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Nigeria and security challenges

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The menace of banditry and terrorism in Nigeria's well documented. Little wonder the arrest of Tukur Mamu recently by operatives of the Department of State Service (DSS) has elicited a lot of interest and debates.



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Tackling mental health disorder in Nigeria

The World Health Organization,(WHO) describes mental health as an important and essential component of health, a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. This definition implies that mental health is critical to a person's ability to think, operate, emote, interact with his environment, earn a living and enjoy life.

According to WHO, the protection and restoration of mental health can be regarded as a vital concern of individuals, communities and societies throughout the world. In definite terms, mental and behavioral disorders affect people of all countries and societies regardless of age, gender and income and it is not uncommon in Nigeria, yet there is still considerable neglect of mental health, and those who visibly suffer from mental disorders.

Recently, the President of Association of Psychiatrists in Nigeria, Taiwo Obindo disclosed that more than 60 million citizen of the country. This statistics indicates that almost half of the population of the nation which stands at 200 million are at great risk of

Obindo who is also the chairman, faculty of West Africa College of Psychiatry, Nigeria chapter of the West Africa College of Physicians the problem has countries to be a source of worry for the fact that or rural areas are mostly devastated by this problems. Sad enough, statistics also indicated that more than 90 percent of these patients are unable to secure access for treatment of this ailment.

As it is therefore; in May 2021, WHO's notes that the global prevalence estimates for different metal disorders was 28.0 percent for depression,26.9 percent for anxiety, 24.1 percent for post-traumatic stress symptoms, 36.5 percent for psychological distress ad 27.6 percent for sleep problems.

Interestingly, WFMH further explains that 75-95 percent of people with mental disorders in low and middle income countries such as Nigeria are able to access metal health services at all.

Most disturbing the resultant effect of this problem. So far, one person dies from suicide every 40 seconds totaling about 800, 000 deaths yearly even as one I every six children between the ages of 10-19 years around the world suffer from metal health issues.

Some experts are also of the opinion that despite the increasing attention give to metal health issues in recent years, world is yet to get it right as far as the results in the scale-p of quality metal services that is aligned with needs.

It has been established that one of the leading cases of metal health problems in Nigeria is evidently drug related activities. Coupled with this is the

Accordingly, some of these patients do not have access to appropriate care ad travel long distances to access these facilities and some of the factors hindering the management of this metal illness in Nigeria include myths, ad traditional beliefs, inadequate metal health facilities and the number of mental health professionals. We are of the opinion that the present economic predicament in the country has continued to affect it citizens. Worst hit are the rural populace who are very vulnerable in our communities.

Therefore, more than ever before, government must accept the realities on ground, develop and implement workable framework towards addressing mental health issues in Nigeria. Beyond providing adequate facilities to tackle this ailment, proactive measures should be taken so as to save other Nigerians from coming down with mental health disorders.

Non-communicable diseases kill 41m people every year -who

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said 41 million people die from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) globally every year.

The figure, WHO said, is equivalent to 74 per cent of all annual global deaths.

Before the age of 70, the global health organisation noted that 17 million people die from Communicable Diseases (CDs), adding that 77 per cent of all NCD deaths are in low-and middle-income countries.

In a long publication detailing NCDs on Friday, WHO highlighted four groups of diseases that account for over 80 per cent of all premature NCD deaths.

It further noted that with 17.9 million annual deaths, cardiovascular diseases account for most deaths, and that it is followed by cancers with 9.3 million deaths annually.

The publication said while chronic respiratory diseases account for 4.1 million, deaths from diabetes are 2.0 million including those caused by kidney disease as a result of diabetes.

"Detection, screening and treatment of NCDs, as well as palliative care, are key components of the response to NCDs," it said.

The WHO explained that people of all age groups, regions and countries are affected by NCDs but evidence shows that 17 million NCD deaths

occur before the age of 70 years.

It noted that children, adults and the elderly are all vulnerable to the risk factors contributing to NCDs, which it said include unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, exposure to tobacco smoke or the harmful use of alcohol.

These diseases are driven by forces that include rapid unplanned urbanisation, globalisation of unhealthy lifestyles and population aging.

"Unhealthy diets and a lack of physical activity may show up in people as raised blood pressure, increased blood glucose, elevated blood lipids and obesity," WHO said.

It added that these factors are called metabolic risk factors and can lead to cardiovascular disease, which is the leading NCD in terms of premature deaths.

The global body further explained two types of NCDs risk factors: Modifiable behavioural risk factors and metabolic risk factors.

According to WHO, modifiable behaviours such as tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet and the harmful use of alcohol, all increase the risk of NCDs.

It said tobacco accounts for over 8 million deaths every year including from the effects of exposure to second-hand smoking, while 1.8 million annual deaths have been attributed to excess salt/sodium intake

Also, more than half of the three million annual deaths attributable to alcohol use are from NCDs, including cancer, while 830,000 deaths annually can be attributed to insufficient physical activity.

Under the metabolic risk factors, it said raised blood pressure constitutes the leading cause of deaths, followed by raised blood glucose, overweight and obesity.

On its socioeconomic impacts, the WHO said that the "NCDs threaten progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a target of reducing the probability of death from any of the four main NCDs between ages 30 and 70 years by one-third by 2030."

It added that the exorbitant costs of NCDs, including treatment, which is often expensive, combined with the loss of income, force millions of people into poverty annually and stifle development.

Meanwhile, WHO recommended that an important way to control NCDs is to focus on reducing the risk factors associated with these diseases.

It said: "Low-cost solutions exist for governments and other stakeholders to reduce the common modifiable risk factors. Monitoring the progress and trends of NCDs and their risk is important for guiding policy and priorities.

NIN enrollment hits 89 million

The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) has so far captured 89 million people in the ongoing National Identity Number (NIN) enrolment.

The Director General of NIMC, Aliyu Aziz, disclosed this at a Press Conference held recently in Abuja.

According to Aziz, though the commission has successfully enrolled 89 million people, the commission is taking the enrolment campaign to the nooks and crannies of the country by engaging traditional institutions

As at today, we have enrolled 89 million people for the National Identify Number, NIN. When I became the DG, we enrolled over 7 million but you can see that we have enrolled an additional 82 million. We have been growing the data as every month we enrol 2 million people.

"The 89 million are the mainstream people so there are still remaining the local people in the village, petty traders, market people and artisans in rural areas across the country who are yet to be enrolled", he said.

The NIMC Boss said to achieve this, "one of the strategies is that we are partnering with the traditional institutions and leaders to create awareness on NIN enrolment at the grassroots because NIN is the right of everyone.

"You know that an Identity is a tool for empowerment and greater use of digital Identity can help bring development and coordinating for better delivery of government services."

He also disclosed that modifications such as change of name, change of date of birth and others that are within the law should not take more than 48 hours to effect, he added that the modifications that take more than 48 hours are those that are not within the law.

"With our system modification of names and dates of birth within the law (5yrs) shouldn't take more than 48 hours. Those that take longer are because we have to consult with other relevant stakeholders before we affect the modification.

"Though we have some that you can see clearly that it is an error from entry, like in a case where the child is

three years younger than the mother. So we advise that anyone who is not literate that is coming for enrollment should come with one literate person", the NIMC boss stressed.

Aziz spoke on the commission's enrollment programme, "There are three pillars based on the Identity programme, effective design to ensure inclusion creating a robust and

We're ready to call off strike, ASUU declares

President, Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Prof. Emmanuel Osodeke, has said the union is willing to end its seven-month old strike.

Osodeke, however, said this could only be achieved if concrete agreements are reached with the Federal Government. He gave the assurance in Abuja, Friday, at a National Town Hall Meeting on Tertiary Education tagged: 'The Locked Gates of our Citadels -A National Emergency.'

Recall that the union embarked on industrial action on February 14, making it over seven months since public universities across the country were closed down.

The Federal Government recently sued ASUU at the industrial court in an attempt to end the strike. Osodeke said: "On all these issues, we have given the government a minimum that we can accept, but they have not responded on the issue of earned allowance and on issues that we have all discussed.

"We negotiated and agreed that they should sign, and this is very simple, not more than one day. On UTAS and IPPIS, we said release the report of the test you did and let's look at the one that came first and take it as we agreed. So, we have given them the minimum we want and we have to come down, and they can do it in one day if there is a will."

Osodeke reiterated the union's commitment to return to school if the Federal Government puts its proposal on the table, saying negotiation could be reached if the government is willing.

He said: "If the government loves this country, these children and their parents, then they should come to the table and let us resolve these issues in

secured and accuracy with our partnering agencies capturing data and instructional framework. That was the reason we launched the tokenisation system to ensure the privacy of data.

"We have over 15,000 enrollment centres and over 29,000 equipment all over the country."

one day. Just as we did in 2014, they should come and ensure that we do that. We can even have the meeting openly, so that Nigerians will see what we are discussing."

The ASUU president expressed sadness over the lingering strike, which resulted in the government taking the union to court. He said suing the union was not an option, as it would further worsen the situation of students and tertiary education in the country.

He said if the court forces the lecturers to return to school, they won't force them to teach with open minds, adding that students would definitely be at the receiving end.

Osodeke commended the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Pro-Chancellors for stepping in to resolve the issues. He urged parents and students to appeal to the government to do the needful, so that the strike would come to an end, once and for all, rather than attacking the union.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Vivian Bello, Convener, Save Public Education Campaign, a non-governmental organisation, has pleaded with both parties to resolve the issues.

She said students are not the only people feeling the negative impact, but also the union.

Bello said it behooves both sides to bring the crisis to a perpetual end for the sake of students and development of education in the country.

She added: "We are going to play our traditional role, which is the role of monitor. We are going to keep very strong searchlight on the two actors, to see that this issue of back and forth is quickly brought to an end, and the strike will be called-off.



With
**Katdapba
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On Sunday**



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"Sadly, in some cases, the stool would remain vacant for years without an occupant. Most of the times, because of interference by government and powerful individuals to circumvent the selection procedure; there are violent clashes leading to loss of lives and of property."

IT is no longer news that the British Monarch, Queen Elizabeth passed away on September 8, 2022, at the ripe age of 96. She died peacefully at Balmoral Castle, her estate in the Scottish Highlands.

By the time you read this, she would have been prepared for burial for September 19, 2022 even as former Prince Charles of Wales has become King Charles III already. How sweet can their arrangement be? It is a lesson to be learnt.

The Queen who ruled the United Kingdom for seven decades, was such a longstanding institution that it's easy to forget she wasn't supposed to have become queen at all.

'Born in 1926, Elizabeth was the daughter of King George V's second son, and had little expectation of succeeding to the throne until her uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated in 1936 to marry the divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson. After the death of her father, King George VI, 25-year-old Elizabeth was called upon to assume the throne, beginning a momentous reign. In February 2022, the United Kingdom staged a series of celebrations for the queen's Platinum Jubilee—marking 70 years of her service to the British Commonwealth.

'Queen Elizabeth II, who died at age 96, proved consistent and enduring. In April 2021, she lost her husband of 73 years, Prince Phillip, when he died at age 99. In February 2022, the Queen contracted the coronavirus, which she later said left her "very tired and exhausted." She installed her 15th prime minister, Liz Truss, just two days before her death'.

Queen Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; was born April 26, 1926, and died September 8, 2022. She was Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms from February 6, 1952, until she died in 2022. That means she was on the throne for a record 70 years.

'She was queen regnant of 32 sovereign states during her life and served as monarch of 15 of them at the time of her death.' Several world leaders as well as ordinary folks have been paying tribute to a woman who changed the course of leadership. We shall return to this shortly, and also deal with the record achievements that stand her out.

I have reflected on her death and the contributions she made in her 70 years on the throne as a monarch. Today, not all people around the globe, particularly in countries where she superintended, were happy with her reign, while it lasted.

Like several other sympathizers across the world, who posted their condolences on different new media platforms, there are a few others who have wished her bad. That is why Festus Adebayo had written in The Cable wrote thus:

'Like a prude confronted with sexually explicit images, the world didn't hide its shock at Nigerian-born American professor, Uju Anya's negative comments last week on the late British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. The world had waited with bated breath at manifest indications that Elizabeth's last hours had come. Amid this apprehension, the associate

Queen Elizabeth II: If she were a Nigerian



Queen Elizabeth II visiting a community picnic where locals provided musical and dance entertainment to celebrate the ethnic diversity of West London at Gunnersbury Park, June 24, 2002

professor of Applied Linguistics, Critical Sociolinguistics and Critical Discourse at Carnegie Mellon University launched her salvo. It came in the form of a tweet that brimmed with bile and hate. She had tweeted: "I heard the chief monarch of a thieving, raping genocidal empire is finally dying. May her pain be excruciating"? It was a bazooka that upset and shook the world out of its sanctimony.

'Billionaire Jeff Bezos, the world's third richest man, had an immediate riposte for Anya. "This is someone supposedly working to make the world better? I don't think so. Wow," he had written. Not one to be cowed, Anya launched another diatribe at both Bezos and the now-confirmed-dead 96-year-old monarch. "If anyone expects me to express anything but disdain for the monarch who supervised a government that sponsored the genocide that massacred and displaced half my family and the consequences of which those alive today are still trying to overcome, you can keep wishing upon a star," she tweeted. Uju was apparently making reference to the 1967-1970 Nigerian-Biafran war during which time the British Empire, supporting Nigeria, supplied arms and ammunition that helped Nigeria vanquish Biafra. About one million people reportedly died in the needless war. For Bezos, Anya had a harangue: "May everyone you and your merciless greed have harmed in this world remember you as fondly as I remember my colonizers".

'Uju is apparently an against-method academic. Born of a Nigerian/Trinidadian origin, her parents lived in Enugu, Nigeria and her father's embrace of the African polygyny fractured the wedlock, necessitating her Trinidadian mother to flee to America with her and siblings. A self-confessed lesbian, Uju got legally separated from her husband in 2017, even as she publicly announced her against-the-

grain sexuality.

'While Uju may be considered to have stepped off the borders of humanity by wishing another creation "excruciating death," the facts of her grouse are in the public domain and need not be glossed over. An analysis of Anya's tweet reveals three key elements in her accusations against the British Empire, viz theft, rape and genocide support. There is none of these allegations that historical renditions, especially by African and Africanist scholars, have not levelled against British colonisers'.

While paying condolence on the loss of the 96 year old queen, President Muhammadu Buhari said the United Kingdom under the late Queen Elizabeth always stood by Nigeria during trying times. The President also recalled the role Elizabeth played in the formative years of the country, including when she acted as Nigeria's Head of State for three years before the country became a republic in 1963.

In Buhari's words: "We have maintained very close ties with the monarchy. She was a very gracious and elegant queen. For the purposes of remembrance, the fact is that 90 per cent of Nigerians do not know any monarch in the UK other than the queen. We welcome the new king and we look forward to a strong working relationship with the UK.

"They have been a very strong ally even in the midst of our difficult time during the Biafran war; they stood for the indivisibility of the Nigerian state, supported and ensured that we overcame that problem.

"We are partnering to deal with the insurgency so that it doesn't overwhelm us. They have always stood as a very strong ally.

"The head of the commonwealth to which we belong. Not only that, she was the head of state for three years from 1960 to 1963 and when we became a republic she ceased to be.

We have had very close ties with the queen. She visited the country twice; first in 1953 when she spent about 20 days visiting different towns, and the second one was in 2003 during president Olusegun Obasanjo's tenure."

'Someone then tried to draw my attention to how the British colonized and impoverished our people.

Some have been accused and particularly this author have been 'inadvertently accusing of celebrating the monarch who sat atop the slavery and oppression of our forefathers', saying 'the slave trade era distorted the organic trajectory of the black race. Agreed. That was decades ago. The world has since moved on...

He continued: Why are we finding it difficult to move on and develop our continent ever since? Why do we jettison progressives with youthful and revolutionary ideas that will transform our nations and vote rather for recycled, corrupt politicians? Is it the British that taught us to collect money at our polling units before casting our ballots for the highest bidder?

'Is it the British that taught General Abacha to loot billions of dollars and launder the same in foreign accounts to the detriment of Nigerians? Although part of these stolen funds being returned is cornered again by the privileged few. Is it the British that taught our leaders to re-loot the returned loots?

'The British granted Nigeria independence in 1960 leaving behind durable facilities and assets that we find it challenging just to maintain. Over sixty years after, we remain an embarrassment to the black race as our leaders continue to pursue personal, religious, and ethnic interests, rather than national interests. Maybe, one can say our Oyibos left our shores too early.

'Rather than sleep on the blame beds of yesteryears, let's create a new enclave, where leaders are

ected on their merits and not based on tribe, religion, or financial inducements, lest we continue to wail, while the rest of the world leaves us behind. We must collectively show determination to put our dear nation on the path of progress'.

Already former Prince Charles had emerged as the king following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth, but last Saturday's event confirmed his ascendancy to the throne. The event was held at St. James' Palace, which is the most senior royal palace in the United Kingdom. The event was steeped in ancient tradition and political symbolism. The Queen had died peacefully on Thursday at her Balmoral Estate in Scotland.

The late Queen Elizabeth's funeral is scheduled for Monday, September 19, according to New York Times. The event, which would hold in Westminster Abbey, is expected to be attended by world leaders.

On Monday, the Queen's coffin would be moved by procession to St Giles' Cathedral, accompanied by the King and members of the royal family. Currently, the coffin is covered with the Royal Standard, with a wreath of flowers

Having understood what the United Kingdom had as Queen, it will be right to juxtapose it with the manner Nigerians select their monarchs. Imagine that Britain was Nigeria after the death of the king or queen: Several persons linked to the throne would have come forth for contention to succeed the dead monarch.

The division in the ruling houses would have been so eminent and all will be trading on the 'right' strings to be selected to replace the dead monarch. Those who have connections would have started to call, even as the king makers may, in some instances, start to jubilate of what they would expect to be given; mostly to outwit the right person to the throne.

At the time of succession in some Nigerian communities, a number of issues come into play: If it is not religion, it must be party, connection, education and ethnicity. A number of communities have been divided and even violently protesting on account of bad selection; and or of presenting an unpopular candidate, who had no chance of becoming the king.

Sadly, in some cases, the stool would remain vacant for years without an occupant. Most of the times, because of interference by government and powerful individuals to circumvent the selection procedure; there are violent clashes leading to loss of lives and of property.

Come to think of it, who would have thought of a funeral in less than two weeks of the death of a king? Preparations may not have even started. The elaborateness may actually depend on the class of the monarch and the part which he comes from. Sometimes, the time it takes for the monarch may take to be buried may also depend on the part government may want to play.

A lesson may have been learnt; a good woman has returned to her ancestors. Long may the reign of the 73 years old son, King Charles III be.



Security operatives : What hairstyle should our boys wear?

ONE of the greatest challenges Nigeria is grappling with is security. For long, the country has not enjoyed any relative peace except the sort found in the grave. If it is not South-South militias or insurgents, it is Boko Haram. If it is not Ingenious People of Biafra advocating for secession, it may be bandits visiting mayhem on innocent citizens.

At home, we have to contend with the issue of cultism that has eaten deep into the fabrics of our society. They intimidate youth in their streets until they yield and join them. That is the whole idea. The situation is not different in schools where cultists call the shots. Those who disassociate with them, would be made to regret it. Their lives would become unbearable. If unlucky, they become the sacrificial lamb.

Presently, the activities of cultists are depriving parents of peace. They are often intoxicated with drugs and do a lot of atrocities under its influence. Due to their daredevil nature, the hands of security operatives are full. Instead of concentrating on the fight against insurgency, criminals, bandits and Boko Haram, they are distracted by cultists in communities, streets, schools, etc.

These are usually people we live with and their parents may be respectable members of our society. Their children now assume the position of warlords who intimidate, maim, engage in criminal activities for their own interest. And if the security agents come after them, the parents hide them, frustrating the efforts of the security operatives.

The issue of marlan came and has recruited most of our youth. Some of them blindly joined the band wagon. Keeping dreads is one of their identities.

From the inception of marlan till today, our young boys have been suffering harassment in the hands of security operatives till date. Stories abound where an innocent young man would be stopped by security men as he goes about his legitimate business.

Last Sunday, I was a witness as my young boy was picked out of the commercial vehicle we were travelling in from Abuja. We had just passed Tarara. The security man asked the driver to move pass the check point and wait.

I jumped out of the car immediately the car parked and picking my identity card, I hurried to where the security operative was seriously interrogating my son as if he was a criminal. He was armed and also carried along a hefty stick which looked menacing. My heart bled as I rushed waving my ID card. The security man warned me sternly to stay put or get arrested. Confused, I stopped in my tracks. One of them was approaching from the other side of the check point, so I told him that I was a journalist and I was just doing my job being curious about what was happening and I needed answers.

By that time, the security operative had brought out a scissors and was threatening to cut my sons hair. I looked perplexed wondering what was wrong with my sons hair. It was not dreads, just a hairstyle with all the sides very low and the front to the middle part full of hair. Is that offensive?

The other security operative reported what I said when he arrived there. Shortly afterwards, my son joined us. It was only then that every passenger entered the car. Most of the ladies had their phones ready to video tape what ever the security operatives planned doing. I took my seat with the solemn promise to write and expose the victimisation that takes place on Nigeria's roads in the middle of nowhere.

With the number of things we have to contend with on the roads- kidnappers, bandits, hostile communities (if a crisis took place that the driver was ignorant of), armed robbers, reckless drivers, are we to add this to our list?

As to be expected, passengers started sharing their experiences. A lady said this issue of harassment of young boys and men almost cost them their lives on a journey she embarked on from Abuja. The security operatives wasted their time barbering 2 young male passengers' hair, not minding the fact that they had a long journey ahead of them. The driver of their car was in so much hurry to cover the dreadful part of the shortcut route before dusk that they almost ran into a stationary trailer. That would have been disastrous.

Another passenger said when the security operatives were about to barber his hair, he paid his way through. He said he was lucky he had some cash on him or he would have been disgraced before his girlfriend.

It is not an action that takes place only on our highways, far from prying eyes. This is a common occurrence according to my colleague's experience. In her own case, her son was driving them around Jos Town when security operatives made them to park. Her son was asked to disembark and the security operatives barber his dreads unevenly.

This brings to mind RipjiBala's case who was arrested along with some youth in Hwolshe. Their sin was the fact that they were wearing dread locks. Unfortunately, Ripji Bala lost his life due to a misunderstanding. He was shot dead by the guard on duty who thought they were trying to escape not knowing that they were released.

What has EndSARS achieved if our youth are still harassed by gun welding security operatives? We are told that the police is your friend. Please live up to that. The soldiers are our defenders. Please help us to feel secure around you.

Security chiefs, investigate these allegations and bring perpetrators to book. Except if hairstyle is an offence, I see it as a distraction that is pushing our youth to the wall.

Commuters, this is an era of technological advancement. If any passenger is being victimized, video tape and forward immediately. This way, it would put fear in the perpetrators, serve as evidence and deterrent to evil minded ones.

NEWS

By PALANG KASMI

Campaign will involve women and youths - DG assures

DIRECTOR General (DG) of the APC Presidential Campaign Council and Governor of Plateau State Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong has promised to work with women and youths to secure a win for APC presidency.

He gave the assurance while receiving wife of the APC Presidential Candidate Senator Oluremi Tinubu, and wife of the APC Presidential running mate Hajjiya Nana Shettima at the Tinubu Campaign Headquarters in Abuja.

The DG who met with them behind closed doors in company of the Secretary of the APC Presidential Campaign Council Hon. James Faleke, Assistant Secretary Christopher Tarfa and Chief of Staff to the DG Hon. Yakubu Dati said the visit is part of the engagement and consultations towards a successful campaign for the victory of APC in the 2023 General elections.

"The APC Presidential Campaign Council has put in place a plan for a robust campaign that will deeply involve women and youths" The DG said as he welcomed them to the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Headquarters.

He noted that women constitute a large force in Nigeria and many of them are passionate about the APC and the Presidential candidates who have invested so much resources, time and programmes to empower women.

The DG also promised them that the Campaign Council will give them all the support to enable them mobilise women in all parts of the country particularly at the



Lalong

grassroots for the success of the Tinubu/Shettima Ticket and APC in general.

Speaking, Sen. Tinubu informed the Director General that they were at the Headquarters to strategise on the participation of women in the forthcoming campaigns in line with the decision of the APC to carry all women along by ensuring that they play a greater role in delivering the Presidential candidate and other candidates of the party.

She also intimated Governor Lalong of the ongoing mobilisation of various women support groups for

Tinubu/Shettima as well as engagement particularly at the grassroots which will prove very crucial to the victory of the APC during the elections.

The wife of the APC Presidential Candidate and wife of his running mate Nana Shettima had paid a similar visit to the National Secretariat of the APC where they held engagements with the National Chairman Sen. Abdullahi Adamu.

The Director General afterwards took his guests round the Campaign Office to see ongoing work at the Headquarters.

Constitution Review: Resign or step aside -Gombe legislators

WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

SOME members of the Gombe State House of Assembly have asked their Speaker, Abubakar Lugerewo, to resign or step aside if he cannot coordinate the House to present their position to the National Assembly on the proposed alteration of the Constitution of The Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Seven of the members who jointly spoke to newsmen are accusing their Speaker of sinister moves by dragging his feet in mobilizing the voices of the people of Gombe State to make their position on the proposed constitution review which deadline for submission to NASS ended Thursday 15th September, 2022.

Spokesman for the group, Honourable Ibrahim Rambi Ayala, Billiri East Constituency, who spoke on behalf of six others who appended their signature on a paper stating their resolution, also appealed the National Assembly for another opportunity to be able to collate and present the position the State.

According to him, "We want to put it on record that the leadership of the House in particular, the Speaker, has been employing various tactics to frustrate the process and disenfranchise the good people of Gombe from making their voices heard through us their representatives".

He said after conducting a retreat for the members of the House and a public hearing, the Speaker wants to unilaterally drown the voices of the people of Gombe State on what he described as an important

national duty.

He said all the State Houses of Assembly were expected to transmit all their position on or before the 15th of September, 2022 but regretted that, "the Gombe State House of Assembly had been under lock and key and the Speaker is reluctant or has blatantly refused to convene plenary for us to vote on the constitutional alteration".

The group therefore called for the convocation of plenary on Tuesday 20th September, 2022 to enable them give concurrence to the bills for consideration.

Those that signed the statement and were present included: Yahaya Mohammed Kaka, Akko North constituency; Markus Samuel, Pero Chonge constituency; Bashir Barau Yakubu, Kaltungo West constituency; Bappah Usman, Funakaye South constituency; Tulfukut M Kardi, Billiri West constituency; Hamza Adamu, Balanga constituency and

Rambi Ibrahim Ayala, Billiri East.

However, responding to the allegations, the Speaker, Abubakar Lugerewo denied the allegations by the group of legislators saying the House can only act on the matter after receiving the adhoc committee's report.

According to him, the group got it all wrong more so that the House under his leadership is ever ready to discharge their responsibility anytime the House receives the report.

