message to Dakum is; if he is the candidate who has the capacity to lead Plateau State and is popular, let him leave my ticket and carry his supporters to another party particularly any of these virgin political parties and if the star is shining on him, it will continue to shine there. My ticket is an anointed one and it shall remain so with me."

On whether he was not concern that since Dakum can get same endorsement by the hierarchy of the party then it means something must be fishy about unfolding development, Margif was quick to note that "It may interest you to know that nobody has written or intimated me about and or on anything from the national level of our party. That was why I joined them in my suit for them to come and explain their positional standing. I am a peace maker that is why I am tolerating this act of forgery coming from here and there."

The gubernatorial candidate noted that "I paid 50 million naira for the APC nomination forms and also paid 15 million for that of the Labour Party. Though the money matters a lot to me and that was not the only contribution I made to the APC. You see, I am a businessman and highly blessed so I saw all these as my contribution for the growth of democracy in the country."

On his alleged arrest by the Nigeria Police, Margif said, "I am a businessman who have over 12 registered companies, I am into mining, I am an estate developer and sometimes as a businessman it is logical that I own somebody. However, we are in a political period and you

can hear a lot of things. In all these, I know that the truth will reveal itself. As it is however, I am fighting for Plateau citizens and want to be a voice for the voiceless. Therefore I want to urge the people of Plateau to know that power is in their hands and the era of god-fatherism is over."

## Bello urges need on Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potatoes

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**G**OVERNOR Yahaya Bello has pressurized on the people of Kogi State to key into Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potatoes agricultural project.

The Governor urged women in particular to embrace the project for maximum benefits.

Bello made the call during the launch of the project by the Kogi State Enterprise Development Agency (KEDA), in Lokoja, the state capital recently.

He said his call became necessary because the success of the project would lead to wealth creation, greater nutritional value to the people and ensure economic prosperity for the state at large.

The governor, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Dr Mrs Ayoade Folashade Arike, while flagging off the project, commended the Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer, KEDA, Hajia Rekiya Onaivo Sani and her dedicated Team KEDA for giving thought to the idea and making conscious effort for its actualisation.

The governor expressed the

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**O**PERATIVES of Kogi State Polytechnic Security Unit have intercepted one Friday Momoh who was in possession of hard drugs while making his way to the main campus of the Polytechnic in Lokoja. Friday Monoh is also suspected to be a member of a secret society. Momoh, 26, an indigene of Lokoja Local Government of Kogi State was apprehended at 11:40am on Tuesday 6th of September, 2022 with 66 wraps of weed suspected to be Indian Hemp, 4 containers of weed, assorted charm, scissors, 52,000 cash and other hard drugs called 'ICE'. According to the Chief Security Officer of the Polytechnic, Mr. Emmanuel Onuh, Momoh who is not a student of the institution, was held on his way to the Polytechnic with a bag full of the stated materials.

Mr. Onuh said the security unit was on alert based on intelligence reports that students were organizing a picnic as one of the activities to mark the 2022 Students' Week. However the report at the disposal of management was that cultists were regrouping to test the security might of

## Suspected Illicit drug dealer, cultist, apprehended

the Polytechnic but nipped in the bud by the proactive personnel of the Polytechnic. During interrogation, Momoh confessed to be a member of secret cult group called "Aro Bagger Confraternity".

He has since been handed over to the security agents for further investigation. The Rector of Kogi State Polytechnic, Dr. Salisu Ogbo Usman who commended the effort of the security unit in

Momoh's apprehension noted that the success was another milestone of the present management in eradicating cultism, cult related activities and other social vices. Dr. Usman however, warned all criminally minded persons to steer clear of the campuses of the Polytechnic as the management would not take matters capable of breaking down of law and order on campus lightly.



Marwa

farmers to develop interest in the cultivation of product for the great derivable from the new initiative.

Ape stressed the need for farmers to key into the project by forming themselves into cooperatives and collaborate for its cultivation along value chain process to maximum benefit.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive, KEDA, Hajia Rekiya Onaivo Sani, expressed the commitment of the agency to ensure the reality of the project in the state, promising that 70 per cent of women would be involved in its implementation.

According to her, the greater percentage of women had been pinned for the implementation of the project because orange-fleshed sweet potatoes do not require much energy to plant.

In his speech, entitled "ORANGE-FLESHED SWEET POTATOES (OFSP): THE CONFLUENCE OF OPPORTUNITIES, Mr Daniel Ogu, Head of Department, Research and Development (R&D), described Orange-Fleshed sweet potatoes as a special type of biofortified sweet-potato that contains high levels of beta-carotene.

The researcher explained further: "Beta-Carotene is an organic, red-orange pigment, abundant in plants and fruits. Beta-carotene is what gives OFSP an orange colour and is converted to Vitamin A in the body after consumption to provide additional nutritional benefits. "Biofortification enhances the nutritional value of staple food crops by increasing the density of vitamins and minerals in a crop through either conventional plant breeding, agronomic practices or biotechnology. "Examples of these vitamins

and minerals that can be increased through biofortification include; provitamin A Carotenoids, zinc and iron.

"Sweet potatoes offer a particularly significant potential for increasing food production and income there by reducing poverty and improving food security level in Nigeria.

"Sweet potatoes are consumed without much processing in most parts of the tropics. Sweet potatoes present diverse industrial uses some of which are potentially, highly profitable, such as sweet potato snacks.

"Sweet potatoes are extremely adaptable to adverse environmental conditions; they can help increase food security in times of drought and famine, particularly in post-conflict areas for displaced persons.

"Sweet potatoes produce carbohydrates much faster and require less labour than other crops. Sweet potatoes are used to restore access to food for resetting populations and alleviate future agro-climatic or political shocks.

He added: "Orange-Fleshed Sweet potato (OFSP) is an improved breed of sweet potato cultivated in tropical and semi-tropical regions of the world for food and source of income, especially among the rural dwellers

"It belong to the morning-glory family known as convulaceae and originated from Latin America. It can be grown in wide range of agro-ecologies, semi-arid agro ecological zone and soil types which make Kogi State (the confluence) a suitable region for plantation and cultivation.



Bello

NEWS

# Jos North boss commiserates with communities over flood

**E**XECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government ShehuBala Usman has sympathized with the people of Gangare, Rikkos and Garba Daho Wards in Jos North Local Government Area whose houses was submerged by floods and properties worth millions of naira destroyed.



Usman

The Chairman stated this in company of the Member representing Jos North North in the Plateau State House of Assembly Ibrahim Baba Hassan, members of the Legislative Arm and Executive Council to take an on- the-spot assessment of the incident.

The incident which occurred during Wednesday rainfall, resulted in the flood disaster in the three different communities which rendered over five hundred people homeless and properties worth millions of naira destroyed.

The Chairman informed the people of the three separate communities that he was there with the member representing Jos North Ibrahim Baba Hassan to see things for themselves and to commiserate with them over the huge losses suffered in the flood disaster.

The Chairman used the visit to assess the causes of the damage in order to come up with a workable solution that will nib the situation in the bud and commended the Plateau State House of Assembly for drawing the attention of the State Emergency Management Agency SEMA to the plight of the people.

He called on citizens not to build on waterways in order to

mitigate floods.

Speaking on behalf of the community leaders, Mallam Guda community leader of Gangare appealed to the Jos North Local authorities to intimate the state Government on the need to provide palliatives to their people who are already displayed as a result of the flood.

Meantime, the Adagwon Izere, Emmanuel Ajik has led other traditional rulers of the Jos Izere Chiefdom to sympathize with the people of Gangare, Rikkos and Garba Daho whose houses were affected by the flood.

The royal father made the feelings of his colleagues known when he led members in council on a sympathy visit to the affected communities to share in their moment of grief.

Adagwon Emmanuel Ajik appealed to the three tiers

of government to provide relieve materials to the Inhabitants of the affected community to ameliorate their plight.

The monarch said he cannot seat back at home in the face of the disturbing reports of the unfortunate incident, hence the need to come and see things for himself in company of other members of the Jos Izere traditional Council.

He urged public spirited individuals and corporate organization to come to the aid of the displaced persons who are in dire need of assistance.

Responding on behalf of the communities, the Community Leader of Rikkos Central, Aliyu Gambo appreciated the royal fathers for coming to see things for themselves and urged them to take the plight of his people to the government at level for assistance.

**B**ORNO State Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum, has distributed fourteen million, five hundred and eighty thousand naira (N14,580,000) alongside one thousand three hundred and sixty-six bags of food items to 683 volunteers helping the military to fight Boko Haram insurgency in Bama town.

The Governor who has been in Bama for the last three days doing humanitarian activities used the occasion to address the volunteers at the palace of the Shehu of Bama, recently.

Made up of 313 members of the 'Civilian JTF', 105 hunters, 155 local vigilantes and 110 members of a border vigilante group called 'Kesh-Kesh', of the 683 volunteers, the Governor directed the release of N250,000 to each of their four leaders and N20,000 each to 679 members in addition to two bags of rice and maize to each of 683 volunteers, bringing the total to 1,366 bags.

Other items included a gallon of cooking oil and 10 yards of brocade to each of the 683 volunteers.

"Please accept from me, the deepest gratitude of government and the entire people of Borno State for your unquantifiable sacrifices that cannot be paid by any amount of money or material things. Many of your colleagues gave their lives for us to gain the peace we are enjoying today. Many of you have taken the highest risks of going to battle fronts, leaving your loved ones and the comfort of your homes.