On the submission deadline to the National Assembly, Lugerewo said it was the House that gave themselves the deadline of 15th September, 2022 and not the NASS adding that the NASS only asked them to submit before the commencement of political campaigns.

He said as at the moment, only 12 States have presented their positions promising that Gombe State House of Assembly will be the next to present its position.



Rambi Ayala, leading other legislators during the briefing by some members of the Gombe State House of Assembly.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Dandereng optimistic that AGNN will be in seven continents

By DANLADI DUK

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos South Local Government Council and APC flag bearer for Jos South/ Jos East Federal House of Representatives, Ambassador Gideon Dandereng has reiterated that in no distant time, the Assembly of God Northern Nigeria (AGNN) will gain more acceptance across the seven continents.

Ambassador Dandereng made the prophetic declaration when he stormed the Assembly of God Northern Nigeria (AGNN), Women National Convention held recently at the Mary Immaculate Anguldi, Jos South LGA.

In the chairman's speech at the AGNN Women National Convention he recognized the role of women in the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, noting that believers in Christ Jesus should be prepared for the harvest of a new church. He said women are a special set of people chosen by God to mould destiny.

While making his donation of an undisclosed sum to support in this year's AGNN Women National Convention, Dandereng promised to host the next convention of this nature from his personal savings. He said that his resources will be dedicated to the service of God and humanity.



Dandereng

Addressing the key issues in the statement by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Mr. Shamaki Gyang said that on the fast approaching electioneering period, the APC hopeful challenged the gathering to vote to power only those who have the fear of the Most high as well as credible candidates.

Dandereng charged the women to use the moment of the convention to reflect and think deep on why the issue of Muslim/Muslim ticket is now forming a basis of discussion amongst the political spectrum, emphatically stating that there is need for the entire Church to fast and pray fervently for God to give us a sense of direction.

In the chairman's words, "it

is not about party but credible candidates who have the plight of the masses at heart. Leadership is chosen by God through his servants.

The National Women Director of the Assembly of God, Northern Nigeria, Rev. Mrs. Lucy Pam thanked the APC candidate for Jos South/ Jos East Federal House Representatives and current Executive Chairman of Jos South LGC, Gideon Dandereng for graciously honoring their call to speak. According to Rev. Hayab, CAN would continue to preach peace, love and unity among its followers, believing that that is the only way they could live in peace without any form of suspicion but togetherness among Nigerians.

From Victor Gai, Jalingo

Achieftain of the All Progressives Congress in Taraba, Aaron Artimas, has taken a swipe on the Governor Darius Ishaku government over its comment on federal government projects in the state.

Artimas, who is the Director, Media and Publicity, Bwacha for Governor Campaign Council (BGCC), was reacting to the comment by the Taraba government that federal government projects in the state were "poorly executed, unspecified, abandoned or even non-existent".

In a recent press conference, the Taraba State Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Solomon Elisha, expressed worry over the state of federal projects in the state.

"It's been observed that some executing agencies have been used over the years for the execution and implementation of Federal Government constituency projects in Taraba State for certain senatorial districts and federal constituencies not withstanding their previous budget performance as it were poorly executed, unspecified, abandoned or even non-existent," he stated.

In a veiled reference to the APC governorship candidate and Senator, Taraba Southern District, Emmanuel Bwacha, the Commissioner described

Taraba APC chieftain lambasts Ishaku over FG projects



Ishaku

some federal government projects in the state as "individual projects".

"It has also been observed that certain zonal intervention projects and consolidated capital projects are seen by many Tarabans as individual projects rather than Federal Government constituency projects that they truly are.

"Since 2020, some executing agencies (MDAs) used in implementing the National Budget in Taraba State as its customary for zonal intervention projects (ZIP) and consolidated capital projects from the economic recovery and growth plan (ERGP) under Buhari administration, have so far been observed with dismay", he disclosed.

However, in a swift reaction, the APC chieftain, described the commissioner's comments as the "unrelenting war of attrition against Senator Bwacha" and that it is untrue.

"Most of the projects mentioned by the commissioner were lobbied by the senator and actually fully implemented in the state. So, what is the propriety of addressing a press conference at this time, just to spew out lies and innuendoes," he asked.

He gave an instance how the Taraba government tried to frustrate the senator despite his goodwill and efforts towards development of traditional institutions.

"It is a well-known fact that traditional institutions are constitutionally funded by the Local Government Joint Accounts. Despite dubious re-organisation and creation of more Chiefdoms in the state, the state government had continued to discredit and belittle the traditional institutions in the state by completely failing to fund their activities.

"In response to this deplorable situation, the Senator had on many

occasions tried to personally intervene by rehabilitating the palace. But on all occasions, the State Government refused to allow him to do so. Out of frustration, the Senator went further to include the renovations of the palaces of the Aku Uka and the Gara of Donga in his constituency projects, in order to bring succor to the respected rulers. But the State Government vehemently frustrated and scuttled the efforts, and in fact physically drove away the contractors from site," he revealed.

According to Artimas, the government demonstrated ignorance about the issue of constituency projects and was only desperate to smear the image of Senator Bwacha.

"While it is the responsibility of our legislators to lobby for projects to the constituencies, it is the duty of the executives through the respective agencies to execute such projects. The government does not give money in cash for their appropriations and so no one could have diverted or misappropriated 10 billion naira," he added.

Artimas also described the Ishaku-led government as a failure and that the Senator was not the cause of it.

"The recourse to diversionary tactics, is meant to hoodwink the people into believing that someone is short changing them while in fact it is the same government that is over burdening them. Let the government face the stark reality of its failure instead of the current wild goose chase.

"Senator Emmanuel Bwacha is not the cause of lack of development in Taraba State. He is doing his part as the foremost representative of Taraba in the National Assembly," he concluded.

INEC calls for caution over CUPP's alarm

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has called on Nigerians to exercise caution so that interventions as was made by the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) do not unwittingly sow doubts in the mind of the public and diminish public confidence in the electoral process.

A statement issued by the National Commissioner and Voter Education Committee Festus Okoye said no new registrant has yet been added to the Register of Voters for the 2023 General Election or will be included until these supplemental activities have been completed in line with the law.

However, the Commission is conducting a comprehensive Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) cleanup of the registration data by scrutinising every record.

He said based on the Electoral Act 2022, any record that does not meet all the criteria for inclusion as stipulated in Section 10, including the appearance in person by the registrant at the registration venue with proof of identity, age and nationality and our business rules requirements of adequate number of fingerprints and clear pictures will be invalidated.

The statement read, "The attention of the Commission has been drawn to a report of a press conference addressed by the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) on the Register of Voters

for the 2023 general election. The Commission recognizes and respects the right of citizens, either as individuals and groups, to demand explanation from public agencies, including INEC, and to hold them accountable.

"However, it is always important that caution is exercised so that such interventions do not unwittingly sow doubts in the public mind, thereby diminishing public confidence and trust in the electoral process.

"Nigerians would recall that on 31st July 2022, the Commission suspended the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) to commence supplemental activities that will culminate in the integration of new registrants into the final Register of Voters for the 2023 General Election.

"It is important to reiterate that no new registrant has yet been added to the Register of Voters for the 2023 General Election or will be included until these supplemental activities have been completed in line with the law.

"For the avoidance of doubt, we restate the main components of these activities. First, the Commission is conducting a comprehensive Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) cleanup of the registration data by scrutinising every record.

"Based on the Electoral Act 2022, any record that does not

meet all the criteria for inclusion as stipulated in Section 10, including the appearance in person by the registrant at the registration venue with proof of identity, age and nationality and our business rules requirements of adequate number of fingerprints and clear pictures will be invalidated.

"Further, in line with Section 19(1) of the Electoral Act 2022, after the ABIS and clean up, the Commission shall appoint a period of seven days during which the register will be published for scrutiny by the public for objections and complaints.

"Finally, it is only after the cleanup and claims and objections have been completed that the final register will be published.

"We appeal to the public to await the Commission's display of the register for claims and objections to raise any concerns that they may have about the registration. We reiterate that our ABIS is robust and will detect practically all the ineligible records for removal.

"Nigerians should be reassured of the Commission's commitment to the credibility of the electoral process in Nigeria. We appeal for your support while we painstakingly deal with the cleanup of the register and other processes that will guarantee that the general election in 2023 is free, fair, credible and inclusive.



Mahmood

SUNDAY POLITICS

Makinde insists on Ayu stepping down

GOVERNOR Seyi Makinde of Oyo State on Wednesday insisted on the national chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Iyorchia Ayu, stepping down to give room for fairness and equity, saying this is the only way out of the crisis rocking the umbrella party.

Makinde spoke during an interactive session with the presidential candidate of the PDP in the 2023 general election, Abubakar Atiku and chieftains of the party from the South West zone.

Atiku arrived in Ibadan in company of Governors Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta State (his running mate); Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto, Ademola Adeleke, governor-elect, Osun State; Bala Mohammad of Bauchi State, Ladi Adebutu, governorship candidate of PDP in Ogun State.

Others were former governors, including Babangida Aliyu, Niger State; Olusegun Mimiko, Ondo State; Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Osun State; Ayodele Fayose, Ekiti State; as well as Taofek Arapaja, Dino Melaye, Raymond Dokpesi and Soji Adagunodo and Eytayo Jegede, among others.

At the meeting, Makinde not only insisted on Ayu's resignation, he also said there were still other issues that the Southwest PDP believed should be resolved going into the elections.

Makinde, who received the PDP chieftains alongside his deputy, Adebayo Lawal and speaker of Oyo State House of Assembly, Debo Ogundoyin, noted that the PDP must restructure itself to be able to restructure Nigeria.

According to him, if we want a unified Nigeria, we must unify the PDP first. If we want a government of national unity, it must reflect in the PDP. If we want to restructure Nigeria, we must restructure PDP first.

"Our presidential candidate is from north-east; our national chairman is from north central, the Director-General of Atiku Campaign, Aminu Tambuwal is from the north-west, so the PDP national chairman should step down."



Makinde

He noted that one of the conditions to balance the equation is to choose the national chairman from the south since the presidential candidate is from the north.

"We must speak the truth. The truth is that we don't have any issue either with the party or the candidate. We don't have any issue with the PDP. This is not about individuals. Those are the issues that are behind us, it has happened, it has happened. The issue is that we must restructure Nigeria, if we want unity in Nigeria. But, we must restructure PDP itself before we restructure Nigeria. So the south-west PDP is asking the PDP chairman to resign. The south-west PDP is telling the chairman to step down".

Atiku in his remark stated that Ayu's resignation must be done in accordance with the party constitution, rules, regulations and practice, stressing that what Governor Makinde was requesting is achievable if it is backed up with the constitution of the party.

"We cannot do anything outside our constitution except it is amended; we cannot do anything unless the law is amended. Ayu must go through our constitution, rules, regulations, and our practice, otherwise, we cannot give the kind of leadership Nigerians want."

Atiku, however, urged the PDP not to allow the issue to derail it from winning the next elections. He added that "it is possible, it is achievable, we have done it before and we have started doing it."

Umar Damagum, the PDP Deputy National Chairman (North), speaking on behalf of the national chairman, urged members of the party to be committed and work for the emergence of the party in the coming elections.

While commending Governor Makinde for hosting the programme, he noted that the choice of the venue for the meeting was deliberate because Ibadan is the capital of politics in the south-west and Nigeria at large.

'Why INEC is unable to tackle vote-buying'

MAHMOOD Yakubu, the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), says lack of capacity and expertise has slowed down the commission's efforts to tackle vote-buying and other electoral offences in Nigeria.

Mahmood warned that it had become imperative for Nigeria to establish an electoral offences commission to collaborate with the commission to check electoral fraud and other related crimes. He stated this recently in Lagos at the commission's retreat on the

PRESIDENTIAL candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and former Vice President of Nigeria, Atiku Abubakar has expressed his view on the call for the resignation of Iyorchia Ayu as the national chairman of the PDP.

Atiku, who led other leaders of the party to Ibadan on Wednesday on an interactive session with stakeholders of the PDP, said that the call for the recomposition of the National Working Committee was not impossible, but only when the constitution of the party has been amended to accommodate such demand.

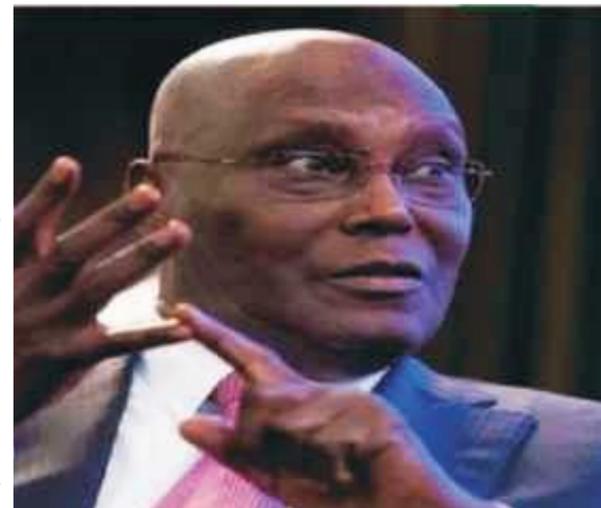
According to him, "The Peoples Democratic Party is the oldest political party in Nigeria since the return of democracy and even before then. It is a party that has laid down rules and regulations.

"I have been a member of the party since when it was formed and I am still a member of the party up to the point of what it has grown to become."

In his response to the call by some governors of the party calling for the ouster of Ayu as national chairman, which was also reaffirmed by the chief host of the event and Governor of Oyo State, Seyi Makinde, Atiku said: "There is nothing any individual can do to change the outlook of the National Working Committee of the PDP.

"The PDP is a party where there are laid down rules and regulations. What Governor Makinde is asking for is possible only when we have amended our party's constitution. As things stand

Ayu removal possible PDP constitution is amended - Atiku



Atiku

today no single individual has the power to tamper with the NWC of the party. Doing so will be illegal and it will be against our rules in the party.

"Nigerians will not trust us to govern by the tenets of rule of law if we take such arbitrary action against our own party."

The Southwest stakeholders' interactive session was attended by leaders of the PDP across the six states of the geopolitical zone with a common resolution to ensure victory for the PDP in next year's general election. The PDP leaders who attended the interactive session included the chief host and Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde; governorship candidate of the PDP in Ogun State, Chief Ladi Adebutu, former governor of Ekiti State, Ayo Fayose; Osun

State governor-elect, Demola Adeleke; the governorship candidate of the PDP in Lagos State, Olajide Adediran and deputy governorship candidate of the PDP in Lagos State, Funke Akindele.

Others are the presidential candidate of the PDP, Atiku Abubakar, Vice Presidential candidate of the PDP and governor of Delta State, Ifeanyi Okowa; Chairman, PDP's Governors' Forum and Governor of Sokoto State, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Tambuwal; former Governor of Cross River State, Liyel Imoke; Deputy National Chairman of the PDP (North), Umar Damagum and National Deputy Chairman of the PDP (South), Ambassador Taofeek Arapaja, among other stakeholders from the Southwest.

Don't vote greedy politicians, Jonathan warns Nigerians

FORMER President Goodluck Jonathan, has charged Nigerians to vote for someone that has the interest of the nation and the people at heart and not someone that will compromise the citizens

interest for his own aggrandizement.

Jonathan made this known while briefing pressmen Thursday after paying a courtesy visit to the former Head of State, General

Abdulsalami Abubakar, at his uphill residence in Minna.

He said, "We all wish our country well especially for the young people. Elections are coming; we have to select the person you believe that will lead us well, serve us well, the leader is also a servant. As a president, you lead, you serve. "Somebody that will take the interest of all of us, the interest of the country, somebody that will not compromise our own interest for his own aggrandizement.

"Somebody that will carry all of us along, most especially, somebody that will take Nigeria as a project." He prayed that Nigeria would have a "free and fair election, which will be conducted in an environment that there will be peace and love."



Jonathan



Yakubu

Ekiti and Osun off-cycle governorship elections: Lesson for the 2023 general election.

Vote-buying, legitimacy crises, violence, and other electoral frauds have characterised elections across Nigeria in the last two decades.

Pundits say the trend has hindered credible candidates from winning elections and scared away those with genuine intention to serve the country.

A recent study revealed that as of 2019, 24 per cent of male and 19 per cent of female respondents said they were offered money or non-monetary favours in exchange for their votes in state and national elections.

The INEC chairman said the commission had successfully prosecuted over 40 electoral offenders in recent years, adding that it would work with relevant agencies to check electoral fraud in the 2023

general election.

According to Mahmood, "First condition for prosecution is arrest, INEC has no police. It is the presiding officer, but the presiding officers are busy with the process.

"We don't have the capacity to successfully investigate, so we have little success with prosecution. Some of the violators may be INEC officials; it becomes difficult to prosecute our officials.

"The Establishment of the electoral offences commission where people who violate the Electoral Act would be subjected, whether they are people at the polling units or INEC officials is important.

"But we must first of all get the actual sponsors of persons who snatch ballots at the polling units, the persons who manipulate election results, who buy votes at the polling units". Speaking further, Mahmood

stressed that the commission was ready to work with the National Assembly for the successful establishment of such a commission ahead of future elections.

"We would continue to do what we can to improve elections in this country with the current laws, we would continue to work with anti-graft agencies particularly the EFCC and ICPC.

"INEC will also work with security agencies to discourage apprehension of voting-buying in the polling units", he added.

Speaking earlier, the Lagos State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Olusegun Agbaje said timely production of Permanent Voter Card (PVCs) to enable registered voters across the country to collect their cards was necessary for adequate preparation for next year's elections.

Agbaje noted that there was the need for the commission to decentralise the collection points of PVCs in the localities nearer to the public.

He added that there was the need for the engagement of additional collation officers for ease of collation of election results next year.

"As a result of the conversion of the voting points to the polling units, a good number of registrant areas now consist of many polling units that will require the engagement of additional collation officers for ease of collation of election results in this regard", Agbaje said.

The retreat was attended by INEC RECs across the country and some of the commission's partners.

SUNDAY POLITICS

2023 elections: Journalists setting the agenda

As the much awaited 2023 general elections draws closer and closer, political activities across the country have been heightened and various groups and individuals have put up one program or the other to enlighten citizens and ensure that the exercise is seamless, writes LUCY CHINDABA.

THE public discourse organized by the Plateau State council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) with the theme: Beyond Politicking: Harnessing Plateau Potentials draws attention to the fact that the state is in need of an agenda for development. This did not however come as a surprise as the media being the fourth estate of the realm has a duty and the responsibility of agenda setting in the society hence taking the laudable initiative which is believed will steer the ship of the state in the right direction at the end of the discourse.

As part of the programme, aspirants vying for various political offices cutting across various political parties were brought together to a round table discussion with Plateau State as the main focus. Political actors and stakeholders from across the different divides to interact and share insights that would be helpful for the development of the state.

In a welcome remark by the State Council Chairman, Mr. Paul Jatau, explained that the discourse was about the political future and survival of Plateau State and was conceptualized to challenge Plateau people about the kind of state they want and how they intend to achieve it.

Jatau noted the event was an occasion to draw the attention of candidates and their followers to observe decorum in the course of political campaigns as the campaign should be issues-based and devoid of molestation and rancour. He lamented the fact that the political atmosphere at the moment has never been as toxic as it is and expressed optimism that as we approach the 2023 general elections campaigns and discourses would center around ideas that would lay a path for the pursuit of growth and development of the state.

The Chairman of the occasion Prof. Audu Nanven Gambo, also the Vice Chancellor of Karl Kumm University in a remark frowned at the way politicking is being done with mud slinging and insults being thrown at people in the name of politics and reiterated that politics



NUJ Chairman, Paul Jatau exchanging pleasantries with the Guest Speaker, Prof. Dung Pam Sha

has to be developmental. While commending the initiative, he advised that the discourse should be able to set a progressive agenda for the growth of the state.

He also noted that Plateau state is a heavily endowed state but its potentials have not been fully tapped and attention therefore needs to be geared towards that. He charged aspirants to sell their candidature to the people rather than engaging in politics of blackmail against their opponents, adding that there is need to shift attention to being constructive and developmental in politics.

In his presentation, the guest speaker Professor Pam Dung Sha, Director of Research, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, a professor of Political Economy and Development Studies, while speaking on the topic of discourse which he recoined to Beyond Politicking: Rethinking a patriotic agenda for the development of Plateau State, maintained that leadership must be consciously reactivated to add value and lamented that the idea of winner takes it all, excessive

partisanship, blame game, as well as ruling party versus opposition party squabbles, need to be jettisoned for good governance to thrive.

He warned: Avoid pure politicking if you are going to take over Little Rayfield come 2023 because pure politics reduces the level of unity of purpose and lack of cohesion amongst the people. It weakens the possibility of development, lowers the level of governance, lowers services delivery and leads to catastrophic spending and catastrophic pilfering of resources.

Prof. Sha also advocated the reorganization of the security, education, agriculture, healthcare delivery, and tourism sub-sectors and asked that attention be paid to the local governance, improving the internally generated revenue and reduction in the cost of governance, stressing, there's a need to go beyond the usual politicking that takes place in Plateau State and invest time to discuss ways of harnessing the potential and resources of the state for development and the common good of all.

The guest speaker encouraged the governorship candidates to have a compendium that will

guide them in the development of the state once they assume office as governor of the state. He also enjoined the candidates to work tirelessly towards constituting a cabinet with technocrats who understand the challenges of the state and have the network and connection to address them.

He advised the next Governor to leverage on harnessing the huge mineral resource deposits in the state to generate revenue for the development of infrastructure, education, health, human capital development among others. He maintained that leadership is about settling down to think creatively under a conducive atmosphere to deliver the dividends of democracy.

The Vice President of NUJ Zone D, Chris Atsaka who represented the NUJ President, Chris Isiguzo commended the Plateau State council of the Union adding that as critical stakeholders, the event was a part of the agenda setting for the development of Plateau State.

Candidates vying for different political offices ranging from governor, senator, House of Representatives and State House of Assembly graced the occasion and used the opportunity to present their manifesto to the people as they made brief

presentations on what they intend to do if given the opportunity to govern the State.

Plateau State Governorship Candidates of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, and his APC counterpart, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda who were both represented expressed readiness to secure and unite Plateau citizens if given the mandate to serve the state.

Mutfwang revealed that there is a huge infrastructural deficit in the urban and rural areas in Plateau therefore, we will take deliberate steps to ensure urban renewal to provide the conducive atmosphere for our people to thrive actively in their economic activities to become self-reliant.

On his part, the APC candidate, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda said, we want to secure Plateau State, we will change our approach to security so that we can address the situation to have a prosperous Plateau State. We will also consider mining, economy, creative industry and technology and the most important thing is that we will work deliberately to achieve that despite the scarce resources.

Candidate of Labour Party (LP) Dr Patrick Dakum who was represented and that of the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), Mr. Luka Pampe said he is determined to change the narrative of politics by returning Plateau to the people. He said, You talk about doing the same thing over and over and expect the same result, ours is to interrogate the existing system and tour the process of development of Plateau State.

The narrative about economizing the power of politics to better the lots of the people is often contrived with the politization of the economic to fit into the pockets of the gladiators in politics. Our is to be able to interrupt that kind of system.

The Governor, Simon Bako Lalong, who was represented by Hon Dan Manjang, Commissioner for Information and Communications, said as a government, they have been able to engage on several projects that are benefiting communities in the state.

While commending the NUJ in Plateau State, he reiterated that as a partner in the development of the State, the government of the state is delighted with the initiative as it has helped opened the eyes of candidates of the various parties who attended the discourse.

At the end of the insightful thought provoking discourse attendees of the event expressed satisfaction with the event and commended the NUJ for the initiative and a cross section of people advised that more of such platforms need to be created so that people can be sensitized and also know what to expect from political office seekers.



Participants at the discourse

SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG PRESIDES OVER NORTHERN GOVERNORS AND TRADITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Governor of Plateau State and Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Monday at the Lagos Hall of Transcorp Hilton Abuja presided over a meeting of Northern Governors and Traditional Council



Governor Lalong (left) with the Emir of Lafia, Justice Sidi Bage-Mohammed (middle) and the Long Gamai of Shendam, HRH Miskoom Martin Shaldas



Governor Lalong of Plateau State (left) the SGS, Kaduna State, Balarabe Abbas who is the DG of the Forum and Prof. Danladi Abok Atu SGS of Plateau State



Chairman of the Forum and Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (middle) reading the communique, being flanked by Governors Atiku Bagudu of Kebbi State and Malam Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State



Governors Darius Ishaku of Taraba State and his colleague of Gombe State, Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya



Deputy Governor of Benue State, Engr. Benson Aboune (left) and his colleague of Adamawa State



L - R: Governor Abubakar Sani Bello of Niger State, Governor Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State and Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State



Director General ICT, David Daser (right) with the Director of Press and Public Affairs, Dr. Makut Simon Macham



Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, SGS, Plateau State (left) noting some points while Governor Rufai, Governor Lalong and Governor Bagudu looks on

Photo: DANLADI DUK

ENSURING that credible persons are chosen to serve and represent the people is an integral part of any legislative process. This is no different for the Plateau State House of Assembly which in fulfilling this constitutional mandate, screened and confirmed five candidates as commissioners and members of the State Executive Council during its plenary. This is sequel to a communication from the state Governor Simon Bako Lalong. Those confirmed are Hon. Peter Akuja from Bassa, Prof. Bernard Matur Malau from Bokkos, Daniel Dung Dalyop from Jos South, Hon. Elisha Bitrus Shehu from Mangu and Naaniep Pingwai Tehlkuk from Mikang.

Presenting the first nominee Hon. Akuja before members, the member representing Jos North North constituency, Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan described him as a legislator per excellence who has been in the political scene for a long time. He was born in 1966 in Binci, Rukuba Bassa Local Government Area and is a graduate of Law from the University of Jos. Akuja was also a one time secretary of Bassa LGC. Due his experience and track record, members unanimously agreed that there was no need for him to be quizzed, asking instead that he takes a bow and leaves.

The case was not the same for the Professor of Anatomy and Parasitology, Bernard Malau. Presenting him the floor of the House, Hon. Philip Peter Dasun representing Pankshin North constituency described him as a right peg in the right hole who has the experience and qualifications to represent the people of Plateau State. Members particularly wanted to know how he intends to bring his vast experience to bare, especially coming at this critical period with only about six months left before the end of the present administration. Also, asked was what he can contribute in achieving meaningful development, say if given the education ministry to head.

Responding to questions thrown at him by the lawmakers, the Prof. first of all agreed that the country was passing through the most critical phase in its history. Using the crisis rocking the university system as an example, he opined that for the system to work, government must allow for the involvement of stakeholders. To him, transparency and accountability is a vital key in achieving all that the country needs. He suggested that one of the ways of moving the state tertiary institutions forward is to look at ways of boosting Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in the education sector, which he disclosed is going to be a priority for him. Emphasis was also made on research and community service as veritable tools for any academician to succeed.

Daniel Dung Dalyop is interestingly, the youngest of the candidates. Born in 1976 at Kuru Jos South Local Government, he obtained his first degree and masters from the University of Abuja. Dalyop is said to have

contributed immensely to the development of his immediate community of Kuru, with a vast working experience in both the public and private sectors. He has also served the present administration in various capacities. Members agreed that his wealth of experience and contributions as a community developer will no doubt be beneficial to the state.

Hon. Abdul Adamu Yanga, member representing Mangu North East while presenting Hon. Elisha Bitrus Shehu said that as a



PLHA's screening of commissioner nominees



Sanda



Na'anlong

grassroot politician who has served in the local council legislative arm, there was still a lot for him to offer. Satisfied with his resume, the legislators asked that he takes a bow as well. For Naaniep Pingwai, a Historian and Lawyer by profession but described as an experienced politician and grassroots mobilizer by the Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency. Members saw in him the potentials to replace Hon. Yakubu Datti as commissioner.

Also during plenary, the Deputy Speaker and member

representing Dengi constituency Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong in a matter of urgent public importance called on the state government to not relent in ensuring the regular distribution of electricity from the Makeri power sub station through the central to the southern part of the state. This according to him, is a follow up to a motion moved earlier this year to which the House set up a committee. He added that from investigations, electricity supply in the state has greatly improved and is in surplus but is not being enjoyed

by all.

In their separate contributions, members agreed that the state Governor Simon Lalong should be appreciated for ensuring that adequate power supply was enjoyed in the state, even though much still needs to be done. A public cry was made by the seconder of the motion, Hon. Philip Dasun representing Pankshin North constituency for the federal government to speed up the completion of the sub power station in Pankshin to further boost power supply in both zones. Speaker Rt Hon. Sanda in his prayers said in as

much as the state government is appreciated for all it is doing in that regards, more still needs to be done. The Committee on Water Resources was thereafter mandated to monitor, follow up and report back findings within seven days.

The House during the day's sitting passed for third reading, the bill for a law to establish Plateau State drugs and medical commodities management agency and for other matters connected, 2022. The bill basically seeks to monitor all drugs brought into the state, in order to ensure that fake and adulterated drugs are not circulated and consumed. Recall that the bill which is an executive one, during its first reading stage was discussed extensively by the lawmakers.

However, certain observations were made which were not initially captured but has now been included in the new document. After moving a motion for the House to be reverted to the Committee of Whole by the majority leader, members agreed to go through the document page by page, ensuring that all corrections and recommendations made were carried. At the end of the exercise, the House returned to plenary and subsequently passed the bill for third reading.

Meanwhile, the PLHA has directed the legislative arm of Langtang Local Government Council to revert its impeachment on the chairman while maintaining the status quo. This was contained in a motion on adjournment, moved by Hon. Philip Peter Dasun member representing Pankshin North constituency. In the view of the legislators, the alleged impeachment was a mere rumour as due legislative process was not followed or adhered to. The House majority leader categorically stated that no communication on the matter was received from the legislative arm in Langtang North, hence as far as the state assembly was concerned the said impeachment remains null and void.

In view of this, the Plateau State House of Assembly is mandating the Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs chaired by Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan and also member representing Jos North North constituency to immediately commence an investigation on the matter. The committee is expected to within seven days interface with the legislative arm and report findings to the House.



Screened Commissioner nominees

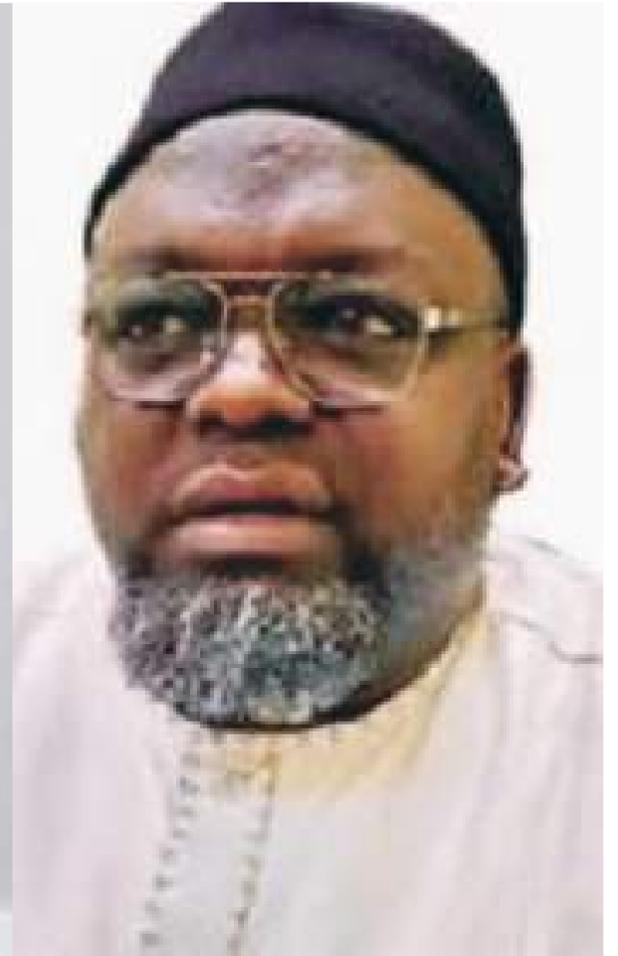
SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Irabor



Magaji



Mamu

Nigeria and security challenges

The menace of banditry and terrorism in Nigeria's well documented. Little wonder the arrest of Tukur Mamu recently by operatives of the Department of State Service (DSS) has elicited a lot of interest and debates. VICTOR ALI writes.

ONE of the biggest problems facing Nigeria at the moment is the spate of insecurity ravaging the land. For almost two decades, virtually all parts of the country have witnessed one security challenge or the other. The terrorists activities of Boko Haram has been on the front burner. Then armed robbery and kidnapping have added to an already bad situation. The challenges for security agencies is enormous, but it is still surmountable.

On March 28, 2022, an Abuja-Kaduna bound train

was hijacked by terrorists and the passengers kidnapped and kept in captivity. Ransoms were demanded from relations of the passengers and even government. Whether ransoms were paid or not remain uncertain. But recently, the Department of State Service (DSS) in concert with other security agencies seem to be making a headway with the arrest of Tukur Mamu, Publisher of the *Desert Herald*, the self-acclaimed Kaduna train hostage negotiator. His sudden interest in the matter arose suspicion amongst the security outfits.

According to media reports (*Saturday Sun*, September 10, 2022), some of the terrorists' demands which Tukur Mamu was said to be negotiating included their demand that their members being held at the Kuje Prison by government be released. But while negotiations were on, they attacked the prison and released over 800 inmates including their members held at the facility. With that attack, the government became more suspicious of Mamu and intensified investigations on him.

The aforementioned

newspaper reported that, "Specifically, the military and other security agencies set up a board of enquiries comprising personnel drawn from the armed forces, Police, DSS, NIA (National Intelligence Agency), DIA (Defence Intelligence Agency). To X-ray his activities in order to see whether they could establish his connection with the terrorists. The board, according to the newspaper, was to unravel among other things, how the ransom by the relatives of the captives were paid, who took the ransoms to the terrorists and how much they collected vis-à-vis the amount claimed by their relatives in the public.

Mamu, it would be recalled was arrested by operatives of Department of State Service (DSS) for allegedly collecting N2 billion from families of victims of the Abuja-Kaduna train attack and taking the money to terrorists enclaves, in exchange for the kidnapped victims. In a public statement issued by Peter Afunnaya on behalf of DSS, the service noted that he was intercepted by INTERPOL in Cairo, Egypt on 6th September, 2022. He was returned to Nigeria on 7th September 2022 via Aminu

Kano International Airport where he was arrested by operatives of the DSS and taken to Abuja where he is in custody.

In this grave matter, it becomes worrisome for the nation. While Mamu is claiming innocence, the DSS has remained unwavering. On Tuesday, September 13, 2022, the DSS told a Federal High Court (FHC) in Abuja that its preliminary investigations established that hostage negotiator; Tukur Mamu is a terror sponsor. According to media reports (*The Nation*, Wednesday, September, 2022), in an affidavit in support of its ex-parte motion marked FHC/ABJ/CS/1617/2022 and filed before the court, the DSS also described Mamu as a logistic supplier to both local and foreign terror groups.

The security agency also added that who has been leading negotiation with the abductors of passengers of the Abuja-Kaduna bound train was on his way to a meeting with Foreign terrorist leaders before he was intercepted. According to the paper, the presiding Justice, Evelyn Maba granted

Continued on page 31

"Mamu, it would be recalled was arrested by operatives of Department of State Service (DSS) for allegedly collecting N2 billion from families of victims of the Abuja-Kaduna train attack and taking the money to terrorists enclaves, in exchange for the kidnapped victims. In a public statement issued by Peter Afunnaya on behalf of DSS, the service noted that he was intercepted by INTERPOL in Cairo, Egypt on 6th September, 2022. He was returned to Nigeria on 7th September 2022 via Aminu Kano International Airport where he was arrested by operatives of the DSS and taken to Abuja where he is in custody."

NEWS

Lalong woos investors, asks FG to compensate farmers

By PALANG KASMI

Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has appealed to the Federal Government (FG) to compensate Potato Farmers in Plateau State who recorded huge losses due to blight disease.

The Governor has also assured investors ready to do agricultural and manufacturing business in the State of getting access to land and other incentives to support their endeavours.

He stated this while declaring open the 45th Regular Meeting of the National Council on Agriculture and Rural Development holding in Jos, Plateau State.

The forum drew the Federal Government, agricultural enthusiasts and stakeholders from the 36 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory to brainstorm on agricultural trends.

Lalong said the one week meeting with the theme "Strengthening Agricultural Value Chains Development Processes for Food Security and Economic Development" addresses a very important aspect of the Nigerian economy and also touches on the challenge of turning agricultural products into real economic derivatives.

He said "I dare say that there is no better place to hold this event because Plateau State is an agrarian State with potential to feed the nation and do so in style, using its exotic crops that are not grown in other parts of the country. There is no better time than now for stakeholders to convene a meeting to brainstorm on best strategies and policies to tackle hunger which is threatening the general well-being of Nigerians".

"Let me use this opportunity to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the increased incidences of devastation on Potato Farms by blight disease which has almost wiped out the existing low yielding and degenerated seeds".

"We request that the FG comes to our aid by paying some compensation for the huge losses running into Billions". "We also ask for the upgrade of the National Root Crops Research Institute, Kuru outstation here in the state to a full-fledged Potato Research Institute".

According to Lalong, if his request is granted, the Institution will become a place for breaking of new frontiers in varieties research, seed production, introduction of Blight tolerant and disease resistant varieties of potato seedlings, including farmer education, linkages with other local and international institutions among others adding that his state currently produces about 90 percent of the potato consumed in the country.

He disclosed that already there is a research that



Gov. Lalong

indicates potatoes which was formerly produced within the Central Zone and Northern Senatorial Zone if the state can now be grown in the 17 Local Government Areas of the state

"For those who are ready for commercial farming, Plateau State has one of the most friendly business environments with mouth-watering offers for land acquisition. Indeed our land charges and ground rents which have been discounted several times are meant to serve as incentives for investors. Many who have taken advantage of this situation are reaping the fruits of their investments and expanding their businesses" he said.

He expressed hope that with the designation of the Yakubu Gowon Airport Heipang as an International Cargo Airport, commercial farming of various crops, assorted fruits and flowers will expand in the state because of the possibility for direct export through the airport, while the Government's recent acquisition of the Inland Container Terminal situated very close to the Yakubu Gowon Airport will again

compliment the evacuation of agricultural products from Plateau to other parts of Nigeria and abroad.

On the issue of value chain addition to agricultural products which is the theme of the meeting, Lalong challenged the Agric Council to rise from the meeting with concrete and practical ways of ensuring that farmers add value to their products before selling them.

Lalong said this will not only boost the economic fortunes of the farmers, but also birth a chain of MSEs that will create jobs and usher in prosperity for people, while it will make many youths to be taken out of poverty, and crime.

He said as Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum, he had interfaced with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and its Parastatals on the issue of value addition, Extension services and education as well as provision of timely farming input to our farmers because the problems cut across the States and entire country and they need to be resolved without delay.

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr.

Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar said the 45th Regular Meeting of the National Council of Agriculture and Rural Development provides an opportunity to address one of the major challenges faced by farmers relating to post harvest losses and inability of the farmers to benefit from the proceeds of their labour.

He said the Buhari administration has taken serious concern over diversifying the economy using agriculture by ensuring that processing agricultural products is given a boost and stated further that the move has resulted in strengthening rice, cassava, yam and other food production processing that has yielded positive outcomes, while 10 Rice Processing Mills are about to be completed across the country.

Minister of State for Agriculture, Mustapha Baba Shehuri also said the technical sessions at the Meeting have been robust and engaging with valid suggestions being made on how to address the challenges of agriculture in Nigeria.

In their goodwill messages, Senate Committee Chairman on Agriculture Senator Bima Mohammed and his House Counterpart Munir Baba Dan Abundi expressed the willingness of the National Assembly to support the execution of projects that are capable of turning around agriculture for economic growth.

Goodwill messages from development partners also highlighted the need for the 45th Council Meeting to generate outcomes that will increase the efficiency of the agricultural sector in the country.

The Governor inspected pavilions displaying various agricultural products and inputs.

Body calls for good governance

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, ABUJA

The President, Plateau Indigenes Forum in the National Assembly. Mr. Caleb Danfulani has said that democracy and good governance must take roots on the country in order to sustain peace, stability and development.

Danfulani in an exclusive interview with **SUNDAY STANDARD** at the National Assembly complex in Abuja called on Nigeria leaders to redouble their efforts in ensuring the irreversibility of democracy in the country.

He further urged Nigeria leaders both at the federal level to do within their powers to ensure that the 2023 general elections were conducted in an atmosphere of trust, freedom and transparency.

According to him, doing this was the only way the country could be insulated from the scourge of manipulations.

The president who dwelt on so many issues concerning the 2023 general elections stressed that Nigerians needs visionary, competent leadership, even as he said 2023 elections will not be about connections, tribes or religion, but about competence, character and commitment to deliver.

On his message to the people and residents of Plateau State on the 2023 general elections Dan-fulani to continuously ensure that Plateau remains politically

stable for continuous peace, which the state was known for before as home of peace and tourism.

He said the 2023 general elections for Plateau people should be about who has the interest of the state at heart as well as who has given a genuine platform for the people to thrive, live and work well.

Danfulani again called on Plateau indigenes outside the state to transfer their permanent voters card (PVC) to Plateau and participate actively in the forthcoming elections adding that the PVC will give them the voting strength to elect leaders of their choice.



By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

PPC to collaborate with NAWOJ on the Plateau

The Management of Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), publishers of THE NIGERIA STANDARD and SUNDAY STANDARD newspapers, has promised to collaborate with State Chapter of Nigerian Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) in carrying out their activities in the state.

The General Manager of the corporation, Sir (Dr) Boniface Gwotbit, made the promise while playing host to the leadership of NAWOJ who paid him a courtesy visit in his office in Jos, the Plateau State capital Monday.

Kogi NUJ mourns Uchola of Information Chapel

The 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 the NUJ, Adeiza Momoh-Jimoh, in a condolence message said that the news of her sudden death no doubt came to council as a shock, taking into cognisance the person of Rose Uchola whose humility and peaceful disposition was second to none.

Vehicle owners bemoan state roads

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

As a result of the ugly incidence, 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.

INEC cancels 1m voter registrations

Many double, multiple and ineligible registration discovered in the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) held between January 1 and July 31 have been delisted from Voter Register, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said.

The INEC's National Commissioner/Chairman Information and Voter Education Committee, Mr. Festus Okoye, made the disclosure in a press statement in Abuja that the irregularities were discovered during the cleaning up of the voter register with the Automatic Biometric Identification System (ABIS).

We will compensate Jakawa's sacrifice-Bature

Plateau State Chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Hon. Rufus Bature, has assured Hon. Cecilia Lyop Jakawa, for respecting the voices of elders and the zoning formula of Barkin-Ladi Constituency that, she would be compensated when party emerges victorious in the forthcoming elections.

He gave the assurance last Saturday while speaking at a One Day Awareness and the Unveiling of the APC Candidates for 2023 general elections organised by Hon. Cecilia Lyop Jakawa, at Vo-Pye Resort Barkin-Ladi after stepping down from constituency primary elections which saw Hon. Dickson Chollom victorious.

Plateau Diaspora Tourism Agency trains 621 youths on creative industry

The Plateau Diaspora Tourism and Culture Agency (LLC), through its SHI'ANGHEN FOUNDATION in collaboration with the State Ministry for Tourism, Culture and Hospitality, have trained over six hundred and twenty-one (621) youths to be entrepreneurs in the creative industry both at home and abroad.

This took place with the theme; "Accelerate Your True Potentials", at the conference hall of Industrial Training Fund (ITF)'s Centre of Excellence Bukuru in Jos-South LGA of Plateau State, where young indigenous youths were drawn, cutting across the 17 LGAs of the state between Wednesday and Saturday.

NEWMAP/ACReSAL NPC hands over SDA/CNG based transportation system

The Acting National Project Coordinator, NEWMAP and ACReSAL, Engr. Ayuba Anda Yalaks, has handed over Implementation-ready Strategy Development for Adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Based Transportation System in Nigeria's Urban Cities Report to the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transportation, Dr. Magdalene N. Ajani.

This came in a press statement signed by the Plateau State Office of NEWMAP/ACReSAL Communication Officer, Mathew Bawul and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos.

SUNDAY FEATURE

Teachers, motivation and Nigeria's education system

IN most developing countries of the world including Nigeria, there has been a growing awareness about teachers, motivation which is a key to quality assurance, quality outcome/delivery and high standards in the educational system. It is acknowledged that any native that is aspiring to maintain high and quality standard or achieve quality assurance in its educational system must take teachers and their motivational needs with utmost high level of seriousness, ADEBAYO ESTHER M, writes.

TEACHERS are important instruments in education. They are also the pivot on which the educational process hangs. Teachers play a major role in the caprices of the educational system. They can influence the teaching-learning outcomes either positively or negatively because they determine the quality of instructional delivery and also influence quality education when it comes to implementation of the curriculum and educational policies. They are to be considered when addressing issues such as quality context and quality learning outcomes (Onucha, 2002). However, they are the custodians of the educational and school systems. Since teaching can be regarded as a systematic, rational and organized process of transmitting knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and what is worthwhile (education) in accordance with certain professional principles, there is need for the service of efficient teachers (whose knowledge is bounded with innovations) in order to achieve educational objectives. Without teachers in the school system, there will definitely be no learning. Teaching makes learning take place and the teacher determines the quality of learning/instructions that will be given to learners. This is the more reason why they should be motivated properly for effectiveness and efficiency in the educational and school system.

A study on the teacher as a crucial factor in curriculum innovation found out that teachers empowerment/motivation is related to such dimensions as their involvement in decision making, their professional growth, teachers' status and impact, autonomy and self-efficacy. This empowerment is important for the realization and quality of both curriculum and educational innovations (Pilot, 2007). Teachers foster excellence in learning and teaching. As designers and developers of education, they guarantee quality assurance in it.

UNESCO (2005) re-emphasized that quality assurance is a powerful means that can improve the effectiveness of education. Its key principles are that the main actors at the forefront of education- such as teachers, head teachers, etc are responsible for improving educational performance. Teachers are essential elements in the school organization who have assured cost effectiveness in maintaining their accounts for over 60% (percent) of the total cost of education.

Their motivation or empowerment should be at the forefront of government policies in order to enhance quality education and attain the goals and objectives of education (Edem, 1982).

Without efficient and effective teachers in the education industry, qualitative learning outcomes cannot be achieved. That is why they should be motivated properly in order to enhance quality in the education system.

The concept of motivation goes a long way with perception personality, attitudes and learning. Motivation is a very important part of understanding behavior. Motivation also is a human psychological characteristic that contributes to a person's degree of commitment which includes the factors that cause, channel, and sustain human behavior in a particular committed direction. However, teachers' motivation is a way of empowering teachers in their occupation and involves the perceptions, variables, methods, strategies and activities used by the management for the purpose of providing a climate that is conducive to the satisfaction of the various needs of the employee, so that they may become satisfied, dedicated and effective in performing their task.

In education, teachers should be motivated in order to boost their productivity, effectiveness, efficiency and dedication in performing their task which will enhance quality assurance, quality education and quality instructional delivery in the education system. This will also enhance the achievement of educational objectives.

Ayodele (2007) asserted that quality assurance entails the quality of teaching



personnel, quality of available instructional teaching materials equipment and facility, school environment and pupils; and quality education delivery. It embraces all functions and activities that will ensure that quality of the academic (teaching curriculum etc) and structures (building infrastructure etc) will allow an objective review of the quality of the program/instructional delivery.

Also quality assurance refers to the determination of standards, appropriate methods and quality requirements by an expert body, accompanied by a process of inspection or evaluations that examines the extent to which practice meets these standards. Nigeria also can be in better position like other countries like Britain, United States and Canada to mention but a few who have attained higher level of quality assurance in their educational system as a result of some strategies and adequate attention given to teacher education, empowerment, motivation and all other aspects of education.

The National Policy on Education (2004) expressed that no nation can rise above the quality of its teachers. If the quality of existing stock of teachers in Nigeria is inadequate, inefficient and ineffective and teaching in low esteem, raising the level of societal enlightenment and the educational standard may be in jeopardy.

Fagbamiye (1987) observed that teachers' lack of dedication to duty has led to a fall in the standard of education. This belief goes to reinforce the idea that teachers do not deserve better treatment than what they are getting at present. Teachers are key actors in curriculum innovations and if they do not have the right competencies and motivation to fulfill their roles, it creates pitfall in education competencies.

According to Obi in Ndu, Ocho and Okeke (1977), they defined motivation as a complex socially learned pattern of behavior involving situations, needs desires, mechanism and results. It embraces all factors in an employee's development to accomplish personal as well as organizational goals.

Teachers' motivation has great significance or value to the Nigeria educational system in guaranteeing and aiding quality assurance. When teachers are highly motivated and adequate attention given to them, it adds

value and quality to the educational system by raising its standards to rise to the expected level thereby ensuring quality teaching-learning outcomes and output, quality performance, enhancing quality education and productivity. All which is of great significance to guaranteeing quality assurance in the education system.

However, when teachers influence the educational system positively, they tend to perform their task effectively and efficiently and all educational goals will be achieved with positive outcomes and the outputs from the school system will be competent-vibrant, educated personnel that will contribute immensely towards societal development and nation building. As such, quality assurance is guaranteed. Giving an instance with a radio news briefing on Rhythm 94.7fm station on teachers' motivation as a means of achieving quality assurance. The Niger State government, in order to promote teachers efficiency and effectiveness for quality assurance in their educational system, in 2009 asserted that the state was to spend 750 million naira on the empowerment of teachers as part of motivation.

Similar attempt has been made by the state government in 2006 when the increment in teachers' salaries and the promotion of teachers was considered that same year (2006) as a means of teachers motivation.

Maslows hierarchy of human needs is one of the motivational theories associated with Abraham Maslow in 1943, a psychologist by profession (Peretomode 1991). The theory is also a content theory of motivation which focuses on the factors within persons that starts, energizes, directs, maintains and stops behavior. It can motivate or discourage human behavior in the sense that its positive influence cause satisfaction while its negative influence cause dissatisfaction and causes one to react either positively or negatively.

It embraces all factors in an employee's development to accomplish personal as well as organizational goals. Motivation in another words is the process of influencing or stimulating a person to take action that will accomplish desired goals.

In education, teachers should be motivated in order to boost their productivity, effectiveness, efficiency and dedication in

performing their task, which will enhance quality assurance, quality education and quality instructional delivery in the educational system.

There are five basic human needs which are arranged according to levels of importance: physiological safety and social needs and the higher needs ego or esteem need. And self-actualization physical needs consists of the need for basic biological needs which include the need for food, water, air, sexual gratification and other primary needs such as shelter, clothing, etc. when the physiological needs are not satisfied, then other needs emerges.

In the school system, the salary one earns enables him to satisfy this need but when unfulfilled then it results to dissatisfaction which affects productivity and quality performance in the work place.

Safety needs emerge once the physiological needs have been achieved. This includes the need for security, safety, protection against dangers and accidents (threats, deprivation, psychological harm, economic disaster) and stability in the physical and internal events of day to day life. In the school, teachers want to have the feeling that their job is secured and accommodation also secured.

When such is lacking, it threatens their performance and commitment. These needs could be met in the educational institutions by granting teachers such programmes like fringe benefits, free medical and health service, job security and safe working condition.

If the physiological and safety needs are satisfied then the social needs emerge. Social needs include the need for love, affection, companionship, acceptance and friendship, sense of belongingness in ones' relationship with others in the school. Social needs of teachers are usually satisfied if informal groups and teachers participation in decision making is encouraged, membership in groups also encouraged and proper delegation of duty.

Ejogu (1990) emphasized on the need to maintain a democratic atmosphere in the school since teachers are by and large sensitive human beings and their profession is in most cases, done satisfactorily without too much bossing. What teachers actually want is to provide a working climate that will help them do their jobs better and an opportunity for professional advancement.

Such motivation strategies that negatively influence teachers' motivation, quality assurance and job satisfaction; not properly handled among other are:-

Poor condition, of service especially with respect to salaries and remunerations.

Conforming teachers through the use of school policies, syllabus and administration to repetitivities methods and programmes.

Denying teachers opportunities for further education, development and training

Denying teachers of their promotions and appropriate authority, responsibility for their day-to-day functions.

Poor administrative structure and organizational climates in the school system.

Non-Professionalization of teachers in Nigeria, lack of teachers' recognition and low status. This and many other factors to a large extent are responsible for the level of operation of teachers in the Nigerian educational system.

Based on this benchmark, the following possible recommendations have been highlighted;

The importance of staff training, retraining, and development must be noted and strengthened. Its programs must be of high quality: relevant to the teaching-learning instructions and built around teachers' needs and educational needs.

Government should not pay deaf ears to teachers motivational needs especially in such areas like good salaries or remuneration and promotion.

Government must ensure that teaching is professionalized in Nigeria, given high recognition and status appropriate to their level of qualifications and responsibilities.

Adebayo is of the National Museum, Jos.

SUNDAY FEATURE

Victim of ritual criminality shocks Babale community

The resurgence of miscreants in some communities within Jos metropolis and its environs is again causing sleeplessness among security agents and inhabitants of Babale community in particular who have kept vigil these past few days to help track down such culprits. Collective efforts of each one will help to nib in the bud, all these acts of criminality, JENNIFER YARIMA writes.

IT is quite shocking to know that some acclaimed high and mighty personalities also indulge in ritual killings. There are instances where some of these nefarious politicians including other unpatriotic government officials have been accused by arrested suspects and herbalists who alleged that they use human beings for rituals in order to sustain their affluence as well remain in their positions of power.

Investigations have revealed that these consistent cases of ritual killings and disappearance of persons are usually high whenever elections are around the corner.