We can never forget your sacrifices and we are immensely grateful to all of you and to all volunteers and our armed forces who lead the war", Zulum said.

Bama is identified as worst affected by Boko Haram's

# Zulum doles out grains to volunteers of Boko Haram

From DAUDA PAM, Maiduguri

destructions and displacement, according to a 2016 assessment report co-authored by the World Bank, the EU, United Nations and Nigerian Government.

The Recovery and Peace-Building Assessment Report (RPBA) showed that Bama had the highest number of displaced communities and displaced persons and had the highest number of residential homes destroyed by Boko Haram.

It was based on that report that Governor Zulum has accorded special attention to Bama's rebuilding and resettlement as well

as supporting residents with food and cash for livelihoods as communities gradually return to farming and other business to eventually begin to rely on themselves rather than depend on aid.

Zulum has, this year, mobilized many resettled communities to return to livelihoods with a number of markets now reopened, many farmers able to safely cultivate crops, commercial trading of dry fish now back in areas like Baga and trans-boarder trading also back in areas like Banki among others.



Zulum

# Chairman calls for need to occupy leadership position

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**T**HE Chairman of National Commission for Persons with Disabilities calls for need to reach out to the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and appeal for persons with disabilities to occupy leadership positions beyond Nigeria so as to attain disability inclusive Development within the African Region and the West Africa Sub-Region. We

also seeks collaboration for proper coordination of all interventions from donor agencies in synchronization with the five year National Strategic Plan on Disability and Inclusive Development which will enable persons with disabilities to have a better life.

After giving us constructive advice on foreign affairs matters, I am pleased that the Hon Minister has agreed and promised to give the National Commission for Persons With Disabilities his and the Ministry's maximum support.

We'll never relent and will keep reminding ourselves that one of our strongest mission is to protect the fundamental rights and dignity of persons with disabilities in Nigeria. We won't rest until we are sure that no person with disability is denied his/her fundamental rights. I made the same statement and notified this

mission to Mrs Cecilia Aransiola who led a delegation from Amnesty International to my office

I found it very displeasing that some parents of children with disabilities maltreat them by depriving them access to good education and others simply because they feel ashamed identifying with them in public. That barbaric culture must be brought to an end as long as the commission exists.

My day was astonished, filled with joy and greatness when I reunited with my fathers from Mangun Plateau State, it was indeed a pleasure when they paid me a courtesy visit to congratulate me on my appointment as the Executive Secretary of the National Commission For Persons With Disabilities. Their visit reminded me of how they all supported me to becoming the person I am today. Plateau State is my home and origin, that i can never forget, no matter the elevation in life. I appreciate their efforts and the constructive parental advice and care they have always been giving me.

# Katsina SUBEB spends \$21million on basic education

From SHEHU DANJUMA, Katsina

**K**ATSINA State Universal Basic Education Board, (SUBEB) says it has expended \$21million under the Basic Education Services Delivery for All (BESDA) Intervention Programme from 2019 to 2022.

Alhaji Lawal Buhari, Katsina State SUBEB Chairman,

disclosed this while briefing newsmen in Katsina on Friday.

Buhari explained that, BESDA is a World Bank intervention Programme geared towards supporting states with the highest number of out-of- School Children.

He noted that BESDA

intervenes in three key areas; Equitable Accesses Education, Improving literacy and System Strengthening.

According to him, Katsina state was identified as one of the 17 BESDA with highest number of out of school children of 1,135,000 which comprises Almajiris, Nomads, Internally Displaced Persons and vulnerable children.

"The implementation of the programme started in 2019 with the selection of 22 local Government Areas (LGAs) across the state for the reduction of Out- Of-School Children and 13 LGAs for intensive literacy Programme using Jolly Phonics Models among others

"From 2019 to date, 255 Qur'anic Learning Centres were integrated under the programme"

"The programme has succeeded in the reduction of 361,525 out of school children, representing 36 percent of the set target in the selected LGAs in the state" he said.

According to the Chairman, BESDA Programme will wind up in October 2022, however, appealed to the World Bank through the Federal Government to extend the programme beyond that period.

He commended Katsina State Governor, Aminu Masari for developing the basic education sector in the state.

# 2023: Tinubu, Lalong meet APC NWC

By PALANG KASMI

**T**HE Director General (DG) of the Presidential campaign council of the APC, Simon Bako Lalong has led candidates Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his running mate Senator Kashim Shettima to a meeting with the National Working Committee (NWC) of the APC held at the APC National Secretariat in Abuja.

Welcoming the team to the national headquarters, APC National Chairman Senator Abdullahi Adamu said the visit of the DG and Presidential Candidate of the party was an important one because it provided the opportunity to discuss issues that would ensure the success of the party in the 2023 elections.

Speaking at the forum, Tinubu said he was at the National Secretariat to formally appreciate the party leadership for the successful organisation of the convention where he emerged Candidate.

He said apart from coming to appreciate the party hierarchy for their role in organising a successful convention, he was also at the Secretariat to interact with the officials on the role of members ahead of the lifting of the ban on campaign by INEC.

He said the engagement was to fine-tune and also submit the proposal of the Presidential Campaign Council to the party leadership.

Tinubu commended the DG of the APC Presidential Campaign

Council and Governor of Plateau State Simon Bako Lalong, the Secretary of the Council, Hon. James Faleke and others for working assiduously to lay the foundation for the progress of the project.

He also debunked the insinuations that there is an argument between him and the National Chairman, Senator Adamu. He said they have come a long way and were Governors together who have also by God's arrangement been put together on this project.

He assured that irrespective of such insinuations, there is no lie that can distort them from fulfilling the dream of making Nigeria a progressive nation.

The meeting later went into closed door.



Masari

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



## Nigeria: Doctors abandon homeland for greener pastures

*Continued from page 10*

medical graduates who arrived in the United States of America from the University of Ibadan; and the available records reported an average of 6.5 years of practice in the home country before emigration. Thus, Nigerian ECDs have been in the migration pool from inception. Interestingly, more recently, in a survey report on the emigration of Nigerian medical doctors, all the respondents were aware of doctors resident in Nigeria who were planning to emigrate and 88 percent of respondents were themselves considered job opportunities abroad. About 83 percent of respondents in the study were ECD's.

However, the WHO Global Code of Practice on International Recruitment of Health Personnel was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2010 and provides guidance for recruiting in an ethical way that would facilitate the strengthening of health system of the countries involved. It discourages active recruitment of personnel from countries with critical shortage and encourages effective health worker education, training and retention strategies that would minimize the need for migrant health workers.

In the words of Imafidon Joyce, "the migration of health professionals in Africa, medical brain drain deserves critical attention due to its adverse

effects on the healthcare system(HCS) for developing nations, which indirectly impacts populations. In the case of Nigeria, the international and internal migration of medical doctors (MDs) has created a great challenge for public health systems; it worsens already weak health inequalities gap worldwide. Globally Nigeria ranks among the worst countries in regards to maternal health outcomes. Although it represents 2 percent of global population, it disproportionately contributes to nearly 10 percent of global maternal deaths.

According to her, "nearly all participants 94 percent (17 out of 18), confirmed that a shortage of Nigerian medical doctor living and working throughout Nigeria exists acknowledging a medical brain drain impacting Nigeria's HCS. The medical brain drain which exacerbates the shortages of MDs, indirectly causes adverse effects on all health outcomes especially maternal and child health in rural/low-resource communities."

In his contribution, Dr. Samuel O. Ike in his paper The Health Workforce Crisis: The Brain Drain Scourge explained that "for Nigeria, by 1924 when the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe arrived in the United States there were only three Nigerian students in the entire US. Of those that came to the US then,

100 percent returned home. Immediately, after independence, Nigerians burning with patriotic fervor returned home eagerly soon after their studies abroad. Up till about 1980, most Nigerian students returned home. Nigerian doctors returned home by the first available transport after specializing in Europe or America. They easily returned because they easily secured employment, the economy was robust and the currency was strong"

Said she, "Brain drain as much as it looms large as a health workforce crisis, skill has some positive aspects worth acknowledging, contributions of new skills(talent pool) when migrants return as in the Ireland experience, remittances boost household welfare for example Nigerians in diaspora are said to contribute informally to the economy through remittances and gifts to their families back in the country to the tune of 1.2 billion Dollars.

Remittances from those in diaspora support the respective national balance of payments of their countries; Nigerians are remitting US 2.8 billion officially to the economy, whereas about 45 billion is reported to be remitted back to Africa, yearly. The emigrants contribute to Africa's greatest resource that is her people, the sons and daughters of the soil, the relevant involvement of these African in ICT and digital

revolution is creating more networks and opportunity for information exchange around the world. More Africans are taking part and mounting the world stage in global debates, inventions and developments thus making Africa to no longer remain marginalized and or isolate. By far and perhaps the greatest of the positive impacts is the fact that Africa is still able to produce output of skilled professionals actively sought by countries from abroad, where they complete favourably; this is thus a foundation that can be continuously built upon for the future.

But again, this scholar believes this brain drain pandemic has a negative impact to include the fact that it makes it difficult creating a middle class (of doctors, engineers, other professionals), but rather gives rise to a two-class society, a class of largely unemployed and poor people and that of a few very rich, most likely corrupt bureaucrats and officials. Brain Drain also give rise to poor leadership as a large educated and empowered middle class of very hue would have ensured enforcement of good governance and due process with the opposite being the case where there is a drain of this class."

Therefore, on the issue of addressing brain drain in Nigeria, Dr. Ike is of the opinion that "there is a brain drain crisis in our hands, and it is not about

to end. The reality is that African professional will not resign from his 50,000 dollars a year job to accept 500 dollars a year job in Africa, no matter his degree of patriotic fervour. Therefore, what measures can be taken to induce Africans particularly the health workforce living abroad to return home and to encourage these professionals to remain at home include the fact that the data bank of health professionals must be build knowing too well that lack of data is a significant problem.

The government also needs to invest in the infrastructure and rehabilitation of healthcare systems as current efforts towards the National Health Insurance Scheme and the VAMED projects appear to be addressing."

Inherently, embracing the diaspora option which encourages highly skilled expatriates to contribute their experience to the development of their country without necessarily physically relocating should be another alternative. By and large, the mass exodus of medical health workers out of developing nations of the world does not speak well of such nations. For Nigeria in particular and considering its increasing population status, it has become relevant that all hands should be on deck to help solve this problem for the sake of its citizens.

## METRO-FOCUS

# The return of phone snatching using tricycle

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

It is quite unfortunate that phone snatching using tricycle riders has returned in full force. At a time that people are clamouring for the lifting of the ban or relaxing it for tricycle riders to 8pm or 9pm to help cushion the hardship they face any time after 6:00 p m in accessing transportation.

Reports making the rounds have it that these criminals have resumed their duty of snatching people's handsets and valuables at gun point or using dangerous weapons like knives even in broad day light.

It sounded fictional when people used to complain in the past about how they had been robbed of their valuables while boarding tricycle, popularly known as "Keke NAPEP. But it is a different ball game when one is the victim of the dare devil thieves.

A few days ago, I came face to face with this reality while on my way from an assignment around Busa Buji Bridge back to office. It was like a film when I stopped a tricycle rider who had on board, a passenger asking him if he could take me to Polo. He obliged but pleaded that he was going to drop the other so called passenger around Apata and I agreed.

While on our way, another so called passenger stopped the tricycle and entered, sandwiching me in between the two so called passengers.

Although, I was not comfortable with the sitting arrangement, but i had no option than to keep mute to watch what becomes of me. As I was watching, to my greatest surprise, the tricycle rider swiftly manoeuvred and sped off to an unknown direction.

Before I could open my mouth, I felt a chilled iron around my neck and they threatened to blow my head off if I did not submit my phone and all I had with me in a broad day light. I surrendered everything to them and I was left with nothing. What baffled me most was how people around the street were watching me struggling with these thieves but did not say a word or lift a hand to help me. They all took off.

I must commend the leadership of smart phones sellers and repairers along Ahmadu Bello Way Jos, who would not want his name in



print. When I contacted him immediately when I reached home, he asked me to give him the phone name and model number which I did. He said if I am lucky, the thieves might come around to sell the phone.

Fortunately for me, he called on Monday evening and asked me to come immediately and i rushed to meet him. To my joy, I saw my phone with him. What one could not explain was the fact that, a small boy of 16 years was sent to sell my phone. I am pretty sure that it is a cartel because those who robbed me were adults.

The joy of getting my phone back would not leave me to bother much about the boy. However, he got what he deserved as he received the beating of his life. But I'm pretty sure, he would be handed over to the police for further investigation.

Another victim narrated her

ordeal. In her own case, she boarded a tricycle from Rayfield to Bukuru. "I met two boys in the tricycle. We were discussing about politics while going. I did not suspect anything fishy about them because of how decent these boys dressed.

"When I dropped around First Bank Bukuru and wanted to pay my transport fare, one of them snatched my bag from behind and the tricycle rider zoomed away through a street by the right and disappeared. I screamed over and over to no avail but no one to come to my aid. That was how I lost my phone, my money, my bag and some other valuables", Victoria Agandi, the victim narrated.

It is sad that, this is happening at this time that people are appealing to government to relax the curfew or ban on tricycle riders to ease the hardship citizens are facing.

Photos: DANLADI DUK

It is possible that these criminal elements are not registered with any Tricycle Riders Association or recognized group and would like to tarnish the image of the legitimate tricycle riders.

However, we would like to use this opportunity to caution citizens about the kind of tricycle they board and be very alert. It has been on the increase these days, now that we are in ember months. We would like to appeal to security agencies in the state to direct their search

light on these criminal elements who would not allow people to sleep with their eyes closed.

The time is very ripe for Plateau State government to heed the advice Nigeria Union of Journalists, Plateau State Chapter gave them after the last crisis that Keke NAPEP were used to commit a lot of atrocities. The Keke NAPEP for each area should bear its area name and a symbol to differentiate it. In addition, each should have a number that it can easily be identified with.

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## PLANG CONDOLES GANI FAMILY

The flag bearer of the All Progressives Congress for the Plateau Central Senatorial District, Hon. Diket Plang recently condoled with the family of late Kaka Hauwa'u Damina Gani at Yerpap community of Takkas, Pankshin LGA



Hon. Diket Plang with members of his entourage on arrival in the community



Ardos and members of the family listening to Hon. Plang's condolence message



The Yerpap community leaders on hand to welcome Hon. Plang and his entourage



Hon. Diket Plang (left) in a warm embrace with one of the community leaders



Hon. Diket Plang (right) sympathising with relations of late Kaka Hauwa'u Damina Gani



APC flag bearer, Hon. Diket Plang condoling the Yerpap Community over the demise of late Kaka Hauwa'u Damina Gani



One of the relations of the deceased (right) introducing members of the late Kaka Hauwa'u to Hon. Diket Plang



Hon. Diket Plang in a group photograph with the Yerpap Community after the visit



**Road Runner**  
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 SAFER TOGETHER

## Speed limit

Speed limit is the maximum speed at a vehicle may legally travel on the road. It is the maximum legal speed a category of vehicle can travel on a road under ideal situation. There are basically two types of speed limit:

- Speed limit that applies to roads, and
- Speed limits that applies to vehicle categories

### Speed limits on roads

All public roads have speed limits. In most cases, a 'default' speed limit applies. This automatically applies to a particular type of road if there is no speed limit sign indicating otherwise.

Local authorities can apply special speed limits to these roads, for example:

At particular times, such as when children are entering or leaving schools

On different sides of a dual-carriageway

At designated locations such as a tunnel, where the limit may be lowest if one lane must be closed to traffic

Where there are series of bends, and At road works

Speed limit signs, like most other regulatory signs, have a red border, white background and black lettering and numbers. They show the speed in kilometres per hour (km/h). the main speed limit on federal, state and local government roads are sometimes combined with repeater signs to remind you of the road's speed limit.

No vehicle other than fire engines, ambulances or security vehicles may exceed

the road speed limit at any time.

### Periodic speed limits

Normally, speed limits apply 24 hours a day and all year round. In certain situations, local authorities can apply a special speed limit to certain stretches of road for particular periods of time or particular days. Outside these times or days, the usual speed limit at the location is in force.

An example of a periodic speed limit is one used near school gates. One way to show this speed limit is through a standard upright sign with an information plate underneath that shows the periods and days when the speed limit applies.

Another way of showing the speed limit is an electronic speed limit sign which when lit up shows the speed limit in white figures within a red border against a black background. Outside the special speed limit periods, the sign remains blank. Sometimes the electronic sign can be mounted on a grey backing board with two amber lights, which may flash when the sign is lit up.

The sign "school children crossing ahead" that includes two amber flashing lamps may appear beside periodic limit signs to alert you to the presence of school children.

You must not break the periodic speed limits while they are in force

### Speed limits for vehicles

Some drivers must obey speed limits for their vehicles as well as speed limits for the roads on which they are travelling. types of roads.

The table below outlines the speed limits that apply to different vehicles

Types of vehicles	Built-up areas	Highway	Expressway
Bicycle	48km/h	Not allowed	Not allowed
motorcycles	50km/h	50km/h	Not allowed
Power-bikes	50km/h	90km/h	100km/h
Motor-tricycle	50km/h	50km/h	Not allowed
Private cars	50km/h	90km/h	100km/h
Taxis & Buses	50km/h	80km/h	90km/h
Tanker & Trailers	45km/h	50km/h	60km/h
Tow-Vehicles (when towing)	45km/h	45km/h	45km/h
Tow-Vehicle (when not towing)	50km/h	60km/h	70km/h

Note: the maximum speed limit on Nigeria road is 100km/h. Do not exceed the specified speed limit for the road and vehicle type. Ignorance is no excuse in law. Obey speed regulation and avoid conviction.

If the vehicle and road speed limits are different, the driver must obey the lower of the two. For example, if a car is travelling on a road with a speed limit of 50km/h, it cannot travel faster than its vehicle speed limit of 100km/h. in other words if a car is travelling in built-up area with speed limit of 50km/h, it must obey this limit regardless of the maximum speed at which it might otherwise be allowed to travel (100km/h).



## NEWS

# NDIC receives award for outstanding performance

Stories from DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) has been presented with the Federal Government Level Five (5) Platinum Level award for outstanding performance in corporate governance and accountability by the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR).

The award is based on the Corporation's outstanding score of Ninety-Three Percent (93%) in the BPSR Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) that was deployed to Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to assess and enhance service delivery.