Just recently, a 14-year-old girl, Maryam Salisu, was allegedly killed by yet to be identified persons in Babale community which is a few miles outskirts of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State. This dastardly act can only be attributed to those who do not mean well for the development of mankind.

This sad incident occurred when the victim alongside other friends of hers went to a nearby mountain to fetch firewood. The deceased was reportedly attacked by an unknown person who hit her with bamboo stick and subsequently dragged her into the bush. In a fruitless attempt to rescue her, the girls fled for safety and reported the matter back home.

Sad though, the body of the deceased according to residents of the community was found in a trench with her throat, tongue, breasts and eyes all removed. In an emotional explanation by an eye witness, Aisha Danladi who was in company of the deceased before she was killed said, they made effort to plead with the attacker to leave Maryam but he never let her be.

The mother, Fatima Danliti, who couldn't hold back her tears, said she has left everything in the hands of Allah but appealed to the police to arrest the perpetrators.

"We have left everything to Allah. Everyone has a way of departure from this cruel world. I believe that is how Allah wanted it to happen. I am reporting the culprit to the Almighty Allah. It is now between the assailant and his creator," she said.

A resident of Babale village while condoling with the deceased family disclosed that the incident occurred around 2pm on Friday. The friends who went to the bush reported that when the man hit her with the bamboo, they



begged him to leave her but refused and dragged her into the bush.

"When residents of the community including some men and women trooped into the scene of the incident, we couldn't find both the man and Maryam. We all returned home and went back the following morning and in the process of searching, we found her body in a hole with her two breasts, throat, and tongue removed". Sani Babale said.

The Acting District Head of Babale Targwong, Aminu Maisamari expressed dismay over the mishap saying, this is the first incident of this magnitude ever recorded in the area. He attested to the fact that the children usually passed along this way and he engaged them with story before they proceeded to the hills for their routine assignment. Lately, he had not seen them passed because they must be devastated by the sad development.

"It is painful. We have never experienced this kind of calamity. We are

in short supply of security in our area. We are calling on the Plateau State Police Command to deploy more police officers to the community," he added.

Both the Divisional Police Officer, (DPO) of Nassarawa Gwong, Jos, SP Musa Hassan accompanied by the Area Commander Metro and the Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO) Plateau State command, DSP Alabo sent a strong warning to the perpetrators to desist from crime or face the law.

The DPO SP Musa Hassan said, they have embarked on this fact-finding mission to solicit for synergy to ensure the arrest of the culprits and to assure the family of the deceased that Police will do everything within their reach to get the perpetrators. He appealed to the people of the community to furnish the Police with useful information that will lead to the arrest of the suspects.

The PPRO has leverage on this

opportunity to send strong warning to people who have decided to do evil on the Plateau to relocate and assured that the Commissioner of Police will not rest until the culprits are tracked down.

Reports have it that some young people narrowly escaped being lynched by angry mob when it was discovered that they were in the habit of trafficking young children to unknown destinations at the cost of three hundred and fifty thousand naira (350,000) each. They were lucky that the presence of security personnel salvaged the situation.

The sad development surrounding this most recent incident is based on the fact that most of these children have become victims of ritual killings all over the place. This calls for care on the side of parents who are careless of knowing the where about of their children. Some parents give birth to children they don't have the capacity to take care of and are left on their own to eventually struggle for survival which exposes most of them to such risk.

The Federal government at some point blamed the upsurge in crime amongst youths in the country on parents' faulty upbringing. It lamented the rate at which young people engages in ritual killings under the pretext of looking for quick wealth. When society begins to honour money and fame, things are bound to be like this. The society honours wealth without thinking about the process of the ill gotten wealth.

Government itself has failed by inadequately funding primary, secondary and tertiary education which would properly engaged students by disabusing their minds on criminality.

The sad development surrounding this most recent incident is based on the fact that most of these children have become victims of ritual killings all over the place. This calls for care on the side of parents who are careless of knowing the where about of their children. Some parents give birth to children they don't have the capacity to take care of and are left on their own to eventually struggle for survival which exposes most of them to such risk.

POLITICS vs Governance. We tend to confuse the meaning of these two words sometimes. There are many politicians who do not know how to govern but they still represent the people who voted them into power. However, the quality of these representations are less than expected, in fact disappointing. This is because they cannot give what they do not have, and we hardly sit down to reflect on the meaning of politics and the meaning of Governance before casting our votes. What do they mean? what are their differences? how do they relate and why is it important for us to consciously educate ourselves about the two? The elections are around the corner. Political literacy is imperative if we intend to make wise choices with our franchise and if our votes will bring the much-needed change.

The two words have a wide range of definitions. Let us go with the Merriam - Webster dictionary. It defines politics as follows: "The art or science concerned with guiding or influencing governmental policy, the art or science concerned with **winning and holding control over a government**, political actions, practices, or policies, political affairs or business especially, competition between competing interest groups or individuals for power and leadership (as in a government), political life especially as a principal activity or profession, political activities, characterized by artful and often dishonest practices, the political opinions or sympathies of a person, the total complex of relations between people living in society, the relations or conduct in a particular area of experience especially as seen or dealt with from a political point of view, office politics, ethnic politics and playing politics". When I checked the thesaurus for the word politics for its synonyms, it said the following: "This word isn't in the thesaurus, but here's the dictionary definition: Politics. If you are looking for a different word in the thesaurus, try one of the spelling suggestions below or search again. Politic, polemics, politesse, policies, poultrices".

On the other hand, Merriam Webster describes Governance as follows: the act or process of governing or overseeing the control and direction of something (such as a country or an organization). Government. The synonyms of governance are as follows: administration, authority, government, jurisdiction, regime (also régime), regimen, rule. Other words related to Governance are, reign, dominion, power, sovereignty supremacy, sway, command, leadership, direction, management, regulation, superintendence, supervision, autocracy, dictatorship, domination, hegemony, mastery, oppression, subjugation, tyranny, the act or activity of looking after and making decisions about something. The Synonyms for governance are administration, care, charge, conduct, control, direction, government, guidance, handling, intendance, management, operation, oversight, presidency, regulation, running, stewardship, superintendence, superintendency, and supervision. Words Related to governance are generalship, leadership, rulership, agency, aegis (also egis), custody, guardianship, keeping, lap, protection, safekeeping, trust, tutelage, ward engineering, logistics, machination, manipulation, coadministration, codirection, comanagement.

From the definition alone, we can see the superficiality of politics and the dept of governance. Politics is show. Governance is work. Governance starts where politics end. When the rallies and swearing-in are over, governance starts. Having said that, let us reflect on the pedigree of the people we choose before casting our votes. Are they people who are simply interested in political power

and show or are they people who have proven that they know the "act or activity of looking after and making decisions about something?" good decision making. Stewardship.

There is Governance in all spheres of life. Political Governance is the most popular followed by cooperate governance. One of the synonyms for governance is Administration and Government. The European Union Commission says the following about governance in the following excerpt:

The quality of a country's public administration and governance is a key factor in its economic performance and the wellbeing of its citizens. Efficient

Politics versus governance

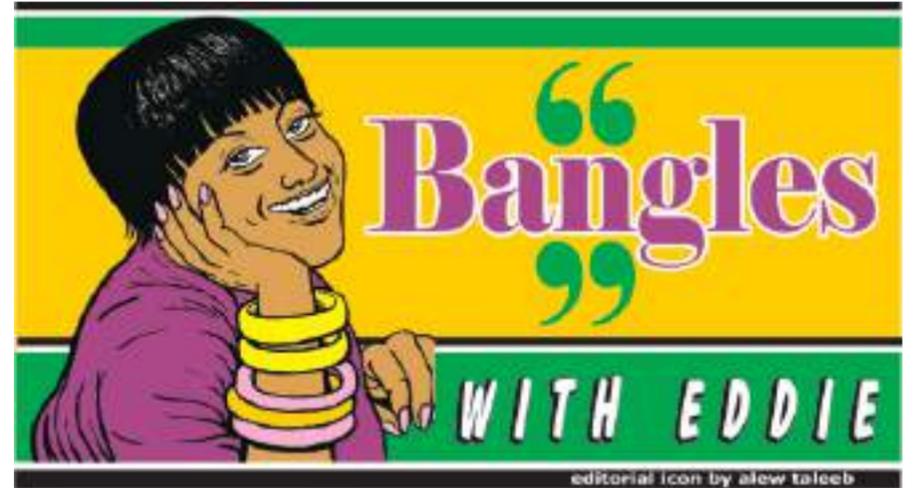


public administrations serve the needs of citizens and businesses. It is essential that public authorities are able to adjust to changing circumstances. The Commission helps EU Member States undertaking reforms in the area of public administration and governance by providing technical support. Areas of intervention include the central administration, local administration, digital government, public procurement, better regulation, the judicial system, the fight against corruption and fraud and the better absorption of European Structural and Investment Funds."

The EU Commission goes on to say that "To help Member States address the challenges that public administrations face, the Commission has developed a wide range of instruments over the years: **from strategic and operational analysis to the design and the financing of reforms and investments**; from the provision of evidence to advice and guidance from relevant stakeholders, including other Member States".

The forgoing is from EU Commission. Let us ask ourselves a question. Considering the fact that "the quality of a country's public administration and governance is a key factor in its economic performance and the wellbeing of its citizens", how many of us are looking out for politicians who have profound knowledge of public administration and Governance with practical results. How many politicians have knowledge in the areas of strategic and operational analysis? How many of them know any thing about monitoring and evaluation as a tool for good governance?

Let us look at monitoring an evaluation. In a country riddled with corruption, we keep calling out corrupt practices without putting in place, measures to curb it. On one end of good governance is strategic planning and in the middle and tail end is



monitoring and evaluation. One way to curb corruption is to employ the tools of strategic planning and evaluation. Hypothetically speaking, as a politician, before awarding a contract, do I know how to do needs assessment and strategic planning? Do I know what type of contract to award based on what the people need? Do I know how to arrive at that knowledge objectively? When I award a contract, do I know how to justify taxpayers money by using the tools of monitoring and evaluation to control the process and ensure that it achieves the objective? This has nothing to do with political rallies and false promises to the electorate. This is time to work and justify the taxpayers mandate and resources. Monitoring and evaluation is the control mechanism to ensure that results align with strategic plans within budgetary boundaries. We need these now more than at any other time in our political life as a nation because we need people who know what they are doing and have the prerequisite governance skills. Do our politicians know anything about data-based decision making and performance based budgeting? The following is an excerpt on the use of monitoring and evaluation in performance-based budgeting titled "Monitoring and Evaluation as an integral part of performance-based budgeting (from the book *Monitoring and Evaluation as tools for enhancing public expenditure management in Ukraine*, written by Sergii Slukhai, PhD, of Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University, Kyivsergiis@yahoo.com: Being a part of a "new public management" concept, PBB has been significant part of the modern practical approach to public budgeting in the early 1990s, being a recent development in the performance-based management domain. The concept of performance-based management itself, along with its basic components, could be considered an attempt to apply

well-known business strategies in the management of big companies to the public sector in order to increase public trust in the government, which is widely believed to be inveterately inefficient. As Jack Diamond (2003) noted, its introduction jumpstarted the fundamental structural change of public budget management systems in many OECD countries and beyond.

In many countries, adoption of PBB could be considered a reaction to the problems associated with traditional line-item (incremental) budgeting, where public agencies were held accountable for the amounts of money they spent (so called "Procedural accountability"), but not for the results achieved. So, the main goal of introducing PBB was to bridge a gap between spending on inputs dedicated to the agency's program, and its real achievements in terms of specified performance indicators (PI), which are believed to truly reflect required social and economic improvements and in this way to switch public management to "result-based accountability". Basically, PBB involves setting public goals for programs reflecting national strategies that should be a benchmark for the success of any program-related spending; these long-term outcomes are based on medium-term results which, in turn, rely on delivery of specific products supposed to result from activities for which public funding was used. The linkage of public expenditure program funding, program implementation and the impact on the achievement of (societal and organizational) strategic objectives, is aimed at an optimum allocation of financial resources among program activities and producing higher social welfare. This also means: **PBB is only possible when permanent monitoring of program implementation as well as periodical evaluation is involved.** To achieve the

To be continued

WE left off talking about the fact that the antidote for overcoming fear is trusting God. When you trust God and fear gets cut off from your life, you literally open the door for the power of God to flow in your life.

My dear friends, the power of God is the remedy for any circumstance of your life. There is absolutely nothing that the power of God cannot do. I am reminded of two verses of Scripture in the Book of Jeremiah when He, Jeremiah, was in a conversation with the Lord and he said, **"Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee,"** (Jeremiah 32:17). That was Jeremiah's admission to God. And the Lord God responded to him in the 27th verse, saying, **"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?"** This is why we place our trust in God because there is nothing too difficult for the God of the Heavens and the earth.

You see, fear is an attempt by the devil to get your mind off the possibilities you have in God and to get your mind on your scarcity of resources. To get your mind on what you do not have working for you and to put you in a state of helplessness and hopelessness. Remember we have said in past broadcasts that fear operates through thoughts, ideas and suggestions and the devil is a master when it comes to operating in this realm.

Anytime you interpret a circumstance you are going through or try and reason out a difficulty or concern you may be faced with and you do not factor God in it, the natural result will be fear. Fear is a negative reaction! Fear is the result of reasoning concerning a circumstance or challenge you are faced with while leaving God out of the picture. However, the moment you involve God in the picture and you begin to meditate on how big or how great God; reminding yourself that the reason you are here right now is because God has delivered you many times in the past, then the God who delivered you yesterday, will deliver you today.

The God who delivers you today, has the capacity to deliver you tomorrow, therefore the key is defeating fear by trusting God. As you put your mind on God, ask yourself this question: "Is there anything too big for my God to do?"

The power of God does not bow down before the face of natural

human impossibilities or difficulties but is able to tackle and totally defeat them. In fact, the man or the woman who goes through this life having made the decision to trust God has almost become invincible on the face of the earth. Trusting God is the key. Just as Psalm 56:3 states, **"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee"**. I have a choice to make.

I may not see a way out of the financial crisis or the difficulty I

was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

When we talk about trusting God, we must find out something that He has said and this is so



Fear not, trust God (25)



am faced with but the most important thing is that I introduce God and His power into the circumstance. Once that is at work, I am guaranteed of a favourable outcome.

Let me proceed to say that there is no trusting God outside of His word. Nobody can trust God in a vacuum. Trusting God directly has to do with something God has said. God and His Word are one and the same. When you say I am trusting God, and if it is God's power you are trusting to get involved in the circumstance, then what you should mean is that there is something God has said about your situation that you are choosing to believe.

Trusting God is putting your faith and confidence upon something He has said or committed to do and has been documented. The Bible says, in John 1:1-5: **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word**

important. Do not just sit and invent something in your mind. Your knowledge of what God has said about that circumstance is pivotal in your quest to trusting him. That should be your first response in defeating fear and in learning to trust God. What He has said is His commitment to that circumstance.

In Psalm 89:34, God says: **"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."** We see here that God is committed to everything He has said. The moment you find something He has said, then He is committed to it. He will release His power and resources to bring His Word to pass.

Anytime you are faced with a challenge and thoughts, suggestions and ideas are generating fear for the tendency of a negative outcome, what you must do is to locate something

God has said as documented in the precious anointed book called the Bible. The Bible says in Psalm 138:2, **"...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."** This means God has put Himself under the authority of His Word.

Now, why is this so important in our quest to trust God? God is not committed to do anything beyond what He has committed Himself to do by the Word He has spoken. And because He is so honourable, He has committed Himself and shown us what He has committed to do through the Words that have been documented in the Holy Scriptures.

I can tell you that there is something God has said about any circumstance you are going through. Defeat fear in your life by finding out what God has said about it. He has said a lot about your healing, your health, His ability to deliver you and His willingness to help you.

For example, Psalm 46:1 says: **"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"**. This means a timely spirit of fear, you must of necessity find something He has said about the situation. Hosea 4:6 says: **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest"** Isaiah 5:13 says: **"Therefore, my people are gone into captivity, know their God**

because they have no knowledge"

A lack of understanding of what God has committed Himself to do in your circumstance will affect your ability to trust him and if you cannot trust Him, fear will run wild in your life. However, as you learn to trust him, fear is shut down in your life and his power is released into the circumstance to overcome whatever difficulty it is you are faced with.

Proverbs 11:9b says, **"but through knowledge are my righteous ones delivered"**. The knowledge of God's Word is something that cannot be overemphasized. Any individual who wants to defeat fear and shut the operation of the devil out of their lives must become a student of God's Word. Romans 10:17 says, **"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** This means confidence in God comes by hearing God's Word.

As a child of God, you cannot be ignorant concerning the sayings of God and expect His power to flow in your circumstances. Many people want to treat God like an ATM Machine. Push in a card, punch a few buttons and see money coming out. God is more than that. He is not an ATM machine, He is into relationship and the more you get to know Him, the more you open the door for yourself to see and experience His power in your life.

The Bible says in the book of Daniel 11:32, **"They that do**

Nobody can trust God in a vacuum. Trusting God directly has to do with something God has said. God and His Word are one and the same. When you say I am trusting God, and if it is God's power you are trusting to get involved in the circumstance, then what you should mean is that there is something God has said about your situation that you are choosing to believe.

INTERNATIONAL

Queen Elizabeth II's personal touches in plans for funeral day



A rehearsal for the state funeral

AMONG the touches requested by the Queen is the playing of a lament by her piper.

The state funeral at Westminster Abbey on Monday is likely to be one of the biggest single ceremonial events staged in Britain since World War II.

A national two-minute silence will be held as the service draws to a close just before midday.

The order of service, with its choice of music and readings, is expected to reflect more of the Queen's personal choices for the funeral.

Palace aides said the Queen had been consulted on all the arrangements.

Among those who have confirmed their attendance at the state funeral, which starts at 11:00 BST, are US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Alongside royalty, politicians and world leaders will be 200 people who were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours, including those who helped with the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

A former police officer awarded the George Cross after being shot at 15 times is also among those due to attend the state funeral.

Tony Gledhill, 84, said: "I'm incredibly moved to be involved." The official organiser of Monday's events, the Earl

Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, said his role was "both humbling and daunting".

He said the solemnity of the last few days of mourning and the constitutional process was the "envy of the world".

The duke, who took on the hereditary position in 2002, said Monday's service would aim to "unite people across the globe and resonate with people of all faiths".

Events on Monday will begin with the funeral procession, which will see the Queen's coffin conveyed from Westminster Hall, where she is lying in state, to the nearby Abbey.

Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex and his brother William, the new Prince of Wales, will once more walk side-by-side behind the Queen's coffin during the procession.

The Queen's coffin will be carried on the gun carriage that was used for the funerals of Edward VII, George V, George VI and Sir Winston Churchill. It will be pulled by 142 Royal Navy sailors.

Towards the end of the service, the Last Post will be played, followed by a national two-minute silence. The conclusion of the state funeral, expected at 12:00, will be marked by a lament played by the Queen's piper.

After the Abbey service, the Queen's coffin will be carried in a further procession to Wellington

Arch - led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and members of NHS staff.

It will then be conveyed to Windsor by road, before a committal service takes place at 16:00 at St George's Chapel, led by the Dean of Windsor and with a congregation including the Royal Family and some of the Queen's personal staff.

As the Queen's coffin is lowered into the royal vault, the Archbishop of Canterbury will read a blessing and the Queen's piper will play a lament.

The Crown Jeweller will be in attendance to collect the crown from the Queen's coffin and convey it back to the Tower of London.

A final private burial service for close family members will be held at 19:30.

The Queen will be buried in the King George VI Memorial Chapel, where she will rest with her husband Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who died last year.

The skies over London will be quiet during the two-minute silence, as Heathrow airport stops all departures and arrivals for 30 minutes from 11:40.

Separate changes to operations at the airport will ensure silence overhead during the ceremonies in Windsor.

The BBC will broadcast a special programme for Monday's funeral from 08:00 to 17:00 on BBC One and iPlayer.

Mr Bainimarama has been granted bail and his matter is due back in court on October 13.

He is the only son of Frank Bainimarama, who has been in power since 2007 after leading a military coup the year before.

The case comes at an awkward time for the politician, who will face another former PM - Sitivena Rabuka - in an election later this year.



Ratu Meli Bainimarama (R), pictured in 2006, is the Fiji PM's only son

CHANGE OF NAME
LOHSEL
I, formerly known as **LOHSEL CHALNAN AGNES**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AGNES LOHSEL LABAR**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note



PLATEAU STATE UNIVERSITY, BOKKOS

P.M.B. 2012, JOS, PLATEAU STATE - NIGERIA

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Pursuant to the provisions of the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Decree No. 11 of 1993 as amended by Decree No. 25 of 1996 which was further amended in 2003 and 2012 respectively; and other agreements contained in the 2009 FGN-Staff Union Agreement, the Governing Council of the Plateau State University, Bokokos hereby notifies the Academic Community and the general public within and outside Nigeria that the Post of the Vice-Chancellor, Plateau State University, Bokokos has fallen vacant.

Consequently, in accordance with the Plateau State of Nigeria Gazette No. 3, Vol. II of 24th May, 2006, which contains the Plateau State University Law No. 4 of 2006, the Governing Council of the University wishes to commence the process for the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor for the University.

By this announcement, applications are therefore invited from suitably qualified candidates for the position of a substantive Vice-Chancellor.

THE INSTITUTION

The Plateau State University, Bokokos a broad-based and conventional Institution was established via the instrument of Law on 7th March, 2005. On the 29th April, 2005, the National Universities Commission (NUC), Abuja granted official recognition to the University to operate.

The philosophy, vision and mission of this equal opportunity University is carefully structured to uphold and practice the tenets of handing down knowledge, diligence, culture and values to enable the citizenry develop through an all-round practical result-oriented and problem-solving education in a competitive globalized world. The University is also conceived as an Institution of higher learning in which staff and students from different backgrounds and with sterling intellectual, managerial and moral capacities would be harnessed to work together as a team for the realization of a modern secular education blended with high moral standards.

The permanent site of the University in Butura and Tarangol axis of Bokokos Local Government Area showcases the natural endowment of the State. Thus, the scenic beauty, undulating landscape and clement weather, all combine to provide a conducive atmosphere for academic, research and administrative work.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Vice-Chancellor is the Chief Executive and Chief Academic Officer of the University, Chairman of the Senate and member of the University Governing Council. He/she shall exercise general supervision over the University and shall be responsible to the Council for maintaining and promoting efficiency and order in the University. It shall also be the duty of the Vice-Chancellor to ensure that the provisions of the Law, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations of the University are observed.

THE CANDIDATE

The candidate for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Plateau State University, Bokokos must possess a good University education from a recognized University and should be of impeccable integrity and a good manager of human and material resources.

Specifically, the candidate is expected to:

- 1) Be a highly distinguished scholar of the rank of Professor of not less than seven (7) years experience on the rank.
- 2) Have a wide administrative experience; understand contemporary demands of leadership and in touch with dynamics of modern University administration to be capable of providing vision and direction towards sustainable growth and development of the University.
- 3) Be one with high scholastic and academic credentials (must be a Ph.D. holder) who must have outstanding accomplishments in academic and in public life generally. The candidate must also have a subsisting teaching or research position in a university and should not be more than 64 years of age.
- 4) Command both national and international respect, particularly in the academic world to enhance the good reputation of the University and attract scholarship.
- 5) Be a person who is not likely to foster personal, racial, ethnic, political, religious, or other sectional interests.
- 6) Exhibit entrepreneurial drive and ability to attract the much-needed funds and mobilize other resources.
- 7) Be free from any form of financial embarrassment.
- 8) Be of good health and pleasant/strong personality.
- 9) Be a courageous and assertive person who can take decisions on the merit of faith and principles and not on the basis of pressure from individuals or groups.
- 10) Have not suffered any conviction (i.e. he/she should not be an ex-convict)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE APPLICABLE TO THE POST

The Vice-Chancellor shall hold Office for a single and non-renewable term of five (5) years only on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment. The remuneration and other conditions of service are as applicable to the post of Vice-Chancellor in all Nigerian Public Universities and as may be determined by the Government/Governing Council of the University as appropriate.

MODE OF APPLICATION

- a) Each application should be made in thirty-five (35) copies (with a soft copy) and be accompanied by thirty-five (35) copies of candidate's Curriculum Vitae duly signed and dated, indicating the following:
 - i) Full name (surname first in capital letters)
 - ii) Date and place of birth
 - iii) Nationality and state of origin
 - iv) Marital status
 - v) Number of children and dates of birth
 - vi) Institutions attended with dates
 - vii) Academic and professional qualifications obtained with dates (enclose photocopies of certificates)
 - viii) Areas of specialization and sub-specialization
 - ix) Present job status, description and salary
 - x) Current contact address and phone number(s); and functional e-mail address.
 - xi) Permanent home address
 - xii) Work experience and dates
 - xiii) Conferences, seminars and workshops (locally and/or internationally) attended with dates
 - xiv) Publication of articles
 - xv) Names and addresses of three (3) Referees
 - xvi) Date available for duty (if appointed)
 - xvii) Any other relevant information
- b) Candidates should also enclose their vision for the University in not more than 2,000 words.
- c) Each application should include the names and addresses of three (3) Referees, who should be able to attest to the candidate's standing and abilities professionally, managerially as well as moral rectitude. One of the referees must be from the candidate's place of work. Each Referee must be contacted by the Applicant to forward, direct to the Pro-Chancellor & Chairman of Council, the confidential report in a properly sealed envelope marked **POST OF VICE CHANCELLOR: REFEREE REPORT** at the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- d) All applications shall be submitted under confidential cover, sealed and addressed to:

The Pro-Chancellor & Chairman of Council
Plateau State University,
Bokokos
P.M.B. 2012, Jos
Plateau State-Nigeria

The sealed envelope(s) containing the applications of Applicants should be marked, **POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR** at the top left hand corner and forwarded to reach the Registrar/Secretary to Council not later than **six (6)** weeks from the date of this publication.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY THOSE CANDIDATES WHO ARE SHORT-LISTED WILL BE CONTACTED

Signed:
Yakubu F. Ayuba
Registrar/Secretary to Council

INTERNATIONAL

Rwanda's consensual democracy needs a reset

The repressive system Rwanda's governance model has morphed into can no longer address Rwandans' aspirations.

In the late 1990s, several years after the genocide in Rwanda against the Tutsi community, the country's new rulers – the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) – held a national dialogue to decide on the form of governance the East African nation should adopt. "Consensual democracy" was chosen as the best option for Rwanda to accelerate development and prevent further ethnic violence. Writer VICTOIRE INGABIRE UMUHOZA

In the late 1990s, several years after the genocide in Rwanda against the Tutsi community, the country's new rulers – the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) – held a national dialogue to decide on the form of governance the East African nation should adopt. "Consensual democracy" was chosen as the best option for Rwanda to accelerate development and prevent further ethnic violence.

Subsequently, the constitution was amended to oblige all political parties to be part of and follow the guidelines of an established "political party forum". While this model managed to secure the stability of the country and laid the ground for economic recovery, it gradually transformed into a system where the ruling RPF dictates terms to other political parties, dominating executive, legislative and judicial power. The few voices that have dared to challenge its methods have been quickly and aggressively silenced.

In response to the many criticisms from foreign partners about its democracy, the country's government says that Rwandans have made a sovereign decision to choose a form of democracy that appeals to their history and culture while enabling them to achieve social and economic progress.

Today, as we mark the International Day of Democracy, it is a good time to question this system. Can such a model respond to the current concerns of the people when it allows for their civil liberties to be curbed? And has Rwanda's much-touted economic progress satisfied its needs? After all, the country still has among the lowest per capita incomes in the world. Its human capital index is lower than the average for sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Bank.

So far, these conversations have not been had because the tightly controlled system our consensual democracy has morphed into has prevented serious challengers to the ruling party from participating in the political life of their country.

Ahead of the 2003 presidential election, for example, Dr Theoneste Niyitegeka, who took care of many people injured in the 1994 genocide, tried to put forward his candidacy but was rejected. Afterwards, he was charged with the crime of genocide and sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2008.

Another Rwandan public figure who decided to run in the presidential elections, Diane Rwigara, was accused of inciting insurrection and fraudulently obtaining the necessary requirements for her candidacy in 2017. She was arrested and detained for a year before being acquitted of all the charges.

A former university professor, Christopher Kayumba, was arrested last year after announcing the creation of a new political party, the Rwandanese Platform for Democracy.



Kagame

I myself have also faced repression. In 2010, I returned to Rwanda from exile in the Netherlands with the intention of registering my political party and running in Rwanda's presidential elections later the same year. Unfortunately, I was quickly charged with "minimising the genocide and spreading rumours"

and sentenced to 15 years in prison in a politically motivated trial. I appealed to the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, which ruled that the Rwandan State had violated my right to a fair trial.

In 2018, I was released early by presidential pardon, after eight years of detention, five of which I spent in

solitary confinement. In 2019, I created a new political party, DALFA-Jmurinzi, which the authorities refuse to officially register.

There are many other politicians, journalists and YouTube users who have expressed opinions that challenged the narrative of the government and have ended up in prison.

It is true that elections are peacefully conducted in Rwanda. That is commendable. However, democracy is not about merely holding elections. True democracy is one in which political minority voices are heard and respected, opponents are not persecuted but allowed to operate freely, and freedom of speech and the press are not suppressed but protected.

Rwanda's leadership must understand that the political environment in the country has changed over the past 20 years. There are more dissenting voices today in Rwanda than at the time when the RPF and its allies agreed on the country's current model of democracy. These voices will continue to increase over time. In addition, people under the age of 46 – who were minors or not even born when the civil war and the genocide took place – constitute more than half of the country's population today.

Opposing and criticising government policies is a natural situation, as all Rwandans cannot share the same opinions. On the contrary, criticism of policies can stimulate creativity in finding solutions to Rwanda's problems.

Consensual democracy can work – if it is genuinely consensual, where the political minority are heard and their interests protected. For this to happen, Rwandans first need to assume responsibility for the darkest chapters of their history, while recalling their traditional culture of tolerance and mutual respect. The aim of a Rwandan model of democracy must be to truly strengthen reconciliation between citizens so that they can all feel included in the country's political space. That is essential so that Rwandans can trust that no one is above the law, irrespective of their political views. Only then will Rwandans be able to hold their leaders to account without fear of being prosecuted.

Such a renewed consensual democracy needs a new national dialogue, which includes dissenting voices and civil society organisations from within and outside Rwanda.

The country has a dream: to transform into an upper-middle-income state by 2035 and a high-income state by 2050. However, Rwandans must remember that no resourceless nation has transitioned to a modern, competitive, high-income state without genuine democracy. Rwanda needs to adopt a more inclusive political vision that responds to the country's current realities – and its future aspirations.



Former Rwanda presidential candidate Diane Rwigara being escorted by policemen to a court, while she was under arrest in October 2017.



With **BULUS GAMBO**



Why Tems is not my inspiration - Singer, Fave

The young star has also been on the radar of Nigerian veteran rapper, singer, and songwriter, Olamide who featured her on two tracks, 'Want' and 'PonPon' off his 1st studio album 'UY Scuti.' Nigerian female singer, GodsFavour Chidozie, popularly known as FAVE SZN, has been dubbed the next big thing in the Nigerian music industry. Many people have said she is the next big thing after Tems, while some have compared her music style and sound with that of Tems. The 21-year-old singer started her blossoming music career in June 2019 with her song, 'M.O.M.S' (Me or Mask My Sins) Fave's chart-topping singles, 'Baby Riddim' and 'Beautifully,' have also ensured that she remains top of mind. The young star has also been on the radar of Nigerian veteran rapper, singer, and songwriter, Olamide who featured her on two tracks, 'Want' and 'PonPon' off his 1st studio album 'UY Scuti.' She also released her debut music project 'Riddim 5' EP on the 2nd of January, 2022. In this interview with PREMIUM TIMES, the singer speaks more about her career and signature sound. Excerpts:

YOU shot into the limelight with your release in 2019, 'Me or Mask my sins.' What has been your motivation?

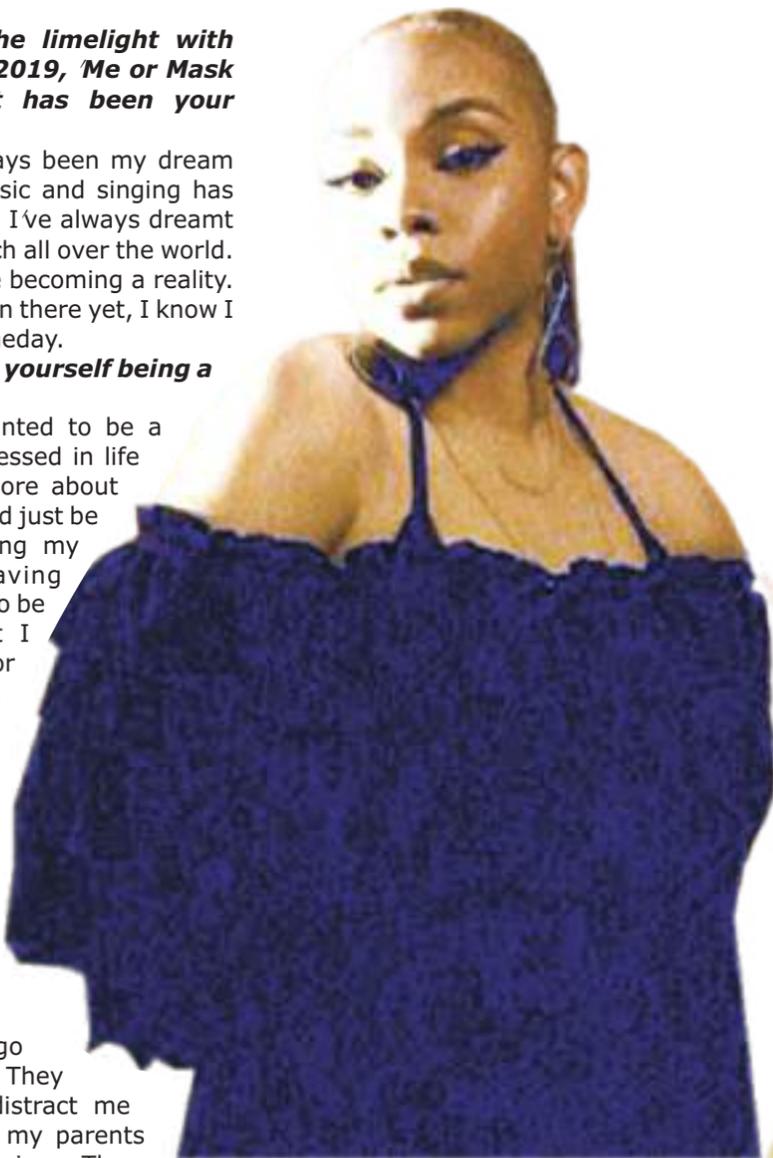
My motivation has always been my dream and passion. Making music and singing has always been my passion. I've always dreamt that my music would reach all over the world. Gradually my dreams are becoming a reality. Although I have not gotten there yet, I know I will get to my dreams someday.

Did you ever envision yourself being a musician?

Yes, I have always wanted to be a musician, but as I progressed in life and as I got to learn more about music, I discovered I could just be a musician. After bagging my secondary school leaving certificate, I was afraid. To be successful in life, I felt I would have to be a doctor or a lawyer, but since I discovered that I could also be successful as a musician, I have decided to focus everything on my music.

Did your parents support this dream to be a musician?

My parents were not really on board with the idea at a young age. They did not allow me to go to the studio to record. They felt that music would distract me from my education, but my parents always knew I could sing. They encouraged me to sing in the choir,



but we're skeptical about me going into music. My parents felt music would make me lose focus. They would prefer to study hard and take music as a hobby or something I just do by the side, instead of giving music my whole attention.

Which Nigerian artiste inspired you while growing up?

There was Psquare. Psquare inspired me. Their songs give me goosebumps. I also loved Wande Coal while I was growing up?

You sound a lot like your colleague, Tems. Does she influence your music in any way?

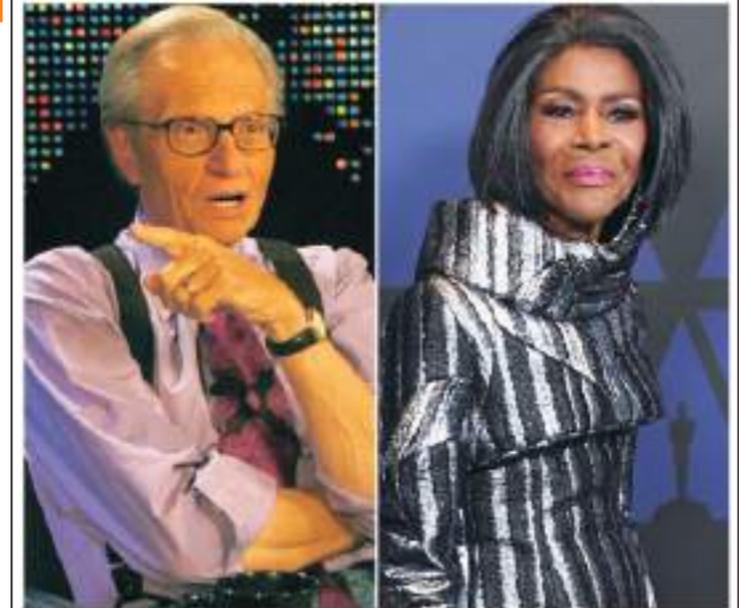
I don't sound like Tems, I only discovered Tems last year, so it wouldn't be accurate to say that she influenced or inspired my music. I think my sound is unique to me.

How do you juggle music and studies as an undergraduate?

It's been good. I never thought it would be this easy at first. But in all, I would face

Continued on page 25

Remembering celebrities who died in 2021



Here, we honor the celebrities who died in 2021: their legacies, their careers, and their impact. We hope their loved ones find peace during this difficult time.

Stephen Sondheim

On November 26, news broke that legendary Broadway songwriter Stephen Sondheim, known for *West Side Story*, *Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*, and more, died at the age of 91.



Fred R. Conrad



Peter Scolari

The actor, known for his roles in *Bosom Buddies*, *Newhart*, and *Girls*, passed away in October. He was 66 years old. CNN reports Scolari had cancer and had been ill since 2019.

Actor Peter Scolari, winner of Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series for 'Girls,' attends the 68th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards Governors Ball at Microsoft Theater on September 18, 2016 in Los Angeles, California.

Continued on page 25

THE SOW WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Beauty-Bytes

How to take care of your skin

BY COLLINS NWOKOLO

In recent times, people have become more interested in taking care of their skin. This has led to the emergence of a range of skincare products and brands, all with the aim of helping people achieve the 'perfect skin,' no matter their skin tone.

But taking care of your skin does not only involve using fancy or expensive products. In fact, not all of these products are necessary if you are doing the right thing.

This is why today, we would be looking at tips for taking care of your skin if you live in Nigeria. Here's how to take care of your skin in Nigeria.

Bath Regularly

The first step to taking in having a good skin is by taking your bath regularly. Nigeria is a hot country, which means on an average day, doing a little task would have you sweating.

When that sweat gets dried, it has to be washed off. Otherwise, it could clog your pores. There is also a lot of dust from the road that can get on your skin. This could lead to skin problems over time.

Having your bath regularly would help to wash off the sweat, dust, and dirt that would have gathered on your skin. Ideally, you should bathe in the morning before you begin the day and at night, just before bed. Doing this would allow your skin to breathe and would leave you generally clean.

Be gentle on your skin

While having your bath or washing your face, you should go easy on your skin. Do not use a hard brush or sponge on your skin, as this could irritate it. Use a mild sponge and go soft on your skin. Make sure you also use a soap or cleanser that is gentle as well.

Moisturize your skin

You can make it a rule to never leave your house without properly moisturizing your skin. Moisturising should happen immediately after you step out from having your bath, as this would help to lock in the moisture.

If you have dry skin, make sure to use a lotion or cream that is especially hydrating. You should also use a moisturizer that is suited for your skin type.

Avoid moisturizers that would bleach your skin or would drastically alter your skin tone.

In addition, don't forget to exfoliate your skin often and go for regular facial treatments.

Avoid Going Out In The Sun



Unless it is an emergency, you should avoid walking under the sun. The sun plays a big role in damaging the skin, and it could also cause skin cancer. If you have to go out while the sun is hot, make sure you take an umbrella to provide you with shade.

Stay hydrated

If you have been looking for a

reason to drink more water, you should do it for your skin. Staying hydrated would ensure that your skin is healthy. Remember, it is not until you feel thirsty that you should drink water.

Wear a sunscreen

Nigeria is such a hot country for anybody to go out without wearing a good sunscreen.

Sunscreen protects you from UV rays from the sun, which has been proven to damage skin. Make sure to go for sunscreen with SPF 30 and above.

Manage stress

Stress is very common in Nigeria. Also, when stress is not managed, it can make your skin more sensitive and lead to acne breakouts and

other skin problems.

There an essential skincare tip for healthy skin is to take adequate steps to manage your stress.

You can do this by getting enough sleep, avoiding stressful situations by planning ahead, making out time for relaxation, eating well, and exercising.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Relationship

Breaking distancing barrier in relationship

By **Sylvia Smith**

PURSUER distancer pattern is whether this pursuer withdrawal relationship pattern is common.

The truth is, this distancing behavior in relationships is widespread. A lot of romantic relationships and marriages have a distinct pursuer and distancer.

Why?

It's because pursuers are attracted to distancers and vice-versa. Pursuers perceive the distanced individuals to be self-reliant, confident, and calm.

Distancers consider pursuers to be ambitious, passionate, and direct. Distancers feel that pursuers have what they lack and vice-versa. Hence, the attraction!

Some effective ways to break the pursuer-distancer pattern

So, why is it fundamental to learn how to break the pattern of distancer pursuer in relationships? It's because this imbalance in romance is what can lead to marital breakdowns.

So, if you've identified as either a distancer or pursuer in your relationship, it's worthwhile to implement the ways to break the pursuer distancer pattern. These can be divided into strategies that can be implemented by distancers and pursuers separately.

For the pursuer- Call off the chase

In a pursuer distancer relationship in marriage, if you're the pursuer, you must understand that your partner may desire distance from you because they feel like their autonomy is being threatened.

If you call off the chase, you

may see that your partner is more open to being emotionally, sexually, and physically connected with you. That makes it an effective way to break the pursuer distancer pattern in your relationship.

Fulfill your needs and interests

Another big step in learning how to stop being the pursuer is to pursue your needs. As a pursuer, chances are that you may be too focused on your beloved's needs and solving their problems even without them asking for your help.

Therefore it's a good idea to use that energy to focus on your needs and effectively break the pursuer distancer pattern.

A distancer appreciates ambition. Remember that. If you're ambitious about your career and interests, it'll be attractive to your partner too.

If you go after your

interests, you will get yourself the time to break the cycle of things. Your brain and time will be consumed by other activities you enjoy, which will help.

Give your beloved their personal space

You must understand that autonomy is a fundamental need for your beloved. So, when they directly or indirectly seek space or alone time, give it to them.

It doesn't mean that they're losing feelings for you. It simply means that they want that time to focus on themselves.

Connect with loved ones

Spend a part of your energy in pursuing relationships apart from the one with your beloved. Invest your time connecting with the other important people in your life, such as your friends, relatives, and parents.

For the distancer- Initiate emotional intimacy

If your partner understands and fulfills your need for autonomy and space, it's important to allow yourself to be vulnerable to your beloved by initiating emotional intimacy with them.

Your partner has a strong urge to get to know you and figure out what's on your mind! It's important to routinely communicate your thoughts, feelings, and ideas with your partner.

Intimate sexual as well

as physical intimacy

Apart from emotional connection, your partner also greatly valued affection. So, it's important to be physically intimate and sexually intimate with them.

Schedule quality time with your beloved

Another great way to express your love and care for your beloved is to initiate, plan, and execute date nights and other ways of spending quality time (regularly) with them.

Identify your partner's needs

It's probably true that your partner tip-toes around you to identify and fulfill your needs. So, you can show how much you care about your partner by focusing on some of their needs too!

How can you avoid the

pursuer-distancer pattern in love

The pursuer distancer dynamic can be harmful to both parties and the relationship, as it never allows you to be yourself ultimately. Let's look into how to stop pursuing a distancer and avoid this unhealthy pattern in love.

Identify your attachment style

Self-awareness is fundamental for secure and fulfilling relationships. Identify whether you're prone to being a distancer or pursuer in relationships.

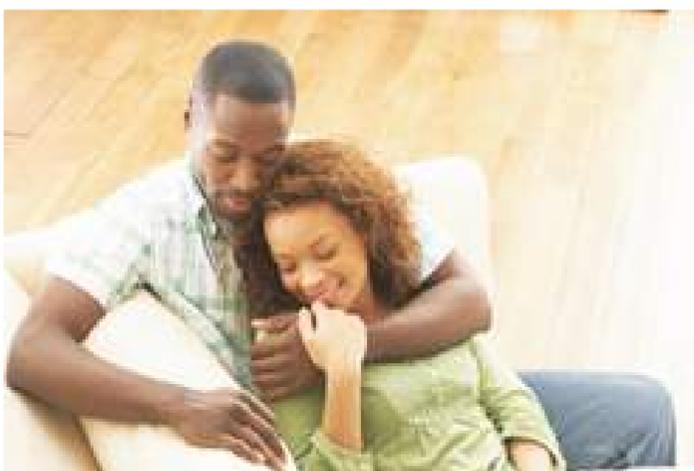
Think about your dynamics with your parents and other loved ones to figure out your attachment style as it determines the nature of your connection with your partner.

Look out for signs of unhealthy attachment in your beloved

Refer to the list above of pursuer and distancer characteristics to identify unhealthy attachment patterns in your beloved. These will help you identify your partner's attachment patterns and thus, you can avoid a pursuer distancer marriage.

Seek psychotherapy or counseling

One of the best ways to break the pursuer distancer pattern is by seeking professional help with your romantic relationship. Consider psychotherapy and couple's counseling or even doing a course with your beloved to avoid this pattern altogether!





Reality Bites

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Ways to promote a healthy mindset

WE are surrounded on a daily basis by happenings that could be positive or negative and as each one comes our way, how we handle or come out of it matters.

Experts however advise that whatever the challenge we are going through, we must take care of our mind so as not to lose it to depression and other negative consequences, whether it is in the event of the loss of a loved one, job, relationship, or being a victim of divorce, disaster, fraud, or any challenge. Having a good mindset that allows one to still see the need for life and the positive sides to issues prevents suicidal thoughts too.

According to Patrick Hannebry on sisuhealthgroup.com, being healthy isn't simply exercising and eating well, mental health also plays a major role in your overall wellbeing, however many of us forget to check-in and make time to practice a healthy mindset. For instance Approximately 1 in 4 Australians experience some form of mental illness, while others may experience intermittent feelings of stress, a lack of confidence or feeling overwhelmed.

He said there is a myriad of different things you can do to promote a healthy mindset, from exercising to meditating. He lists some things you can try to ensure you are promoting a healthy mindset and to support feeling your best.

Eat well:

Research supports a diet of highly processed foods, with



littlenesses nutrients, play a significant impact on not only your body but also your mind. Good nutrition allows you to feel good from the inside out.

Surround yourself with positive people:

Take time to make meaningful connections with friends and family and the people around you. By surrounding yourself with positive people you will feel happier and supported. Many of us lead busy schedules, but it is important to make time to socialise and to have fun.

Take time to practice gratitude:

It can be easy to forget to take a minute or so to reflect and to think about the things in your life that you are grateful for. Something as simple as having a cup of tea without technology, or meditating can go a long way in feeling happier and promoting mental clarity.

Avoid self-comparison:

Comparison can take its toll for many people resulting in lowered self-esteem or a lower sense of self-worth. Take comfort in the fact that no one person is the same and remember to make time to disconnect from social media platforms every now and again.

Find a hobby:

A balance between work or study and spending time doing things that make you happy can make a big difference to having a healthy mindset. Try something new or pick up a class to help you feel fulfilled.

Give back:

Giving back to the community can help build meaningful connections with those around you but can also be so powerful for your mindset. Volunteer within your community or show small

acts of kindness to those around you during the day and you will feel better and happier as a person.

Talk about your feelings:

It's important to share how we are feeling with people close to us. If you don't feel comfortable sharing your feeling with anyone, sometimes a personal journal can help you to express what you're experiencing.

Reflect:

Making time to reflect is a powerful thing. Take time to reflect on the past day or week and reflect on how you resolved problems and how it felt. Reflection is a great way to stay in tune with yourself, learn and maintain a fresh mind.

Exercise:

There are many studies that support the idea that exercise is very powerful in supporting mental health because exercise can improve body image, resilience, quality of life and can even assist in cases of mild to moderate depression.

Use failure to encourage success:

Failure can be the cornerstone to personal growth and development. Remind yourself to pick yourself back up again and try again!



EYE SOWN WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Healthy anti-aging foods you should eat

MANY people are scared of growing old or looking old? For most of them, the latter is of more concern to them. As you grow old, your body would no longer look as young and fresh as it used to. You would then begin to show signs of aging, such as wrinkles and age spots. This is what many people do not want, and they go to great lengths to achieve it, such as having cosmetic surgeries done just to preserve their youthful looks. But such processes are always expensive and have to be maintained, which is not always easy.

You can help yourself by paying attention to your diet. When you start consuming a lot of vibrant foods that are packed with antioxidants, healthy fats, water, and essential nutrients, your body will show its appreciation through its largest organ: the skin. By introducing 'anti-aging' foods to your diet, you can help to slow down the aging clock and keep off those aging signs for a while. We would be looking at some of these foods in today's post.

Pawpaw

Pawpaw or papaya is a sweet fruit that is loaded with a range of nutrients that benefit the skin. Eating pawpaw would improve skin elasticity, which would reduce the appearance of wrinkles and other aging lines. It is also rich in antioxidants, which help to remove free radicals from the body. This could help boost the production of collagen, which helps your skin look rejuvenated. Paw paw is one of the best anti-aging fruits in Nigeria.

Pawpaw also contains an enzyme known as papain, which has anti-aging benefits. This enzyme is found in some exfoliating products, which shows how beneficial it is.

Sweet Potatoes

Eating sweet potatoes could also make you look youthful for longer. This is because of its properties. Sweet potato has beta-carotene,



its orangey colour. When eaten, beta-carotene is converted to vitamin A which, among other things, helps to improve skin elasticity and promote skin cell turnover.

It is also a source of vitamin C and E, which both help to fight off free radicals, protect the skin from harm, and boost collagen production.

Vegetables

Including vegetables in your diet

has a lot of benefits, including slowing down the aging process. Vegetables are rich in various nutrients, and the more types of vegetables you eat, the more nutrients you take in. Some vegetables, like spinach and other leafy vegetables, tomatoes, and bell peppers, are rich in Vitamin C. Vitamin C, an antioxidant, helps to boost the production of collagen. Make sure that your plate is always well decorated with a vegetable or two whenever you are eating.

Dark Chocolate

Dark chocolate is another food you should eat more of to preserve your youthful look. It is a rich source of polyphenols, which act as antioxidants in the body. Studies have shown an improvement in skin elasticity and reduction in facial wrinkles from those who consumed dark chocolate under a specific period compared to those who did not.

Avocado

Avocado is a fruit with a lot of health benefits, including preserving your youthful look. Avocado is rich in anti-inflammatory fatty acids that promote smooth and healthy skin. It is also rich in Vitamin A, C, E and K, which helps with the shed of dead skin cells, leaving us with glowing skin. It is a great source of other vitamins and minerals that benefit the skin in one way or the other.

6. Red Bell Pepper (Tatashe)

Red Bell pepper is a popular type of pepper. It is called *Tatashe* in Nigeria. Red bell peppers are supremely packed with antioxidants which helps the skin when it comes to anti-aging. They are also very rich in vitamin C and



carotenoids that prevent sun damage and keeps your skin looking radiant.

Almonds

Almonds are one of the numerous healthy nuts in Nigeria.

Almonds are an excellent source of vitamin E, which can help in repairing skin tissue, retaining skin moisture, and protecting skin from damaging UV rays.



BUSINESS WORLD

NASENI boosting Nigeria's quest to leapfrog industrialisation

When the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) was established in 1992, it significantly raised Nigeria's hope of leapfrogging industrial development via innovation and reverse engineering. NASENI's mandate include, inter alia: To conduct developmental work in the areas of manufacturing, coordinating the proliferation of technologies developed either within or outside of its centres including patents obtained. Afonne Emmanuel writes

TRANSFER of technologies developed in the areas of spares, components and system engineering to entrepreneurs for the production of goods and services.

The Chief Executive Officer of NASENI, Prof. Mohammed Haruna, recently appraised the activities of the agency saying it was making multisectoral impact in the country.

Haruna said that President Muhammadu Buhari had directed NASENI to produce more solar cells to boost the alternative power sources in the country.

He said that the president also directed the implementation of modular irrigation project and the production of more farm implements, to boost agricultural activities.

"The president is impressed that NASENI is delivering on its mandate. I gave him the usual quarterly briefing and he is happy with what we have done in this quarter.

"Therefore, he has directed us to do more, particularly in the modular irrigation project that we are commencing from Adamawa, the solar cells production and also agricultural implements."

On the power sector, the NASENI boss said that the agency had been able to impact on the power sector, leading to the establishment of a factory in Karshi, Abuja.

According to him, the factory has the capacity to produce 7.5 megawatts of solar energy.

"Through our research and development activities in solar, it is so successful that through local innovations we now have a factory, 7.5 megawatts capacity limited liability company.

"The company is 100 per cent owned by government in Karshi-Abuja, producing solar modules of highest quality.

"These modules are installed in many places, we have dealers who buy these and distribute and we participate in installations in private and government buildings.

"7.5 megawatts cannot meet the needs of the nation and that is not making the price of solar power affordable because the cells used are imported.