Presenting the award to the Corporation, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Barr. Boss Mustapha represented by the Special Adviser to the President on Policy and Coordination, Dr. Habiba Lawal congratulated the Board, Management and Staff of the NDIC for the courage and commitment during the exercise.

She added that the Corporation's exceptional achievement serves as an impetus for other government agencies to take the opportunity of the BPSR Self-Assessment Tool to assess their strengths and weaknesses, and employ the outcome of the self-evaluation to achieve the Federal Government's objectives of effective service delivery to the citizenry.

The Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Dr Zainab Ahmed, represented by the Director, Home Finance, Mr. Stephen Okon commended the

Corporation for the award and expressed the Ministry's continued commitment and support to the NDIC towards the implementation of the recommendations of the BPSR SAT report.

While presenting the SAT report, the Director-General of the BPSR, Dr Dasuki Arabi, stated that the Corporation is the first and only agency under the supervision of Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to submit itself to the SAT assessment.

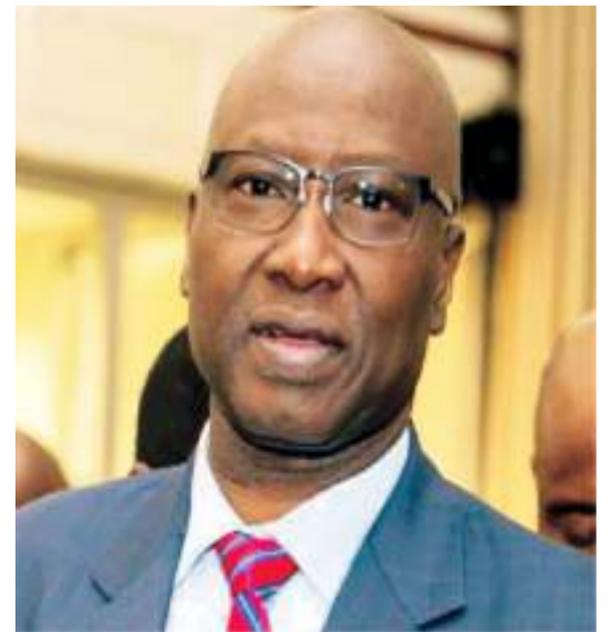
He explained that the Corporation's 93% score which represents the rating of "Far Exceeded Expectations" is a direct result of the Management's commitment to high standards in corporate governance and staff's diligence and hard work.

He added that the assessment, which commenced in September 2021, focused on broad areas of strategic governance including

financial management, operational and service delivery process, human resource management & planning, procurement process and change management.

The Chairman, NDIC Board of Directors, Mrs. Ronke Sokefun and the MD/CE, NDIC Mr Bello Hassan both congratulated the NDIC Board, Management Team and staff for the feat achieved. The MD/CE, Mr. Hassan said since the assessment from the BPSR, the NDIC has continued to benchmark itself with International Standards and Best Practices through a culture of continuous process improvement and service delivery to its various stakeholders.

Meanwhile, The Board Chairman, Mrs. Sokefun said the NDIC would continue to strive for excellence in delivery of its mandate while implementing recommendations of the BPSR report.



Boss Mustapha

## Troops arrest terrorists in format in Asokoro

From Dorcas Pankyes, Abuja

THE Defence Headquarters recently said troops of Operation Hadin Kai arrested terrorists' informant in the Asokoro area of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Also, a foreign terrorist logistics supplier and arms dealer identified as Abatcha Bukar and 13 other terrorists were arrested in Borno State.

The Director, Defence Media Operations, Major General Musa Danmadami, disclosed these while briefing journalists on the activities of the armed

forces between August 25 and September 8, 2022.

He also said three abducted Chibok girls and 19 other kidnap victims were rescued within the period under review.

Danmadami said, "A suspected foreign logistic supplier and arms dealer to the Boko Haram terrorists/Islamic State of West Africa Province named Abatcha Bukar was arrested with assorted injections, two Automated Teller Machine cards and N294,520.00.

"In the North Central, the

tactical surveillance troops arrested a Boko Haram informant named Mamuda Usman (aka Bado) in Asokoro, the Federal Capital Territory.

"Within this period, troops neutralised 252 terrorists while 556 suspected Boko Haram/Islamic State of West Africa Province terrorists and their families, comprising 115 adult males, 189 females and 252 children surrendered to troops at different locations in the period under review.

# EVER'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

## Relationship

### Some common causes of stress in marriage

**W**HILE marriage can be a wonderful and fulfilling experience, no lifelong commitment is likely to run smoothly at all times.

Life can be full of ups and downs which can sometimes challenge the strength of your marriage.

What are some of the common causes of stress in a marriage?

#### Finances

Finances can very easily become a source of stress and worry within your marriage. In difficult economic circumstances couples can have worries about issues such as employment, mortgages, bills, childrearing, healthcare and child minding. The resulting stress and strain can impact on both individuals and as a result the relationship can be under pressure.

It is important to be able to discuss financial matters with one another in a supportive and constructive manner in order to be able to manage them in the best possible way.

#### Children

Having children can be one of the most wonderful experiences in life however parenthood can also put a strain on a marriage.

Deciding when to have to children can be difficult for couples. One of you may not feel ready to commit to having children early in your marriage or may want to wait until a later stage for a variety of reasons including career prospects.

The birth and rearing of children can also stress you out at times. Parenthood brings with it a change in lifestyle. In addition to the joys of having a baby, parenthood can involve sleepless nights, concerns about feeding and managing a baby which can all be a shock to the system for couples.

Fertility difficulties can be very stressful for couples wishing to have children. This can be a very difficult predicament for couples to find themselves in.

Some couples have miscarriages which can be very traumatic experiences. Parents can also lose a child which is every parent's nightmare.

Sometimes children are born with special needs or experience illnesses in the short or longer term and will as a consequence require additional care and attention which has the potential to increase the workload and pressures on parents.

It is important that you are able to be open with and listen to one another, express your feelings and needs about planning a family. It is also vital to make every effort to understand and support one another in difficult times such as infertility, miscarriage, the loss or illness of a child.

#### Work Commitments

Whether you're very career-focused working full or part-time your job can demand a lot of you. Work can take up time that you would like to spend with your partner and children. Pressures at work can impact on you and you can find yourself irritable or upset by the time you arrive home.

Your job may also require you to spend periods of time away from home or abroad, this can be very difficult for you and your husband/wife. In such cases, both partners can experience a huge sense of loneliness. This can be particularly difficult for parents who have to spend lots of time away from their children.

Keeping in regular contact by phone, email, SKYPE or other



means of facilitating long distance contact can help to alleviate that sense of loneliness.

#### Difficult Behaviours

It is likely that you and your partner may go through a difficult period at some stage in your lives together. Whether it's the impact of relationship issues, work related issues, family difficulties or personal trauma, these stressful circumstances can sometimes lead to individuals being difficult to get along with.

Husbands and wives who have been relatively easy to get along with can become withdrawn, depressed, aggressive, defensive, argumentative, or secretive when under pressure and this will inevitably impact on their relationship.

Stress can also result in

individuals becoming involved in behaviours that can become destructive over time. Drinking, self medicating, and gambling are some examples of behaviours that can get out of control and make matters even worse.

It is preferable that couples identify and talk about any behaviours that are becoming problematic and support one another to work to resolve them.

#### Changes

Think about the person you were when you were a teenager or young adult, which may be completely different to the person you are today. Imagine how you will be when you're twenty years older than you are today. Although you may hold the same core values, you will have grown and changed as a person in other ways due to the aging process and your life experiences. This will also be the case for your partner.

Both of you are likely to change in some ways over the course of your marriage. You are both growing into the persons you were born to be, so you can't expect anyone to remain the same forever.

Be open to the changes in yourself and your partner. Many of them will be positive as generally people mellow and become wiser as they mature with age and experience.

#### Communicating

Communication (talking and listening) is key to healthy relationships and marriages. Open, honest and respectful communication will help you to deal with the trials and tribulations you experience in the course of your lives together. Without a positive pattern of communication, husbands and wives may become unaware of and oblivious to their partner's thoughts, needs and feelings.

Lack of communication can result in couples lacking understanding of each other, being inconsiderate towards one another and becoming distant from one another.

Ensure you make time to talk with your partner every day. The more you listen and talk to one another, the closer you can become. The closer you are, the easier it is to discuss, share and work to solve problems that arise.

#### Being Attentive

Pay attention to one another. Notice things about one another. Has your husband /wife been quiet, withdrawn, preoccupied or less talkative lately? Do they seem stressed or under pressure? Are they spending a lot of time at work, or are they feeling emotional a lot of the time?

Although the above may not be reasons for major concern, they can sometimes be signs of worries that a person is experiencing and finding it difficult to share.

If you think that your husband or wife is stressed or worried, make time talk to them and reassure them that you are there to listen and support them. This will help them to appreciate that you are willing to help in any way you can.

#### Spending Time Together

Spending time together is an essential ingredient for maintaining and nurturing your marriage. It can help you to appreciate one another, enjoy one another's company, have fun, deepen your understanding of one another, communicate more, connect with one another and relieve stress. The amount of time you give to someone is an indication of the value you have on them.

By spending as much time as you can together, you can remain connected emotionally, physically, cognitively and spiritually and this connection can deepen as time goes on.



## SUNDAY SPORTS

## Chelsea's ruthless reputation for sacking coaches

By PHIL MCNULTYCHIEF

**C**HELSEA'S ruthless reputation for sacking managers, irrespective of previous success and reputation, lives on with the brutal dismissal of Thomas Tuchel.