"Solar cells are products of silicon and silicon is obtained from silica, which is nothing other than the sand that we have abandoned," he said.

He said this informed the president's approval for the agency to obtain the facility from China in order to achieve 100 per cent made in Nigeria products.

"When that is done, solar power supply will be affordable because the most expensive component is the cells," he said.

On security, Haruna said that a unit of the agency, the Nigerian Machine Tools Osogbo, Osun, also produces protective wares for security men.

He said that the company was also in the process of assembling armoured personnel carriers, in collaboration with Azerbaijan and Indonesia.

"The Nigerian Machine Tools Osogbo has been doing a lot in the production of protective wares; anti-ballistic helmets, and other bullet proof vests and boots among others.

"With NASENI's collaboration with Indonesia and Azerbaijan, we have trained people on how to assemble armoured personnel carriers as well as produce certain components of



Haruna

the carrier," he said.

Haruna also said that NASENI had trained Nigerians for mass production of helicopters.

He said that two helicopters successfully produced, were awaiting accreditation by the Nigerian Aviation Authority before it could start flying.

"The helicopter project of NASENI is a technology we copied from Belgium and also from Indonesia.

"We imported after training staff on all aspects of it, from design to production to assembly, repairs and maintenance.

"After they qualified, including pilots, we assembled two helicopters, which we bought CKD from these places and assemble it with a view of producing the parts by part, to have a wholly or fully made in Nigeria helicopter.

"Now, these helicopters in the helipad and hanger, were developed in our site in Karshi where our solar manufacturing plant is."

He, said, however, that for expansion, the president had approved the projects to be relocated to Nigeria Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna, because of the already developed facilities there in order not to reinvent the wheel.

Haruna said that the agency moulded what companies like Innoson needed in the production of spare parts in commercial quantity.

"However, if there is a unique car, in which only one item of the spare part is needed, instead of mass production, we do produce it

because we have facility to recycle scrap metal and molten iron ductile iron even alloys and use it with our moulds to give us the shape and size of any component and machine appropriately, because we use computer aided manufacturing and design."

Haruna also revealed that the agency produced laboratory equipment for science students in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions across the country.

On agriculture, he said that the president had approved N24 billion for NASENI for the execution of a smart modular irrigation project.

More so, Haruna said the statutory one percent of the federation account meant to be drawn for its running was dedicated to execution of some priority projects that had been approved by government.

"The application of these funds is in some priority projects approved by government; the capital components include payment of 15 per cent of the local counterpart funding for three key projects in the power sector; the development and production of solar cells locally; development and production of electric power transformers and the third one is high voltage testing laboratory.

"Now, these are projects with 85 per cent funding support from China, which is part of what is approved and being implemented in the 2021/2022 Borrowing Plan.

"That is number one and in that, out of the 48.79 million dollars representing 15 per cent of what

Nigeria is paying as the 15 per cent counterpart funding based on the money remitted to NASENI in the first and third quarters, 23.9 million dollars had been remitted in these two quarters.

He said that the other areas of application of the fund included the development and domestication of technologies NASENI had acquired from a partnering organisation in Italy, de Lorenzo.

According to Haruna, the partnership with de Lorenzo is the production of technical science laboratory equipment for primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

"The third component is the development of skills development centres in six geopolitical zones.

"For now, one each per zone; the fourth component of application of this fund is in the development of three out of 12 new centres approved by the president for different states of the federation and of course, continue research and development, reverse engineering and assembly of some military equipment in collaboration with two different private companies.

"The companies are the Nigeria Machine Tools Limited, Oshogbo and PROFORCE, manufacturer of some military hardware, based in Ogun, and of course, completion of the remodeled NASENI headquarters," he said.

According to him, the funds have been applied to priority areas.

The NASENI boss said that President Buhari was impressed

with the agency and had urged it to do more particularly in the modular irrigation projects, the solar cells production and also other agricultural implements.

Deserving no less attention, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo was excited that Nigeria had all it required to manufacture wide range of products locally.

"We are set to manufacture our own vehicles, clean energy trucks and cars, and we are on course to manufacturing our own weapons, armoured mobile platforms and aircraft; we have all it takes.

"But I believe that MSME in technology and manufacturing, especially in the clean energy or green economy, deserves special mention.

"I am convinced that this sector will be crucial in global industrial development in the coming years and will leapfrog Nigeria to economic prosperity," Osinbajo said.

Osinbajo acknowledged the ingenuity of some of the innovators as they defined the future in terms of clean energy automobiles and precision engineering.

No doubt, the challenge of leapfrogging industrialisation is hinged not only on harnessing local talents, but exploiting requisite know-how externally.

In a tech-savvy world, techies say Nigerian scholars and researchers must show more interest in artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics and mechatronics in order to catch up with the rest of the world.

BUSINESS WORLD

FG, others sign N104bn electricity agreement

THE Federal Government and the French Development Agency, has signed a grant agreement of €25m for the Northern Corridor Project, an electricity project funded jointly by the European Union, AFD and the Transmission Company of Nigeria.

It was gathered that the €25m grant agreement of Thursday was the contribution of the EU to the €238m (N103.76bn at the official exchange rate of N435.97/€) required for the project.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Abuja, the Managing Director, TCN, Sule Abdulaziz, stated that the project was not just critical to the Northern corridor but would also improve the country's power transmission in general.

"This will surely give a boost to power transmission in general because it is very critical to not just the Northern corridor but to the entire system," he stated.

The Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Clem Agba, and the AFD Country Director in Nigeria,



Aliyu

Xavier Muron, signed the agreement in the presence of the Ambassador of France to Nigeria, Emmanuelle Blatmann, and the Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Cecile Tassin-Pelzer.

The Northern Corridor Project, being implemented by the Transmission Company of Nigeria, is meant to strengthen a low-carbon economic growth

in West Africa by improving the quality of the electricity network in Nigeria and supporting the development of a regional electricity market under the West African Power Pool.

Additionally, the total cost of the project is around €238m, including €12m from TCN. The grant agreement represented the EU's contribution to the project as the AFD contribution of €202m been signed in December 2020.

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo says Nigeria must add value to its cashew nuts by increasing the processing capacity.

Obasanjo said this on the sideline of the 16th edition of African Cashew Alliance (ACA) conference on Thursday in Abuja.

The former president said that Nigeria grows a lot of raw cashews but only processes a fraction of them, missing out on a wealth of opportunity offered by booming global demand.

According to him, it is painful and I am sad that only 10 per cent of what we produce that we process.

"So, some people are taking advantage of our own hard labour in production and then they add value to it.

"They get more money from it that we should have gotten if we produce and process and market.

"What we need to do is to enhance, improve, multiply, promote and do everything humanly possible to increase the benefits and advantages that we get from cashew industry," Obasanjo said.

He canvassed for the setting up of a committee saddled with the responsibility to ensure the right policies that would

Nigeria must add value to its cashew nuts – Obasanjo



Obasanjo

promote production, processing and research activities on cashew.

"We should give ourselves what I call 2030 Committee for policy, for production, for processing, for promotion, and indeed for research.

"This is essential because there is a lot that we can get out of cashew.

"No aspect of cashew from the root to the leaf should be wasted. And that is what research and innovation should be doing," Obasanjo said.

He, however, expressed delight over the cashew conference in Abuja and urged participants to seize the opportunity to make **i m p l e m e n t a b l e** recommendations for the development of the commodity.

On his part, Mr Babatola Faseru, the President of African Cashew Alliance, said Nigeria and Africa must scale up cashew production and ensure value addition.

"As you are aware, Africa is not doing too well in terms of cashew processing.

"Africa produces about 60 per cent of the world production but the value addition is just about 10 per cent.

"That we will change, we want to retain the wealth that is in cashew in Africa because what we find out is that even though

we are the leading producer, we own less than 20 per cent of the wealth.

"The bulk of the wealth has been transferred to Asia, Europe and America and that we want to change to see that we process it here and then be able to consume it here.

"And then sell the value added product to other countries like Europe, America and others.

"This will be creating the much needed jobs for our people and increase our revenue in terms of foreign exchange earnings for the economy.

"Right now, we need foreign exchange and cashew is definitely a commodity that we can increase what we are doing. "Today, even at this level cashew is like the second known foreign exchange earner for Nigeria.

"We can now imagine if we do a lot of value addition, we can actually receive like 10 times of what we are earning today.

"That is the idea and I believe that this conference will trigger a lot of positive energy for the cashew industry," Faseru said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that more than 30 countries are participating in the four-day conference with the theme, "Strengthening Sustainable Kernel and By-Products' Marketing in the Africa Cashew Industry."

Africa will benefit from Nigeria-Morocco gas project

-Kyari

THE Group Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd, Mele Kyari, recently said the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project will create wealth, and improve the standard of living of countries with the African region.

Mr Kyari said this during the signing ceremony of the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project Memoranda of Understanding.

The agreements were between NNPC, ONHYM and ECOWAS, NNPC, ONHYM and SMH; and NNPC, ONHYM and PETROSEN ONHYM is the National Office of Hydrocarbons and Mines of Morocco.

At the event which was held in Morocco, Mr Kyari said the gas pipeline project will also help in the mitigation against desertification and other benefits that will accrue as a result of reduction in carbon emission.

He described the event as a very important milestone in the

Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline project as it reaffirms the commitment of stakeholders to deliver on the project.

He explained further that the NNPC is well positioned to progress the project by leveraging on its experience and technical capabilities ranging from gas production, processing, transmission and marketing as well as the country's vast experience in executing major gas infrastructure projects in Nigeria.

From inception of the project to this stage, Mr Kyari said concerted efforts have been made by the Government of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Morocco which led to the very commendable achievements recorded.

He expressed appreciation to King Mohammed VI of Morocco and President Muhammadu Buhari for entrusting NNPC Ltd with this strategic project.

He said, "As you are aware, our countries stand to benefit immeasurably from the

execution of the project which extends beyond the supply of gas to energize the countries along the route.

"Some of the benefits include creation of wealth and improvement in standard of living, integration of the economies within the region, mitigation against desertification and other benefits that will accrue as a result of reduction in carbon emission.

"I am glad to say that NNPC is well positioned to progress the project by leveraging our experience and technical capabilities ranging from gas production, processing, transmission and marketing as well as our vast experience in executing major gas infrastructure projects in Nigeria.

"On our part, NNPC Limited will facilitate the continuous supply of gas provide other enablers such as the required land for the first compressor station for the pipeline to be deployed in Nigeria which is among the thirteen stations earmarked along the pipeline route.

"On behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, I would like to thank you all as we continue to strengthen our partnership for the benefit of our countries."

The Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline (NMGP) Project is an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Morocco and was conceived during the visit of King Mohammed VI of Morocco to Nigeria in December 2016.

The NMGP Project is aimed at monetization of Nigeria's abundant natural gas resources, thereby generating additional revenue for the Country, diversification of Nigeria's gas export routes and elimination of gas flaring.

It will also assist in supplying gas to Morocco, 13 ECOWAS countries and Europe, integration of the economies of the Sub-region, improvement of living standards of people of the Sub-region, creation of wealth

and poverty alleviation, assisting in the fight against desertification through sustainable and reliable gas supply as well as providing avenue for other countries along the pipeline route to develop and export their gas.

The pipeline is a 48 Inch X 5,300 Km (Offshore from Barss Island-Nigeria to Dakhla-Morocco) and 56" X 1,700 Km (onshore from Dakhla-Morocco to MEP), with a total length of about over 7,000 Km and about thirteen Compressor Stations.

The pipeline will originate from Brass Island (Nigeria) and terminates at North of Morocco, where it will be connected to the existing Maghreb European Pipeline (MEP) that originates from Algeria (via Morocco) to Spain.

DMO announces N720 bn borrowing plan

THE Debt Management Office (DMO) has reviewed its bonds issuance calendar for the third quarter of 2022.

According to the revised calendar, the DMO is scheduled to raise about N720 billion through some re-opened Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) bonds.

On 19 July, the office was scheduled to re-open a March 2025 FGN bond valued at between N70 billion to N80 billion, and at an interest rate of 13.53 per cent per annum.

It has a two years, eight months maturity period, with an original tenor of seven years.

On the same date (19 July), the DMO re-opened an April 2032 FGN bond valued at between N70 billion to N80 billion at a 12.50 per cent interest rate per annum.

Term-to-Maturity is nine years, nine months, with an original tenor of 10 years.

Also, on 19 July, the DMO re-opened a January 2042 FGN bond valued at between N70 billion to N80 billion, at an interest rate of 13 per cent per annum, with a maturity period of 19 years, six months.

It had an original tenor of 20 years.

On 15 August, the DMO, again, re-opened the March 2025 FGN bond, valued at between N70 billion to N80 billion, at an interest rate of 13.53 per cent per annum.

It had a maturity period of two years and seven months.

On 15 August, it also re-opened the 2032 FGN bond valued at between N70 billion to N80 billion at an interest rate of 12.50 per cent per annum.

Its Term-to-Maturity was now nine years, eight months.

On the same date, the DMO, again, re-opened the January 2032 FGN bond valued at between N70 billion to N80 billion, at an interest rate of 13

per cent per annum.

The maturity period was 19 years and five months.

On 19 September, the DMO will, again, re-open the March 2025 FGN bond valued at between N70 billion to N80 billion, at the rate of 13.53 per cent per annum.

The maturity period will now be two years and four months.

On the same date (19 September), the office will also re-open the April 2032 FGN bond valued at between N70 billion to N80 billion, at a 12.50 per cent interest rate per annum.

Its Term-to-Maturity will be nine years and seven months.

On 19 September, the DMO will re-open a March 2037 FGN bond valued at between N70 billion to N80 billion, at an interest rate of 16.24 per cent per annum.

It has a Term-to-Maturity of 14 years and seven months, and an original tenor of 20 years.



Kyari

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

Key features of a successful family enterprises

Family enterprises form the majority of businesses large and small in every country in the world, but relatively few are able to sustain multigenerational success. DENNIS JAFFE Writes

THOSE that do, however, evolving to meet the challenges they face while holding on to the narratives that tie them together, share some common features – practices and policies that have helped them navigate the last century and more.

Through our multi-year project interviewing centenarian family enterprises around the globe, we've gained insight into the mechanisms that sustain them. Even if these features are constantly evolving and expressed in a variety of ways, these families have all defined their values and purpose, innovated across generations, expressed their social vision in philanthropy and sustainable initiatives, created family learning activities and a family council and passed their values, capabilities and commitment to the next generation.

We call the 100-year families interviewed "generative" because they continue to create further wealth, both financial and non-financial, over generations. The seven key features of their success are:

1. Build a great family tribe

After creating great wealth, the family made a decision to invest in building a "great family" to use their wealth to develop capability and responsible behaviour in succeeding generations. They can be seen as tribes, or clans, with members dispersing but sharing common values and purpose as business and financial partners. Their definition of family is inclusive and expansive and often extends to include their employees, key advisors and even their home community.

2. Culture change to transparency and collaboration

The family originates with a paternalistic orientation, taking care of family members, but by



the second or third generation, the culture shifts to become more transparent, open and collaborative. This entails having clear policies, practices and organisation to set goals, define leadership, make decisions and hold people accountable. The family culture shifts from family to business first, a more professional orientation to business and investment and also toward transparency and collaboration.

3. Resilience

These families are continually changing and adapting as their internal and external circumstances change. They evolve from a single legacy business, often to sell it and become a family office including multiple assets and a foundation.

4. Values-based

New generations turn attention to implementing the family's values and its social commitment. It links its values

to its business and investment practices and becomes involved in philanthropic ventures. These build the identity and commitment of the family to remain together.

5. Family and business governance

They separate family from business affairs. They organise and make decisions about family activities such as shared education, family gatherings, use of family assets and special places, celebrating their legacy and getting to know each other deeply. There is consensus that families should form family councils and boards with independent members, family constitutions and that highly specific trust ownership are all best practices for families.

The development of family governance is parallel and interconnected with their business governance. It engages new family leaders and adds to the shared "capital" of the family.

6. Generative stakeholder alliance

Three groups of stakeholders are essential to resiliency:

- Elders: hold the legacy, wisdom and core values.
- Advisors: professionals who help the family develop business discipline and professionalism.
- Rising Generation:

young people who are the future, with their own values and global experience.

The successful generative family enables each group to have a voice and develop structures and processes where all these voices are balanced, something that we call the "generative alliance".

7. Develop the rising generation

The family invests in teaching, guiding and engaging members of their rising generations, seeking to recruit the most talented to roles within the family enterprise. They train them to become stewards and add value to the enterprise.

This article is based on *Borrowed from Your Grandchildren: The Evolution of 100-Year Family Enterprises* (Wiley, Feb. 26, 2020). The book presents the findings of a multiyear project of interviews with 100 business families around the globe that have succeeded for 100 years or more.

The families see their values as the key to their success, but each generation has to put the values into action by creating governance, communication and family education and development. Their stories help advisors and families make choices in their first and second-generation that can set them on a long-term path to success.

"New generations turn attention to implementing the family's values and its social commitment. It links its values to its business and investment practices and becomes involved in philanthropic ventures. These build the identity and commitment of the family to remain together. They separate family from business affairs. They organise and make decisions about family activities such as shared education, family gatherings, use of family assets and special places, celebrating their legacy and getting to know each other deeply. There is consensus that families should form family councils and boards with independent members, family constitutions and that highly specific trust ownership are all best practices for families. The development of family governance is parallel and interconnected with their business governance. It engages new family leaders and adds to the shared "capital" of the family."



Why Tems is not my inspiration - Singer, Fave

Continued from page 16

my priority What was going through your mind when you penned down your biggest hit, 'Baby Riddim' ?

The beat gave me the flow; it gave me a nostalgic love feeling.

That means you were wrapped in love?

It had nothing to do with my emotions. The beats did the magic.

Should we be expecting another major hit from you anytime soon?

I just released my Ep. I want people to eat that up before any other thing comes.

Who would you love to feature if you could feature in your song?

Adele. She is my greatest inspiration, and her music is out of this world. So if I am to pick one person I would be collaborating with, it's Adele.

What have been your most challenging moments?

I guess having to be strong when things don't go as expected when people are trying to look down on your talent and it's a big challenge, especially for me to stay strong and stand taller, among all these things and stay focused.

Does that mean people try to look down on you often?

We experience a lot of things in life. You are always not going to meet people who want the best for you. Some people don't have good intentions towards you. I have had my fair share of all these, and I know that these kinds of people will keep coming as I keep growing. I tell myself every day that regardless of what comes my way, I have to stay strong.

For you, what would be the peak of a musical career?

For me, the peak of my musical career is when the world consumes my music

Wouldn't you love to be nominated for a Grammy?

I would love to, but that's not my focus. I'm focused on being a superstar, and I want my



music to be heard at all the ends of the earth.

How does it feel to be a superstar?

I haven't gotten there yet; I consider myself a young star. I have travelled out of the country for the first time, and my music is topping charts in different countries.

Did you see it coming?

Yeah, I knew that my music was going to take flight, I knew people would like it, but I didn't have a timeline in mind.

What's your advice for upcoming stars?

My advice would be to believe in yourself because no one would believe in you except you. If someone believes in you and you don't believe in yourself, you might give up.

Premium Times Nigeria



Remembering celebrities who died in 2021

Continued from page 16



Norm Macdonald

As the anchor of *Saturday Night Live's* "Weekend Update" segment during the '90s, Macdonald influenced a generation of comics and comedy fans. He passed away in September 2021 at the age of 61 after a private battle with cancer, [reported Deadline](#).

"Norm was a pure comic. He once wrote that 'a joke should catch someone by surprise, it should never pander.' He certainly never pandered. Norm will be missed terribly," said his friend and producing partner Lori Jo Hoekstra, who was with him when he died.

Kevin Clark

Clark was a musician who shot to fame as drummer Freddy in the hit movie *School of Rock*. *Variety* reported on May 26 that Clark was hit by a car while riding his bike in Chicago. He was only 32.

Paul Mooney

The actor and comedian, who worked with Dave Chappelle and Richard Pryor, among others, died on Wednesday, May 19, from a heart attack. Mooney was 79, [reported TMZ](#).

Charles Grodin

The actor passed away from bone marrow cancer on Tuesday, May 17, his son confirmed [to the Associated Press](#). He was 86.

Alber Elbaz

Elbaz—a native of Israel who was best known for his revival of fashion house Lanvin, where he worked from 2001 to 2015—has died at age 59 from COVID-19. "It was with shock and enormous sadness that I heard of Alber's sudden passing," said Johann Rupert, chairman of Richemont and a partner in Elbaz's AZ Factory, [per Harper's Bazaar](#). "I was always taken by his intelligence, sensitivity, generosity, and unbridled creativity. He was a man of exceptional warmth and talent, and his singular vision, sense of beauty, and empathy leave an indelible impression."

Helen McCrory

Helen McCrory, who starred in the *Harry Potter* franchise as Narcissa Malfoy, died of cancer at 52 years old. "I'm heartbroken to announce that after a heroic battle with cancer, the beautiful and mighty woman that is Helen McCrory has died peacefully at home, surrounded by a wave of love from friends and family," McCrory's husband, actor Damian Lewis, shared on April 16.

"She died as she lived. Fearlessly. God we love her and know how lucky we are to have had her in our lives," he continued. "She blazed so brightly. Go now, Little One, into the air, and thank you."

Joseph Siravo

Best known for his portrayal of Giovanni "Johnny Boy" Soprano on HBO's groundbreaking drama *The Sopranos*, Siravo was also a Broadway star who took the stage in *Jersey Boys* for over 2,000 performances, [according to The Hollywood Reporter](#). Siravo was 64 and had been battling cancer for some time. The news was reported on Monday, April 12.



DMX

Rapper and actor DMX, born Earl Simmons, died on Friday, April 9, a week after suffering a heart attack. He was 50 years old.

"We are deeply saddened to announce today that our loved one, DMX, birth name of Earl Simmons, passed away at 50 years old at White Plains Hospital with his family by his side after being placed on life support for the past few days," his family wrote in a statement [to People](#). "Earl was a warrior who fought till the very end. He loved his family with all of his heart and we cherish the times we spent with him. Earl's music inspired countless fans across the world and his iconic legacy will live on forever. We appreciate all of the love and support during this incredibly difficult time. Please respect our privacy as we grieve the loss of our brother, father, uncle and the man the world knew as DMX. We will share information about his memorial service once details are finalized."

Lalong tasks APC North Central zone on 2003

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU State Governor and Director General (DG) APC Presidential Campaign Council, Simon Bako Lalong has tasked the North central zone executives of the APC to work ahead of Nigeria's 2023 elections.

The DG said this would culminate into success for the zone, to be able to give the Tinubu/Shettima ticket the highest number of votes in the forthcoming elections.

Lalong expressed his optimism recently in Jos, when he received the North Central Zonal Chairman and members of his committee on a courtesy visit to Government House, Rayfield Jos.

Lalong said it is a great honour to meet with them, stating that the party is very strong in the North Central despite losing Benue State, one out of its six States after the Governor left for the opposition party.

He said their tour of all states under the zone is timely and will give their party an impeccable result.

He encouraged grassroots mobilisation and challenged the zonal chairman and his members to reach out to all organs of the party in the zone with a view to mobilising and sensitizing the electorate at the grassroots for the success of the party.

Lalong charged the party Zonal leadership to carry everyone along and deliver all the party's candidates including the Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his running mate Senator Kashim Shettima.

On the level of consultations, mobilisation and engagement so far, the Governor informed the zonal officials that the presidential campaign council has continued to fine-tune the strategies that will ensure that members of the APC



Lalong

participate from the unit level to the national, rather than a situation where many prefer to look at the national level.

He said already, the Presidential campaign council has engaged the national working committee and also proposed clear roles for women and youths in the forthcoming campaigns.

In his remarks, the APC North Central Zonal Chairman Alhaji Mu'azu Bawa Rijau said they were in the State to meet with party officials and stakeholders in line with the directive of the NWC for the zonal leadership to embark on such tour to engage party faithful.

He congratulated the Governor over his appointment as Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council saying the entire zone was happy for the well deserved assignment which is a clear evidence that the zone can deliver for not only the Presidential Candidate, but the party as a whole.

He also thanked the Governor for his support during the party primaries where the leadership of the

zone emerged without any rancour.

Rijau assured the Governor that they would work hard to reconcile all aggrieved persons within the zone in order to ensure that the party enters the elections as a strong and united force.

"We are in the state to interface with party men and women, interact and listen to them so that we make amends where there are challenges. This will make the wish of the national leadership of the party on resolving all internal crisis to be addressed at our zone", said the Zonal Chairman.

Also speaking, the APC North Central Zone Youth Leader, Zubairu Aliyu who handed a document and customised attire of the APC youths said there are 34 Million Youths for APC but they are hoping to mobilise 10 Million more youths.

We will get attackers of Bauchi Gov's Aid

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

UNKOWN Gunmen were said to have made an attempt on the life of the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) on

sneaked into the home of the newly wedded couple of two weeks, locked them and poured the fuel on them.

Savanna escaped from the scene as the victims cried in anguish and the bride died while the groom is in a critical condition at the Yola Specialist hospital.

Muhammadu Ibrahim has been arrested by the Police and gave a confessional statement to the police claiming that the lady had promised to marry him after he claimed to have expended about One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira on her.

He pointed out that even though he is married with four children, he wanted her (deceased) as a second wife.

Savanna on the other hand, is being sought by the Police.

Adamawa State Police spokesman, SP Suleiman Nguroje confirmed the incident saying the matter is being investigated by the Criminal Investigation Department while the suspect will be charged to Court.

WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

An intervention aimed at supporting vulnerable children who are associated with HIV/AIDS in Gombe State by the Centre for Integrated Health Programme (CHIP) and Kishimi Shelter and Care Foundation is said to have drastically controlled the spread of the dreadful disease.

Deborah Zakayo, told our correspondent in an interview at the sideline of a stakeholders review meeting of a five year Blood Grant programme which comes to an end by September 29th, 2022.

She said, no fewer than 18,000 vulnerable children have been enrolled and have been supported through three community based organizations (CBO's) in all the eleven local government areas of the State.

Speaking at the closeout review meeting for stakeholders for Akko, Balanga, Gombe and Yamaltu-Deba LGA's which was executed by Kishimi Shelter and Care Foundation, Deborah Zakayo said the HIV intervention and support was carried out through the health facilities.

She explained that, "we get the children from the facility by identifying an adult who is HIV positive, then we go to the household and identify the children that are positive and those that are negative, then enroll them for the intervention".

According to her, those found negative are still considered vulnerable due to the positive status of their parents adding that, the intervention had been going

Over 18,000 vulnerable children enrolled for HIV/AIDS support



Ehanire

on in the State for the past fifteen years when CHIP came to Gombe State.

She said, "CHIP as an indigenous NGO that has been supporting the government of Gombe State for over fifteen years in the area of providing intervention on HIV prevention, care and treatment programmes.

"We currently cover 24 comprehensive sites where we provide full package of HIV/AIDS intervention from counseling services, provision of drugs to children, adolescents and adults that are HIV positive.

"What we did was to assign CBO's to each facility so that as children are being enrolled

from the health facilities, they follow up to the communities to ensure they provide counseling and social protection services for children and their care givers", she stated.

She revealed that the intervention helped the State saying, "there was this National AIDS Survey that was conducted and HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Gombe State has drastically reduced".

Executive Director, Kishimi Shelter and Care Foundation, Grace Samuel, attributed the success of executing the programme in Akko, Balanga, Gombe and Yamaltu-Deba LGA's to the sincerity of purpose of her Foundation.

Police investigates burning of man bride

From **Gyang Pam, Yola**

THE Police in Yola the Adamawa State capital are still investigating the circumstances leading to the burning of a man and his two weeks old married bride and has assured they will not leave any stone unturned until the perpetrators are brought to book.

Reports have it that one Muhammadu Ibrahim was angry having been jilted by

the bride after he alleged she had promised to marry him but went ahead to marry another man.

Accordingly, Ibrahim secured the services of one Ibrahim Savana for a price of Five Thousand Naira (N5,000) to deal with the couple.

Having collected the money, Savanna armed himself with a gallon of petrol and matches, then



Fintiri



Mohammed

Christian Religious Affairs to the Bauchi State Governor, Pastor Zakka Luka Magaji. Confirming the attack, the State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Ahmed Wakil, said that yet-to-be-identified gunmen numbering seven, stormed the residence of the Pastor in Birshi, area of Bauchi metropolis.

SP Wakili confirmed the incident through a phone conversation, where he said the Command received a distress call on an attempt on the life of one Pastor Zakka Luka Magaji, SSA Christian Religious Affairs to Bauchi state Governor.

"The Command received the distress call at about 0013hrs that the house of Pastor Zakka was attacked by some armed men, numbering about seven. "On receipt of the distress

Police

bushes to be able to arrest the perpetrators of the dastardly act.

He assured residents of the state that the command is doing everything possible to provide adequate security of lives and properties, appealing however that people should be security conscious and vigilant ensuring that suspicious customers are reported to the nearest security point for action.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner for Religious Affairs and Community Development, Hon Umar Babayo Kesa has led the management and staff of the Ministry to sympathize with Magaji over the attempt on his life by the yet-to-be-identified gunmen.

The Commissioner said that they were at the house to express their deep sympathy for the incident praying that God will continue to protect him and his family from evil men.

Magaji thanked the Commissioner and the management of the Ministry for the visit saying that it was a demonstration of cordial and peaceful co-existence among the people of the state under the leadership of the state Governor, Senator Bala Mohammed who is very much concern on Security issues.

call, the Commissioner of Police directed the DPO E-division to act immediately. The DPO led his team with other tactical Commanders such as RRS B-division, for a quick intervention, where the armed men ran into the Bush.

"A 32-year-old man who is a member of Christian Life Church living together with Pastor Zakka was injured in the process. Police personnel were at the scene of the crime where three empty shells of 7.6mm ammunition were recovered," he said.

The Police Spokesperson added that the Police who were there on a rescue mission immediately took the victim and rushed him to ATBU Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) for medical attention.

Wakili then assured that Police patrol has been intensified along the area, combing the

NEWS

NDE trains unemployed youths, women on sustainable agriculture

From AMEDU JOSEPH

THE National Directorate of Employment (NDE), has commenced a five-day capacity training for 50 unemployed youths and women in Kogi on Sustainable Agriculture.

The training is under the Post Sustainable Agricultural Development scheme of the NDE.

The Director General of NDE, Mallam Abubakar Nuhu Fikpo, represented by the Kogi State Coordinator, Abubakar Zakari while declaring the training open on Wednesday in Lokoja, said that the empowerment scheme is aimed at equipping participants with advanced technological know-how on rural employment promotion.

He said that the Post Sustainable Agricultural Development initiative is an intervention policy of the federal government that has to do with Livestock Production, Food Processing and Packaging as well as digital marketing of agricultural products.

The facilitator of the training programme, Joshua Fagbemi representing the Director of Rural Employment Promotion Department at the NDE headquarters, Abuja, Duke Edem, said that the gesture is an intervention policy to assist unemployed persons with the modern knowledge of



Ngige

agriculture practices.

In his welcome address, the Head of Rural Employment Promotion Department of Kogi NDE Office, Shaibu Omeiza, urged the participants to take the training very serious

According to him, "This Programme is geared towards creating wealth and employment for the downtrodden youths and women in Kogi state

He also enjoined the beneficiaries to see the opportunity as an advantage

to ensure food security for all and self-reliance.

Responding on behalf of other participants, Jacob Abiodun commended the federal government for its numerous social investment programmes since assumption of office

He assured that the training will promote attitudinal change in their lives with a view for them to contribute their quota to end the menace of unemployment in Nigeria.

PLATEAU Diaspora Tourism and Culture Agency (LLC), through SHI'ANGHEN FOUNDATION in collaboration with the State Ministry for Tourism, Culture and Hospitality, have trained over six hundred and twenty-one (621) youths to be entrepreneurs in creative industry both at home and abroad.

This took place with the theme; "Accelerate Your True Potentials", at the conference hall of Industrial Training Fund (ITF)'s Centre of Excellence Bukuru in Jos-South LGA of Plateau State, where young indigenous youths were drawn cutting across 17 LGAs of the state.

Declaring the training opened, the Director General of ITF, Sir Joseph Ntung Ari, who was represented by Mrs. Adetola Ajeh, commended the Plateau Diaspora Tourism and Culture Agency for taking this initiative to not only boost the economy of the state, but Nigeria through these talented and vibrant youths on the Plateau.

The ITF DG, who was the chairman of the occasional said, "the Fund is attracted to entrepreneurship and innovation advancement that provide and promote platforms for local and international programmes aimed at making it easier for anyone to start and maintain a business.

Plateau diaspora agency trains 621 youths

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

One of key players of this programme who is from United States (US), Lady Gertrude Longwan Odoala, thanked Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State for opening this ground for them to contribute to the state and promised not to let him down as they were working tirelessly to justify the confidence he has put on them.

"This is the first time in the history of the state that those in diaspora are appointed to serve as board members in an industry that if properly harnessed will without any iota of doubt, be an alternative source of funding for the state in the face of dwindling fund allocations from the federation account", she disclosed.

One of the founding members of SHI'ANGHEN FOUNDATION and the 1st Movie Academy Award Winner for the Best upcoming Actor in Africa from Plateau State, Hoomsuk Alex Jibrin, disclosed that NETFLIX INC AND AMAZON PRIME, the top

content platforms and big international film production and marketing brands in Europe, have announced their digital move into the NOLLYWOOD space.

He said, this was with a trajectory of over 5.7 billion dollars to buy Nigerian stories and talent based on outsourcing of our creatives saying, "their activities have reached us even here in Jos, Plateau State with our government, creatives and tourist administration not knowing how to utilise the connection between Plateau and these 2 film platforms as a source for internally generated revenue for these creatives".

State Commissioner for Tourism, Culture and Hospitality, Hon. Tamwakat Gofwen-Weli, said, " as a Ministry, we are uplifted and sustained by the knowledge that the Tourism Board of Directors in Diaspora have more programme in stock to help the government to succeed. I pray for more opportunity to serve your motherland".

'Ignore misconception about Covid-19 vaccines'

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

OBARO of Kabba, HRM Oba Solom on Oladele Owoniyi has admonished Nigerians to ignore the negative conception about Covid-19 vaccines intakes in Nigeria.

The Monarch gave the admonition at the Senatorial District Sensitization Workshop with Stakeholders held in Kabba, Kogi State. Oba Owoniyi noted that many Nigerians have this negative impression that when they take Covid-19 vaccines, they will die prematurely or they would not be able to do certain things which he termed false and malicious.

According to him, religious leaders, traditional rulers and other stakeholders have a great role to play in the society to correct this negative trend

He stressed that there was the need to educate people on the importance of science in combating pandemic.

The Monarch while using the opportunity to address burning issues in the nation, said, the 2023 general election will remain a litmus test for the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) to prove to the whole world that Nigeria's democracy had grown from what it used to be. He warned electorate to avoid selling their votes to fraudulent politicians, adding that, they should vote their conscience, and ensure that any leader elected will bring development to the people.

Oba Owoniyi, however, used the opportunity to appeal to the Kogi State government to as matter of urgency restore the state owned radio which has been off air for over one year.

This, he said, will enable the People to be informed about the happenings in their environment and also make wise choices as Nigeria is approaching another round of

democratic dispensation.

Earlier, the Executive Director, Challenged Parenthood Initiative, (CPI) Ms. Eunice Abimbola Agbogun said, her organization has collaborated with the state Ministry of Health and Kogi State Primary Health Care Development Agency to carry out project on Enhancing Demand Creation and Uptake of Covid-19 Vaccine in the state.

She noted that, the Kogi State government has recorded great stride towards protecting citizens of the state from the effect of coronavirus adding that, while there have been achievements in the Covid-19 vaccination exercise, the process is not immuned to challenges, new and emerging

According to her, CPI uses various approaches, partners and other strategies to enlighten the public on the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccine and also promotes the use of non-pharmaceutical interventions.

Agbogun stressed that CPI-CITAD project on Demand Creation and Uptake of Covid-19 vaccine in Kogi State commenced in November 2021 and it is aimed at complementing government's effort in the fight against Covid-19.

Explaining further, Agbogun said, "As stated in your agenda, the objectives of the sensitisation meeting include enhancing capacity of participants to disseminate correct and factual information to the general public, and increase awareness on emerging issues and the use of non-pharmaceutical prevention methods by citizens.

"This meeting provides

forum for discussion, experience sharing, provide guidance and devise a strategy to increase vaccination rate in target communities. Globally, the number of reported Covid-19 cases and death continues to decline. This is encouraging trend, but citizens still need to take preventive measure not to be infected with the virus especially now that some states in Nigeria are recording high rate of Covid-19 infection.

The vaccine supply is now sufficient, but demand in many communities with the lowest vaccination rate is lacking".

At the end of stakeholders meeting, participants agreed that all the religious, traditional ruler and all stakeholders should endeavor to sensitize all their subjects on the need to take the Covid-19 vaccine.

Parts of the communique drafted at the end of the meeting reads "That there is no negative effect when Covid-19 vaccine is taken by any individual. Every citizen must comply with the laid down precautionary measures by NCDC in order to curtail the spread of the virus. "There is no permanent cure for Covid-19 for now.

Therefore, we should all be sensitized to observe all the covid-19 protocol. Vaccination does not totally prevent one from infection, but, help to reduce the impact of the covid-19. That covid-19 is real and deadly. That persons from ages 16 and above can take the vaccine according to

Troops kill bandits, dislodge camps



El-Rufai

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

KADUNA State Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Security, Samuel Aruwan says, Troops of Operation Forest Sanity have killed many bandits and dislodged camps during clearance operations conducted across some hard-to-reach locations spanning Chikun and Igabi Local Government Areas in the State.

The commissioner in a release made available to newsmen also said 10 hostages were rescued during the operation.

The commissioner said: "As disclosed in an operational feedback, the troops neutralised an unspecified number of bandits while clearing out insurgents and bandit camps at Apowehe in Chikun LGA.

"The operation extended to Dakwala and Kunai hills in the same LGA, where more hideouts were cleared, though no contact was made with bandits.

"The troops after clearing out the

bandits, stormed the hideouts and rescued 10 kidnapped persons who were chained and bound with ropes.

"The troops untied the hostages, who were identified as Surajo Aliyu, Ayuba Yakubu, Ibrahim Abdulrasheed, Aliyu Mohammed, Magaji Tasiu, Nasiru Ahmed, Mohammadu Ibrahim, Ayuba Abdulsalam, Kelvin Musa and Paul Patrick with a view to reuniting them with their families.

"The troops who came under attack in the thick forest, successfully evacuated the hostages to a military facility where they are receiving medical attention before being reunited with their families.

Another camp was cleared at Rafin Gwaska, Igabi LGA, where the following items were recovered, three locally made rifles, one AK-47 magazine, one AK-47 top cover, four Bafong radio chargers, 11 mobile phones, three music boxes, two sets of military uniforms, one frag jacket, Spanners land, knives and chains



Bello

NEWS

APC appoint gubernatorial campaign council officials

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

PLATEAU State Chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), has, after strategic and broad-based consultations, released the key appointments into its Gubernatorial Campaign Council ahead of the 2023 General Elections.

According to a press statement signed by the party's State Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos,

The statement stated that, "the Campaign Council, which is to be Chaired by Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, the Gubernatorial candidate in the state with Hon. Rufus Bature, the State APC Chairman as the Deputy Chairman, has the following key functionaries: Director-



Lalong

General - Prof Sebastian S Maimako and Deputy DG (Operations) - Rt Hon Shehu Yipmong respectively.

Others included, Deputy DG (Administration) - Comrade Jibrin Bancir, Deputy DG (Election

Management) - Hon. Ernest Da'a, Campaign Council Secretary - Prof. Shem Bindas in that order with the remaining appointments into the respective Directorates shall be made in due course.

NEWMAP/ACReSAL hands over strategy development for adoption of CNG

From EZEKIEL DONTINNA,

THE Acting National Project Coordinator, NEWMAP and ACReSAL, Engr. Ayuba Anda Yalaks, has handed over Implementation-ready Strategy Development for Adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Based Transportation System in Nigeria's Urban Cities Report to the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transportation, Dr. Magdalene N. Ajani.

This came in a press statement signed by the Plateau State Office of NEWMAP/ACReSAL Communication Officer, Mathew Bawul and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the state capital shortly when she played host to NEWMAP Delegation led by the Acting NPC recently in Abuja.

Briefing the Permanent Secretary, the Acting National Project Coordinator disclosed that, the Federal Executive

Council had approved the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to reduce short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) in which the Federal Ministry of Transportation (FMT) was vested with the responsibility of coordinating the implementation of the mitigation measures.

He said, "following this approval, the then Hon Minister of State, Gbemisola R. Bukolar approached the then Hon. Minister of Environment, Hon. Dr Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar requesting for support and partnership to develop a strategy for the Adoption of Compress Natural Gas (CNG) Based Transportation System in the Country.

"Considering that NEWMAP is a World Bank supported project, (in its component 3) it is supporting Nigeria government to address climate change responses with the objective to strengthen Nigeria's capacity to promote

low carbon, climate resilient development. The Hon. Minister of Environment directed NEWMAP to partner with and support the Ministry of Transportation with the development of strategy for the adoption and use of CNG based Transportation System; with pilot in Nigeria's Urban Cities which was thereafter adopted for the entire country", he explained.

While presenting the strategy document to the Permanent Secretary, Engr. Yalaks stated that it was ready and timely even with the launching of the Energy Transition Plan by the President where the document would play a key role as proposed. And that, the road-map strategy document amongst other core objectives would help reduce atmospheric pollution and GHG emission from fossil fuel; combat climate change and promote low carbon climate resilient development.

Receiving the document, the Permanent Secretary appreciated the efforts of the NEWMAP team for the development of the implementation-ready report informing the delegation that the report would definitely help to combat the adverse effect of climate change in Nigeria considering that the implementation plan was also contained in the report. She assured the NEWMAP and ACReSAL team of the Ministry of continuous support and collaboration on GHG emission

Go Green Project distributes tree seedlings

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

AN all afforestation and climate change initiative, 'Sokoto Go Green Project', has distributed tree seedlings to people of Sokoto

Our Correspondent reports that the tripartite project was initiated by

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

MEDICAL Experts in Kogi State have lamented over non-availability of data for people suffering from prostate cancer in Nigeria. Speaking on the sideline of prostate cancer awareness month on Wednesday, a team of medical experts under the auspice of 'Cancer of the Prostate Trans-Atlantic Consortium, (CAPTC) Federal Medical Center, (FMC) Site Lokoja' submitted that, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of death for men in Nigeria. The team leader of CAPTC site Lokoja, a consultant Surgeon with Federal Medical Center, Lokoja, Dr Taiwo Jones Olaoluwa said it is very worrisome that there is no available statistics for people suffering from prostate cancer despite the fact that it is one of the leading causes of death for Men in Nigeria. "We actually run a cancer registry here at the Federal Medical Center, Lokoja. That is supposed to be something that will feed up to the central cancer registry in the Federal ministry of Health. We cannot feed in data without adequate diagnosis. "So if a patient dies in a private hospital from suspected cancer

Medical experts lament inaccurate prostate cancer patients data

of prostate, without you confirming it, you can't label such. The only data we have is the one we are able to diagnose in FMC. And that is a big problem which should be looked into if we most reduce death rate as a result of prostate cancer in Nigeria" he added. According to him, the aim of the awareness programme is to prevent the advent of prostate cancer which he termed a silent killer disease for Men within the ages of 50 and above. The surgeon explained that early detection and testing remains the best way of reducing death rate in Nigeria caused by prostate cancer. A Consultant Urologist, Federal Medical Center Lokoja, Dr Ayodeji Ogunmola said Cancer of the Prostate Trans-Atlantic consortium, (CAPTC) has the mandate to improve the disparity in prostate cancer in Men. According to him, there is no specific cause of prostate cancer adding that, Government at all level should invest in cancer research to reduce the rate of death attributed to the disease. His words "Prevention, they say is always better than cure. Prostate cancer is generally littered in the society especially in the third world country like Nigeria, because of inadequate investment and lack of adequate education for people to know that this disease is in

existence. "A lot of people tend to arrogate this disease to arrows sent by the evil people in their community, instead of going for periodic screening so that you can pick it early and commence adequate treatment. By the time we begin to see patients who are already in advance stage, there is usually no much that can be offered in terms of services, things get worsen. "So most patients tend to believe that it is death sentence. But is not actually so. The way is to invest in cancer research, pick it early and be able to institute adequate treatment that will lead to elongation of life". Earlier in his remarks, the Chief Medical Director, Federal Medical Center, Lokoja Dr Olatunde Alabi said the management of FMC is committed towards reducing prostate cancer in Nigeria. "Prostate cancer is one of the cancer that is prevalent in this environment. Government has done enough on its awareness programme. It is something that is preventable if you are screened earlier and take the appropriate step. Our plans now is to emphasize awareness and screen. Early diagnosis and treatment is necessary" he added. Prostate cancer is a form of cancer that begins in the gland cells of the prostate which is found only in males..

Tarok nation to revive indigenous food craftsmanship

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

In a bid towards reviving the indigenous food Crops, Economic Trees and plants of economic importance in Tarok Land that were at the a verge of extinction, a Committee on Research and Development has been set up by the National Body of Ngwang Ishi O'Tarok (NIO), to seek for partnership and synergy.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Media Officer, Research and Development Committee (NIO), Francis Lahnim Kusa, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently. The mandate of the committee is to strategize with Research Institutes, Traditional rulers as well as Professional organizations across the state in order to safeguard the situation.

The Committee through its Chairman, Mr. Nandom Abu, commended the foresight of the National Body of Ngwang Ishi O'Tarok under the leadership of Amb.Nanpon Shini in bringing to lime light this brilliant idea and promised that the task bestowed on the them would be carried out with all seriousness.

He, however, appreciated members for their sacrifice and posited that its not in vain. He

assured them that the end result would be beneficial to all admonishing them to live up to expectations of NIO Executives that found them worthy to be appointed in order to deliver on the task ahead.

Abu, therefore, promised to collaborate and interface with the two Local Government Areas, Traditional Council, Stakeholders and other relevant agencies domiciled in the land to ensure that the committee comes up with recommendations that would be acceptable by the Tarok nation in order to boost the economic development in the areas.

He said, "in no distant time, all indigenous food crops, economic trees and plants If they are not properly harnessed and documented, will soon go into extinction. The research would not be limited in the localities but across the state and it is aimed at boosting economic fortunes and industrialization within the Tarok land.

The Head of Bioresources Development Centre (BIODEC), under the supervision of National Biotechnology Development Agency, Mr. Bernard Eche commended the initiative for the interface describing it as very apt. He said, the Agency was basically to improve on the production of

plants and animals through research work.

On his part, the head of Federal Institute of Industrial Research (FIRO), Kumba Jude, said the agency was saddled with the responsibilities such as, food preservation and processing, assist in accelerating industrialization of food production, fabrication of machines for the production and preservation of food and training on best chemicals use for preservation.

Also speaking, the Head of ZASTAL, Mr. Gyang Davou, said his agency aids research in all aspects of life, pointed out that they have captured soil types in southern zone as well as mapped out crops and natural resources in the areas.

Another Head of National Research for Chemical Technology all domiciled in Langtang, Mr. Niya Dukbut, said the agency is into innovative research, development and processing and conversion of raw materials into valuable chemicals, petro-chemical production as well as industrial applications.

However, the Acting Chairman of Joint Tarok Traditional Council and the Ponzhi Zini, HRH. Nimnan Langnim, Commended the laudable initiative of the NIO for setting up this committee to bring to lime light some of our forgotten history in Tarok nation.

He promised that his doors were wide opened for any support required by the Committee in order to enhance the culture and tradition of Tarok land as well as promotion of indigenous food crops, animal production, indigenous technologies, Artisan /craftsmanship, amongst others.



Ayuba

NEWS

Group donates borehole to community

By DANLADI DUK

THE Cutting Edge Network, CEN, a Christian Faith organisation has donated a borehole to Angwan Nungu community of Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

While speaking at the inauguration and formal handing over of the project to the community recently, Rev. Yusuf Akila, President of the Group said that the gesture is aimed at addressing the lack of access to portable drinking water in the area

The president of the CEN also said that it was aimed at impacting positively in the society towards addressing some basic needs of the community

Rev. Akila explained that the association's objective is to train clergymen and also embark on projects within their limited resources to complement government's effort.

The borehole was drilled 500 feet down the ground to enable access to clean drinking water at all seasons of the year.

"As a clergymen, it is our responsibility to also give hope to those going through hardship by being practical in approach. So, this is part of our mandate and we will continue to intervene through the provisions of amenities that will better the living



Akila

condition of people in various communities", he said.

Akila advised the benefiting community to take ownership of the borehole and maintain it for their benefit.

Speaking on behalf of the community, retired Justice Sidi Bage- Mohammed, the Emir of Lafia commended the group for the gesture and assured that the traditional council would ensure that it is guarded jealously in order to serve its purpose.

The Emir who was represented by Isiaka Dauda, the Madakin Lafia also called on other spirited individuals and groups to emulate Cutting Edge Network, adding that government

alone cannot provide all the needs of the people.

On his part, Mr. Yakubu Kwanta, the state Commissioner for Environment and Natural Resources, represented by Yusuf Madiko expressed gratitude to the group for complementing government's efforts in the area of provision of social amenities.

The commissioner assured of government's readiness to partner towards the development of the state and expressed optimism that borehole would curtail the outbreak of communicable disease in the area.

Taraba government distributes 2 million treated mosquito nets

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

THE Taraba State government with support from the Global Funds has commenced the distribution of 2,017,000 insecticide treated nets to the people of Taraba State.

This was disclosed recently by the state

Governor, Darius Ishaku, during the official flag off ceremony for the 2022 Insecticide Treated Net (ITN) and Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) in Jalingo, the Taraba State capital.

Ishaku, who was represented by the Taraba State Commissioner of

Health, Dr. Innocent Vakkai, disclosed that the campaign uses proven effective interventions aimed at preventing malaria, particularly among the vulnerable groups of children and pregnant women.

He said the distribution of the over two million nets would be done on a "door-to-door basis and using same approach to administer SPAQ for SMC to 1,727,530 children per month for 4-months period of greater risk across all the 9 LGAs, 95 wards in the state".

SPAQ, a drug combination stands for Sulphadoxine, Pyrimethamine and Amodiaquine while SMC stands for Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention.

The doses of SPAQ will be distributed to children under five years while the treated nets will be distributed to all households in the state using door to door approach, says the Public



Ishaku

From MATHEW JWANTU, Minna

Goodluck charges youths to vote wisely

FORMER president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan has called on Nigerians most especially youths to elect a leader that has the country at heart in the forth coming general elections in 2023.

The former President who said he was in Minna on courtesy visit to General Andulasami Abubakar, added that since the General returned from medical treatment from abroad, he was not opportuned to come and greet him.

"You know I am the most junior among the former presidents so from time to time, I walk round to greet them and I have not seen Andulasami for quite sometimes and you know he just came back from treatment from abroad and I said it would be proper for me to come and pay courtesy call to greet him. Of course we had to stop over and greet IBB. That's why I am here with some friends".

Responding on the forth coming 2023 general elections, the former president urged Nigerians to vote for a credible leader who has the country at heart.

"We all wish our country well and my advice to Nigerians most especially to the young people, you have to select the



Jonathan

person you believe that will lead us well, and will serve us well. A leader is a servant. As a president, you lead to serve. We need a president who will think well, somebody that will carry all of us along, most especially somebody who will take the country as a project". He maintained that now is

the time Nigerians need Andulasami Abubakar who is the Chairman Peace Committee, as Nigeria is moving close to a crucial period of general election.

Jonathan Abdulsalam Abubakar a quick recovery as he took his leave accompanied by friends

Oil mogul freed months after kidnap

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

AFTER spending over two months in kidnappers den, the owner of Always Petroleum and Energy Service Limited in Okene, Kogi State, Alhaji Mohammed Jamiu has finally regained his freedom.

Jamiu was kidnapped July 9th 2022 at his residence located at Idare Quarters in Okene Local Government Area of Kogi State. The kidnappers, numbering four, entered the house posing as business associates shortly after Mohammed Jamiu returned from Eid praying ground in Okene town. A family source who never wanted his name to be mentioned said the oil mogul was released on Thursday night. According to the source, the family paid ransom before they could secure the release of their brother. "They just release our brother Alhaji Mohammed

Jamiu Idris. We have been praying for over two months to see that this comes to pass. Even though we paid ransom for his release, we thank Almighty Allah that he came back alive", the source said. Our correspondent recalls that this is not the first time that the oil mogul was abducted. Jamiu was also abducted in 2019 at one of his fuel stations in Okene but was rescued by military officials after few days in captivity. The military lost one of their officers while one of the kidnappers was also killed during the rescue operation.



Jamiu

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Nigeria and security challenges

Continued from page 10

the motion ex-parte by counsel for the DSS, Ahmed Magaji. The motion sought an order to detain Mamu for 60 days in the first instance pending the conclusion of investigation. The motion dated September 12, 2022 was filed by U.N Dauda, a lawyer with the security outfit. The accompanying affidavit was deposed by an official, Hamza Pandogor.

In the affidavit, Pandogor said, Mamu was intercepted by Nigerian foreign partners on his way to Saudi Arabia for a clandestine meeting with commanders and top leaders of terrorists' organizations across the globe. He added, "Upon his interception and subsequent repatriation back to Nigeria, a duly signed Search Warrant was executed in his residence and office and home in Sabon Kawo, GRA and Angwan Sarki, Kaduna State and various exhibits and items to establish his complicity with terrorist were recovered."