If anyone believed new owner Todd Boehly would adopt a lighter and more sympathetic touch to those inhabiting the manager's office at Stamford Bridge than predecessor Roman Abramovich they can now think again.

The same rules apply. Poor results equal the sack. Quickly.

Boehly's turbulent first 100 days in charge at Chelsea ended with the abrupt removal of the man who won the Champions League in May 2021, six months after arriving to replace sacked Frank Lampard.

The American's hands-on approach, coupled with the lack of a sporting director after key figures such as director Marina Granovskaia and technical and performance advisor Petr Cech left, has made Stamford Bridge appear to be an unsettled and somewhat chaotic place.

Sacking a manager just days after Chelsea spent more in one transfer window than any other British club in history, £255.3m according to financial services firm Deloitte, only adds to that impression.

Boehly has certainly proved his ambition and financial power but he has made a very bold call sacking Tuchel, one of the game's elite managers, so soon after taking control at the club, although it has appeared all has not been well behind the scenes at Chelsea for some time.

There seemed to be an uneasy relationship between manager and boardroom, with Tuchel issuing several coded messages of mild discontent about transfer policy during the summer. Boehly's strategy was more inclusive than the distance



Tuchel

applied by Abramovich and Granovskaia and Tuchel seemed to have not enjoyed the change.

The collaborative approach suggests not all transfer targets were Tuchel's although the deadline day arrival of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who worked successfully with the German at Borussia Dortmund, from Barcelona certainly had his prints on it.

He told the BBC in the summer: "The relationship with the owners is very intense, very close, which it has to be because without Petr and without Marina it's a big change in the daily structure and communication.

"I'm a lot more involved. I have to step up in terms of responsibility. I think in the long-

term or even when the close of pre-season comes, I will want to be more on the coaching role again."

Tuchel won the Champions League without additions to his Chelsea squad but struggled to replicate that success once the new buys flowed in with Romelu Lukaku - not Boehly's doing, it should be stressed - a horrendous failure at £97.5m and now back at Inter Milan.

The manager appeared to give up on Lukaku very quickly, resulting in what will eventually be a very heavy financial hit for the club.

Even so, Chelsea were close to trophies last season, only losing the League Cup and FA Cup Finals to Liverpool on penalties.

Boehly has certainly given Tuchel reinforcements this summer with England forward Raheem Sterling, defender Kalidou Koulibaly, Brighton left-back Marc Cucurella and Leicester City's young French central defender Wesley Fofana, in at an eye-popping £70m, added to the squad among others.

And yet the pressure has ratcheted up with poor early season performances, including disappointing losses at Leeds United and Southampton, with the decision to sack him taken before the shock Champions League loss away to Dinamo Zagreb on Tuesday.

Boehly has been the subject of jibes from outside Chelsea suggesting that he is a new arrival playing a form of fantasy football but the other side of the coin is that

he made serious statements about his ambition both with his transfer activity and now Tuchel's sacking.

Chelsea's ownership group have clearly seen enough over these first 100 days, both from Tuchel and the team he controls, to decide he is not the man for them and move on. Very swiftly.

While Tuchel's spat with Spurs manager Antonio Conte during and at the end of the 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge, which led to Football Association censure, might be put down to passions running high, the manager has cut a discontented figure throughout much of the early season, perhaps a sign of events bubbling beneath the surface.

He has, by all accounts, become a more detached personality with players and board, poor results and performances only speeding his demise. Chelsea has simply not appeared a happy camp in recent months,

Tuchel, who will not struggle for future employment with his stellar record, can rightly say he would have needed more time and patience to mould Chelsea's expensively reshaped squad but history tells us, over many years with Abramovich and now in 100 days under Boehly, that those two commodities are next to non-existent at Stamford Bridge.

It is big decision by Boehly and his boardroom cohorts but is it the right one?

Chelsea have often turned the old laws of running a club upside down by thriving on instability and managerial churn. Roberto Di Matteo winning the FA Cup and the Champions League as an interim in 2012 is the prime example.

This, however, is a move laced with high-risk and Boehly must get his choice of successor right.

Abramovich may have sacked many managers but was adept at choosing a replacement to maintain success. Boehly is unproven.

It is likely, if the contracts given to new signings and players already at Chelsea are anything to go by, that Tuchel's successor will be given a long-term deal and will be someone who must be part of the collaborative outlook Boehly wants.

He will have to work quickly to bolt all Chelsea's new signings on to those already at the club, never an easy task anywhere but arguably even harder given the club's expectations to compete for the Premier League and Champions League.

Boehly made plenty of big statements in the transfer market this summer. He has now made his biggest of all by sacking Thomas Tuchel.

And much of Boehly's reputation and standing among Chelsea fans will now rest on the success of his next move.



Chelsea

## SUNDAY SPORTS

## Fury confident to 'clean out' Joshua in six to seven rounds

**W**BC heavyweight champion Tyson Fury has fired off a few verbal bombs in the direction of Tony Bellew - over some recent comments regarding Anthony Joshua.

**Newsnow** said that, Fury was attempting to face WBO, IBF, IBO, WBA champion Oleksandr Usyk in December - but the Ukrainian boxer is still healing up from last month's decision win over Joshua and doesn't plan to fight again until 2023.

Once Usyk was out of the picture for this year, Fury turned his attention to Joshua.

Earlier this week, Fury offered Joshua a 60-40 monetary split to have a year-end showdown in the UK.

Joshua and his handlers are fine with the split.

However, Bellew believes Joshua should receive at least a 50-50 split - due to his drawing power.

"Bellew is a fanboy for AJ, isn't he? He's on AJ's hoo-ha. I'm not even going to say it on the radio where he's sitting, he's quite high up on AJ's hoo-ha. So, let's say why is the best fighter in the world - which he knows is me - calling out AJ?," Fury



Fury

told Talk Sport.

"I'll tell you why, Bellew, it's because the other guy little guy who just beat your bodybuilding mate, Usyk, doesn't want no smoke with the Gypsy King. He's come out and said that publicly, 'I do not want to fight Tyson until next year'.

"Bellew's saying, 'Oh, people like Anthony Joshua sell out tickets'. Who does he think he's talking to? I've got the highest attending crowd in the history of the UK - 94,000, on my own! However, AJ and his mate, Eddie Hearn, are both happy with the 40 percent."

Joshua is coming off back to back defeats at the hands of Usyk - and three defeats in his last five fights.

While Fury is not overlooking the abilities of Joshua, he expects to take down his domestic rival in the first half of the contest.

"To be honest with you, the two big, giant heavyweights in the ring, anything can happen at any given moment when you've got two men as big as we are swinging at each other," Fury said.

"However, I've always said what happens when I fight Joshua, he gets cleaned out. I say within six, seven rounds - if he lasts that long."

## US Open: Swiatek continues bid for second major of season

**W**ORLD number one Iga Swiatek continues her bid for a second Grand Slam of the season as part of Thursday's intriguing US Open women's semi-final line-up.

**BBC SPORT** said that, French Open champion Swiatek will take on **Aryna Sabalenka**, who is searching for a first major title after reaching the last four last year.

The Pole is the only Grand Slam winner left in the women's draw.

Wimbledon runner-up **Ons Jabeur** will take on the in-form **Caroline Garcia** in the first semi-final from 00:00 BST.

France's Garcia is on a 13-match winning streak, having come through qualifying to clinch the Cincinnati Open title in the build-up to Flushing Meadows, but Jabeur leads their head-to-head 2-0.

Swiatek has won a Tour-leading 50 matches this year and has made the semi-finals of every major bar Wimbledon in a stellar season.

Both she and Belarusian opponent Sabalenka came through their quarter-final matches in straight sets as they aim for a first US Open title.

This is the first time since last year's US Open that big-hitting Sabalenka has won five matches in a row.

She saved two match points in her second round match against Kaia Kanepi, where she staged a remarkable comeback from 6-1 5-1 down to keep her campaign on track in New York.

Sabalenka has had a difficult season and has lost the two WTA finals she has reached, including a heavy defeat by Swiatek in Stuttgart in April. She has also changed her serve after struggling with

double faults that [left her in tears](#)

"This season when I was struggling with a lot of things and I couldn't play my best, but still I was there, I was fighting," she said.

"I'm in the semi-final and I have zero expectation for myself. I will just go there and fight for every point."

Swiatek has been the form player for much of the year, winning her second French Open in the middle of a record 37-match unbeaten streak.

She arrived in New York having not gone beyond the quarter-final stage of a tournament since losing in the third round at Wimbledon in July and has still yet to find her best tennis.

However, she is the only player to know what it is like to win a major trophy, which may give her an edge over the inconsistent Sabalenka.

"I remember when I was an underdog and any match against a top player was surreal," she said.

**S**PANISH teenager Carlos Alcaraz reached his first major semi-final after beating Italy's Jannik Sinner in a US Open thriller which ended at a record latest time of 2.50am in New York.

**BBC SPORT** said that, Alcaraz, 19, saved a match point before clinching an epic 6-3 6-7 (7-9) 6-7 (0-7) 7-5 6-3 win over 11th seed Sinner.

The third seed will face Frances Tiafoe on Friday for a spot in Sunday's final.

The American, 24, also plays in a first major semi-final after his 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-0) 6-4 win over Andrey Rublev.

"I still don't know how I did it. The level I played of high quality tennis. It's unbelievable," said Alcaraz, who is the youngest man to reach a Grand Slam semi-final since Rafael Nadal at the 2005 French Open.

"I always say you have to believe in yourself all the time. Hope is the last thing you use. I believed in myself, my game."

A first-time Grand Slam champion is already guaranteed in the men's singles at Flushing Meadows, with Norway's Casper Ruud and Russia's Karen Khachanov contesting the other semi-final.

Alcaraz and 23-year-old Ruud also have a shot of becoming the new world number one as an intriguing tournament nears a conclusion.

Tiafoe joked after his win - which finished more than 10 hours before the last quarter-final finally ended on Thursday

"I think any of us can win any tournament."

Jabeur had a picture of the Wimbledon trophy as her phone's lock screen throughout the grass-court Slam but has had a difficult time since losing the final from a set up against Elena Rybakina.

She won just two of her five matches following Wimbledon and had to retire at the Canadian Open with abdominal pain.

However, she too has worked her way into form in New York, overcoming a poor serving day against Ajla Tomljanovic to reach the semi-finals.

"I believe in myself after Wimbledon," she said after her win over Tomljanovic.

"I know that I have it in me to win a major final."

Britain's three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray said Garcia would be "number one in the world one day" after her performance at the French Open in 2011 when she was just 17-years-old.

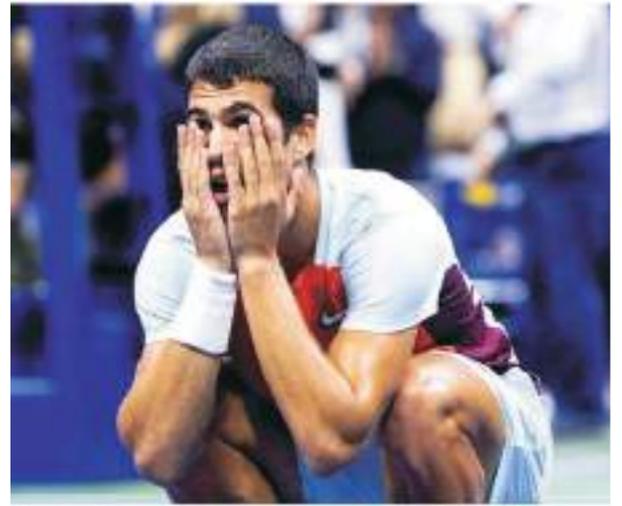
She reached her career high ranking of world number four in 2017, having won two big titles on the WTA and reaching the quarter-finals at Roland Garros.

She dropped out of the top 70 last year but is the in-form player on the WTA, having won three titles in the past three months.

"End of 2017, 2018 was a great year, a lot of success. We made some mistakes," Garcia said.

"I really hope and I think we learn from it. I think I grow up a lot with all the challenges on and off court."

## Alcaraz beats sinner in epic marathon match in New York



Carlos Alcaraz clinched victory against Jannik Sinner after five hours and 15 minutes

morning - he hoped the match between Sinner and Alcaraz would be a "marathon and super-long".

His wish came true after an extraordinary night on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Alcaraz showed quality, resilience and boundless energy to beat Sinner in a captivating contest.

Full of powerful and precise hitting, incredible shot making and jaw-dropping athleticism, the match between two of the sport's brightest talents surpassed even the already-lofty expectations.

After missing five set points in the second set, unable to serve out the third and stopping Sinner taking a match point in the fourth, Alcaraz sealed victory after five hours and 15 minutes with his first match point.

The teenager collapsed to the court in elation, covering his face and breathing heavily as he lay down to process what had just happened.

He peeled himself off the surface to share a warm hug with Sinner, who walked around the net to congratulate his opponent.

An exhausting battle ended in front of a healthy number of dedicated fans in the early hours and Alcaraz celebrated wildly with his incredulous supporters, even giving a trainer each to two of them.

Alcaraz lost to Sinner in the Wimbledon fourth round in July, but started confidently at Flushing Meadows to win a superb first set which offered some signs a classic might unfold.

Sinner fought back in a tense second set which could have swung either way, with fans already leaping to their feet with disbelieving facial expressions at what they were seeing.

That included Alcaraz hitting an audacious behind-the-back shot that led to a winning point in the 12th game and Sinner hitting a brilliant backhand winner to level the match.

Both players saw their first-serve percentage drop in the third set, with the intensity of the battle taking its toll.

Sinner was broken for the second time as Alcaraz led 6-5, but he stopped the Spaniard serving out for a two-sets-to-one lead by somehow staying in an exchange at deuce which switched momentum back in

his favour.

After a brilliant tie-break, Sinner looked the more energised and quickly moved a break up in the fourth.

But this match was never going to have an uncomplicated conclusion.

An edgy Sinner could not take the match point as he tried to serve out at 5-4, which led to a revitalised Alcaraz breaking as part of four in a row and teeing up a decider at 2.01am.

Still there was little idea which way the outcome would go. Sinner broke for a 3-2 lead seconds before the match became the latest finish in the tournament's history, but then did not win another game as Alcaraz turned the match back in his favour.

"I had some tough losses, for sure," said Sinner. "This is in the top list. I think this one will hurt for quite a while."

After stunning 36-year-old Nadal in the previous round, Tiafoe backed up what he called the biggest day of his life with another impressive display against Russian eighth seed Rublev.

The 22nd seed is the first American man to reach the US Open semi-finals since Andy Roddick in 2006.

"This is wild, this is crazy. I had the biggest win of my life 48 hours ago. To back it up, it's tough to turn the page, but I did, and now I'm in the semis," said Tiafoe.

"I feel so at home on courts like this. This court is unbelievable."

Rublev, who has now played in six major quarter-finals without progression, looked the more dangerous in the early stages but missed chances as Tiafoe took control of the first set in the tie-break.

The second set also went all the way on serve, but if cracks were beginning to show in Rublev's composure, they shattered in the tie-break.

A composed Tiafoe - who has not lost a tie-break so far in the tournament - dominated and Rublev's anger boiled over as he repeatedly smashed his racquet against his own knee.

The third set brought the first break of serve, leaving Rublev in tears after he allowed Tiafoe to edge ahead for 4-3.

Tiafoe withstood pressure in the eighth game, saving two break points, then served out the match with his 18th ace to become the first black American man to reach the US Open last four since Arthur Ashe in 1972.



Iga Swiatek won the French Open in dominant fashion in 2020 and 2022

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Klopp admits the need to 'reinvent' themselves

**J**URGEN Klopp admitted that Liverpool may need to 'reinvent themselves' after they suffered Champions League embarrassment at the hands of Napoli.

**Goal said that,** the Reds slid to their heaviest European defeat since 1966 as they were put to the sword in Naples, losing 4-1 having been 3-0 down by half-time.

Speaking to *BT Sport* afterwards, Klopp said: "It looks a little bit like we have to reinvent ourselves. There's a lot of things lacking, and the fun part is that we have to do that in the middle of a Premier League and Champions League campaign. In three days we play against Wolves, and if they saw the game tonight they probably cannot stop laughing. They will say it's a perfect moment (to play Liverpool). I would say it's a perfect moment. But we have to try to find a set-up to be much better in pretty much everything."

The Reds have won only two



Klopp

of their seven games in all competitions this season, and the margin of this defeat equals their worst since the European Cup became the Champions League in 1992. Not since 1966, when they were beaten 5-1 by Johan Cruyff's Ajax, have they suffered a bigger loss in continental competition.

He had his best years in

Spanish football and is one of the Nigerians who impressed the most in the La Liga during their playing days.

Sadiq is expected to be slotted straight into Sociedad after waiting all season for a possible switch to Villarreal.

The former Partizan Belgrade star has made one of the highest moves of any Nigerian this season.

**F**C Copenhagen have confirmed winger Akinkunmi Amoo will miss action for the rest of the season after sustaining an injury in training.

**Goal** said that, the 20-year-old nicknamed 'little Messi' will miss action for the whole campaign after sustaining an injury during a friendly match.

The 20-year-old Nigeria prospect picked up an injury during a training match between the Danish giants and Silkeborg and scans have shown he will have to undergo surgery.

"Akinkunmi [Amoo] unfortunately suffered a serious knee injury in Saturday's training match against Silkeborg, and after scans and further examinations he has been ruled out for the rest of the season," the club confirmed [on their website](#).

Meanwhile, Copenhagen chief physician Morten Boesen has confirmed Amoo will have to undergo a rehabilitation process that will last for at least nine to 10 months.

"Amoo will now have an operation, will rest, and then undergo a long rehabilitation before he can train with the team and play matches again," Boesen told the same portal.

"Altogether, that process will last nine to 10 months. Everyone at Copenhagen

## Amoo rule out for the rest of the season



Amoo

wishes Amoo a speedy recovery."

Amoo was not part of the Copenhagen team that suffered a 3-0 defeat against Borussia Dortmund in their Uefa Champions League Group G opener at Signal Iduna Park on Tuesday.

In July this year, Amoo, who is a left-footed player nicknamed 'little Messi' because of his dribbling skills, suffered another injury while in pre-season training with Copenhagen in the Netherlands.

Born in Ibadan, located in

southwestern Nigeria, Amoo started playing youth football at Brightville Academy before moving to Lagos where he signed for Sidos FC.

On the international scene, Amoo launched his Nigeria career in the 2019 Africa U17 Cup of Nations and scored on his debut in a 5-4 group stage victory against Tanzania.

Ahead of the Africa Cup of Nations finals in Cameroon earlier this year, Amoo was named in the Super Eagles squad by then coach Augustine Eguavoen to replace Odion Ighalo but he did not make the final cut.

## Haaland not in same level with Mbappe, claims Henry

**T**HERRY Henry has revealed his belief that Kylian Mbappe is a better player than Erling Haaland as he can create as well as finish.

**Goal said that,** Haaland and Mbappe both grabbed

braces when their respective Champions League campaigns got underway on Tuesday night. And speaking after those games Henry revealed which of the

forwards he would rather have in his team.

"Mbappe can create and finish. Haaland doesn't create. He finishes," Henry said on CBS. "Mbappe can play on the right and on the left. He can play in the middle. Haaland can only play in the middle."

"He is a magnificent player and with him they can win the Champions League last year. Against Real Madrid, if it was him at the end of those chances that they missed, they will have been focused on scoring one or two. For now, Mbappe is still my vote."

Haaland scored his two goals in Manchester City's dominant 4-0 win in Sevilla, with Kevin De Bruyne and Phil Foden providing the assists.

Meanwhile, Mbappe netted both of PSG's goals in their 2-1 victory over Juventus.

## Hag reveals on Rashford's future

**E**RIK ten Hag wants a rejuvenated Marcus Rashford to stay at Manchester United amid interest from Paris Saint-Germain.

**Goal said that,** United are ready to open contract talks with Rashford, who has scored three goals in his last four games and looks reborn under Ten Hag. While there is no panic over the England international's future now that he is into the final year of his contract, the club's hierarchy have already made it clear they have no intention of letting him go after his brother met with PSG representatives last month.

United have a one-year extension option on Rashford, with Ten Hag telling reporters of his situation: "Definitely (I want to keep him). I don't think he's out of contract. United control the situation. I see a happy Marcus Rashford. I see some phases in his game we could improve and we worked really hard the last two and a half months with him on different aspects and he really likes it and wants to transfer it to the pitch."

"It starts with happiness. He comes in every day smiling and you want to transfer different aspects of your game and if you are happy it will be more of a contribution to the team, and development."

Rashford has been moved to centre forward following an injury to Anthony Martial, while Cristiano Ronaldo has not started since the defeat to



Rashford

Brentford. But it is notable that all of his goals have come when being switched to left late in games. And it remains to be seen if Ten Hag prefers him out wide when he has a fully fit forward line, with it possible that [Ronaldo could still be United's main man up top](#).

## Walsh completes world-record Barcelona transfer

**E**NGLAND star Keira Walsh has completed her world-record move to Barcelona from Manchester City.

**Goal revealed that.** Walsh has been linked with a move to Barca for some time, and the world-record transfer has now been confirmed. She signs a three-year deal in Catalunya.

Walsh's transfer continues the trend of the top female players commanding increasing transfer fees and longer contracts. She replaces Chelsea forward Pernille Harder as the most expensive player of all time.

Walsh joins the exodus of City players to European clubs this summer. Georgia Stanway (Bayern Munich), Caroline Weir (Real Madrid) and Lucy Bronze (Barcelona) have all left recently, while Ellen White and Jill Scott have retired.

"Manchester City can



Walsh

confirm that Keira Walsh has joined Barcelona for an undisclosed fee," a club statement read. "Everybody at Manchester City would like to thank Keira for her contributions during her time at the Club and wish her all the best for the future."

Walsh's move is a significant blow for City, who have already had a tough start to

the season, crashing out in the first qualifying round of the Women's Champions League. The England international is an irreplaceable presence - there is no player quite like the one that has orchestrated their midfield for so long.

The 25-year-old will link up with her new teammates soon after helping the

Lionesses secure their place at the 2023 World Cup. She is in line for a debut on Saturday, September 17 against Granadilla Tenerife.

## Sadiq receives approval from Adepoju after record transfer

**F**ORMER Nigeria midfielder Mutiu Adepoju believes Real Sociedad will reap maximum dividends from the €20 million they paid for Umar Sadiq.

**Goal** said that, the Super Eagles striker has been backed to repay La Real's €20m outlay after showing his qualities with a debut goal last weekend.

Sociedad made Sadiq their record signing when he signed a five-year contract to seal a move from La Liga rivals Almeria on transfer deadline day.

The striker wasted little time to start repaying the fee as he scored just 10 minutes after his introduction during Saturday's 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid, his goal helping La Real rescue a point and Adepoju feels that is just the beginning of more to come.

"It seems to me that he will be a profitable signing," Adepoju, who played for Sociedad from 1996-

2000, told *Mundo Deportivo*.

"La Real will receive much more from Sadiq than they have paid. You are going to see it," he added.

While denying that he had a hand in Sadiq's signing given he is still in touch with former teammate and current Sociedad football director Roberto Olabe, Adepoju was not surprised that the Super Eagles striker made his mark immediately.

"It's funny. I was with Olabe, but we couldn't talk about him [Sadiq]. I know that they were following him, and there was someone else who asked me about Sadiq," he added.

"That's why Real signed him. Olabe is doing a great job. [Alexander] Isak, now Sadiq, he is signing big players. They have seen that Sadiq can give them a lot."

"And, of course, it says a lot

about him to score as soon as he enters. I'm sure he's going to give La Real a lot."

Having started on the bench, Sadiq was introduced at the beginning of the second half and it took him 10 minutes to make his mark, scoring the equaliser in the 55th minute after Sociedad had conceded a fifth-minute goal from Alvaro Morata.

Sadiq created problems for the Atletico defence with his movement, physicality and height while his ability to drop deeper allowed his teammates to get more space in the box, traits coach Imanol Alguacil will be relying on across the season.

The striker, who scored 43 goals in 84 games for Almeria, will hope to make his first start for Sociedad as they begin their Europa League campaign against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Thursday.

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Quadri defeats rival to be African Champion again

**N**IGERIAN Table Tennis superstar, Aruna Quadri defeated his Egyptian nemesis for the third consecutive time in the Senior Table Tennis to reclaim the African title.

Quadri won the 2022 African Table Tennis Championship after an incredible final encounter against Omar Assar.

Quadri defeated the Egyptian rival 4-3 in the keenly contested and entertaining final at the Senior Table Tennis competition in Algeria.

In what was the third consecutive final between two of Africa's best players in the men's singles, it was Quadri who smiled home with the big prize.

He had to dig really deep against the defending champion, however, to reclaim the title he last won four years ago.



**Quadri**

Three years after he lost the crown to the Egyptian, Aruna is back as the king of table tennis in Africa after an outstanding performance on Friday afternoon.

Egypt's superstar, Assar, looked home and dry after a shaky start from Aruna handed him a comfortable

2-0 lead.

But Aruna pulled back a set in the third set to make it 2-1 before Assar restored his two-set lead in the fourth set.

With three sets to go, Aruna turned things around to win 11-7, 13-11 and 14-12 to win in spectacular fashion

**N**IGERIA'S Super Eagles goalkeeper Daniel Akpeyi continues his adventures in the South African Premier League as he agrees to join another club in the league, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

Akpeyi left the Nigeria league club Warri Wolves and Joined Chippa United from where he eventually linked up with one of the biggest clubs in South Africa Kaizer Chiefs.

He left the club at the end of last season at the expiration of his contract.

The lanky goaltender decided to be training with the former Super Eagles goalkeeper Greg Etafia until he was able to secure another club.

According to an update from

## Super Eagles goalkeeper joins South African club



**Akpeyi**

the country, Sekhuhune United has secured the services of Akpeyi as a free agent on a year deal with an

option of another year. Akpeyi is expected to bring his wealth of experience to the club as they are currently placed 14th on the table.

## Basketball championship commences soon

*From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja*

**T**HE Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) has been presented with the Federal Government Level Five (5) Platinum Level award for outstanding performance in corporate governance and accountability by the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR).

The award is based on the Corporation's outstanding score of Ninety-Three Percent

(93%) in the BPSR Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) that was deployed to Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to assess and enhance service delivery. Presenting the award to the Corporation, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Barr. Boss Mustapha represented by the Special Adviser to the President on Policy and Coordination, Dr. Habiba Lawal congratulated the Board, Management and Staff of the NDIC for the courage and commitment during the exercise. She added that the Corporation's exceptional achievement serves as an impetus for other government agencies to take the opportunity of the BPSR Self-

Assessment Tool to assess their strengths and weaknesses, and employ the outcome of the self-evaluation to achieve the Federal Government's objectives of effective service delivery to the citizenry.

The Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Dr. Zainab Ahmed, represented by the Director, Home Finance, Mr. Stephen Okon commended the Corporation for the award and expressed the Ministry's continued commitment and support to the NDIC towards the implementation of the recommendations of the BPSR SAT report. While presenting the SAT report, the Director-General of the BPSR, Dr. Dasuki Arabi, stated that the Corporation is the first and only agency under the supervision of Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to submit itself to the SAT assessment. He explained that the Corporation's 93% score which represents the rating of "Far Exceeded Expectations" is a direct result of the Management's commitment to high standards in corporate governance and staff's diligence and hard work.

He added that the assessment, which commenced in September 2021, focused on broad areas of strategic governance including financial management, operational and service delivery process, human resource management & planning, procurement process and change management.

The Chairman, NDIC Board of Directors, Mrs. Ronke Sokefun and the MD/CE, NDIC Mr. Bello Hassan both congratulated the NDIC Board, Management Team and staff for the feat achieved. The MD/CE, Mr. Hassan said since the assessment from the BPSR, the NDIC has continued to benchmark itself with International Standards and Best Practices through a culture of continuous process improvement and service delivery to its various stakeholders. Meanwhile, The Board Chairman, Mrs. Sokefun said the NDIC would continue to strive for excellence in delivery of its mandate while implementing recommendations of the BPSR report.

## Tobi Amusan continues 2022 revolution

**N**IGERIA'S Queen of Hurdles, World and Africa records holder, Tobi Amusan set a new record on Thursday as she won another trophy after finishing in 12.29s to successfully defend her Diamond League title.

She won the women's 100 meters hurdles at this year's Diamond League in Zurich.

Kendra Harrison of the United States and Britany Anderson of Jamaica finished second and third, respectively, behind the champion.

The 25-year-old had in August, won the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

This was after she had broken the hurdles record in the semi-finals in 12.12s at the World Athletic Championship,

Amusan is the first Nigerian to win a gold medal at the championship with her wind speed display in Eugene, Oregon.

She also defended her African championships title with a 12:57s.

This is her FIFTH major win since her first taste of victory at the Diamond League final last year.

Sept 2021- Diamond League Final winner

Jun 2022- African Championships title

## English FA to honour Nigerian

**T**HE English Football Association will finally recognise Benjami Odeje as the first black man to play for England after a 51-year wait.

The former Charlton star is set to be special guest at Wembley for match against Germany.

Odeje has waited over half a century for the FA to acknowledge his position as the first-ever black footballer to feature in an international fixture for England at any level - but his 51-year wait is coming

to an end.

A BBC investigation in 2013 identified Odeje, who was born in Nigeria, as the first black Three Lions player when he was selected for England schoolboys, as a 15-year-old, versus Northern Ireland in front of 70,000 people at Wembley in March 1971.

The FA has now agreed to formally invite Odeje, who came through the ranks at Charlton during the late 1960s and 1970s, as a special guest to England's UEFA Nations



**Odeje**

League fixture against Germany later this month.

Odeje, who was nicknamed Pele because of his prolific goalscoring record, went on to make four further appearances for England schoolboys, scoring once - in a 5-1 win

over Holland.

The move to finally endorse Odeje's standing was first mooted by Paul Elliott, chair of the FA's inclusion advisory board, earlier this year.

Odeje will now be officially recognised for an honour long overdue.



**Amusan**



# Nigeria could have won 2021 AFCON -Rohr

**N**ine months after he was sacked from his job, former Super Eagles handler, Gernot Rohr has expressed sadness for players of the Nigerian senior national team following their uneventful 2022 football aspirations.

The team failed to go beyond the Round of 16 at the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations, AFCON in Cameroon and also failed to qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar later in the year.

Rohr who qualified the team to the 2018 World Cup in Russia as well as finish 3rd in the 2019 AFCON in Egypt, reckons that the results could have been different were he still in charge of the team.

The German had qualified Nigeria for the the 2021 AFCON and playoff stage of the World Cup qualifiers before his employers, the Nigeria Football Federation relieved him of his duties on 14th December 2021 and replaced with Austin Eguavoen.

Nigeria eventually failed to qualify for the World Cup after a 1-1 home draw in Abuja handed Ghana the ticket and suffered a round of 16 exit at the AFCON in Cameroon, disappointments Rohr blames his sacking for.

"We were still celebrating when the news came that I have been sacked as coach. They claimed it was an order from the top. I was in shock. This came at a time when I feel we are almost getting close to making out project for the team work," Rohr was quoted.

"The aim was winning the AFCON and we had plans for a team that would have won it and also qualified for the



Rohr

World Cup. There was a plan to integrate new players using the AFCON and all the pre World Cup friendly games. I can't think of any player in the team now that we didn't have in our plan or gave a call up. I'm sad for my players."

Since December last year, Gernot Rohr is yet to land a new job despite few interviews and has continued to bemoan opportunities with the Super Eagles brat never came to past.

Rohr was Nigeria's longest serving coach after he

spending over 5 years with the three-time Africa Cup of Nations winner

Meanwhile, Super Eagles defender Kenneth Omeruo is now a major doubt for the international friendly match between Algeria and Nigeria slated for August 27 in Oran.

Omeruo's participation in that encounter was thrown in doubt after he picked up an injury during a club engagement on Friday night.

The former Chelsea centre-back went down in pains in the 74th minute of CD Leganes's

1-0 defeat at Las Palmas.

The 28-year-old, who was making his fifth appearance of the season, could not continue afterwards and was replaced by Spaniard Juan Muñoz. It was the first time this season that Omeruo would fail to complete the ninety minutes of a league game for the Cucumber Growers.

Leganes, though, are yet to reveal the extent of the Nigeria international's injury at press time.

CarBall Ep.2: "Okocha's

passes were underrated"

Nigerian radio presenter and entertainment broadcaster, Do2tun was on the second episode of Carball with Babajide Guerrero, where he showed his knowledge of football and discussed issues around Arsenal, how he started watching football, the World Cup and what he thinks about some footballers.

2013 Africa Cup of Nations winner Omeruo is the second high-profile Super Eagles player to suffer an injury recently.

Only on Wednesday night, Napoli striker Victor Osimhen went down to a muscle strain during the Italian side's 4-1 hammering of Liverpool in the Champions League.

Although the former Lille lad has allayed fears of a major injury set-back, reports suggest he will be unavailable for two weeks.

Omeruo and Osimhen were in the Super Eagles squad that trounced Sao Tome and Principe 10-0 in June, Nigeria's last international engagement. Osimhen scored four goals in that encounter, an Africa Cup of Nations qualifying match.

In another development, the Nigeria Football Federation and Federação Portuguesa de Futebol have signed a formal agreement for the Super Eagles and A Seleção to clash in a prestige senior team friendly at the Estádio José Alvalade in Lisbon on Thursday, 17th November.

Nigeria's Super Eagles have won the Africa Cup of Nations on three occasions (as well as Olympic men's football gold, silver and bronze) while Portugal won her first continental trophy (Euro

Championship) in France in 2016, defeating host France 1-0 after extra time at the Stade de France. As hosts, A Seleção lost the Euro Championship final to Greece in 2004.

Already billed to play 2019 African champions Algeria in Oran on 27th September, the encounter with Portugal is another match by the NFF which has enabled high-end international friendlies for the Super Eagles and other Nigeria National Teams over the past eight years.

The match with Portugal will be the first clash at senior men level for both countries, though last year summer, the Super Falcons and the Senior Women Team of Portugal fought out a thrilling 3-3 draw in the USWNT Summer Series in Houston, Texas, USA.

It can also be recalled that in 1989, Portugal's U-20 boys defeated Nigeria's U-20 boys 2-0 in the final of the FIFA World Youth Championship (now FIFA U20 World Cup finals) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The Estádio José Alvalade is a natural grass facility that holds 50,000 spectators, and is home venue for Sporting Clube de Portugal. The facility is named after José Alvalade, the founder and first club member of Sporting CP who died in 1918. The stadium was opened in August 2003.

Portugal will be led by five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo, easily one of the best footballers the world has ever seen, while the Super Eagles will be led at the fore by Italy-based forward Victor Osimhen, growing to be one of the most lethal strikers in world football.

## FG declares LMC illegal, orders NFF to withdraw

**T**he Federal Government has declared the League Management Company, LMC illegal and ordered the Nigeria Football Federation, NFF to immediately withdraw its operational license, Bestchoicesports.com.ng can report.

The directive was contained in press release signed by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Mr Ismaila Abubakar on Friday.

In the presser, the Government noted that it would henceforth not recognize LMC as the body charged with running of the affairs of the National Football League, NFL.

It further directed the NFF to, without delay,

constitute an Interim Management Committee, IMC to oversee the affairs of the League until a proper Professional League Board is constituted in accordance with the Statutes of the NFF.

"In view of the several unpleasant incidents regarding the management of the Football League, specifically, the declaration of the National Football League (NFL) as an illegal body by the Court; the status of the League Management Company (LMC), the NFL's successor-in-title being outside the purview of the Statutes of the NFF; the Federal Government is constrained to withdraw its recognition of the LMC as the operator of the Nigeria Professional Football

League, with immediate effect.

"This decision has become necessary because of the obvious aberration (which is at variance with our football statutes or the laws of the land) whereby a private company is GIFTED the mandate to manage or run the league indefinitely, without the full involvement of and leadership by the clubs, and devoid of any process to monitor the progress and development of the game.

"Sequel to the above, and in order to rescue our domestic football from total collapse, the BOARD OF THE LMC AND THE LMC AS A BODY WOULD NO LONGER BE RECOGNISED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS OPERATOR OF THE NIGERIAN PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

"To avert further chaos in

our domestic football, the NFF is advised to immediately withdraw the Licence given to the LMC and, in the meantime, set up an Interim Management Committee (IMC), to include the current Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the LMC to oversee the affairs of the League until a proper Professional League Board is constituted in accordance with the Statutes of the NFF," the release said

The League Management Company, LMC has come under severe criticisms following the handling and organisation of the Nigeria Professional Football League, NPFL which for ages have been running without a title sponsor and matches not broadcast on television.