The report further stated that, "the self-acclaimed Kaduna train negotiator (Mamu) exploited the opportunity to perpetrate, aid and abet as well as render support for both local and international terrorist organizations". It pointed

that "preliminary investigation so far established amongst others, the offences of logistic supplier, aiding and abetting acts of terrorism as well as terrorism financing against him."

The DSS further added that, "The defendant (Mamu) has used the cover of his profession as a journalist to aid both local and international terrorist groups. The action of the defendant has orchestrated the untimely death of several security personnel in North Central and North East parts of Nigeria." Adding that, "the defendant has discreetly given several information to bandits and terrorists that escalated various acts of terrorism in Nigeria."

The security outfit further disclosed that the investigation has assumed a wider dimension and sophistication which requires time, diligence and expertise. "Some of the suspects working with the defendant are at large and premature release of the defendant will jeopardize the ongoing investigations. The activities of the defendant and his associates at large constitute a potent threat to the unity and peaceful

coexistence of Nigeria".

As expected in Nigeria, issues like this is bound to generate controversy. While some appreciate the efforts of the DSS, others have since kicked. One of those who is vehemently defending Mamu is Sheik Abubakar Gumi, a known friend of the captured negotiator. Gumi calls security agents who raided hostage negotiator's home bandits. (**The Nation**, Saturday, September 10, 2022). His (Mamu) **Desert Herald** opined that, the military apparel found in his house belong to his son in Navy. The position of Sheik Ahmed Gumi on this serious and heinous matter is curious and disturbing. While investigation is on-going, Gumi said it was pure persecution akin to the ordeal of the late Sardauna of Sokoto and former Head of State, General Murtala Muhammed.

According to media reports, **The Nation Saturday**, September 10, 2022, he described the night raid of Mamu's house and office in Kaduna by operatives of the Department of State Service (DSS) as unlawful. It claims that the security operatives who carried out the raids were not different from

bandits who also break into people's home with guns without recourse to the law.

The paper also revealed that, Gumi in a sermon he delivered in Kaduna said Mamu was innocent of the allegations against him by Department of State Service (DSS), it claimed his (Mamu) only offence was helping families of the hostage to negotiate the release of their loved ones. His words: "This of our brother that is being tested by Allah, there is no cause for alarm by Allah grace. We should see his travail as a test from Allah. Sometimes Allah tests you to uplift you or lessen your sins. So what happened to him is nothing to worry about. After all, he is used to it."

You see, Sardauna passed through similar persecution to the extent that he was locked up but Allah brought him out and he even became a great leader. After Sardauna became a leader do you know why they killed him? The day he was killed, security operatives came to the house and picked him to Nzegwu, who was then the head of security intelligence. When Nzeogwu saw him, the first question he asked was, where did you people keep the weapons?"

Haba! The said sermon is clearly inciting the followers against constituted authorities. What has Mamu's arrest got to do with the late revered Sardauna, Sir Ahmad Bello? From all intents and purposes, the late Sardauna was a man of peace and not a suspected terrorists or sponsor of terrorist. Times like this are not moments to raise emotions and whip up sentiments. Why not wait for the DSS to finish their investigations? Since the case is already in court, why won't he give the court the opportunity, correctly so, to pronounce Mamu complicity or otherwise? One can read in-between the lines, Sheik Gumi's position on this serious matter. Afterall, it is a known fact the two are close buddies

Whatever be the case, security outfits though they've tried, should put in more efforts. With a little push, more breakthrough shall be recorded. The authority concern should do the needful by providing needed equipment, for the security outfits so that the battle against the hydra-headed monster of terrorism in whatever guise can come to an end.

METRO-FOCUS

What influences choice of school?

By HOSEA NYAMLONG,
NGOT BWEHMASI CALEB &
PHILIP EMMANUELLA YUSUF

Child education starts from home. Parents are their first teachers and they have a key role in shaping up their children's character. A well balanced education at home and school moulds a child's actual learning ability and the future of the child.

Good parenting is an accumulation of actions and interactions that you have with your child. It is driven with a purpose in mind to develop the child. While parenting aims to train children's character traits to be independent, have self-direction, be honest, self-controlled, kind, and for cooperation to be one of their attributes. However, good parenting creates a foundation for a child's healthy, positive development, etc.

Again, educated parents are more likely to provide a good education background for their children.

Education is the greatest leveller of every child in the community, both rich and poor. It provides a window of opportunity for all children except for the ones that are not opportune to have access to education.

In Nigeria today, parents are very mindful of the month of September because schools are resuming, children are going to new classes, new admissions etc.

In September, most markets are filled with customers, mostly parents trying to buy school materials for their children to resume school being first term. For some, it is transition from primary to secondary school. It may also mean preparing to go to boarding school, a difficult stage in their lives.

Recently, it was observed that some parents within the Jos metropolis prefer to take their children to different schools, instead of the schools within their community.

METRO FOCUS correspondents went round within Jos North Local Government Area to sample the opinions of parents as to why they prefer to send their children to a different school, not the one that is close or within their community.

It was noted that within the locality of Jos North, there are other schools both private and public that have the quality standard and their school fees are affordable, but parents have their preferred school for their children's education.

Research has revealed that parents involvement in their



children's education is important not only when a child is in primary school but also when they are in secondary school and tertiary institution, regardless of the child's gender.

Among parents that METRO FOCUS interviewed was Mrs. Patience Yitwa, a resident of Jos North. She said that her daughter gained admission into Junior Secondary School (JSS), one in Federal Government College (FGC), Jos. 2022/2023 academic session.

She added that her choice as parent to send their child to FGC was because the school has a good standard in terms of quality of education and discipline and their school fee is affordable.

A parent who refused his name to be in print said that his

son was expelled from his former school, last session for some obvious reasons. So he decided to look for school that is far away from his community.

He believes that with the new environment for his son, this would help him have a different perspective of life, he added.

Another parent, who is a resident of Hwolshe community of Jos South Local Government, Mr Caleb Mannaseh said that some parents choose to send their children to a private school, even if the school is far from their community.

Mannaseh pointed out that any school that has good standard of education that would help in moulding the pupils and students' character to help them achieve their dreams in life would definitely

attract the attention of parents, no matter the distance.

Parents would actually want the best for their children, respective of the financial implication. While some parents that cannot afford such school fees, would rather take their wards to schools that charge less fee.

He added that sometimes, environment also plays a vital role to both parents and their children. Some parents would want to send their children to schools that are close or far from their community if they are sure the environment is safe for learning and off limits to kidnappers, crime etc.

Mrs. Deborah Waja who resides in Jenta Apata of Jos North Local Government Area said that she prefers to send her children to schools that are far from her community, if the

school has good standard and foundation to impact knowledge to her children.

She stressed that most of the schools in her community don't have the right qualification to be called school. "Most of the schools in my neighborhood started as Day Care, but today they have graduated to primary school without recourse to standard facilities, space. They employ unqualified teachers to teach the children," she said

A teacher and parent, Mrs. Juliet Pam said that she is not bothered whether the school is within her community or far. As far as the school has the educational standard to impact knowledge to her children.

She maintained that she would love to have her children close to her, where she work as a teacher and that would help her to monitor her kids as well.

To this end, what makes a great parent is when kids watch their parents interact with one another respectfully. They get their first lessons in how to get along with other people. When they observe how their parents work through problems, they learn to resolve conflict.

When they see their parents show affection to each other, they feel comfortable and secure. Nonetheless, the strongest lessons children learn are from what goes on in their homefront.

Education still remains key to development. Parents should note that changing of school for their children should not be done, based on your social status or trying to compete with other parents

Education is a leveller to all, both poor and rich children, for those that attend public or private schools. Worse still is to deprive a child education which is one of their rights.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

CUTTING EDGE NETWORK DONATES BOREHOLE IN LAFIA

The Cutting Edge Network (CEN) Group recently donated a borehole to Angwan Nungu Community of Lafia, Nasarawa State



President of CEN, Rev. Yusuf Akila pumping water from the borehole donated to the Nungu community



A cross section of Nungu community at the ceremony



Representative of the Emir of Lafia, Isiaka Dauda, Madakin Lafia, flanked by the representative, Commissioner of Environment and Natural Resources, Yusuf Madiko and others at the project commissioning



Rev. Yusuf Akila, President, Cutting Edge Network delivering his speech

MWADKON RECEIVES CHIEF IMAM OF BUKURU MOSQUE

The PDP Senatorial District candidate for Plateau North and member representing Riyom/Barkin Ladi at NASS, Hon. Dr. Simon Mwadkon Fwet recently received the Chief Imam of Bukuru Mosque, Jos South LGA and members of JNI on a condolence visit over the demise of his brother



Dr. Mwadkon (middle) flanked by some members of JNI, Bukuru that accompanied the Chief Imam



Chief Imam of Bukuru Mosque (in green and white) with others offering special prayers for Allahs comfort to the family of the deceased



A cross section of the Imam's delegation at Dr. Simon Mwadkon's residence in Jos



PDP Candidate for the Plateau North Senatorial Seat, Dr. Simon Mwadkon Fwet (middle) in a group photograph after the condolence visit

Road Runner
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Overtaking during driving

W RONG and unsafe overtaking is one of the numerous human factors responsible for road traffic crashes. Overtaking should be done with absolute discretion. Only overtake when it is safe for you and other traffic. Be particularly careful of features that may hinder your view of the road ahead, such as hills, dips, bends, bridges, road narrowing or pedestrian crossings. Pay attention to the rules on road signs and markings (continuous broken, double white lines, yellow boxes, etc.) and rules of the road generally.

How to overtake safely:

Make sure the road ahead is clear so you have enough distance to allow you overtake and get back to your lane without forcing any other road user to swap off the road in order to avoid you.

Never follow another overtaking vehicle directly.

Give way to faster traffic already overtaking from behind.

Before overtaking, check that the way is clear, check in your mirror and blind spots to ensure another vehicle is not approaching from behind. Give your signal in good time, move out when it is safe to do so, accelerate and overtake with minimum delay.

When you are well passed the vehicle you are overtaking, check the mirror, signal and gradually move in again making sure not to cut across the vehicle you just passed.

Take extra care when overtaking trailers, tankers, trucks, luxury buses and any other vehicle displaying a 'LONG VEHICLE' sign. This means that the vehicle is at least 13 metres long and you will need extra road length to pass it and safely return to the right-hand side of the road.

You must not break the speed limit, even when overtaking.

Situations when you may overtake on the right:

REMEMBER: You must normally overtake on the left. However, you are allowed to overtake on the right under some peculiar circumstances. You may

overtake on the right when:

You want to go straight ahead when the driver in front of you has moved out and signaled that they intend to turn left.

You have signaled that you intend to turn right

Traffic in both lanes is moving slowly and traffic in the right-hand lane is moving more quickly than the traffic in the left-hand lane.

When not to overtake. You must not overtake when:

You are at or near a pelican crossing, zebra crossing or at pedestrian signals.

You are approaching a junction.

You are approaching a corner, bend, dip in the road, hump-back bridge, brow of a hill or on a narrow road. You are in the right-hand lane of a dual carriageway or highway when traffic is moving at normal speed.

What to do when somebody is overtaking you:

Continue at the same pace

Keep as near to the right as you safely can

Do not accelerate

Be alert

Overtaking position

When you can see that there are no hazards ahead and you have identified an opportunity to overtake, you should move into the overtaking position. This is closer to the vehicle in front than the following position and you should only use it in readiness for overtaking. If an observed or anticipated hazard comes into view, you must drop back to a safe following distance from the vehicle ahead. As you move closer to the vehicle ahead, the driver is likely to realize that you want to overtake. You must be careful not to intimidate the other driver or to appear aggressive by following too closely. Such misunderstandings are dangerous and counter-productive. They can cause the other driver to speed up, making it more difficult to overtake.

NOTE: Always watch out before you step out and when in doubt, do not overtake. Life has no duplicate. The graveyards nationwide will accept you whether it was your fault or not.



NEWS

APC has what it takes to win elections

-Dr Nentawe Yilwatda

The gubernatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress in Plateau State, Dr Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe has assured that the party has what it takes to win the 2023 general elections from top to bottom.

He gave the assurance yesterday at the APC State Secretariat when he held a strategy and consultative meeting with the state executive Committee of the party which included local government party Chairmen and all candidates contesting election under the platform of the party.

Dr Yilwatda said the party has the capacity and determination to deliver all its candidates during the forthcoming elections.

He said he called the meeting in order for the candidates to syneegise and galvanise with the party as we go for the campaigns which we will work hard to win at a levels.

The gubernatorial candidate emphasised the need for team work as no candidate can win alone.

"We cannot win alone. Team work is key. We should campaign for each other" Dr Nentawe emphasised.

He commended the party under the leadership of Hon. Rufus Bature over the tremendous achievements in reconciling aggrieved members of the party.

He revealed that most of the court cases instituted for various positions are being withdrawn from the courts in all the zones while other aggrieved members are being reconciled and have agreed to remain and work towards the success of the party.

He said these are proofs that

the internal dispute resolution mechanism deployed by the party is working effectively.

He revealed that from next week, he would together with the leadership of the party embarked on a sensitisation visits to all the 17 local government areas of the state.

He said the visit would include the Senatorial, House of Representatives and House of Assembly candidates of the party from their various local governments and Senatorial Districts.

According to him during the visit, he would meet with large number of stakeholders from the polling units to interface, interact, discuss and familiarise with them heart to heart preparatory to the campaign when the ban on campaigns is lifted.

He berated the opposition PDP for accusing him of influencing the posting of an INEC ICT staff to Plateau state to help rig election in his favour which he said is ridiculous.

He wondered why out of over 4 0INEC staff that were posted to Plateau State, only one person should be singled out to be accused.

He wonders why the opposition party is so scared of the APC and advised the party to desist from its cheap propaganda and concentrate on issues.

Earlier, the Chairman of the party, Honourable Rufus Bature commended the gubernatorial candidate for the confidence he reposed in the party and assured him and all the candidates of working in synergy deliver all our candidates in the 2023 elections.

According to him, with the credibility and quality of our candidates, we are sure of victory at all levels.

He enjoined all party members to embrace each other and work in harmony to make sure we win all the elections come 2023.



Qua'an-Pan partners PLASMIDA, trains Persons with Disability

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

QUA'AN-Pan Local Government Council in collaboration with the Plateau State Microfinance Development Agency (PLASMIDA), has have trained of over two hundred and fifty (250) Persons with Disability (PWD) in the various skills acquisition and other areas of entrepreneurship.

This came in a press statement signed by the Media Assistant to the Executive Chairman of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council, Isa Dabang, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital Friday.

Addressing the participants during the opening ceremony of the training, the Executive Chairman, Hon. Ernest Abner Da'a, disclosed that the training was part of his administration's desire to equip the people of the area with various skills that would help put food on their table.

aged living with disability in the local government who had lost hope due to lack of skills and financial support.

He said "we are in a knowledge base era where skills or practical knowledge are the basic survival tools. And as part of this administration's efforts in ensuring that the people of Qua'an-Pan are empowered with entrepreneurial knowledge, we partnered PLASMIDA to start this phase of the process.

"I want to assure you especially persons living with disability that, the Council will do everything humanly possible to support you after the training by donating a laptop to the group for data capture and other secretarial affairs", Da'a promised.

The Chairman, however, commended PLASMIDA for the prompt response to his request and their sacrifice towards the people of the state adding that, the programme would restore hope to the young and

In his remark, Chairman of People with Disability in Qua'an-Pan LGA, Mr. Godwin Dakus, expressed gratitude for the gesture assuring the chairman that, the love and concern shown to them must be reciprocated saying, "We are praying for the success of the QP Project administration in the locality. We also want to appeal to you to help us out with a means of sustenance such as, revolving income towards the running of the group.

The Council Chairman was in company of the Secretary to the Council Hon. Gideon Godenaan Dashe, Leader of the Legislative Arm Hon. Jonah Damar, Director Budget and Planning, Supervisory Councilors and some other Aides respectively.

SUNDAY FEATURE

How underprivileged children compete

An obvious answer is that they go to elite schools and benefit from their parents' network of influential friends. However, there are other factors that help 'silver spoon' children get ahead in life – sometimes, at the expense of their less privileged peers. They include: Cultural Capital and Concerted Cultivation.

CULTURAL Capital: Cultural capital is defined as stock of social assets that can improve a person's chances of success in life. It includes a person's tastes, style of speech, hobbies, mannerisms, accent, etc.

Experts like Pierre Bourdieu, a French sociologist, have shown that children of the affluent draw on their stock of cultural capital to get ahead of children from underprivileged backgrounds. Children whose parents belong to the upper echelons of society are more likely to learn a second language at a young age.

Unlike their less privileged peers, they are also exposed to the enriching world of literature early in life. While their pre-teen peers occupy themselves with cartoons, privileged children spend time reading the works of eminent literary figures such as: Chaucer, Rumi, Homer, William Wordsworth, Robert Frost, Chinua Achebe, and so on.

Children of the affluent are also more likely to learn how to play a musical instrument. And when they are not strumming their guitars, chances are that they are viewing paintings in some of the world's most iconic museums. So, before they turn 12, many of them are already familiar with the works of the greats: Diego Velázquez, Jackson Pollock, Henri Matisse, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Rembrandt, and so on.

They also hone the art of observing paintings closely – with an intelligent squint – and nodding knowingly, even if when they don't have the faintest idea what the painting is about.

Their Instagram pages are also flush with pictures they took while eating Caviar in Moscow, or Escargots de Bourgogne in Paris. It also children of the affluent that take those esoteric wine tasting courses – where wine makers teach them how to distinguish prized 'high elevation' wine from their wretched, 'low elevation' peers.

And while these rich children tackle the serious business of wine tasting, their contemporaries from disadvantaged backgrounds would probably be flipping burgers at a 'low elevation' Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet.

Yet, when the universities application season rolls around, children from underprivileged and privileged backgrounds alike are required to write essays that put the breadth of their general knowledge to the test. Faced with this task, privileged children draw from their repertoire of expansive, multi-faceted experience. Their peers from less privileged backgrounds struggle to draw from an empty well.



When it's time to pursue high paying jobs, they from affluent backgrounds may also get the short end of the stick. What would be the fate of a butcher's child who is interviewed by a high-elevation-wine-drinking recruiter (who fervently believes that animals should not be slaughtered 'savagely,' but put down – mercifully – by a laser beam)?

Given their divergent worldviews, and the tendency of recruiters to hire persons they can relate with, the butcher's child is likely to receive a follow up email that reads: "Dear Billy, it was lovely chatting with you. You strike me as a lad with a very bright future, However,..."

Concerted Cultivation: This is an expression attributed to the sociologist, Professor Annette Lareau, describes parents' efforts to hone their children's talents by intentionally and systematically organising their daily activities. Children are not famous for their time management skills.

Left to their own devices, they may spend an entire day in front of a television. Concerted Cultivation entails creating a structure that enables them balance work and play.

Studies have shown that children from affluent backgrounds devote more time to high value activities in comparison to their counterparts from poor families.

During the 1990s, Professor Lareau and a team of graduate students studied 88 families

from various backgrounds – black, white, middle class, working class, poor – and then conducted in-depth observations of 12 families. This study revealed that middle-class families raised their children in a different way than working-class and poor families. Poor and working-class parents practice what Lareau describes as "accomplishment of natural growth parenting".

Their children have long periods of unstructured time, which they spend shooting the breeze with neighbours, roaming the neighbourhood with friends, and watching TV with their families. Working-class and poor parents also tend to give orders to the children, rather than soliciting their opinions. To a large degree, children from less privileged backgrounds reach adulthood naturally without too much interference from adults.

In contrast, children from middle-class families are driven to football practice and band recitals, are involved in family debates at dinner time, and are encouraged to ask their teacher why they received a B on a French exam. In his book, *The Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell also compared the parenting styles of affluent and poor parents.

According to Gladwell, "The middle-class parents talked things through with their children, reasoning with them. They didn't issue commands. They expected their children to

talk back to them, to negotiate, to question adults in positions of authority".

Lareau concludes that parenting styles have a huge impact on future outcomes. She speculates that concerted cultivation creates adults who know how to challenge authority, navigate bureaucracy, and manage their time – all the skills needed to remain in the middle class. The working-class kids lack that training.

Regrettably, Concerted cultivation and Cultural Capital are mostly available to children from affluent backgrounds because they often come at a cost. Wealthier parents can execute Concerted Cultivation, in part, because they can afford to "buy back time" – by hiring domestic helps to take care of routine chores, while they spend time with their kids.

Poor parents (who might have several jobs) may not have the time to supervise their children. Similarly, cultivating Cultural Capital may prove challenging for poor parents. A child whose parents struggle to pay the bills is unlikely to be caught eating Escargots de Bourgogne in Paris.

So, how might we make cultural capital accessible to all? And how might we create the space for underprivileged parents to incorporate organised activities into their children's lives?

First, where possible, underprivileged parents should find creative ways to organise

their children's activities. They may create activity schedules and offer low-cost rewards for compliance.

Underprivileged parents can also take advantage of affordable sources of cultural capital. Their children could visit low or no cost museums and other institutions of cultural enlightenment.

Thanks to technology, underprivileged children can also learn a new language online. Children from less privileged backgrounds should also be encouraged to read extensively and explore subjects outside their academic curriculum.

Parents should take a balanced approach in enacting Concerted Cultivation. The practice of Concerted Cultivation should not entail driving children into the ground with brutal schedules that leave no time for rest and relaxation. It is also not about force-feeding children with coding classes and violin lessons they loathe.

There is no shortage of miserable violinists and frustrated software engineers in the world. We do not need more. Albert Einstein famously observed that "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." He was right.

Abana, a policy and communications expert, writes from Atlanta, USA

SUNDAY SPORTS

Bet 9Ja organizes 21 kilometer race

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

PREPARATIONS are on top gear for a 21 kilometers marathon race to hold in Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State, on September 24, 2022, organized by Bet9ja.

This was revealed by David Paul, Super-Agent of Bet9ja, when he paid a courtesy call on the Director of Sports, Plateau State Sports Council, Mr. Simon Moven in his office recently. He noted that the aims and objectives of the competition is to discover talents that will represent the country in national and international championships.

Paul described the state as his home as he was one time an athlete with the Sports Council and sees the need to pay back to the state.

"I was an athlete here. I realized that when I was here, government was the major sponsor of every competition in the council and I said to myself any time I'm in position, I will contribute my part in the development of sports on the Plateau", he said.

"I know the state has a favourable weather for sports and our athletes are doing well in the national competition, most especially in the long distance race. Athletes will be selected and sponsored to participate in Lagos Marathon and by the grace of God, taking them to train in Kenya", he said.

He further disclosed that when



Paul

the event started it was only athletes within the state that participated. But in this edition, athlete will be featured from all over the country.

On his part, Mr Simon Moven commended the organization for sponsoring the championship which he said will remove many youths from social vices.

"Sports is capital extensive which means government alone can't sponsor. That's why we are soliciting for support from private organizations and choosing Plateau is not by a mistake I am

assuring you of my support", he concluded.

Meanwhile, the representative to Bet9ja was also at the office of the Commissioner of Sports and Youth Development, Hon Victor Lapang to intimate him of the coming championship.

The Sports commissioner expressed happiness with the organization for staging the competition in the state, which he said will create an avenue of talent discovery. He assured the ministry's maximum support to the success of the competition.

PLATEAU United Football Club of Jos has intensified preparations ahead of Sunday's second leg, first round, preliminary stage of the CAF Champions League against Aso Mandji of Gabon slated for the MKO Abiola Stadium, Abuja.

Towards this end, the club's Technical Adviser, Coach Fidelis Ilechukwu says the team is not underrating its opponents as they eye a place in the second round of the preliminary stage of the competition.

Ilechukwu who spoke at the training pitch of the MKO Abiola Stadium, explained that the technical crew under his leadership is working hard to ensure that his team advances into the second round of the preliminary stage. " Since we returned, we have been talking to ourselves because, it is an important game for me. As a coach, I don't want to write our opponents off due to the fact that we pick a draw at their backyard. This is football and both sides have fifty-fifty chance to progress.

Having played them in Franceville, Gabon last Saturday, Coach Fidelis Ilechukwu said he knew how efficient their strength

Plateau United confident to win

and challenges are as he and his technical crew have prepared themselves and are working hard to ensure that they emerged victorious in Abuja come Sunday knowing well that it is a must win game.

While expressing optimism that the team will come out victorious at the end of the encounter, Coach Ilechukwu appealed to soccer loving Nigerians to pray and come

out en mass to pray for the team.

The winner of the tie will face Tunisian giants, Esperence who were drawn on stand-by in the first round of the competition.

It would be recalled that Plateau United forced Aso Mandji of Gabon to a two all draw in Franceville, with the Peace Boys taking the lead twice, before the host drew level.

An outright victory or goalless draw for the Coach Fidelis Ilechukwu tutored side, will see them through to the next stage.



Plateau United inaction

NASG partners football scouters

NASARAWA State would partner with anyone with a genuine commitment aimed at discovering and developing the sporting potentials in the state.

Those were the words of Amb. Lucky Isaac Yargwa, Nasarawa State Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development on Thursday, 15th September, 2022, at the Agwalashi Central Football Field in Obi Local Government Area when he declared open a three-day football scouting

programme put together by the duo of Sajewa Football Club and JAF Sport Club.

The commissioner who was elated by the large turnout and near-perfect organization of the scouting programme, said, "This talent hunt is in line with the policy of Governor Abdullahi Sule for youth in the state to be meaningfully engaged in order to add their contributions to the growth and development of the society.

"This programme and our foreign guests are an indication that our state is not only peaceful but the right destination to invest in. We are proud of the brains behind this initiative, and I wish to categorically say that the state government will support them in whatever way to add to the development of our youth.

"Opportunities like this used to elude us, but we are glad that we are having it right at our doorsteps today.

"As for the participants, this is an opportunity to make their dream come true as far as their football career is concerned. I implore them not to disappoint their families and whoever brought them here; they should be disciplined, committed, focused and pay adequate attention to the instructions of the scouts and their coaches in order to be picked."

In their separate remarks, co-sponsors of the programme Agyo Ismaila Ewa (CEO of SAJEWA FC) and Daniel Favour Joshua (CEO of JAF FC) represented by the Team Manager, Ayaya Michael, revealed the rationale behind staging the scouting programme.

According to Agyo, he said, "There's nothing far from the reality. We have lots of talented youth who are roaming the streets with a few or no one to assist them.

"Today, football has become a money-spinning business, so, that gave me the zeal to set up my own football club to see how I can harness those battalions of talents and nurture them to become global champions in football.

"This is the second scouting programme my players will be participating in this year. About six of my players were picked during the first programme, and as I talk to you now, they are already on their way for trials in Europe and Asia. "So, even if it is just a player that scales through, its going to be a huge plus to Nasarawa State and Nigeria.

"Generally, I am obsessed with talent and human resource development. This is my own way of giving back to the society that made me, and to also support the giant strides of Governor Abdullahi Sule in the area of youth and sports in Nasarawa State."

For Favour, "Helping the youth achieve their dreams and assist their families as well as join forces with the Nasarawa State Government to both hunt and nurture the abundance of talents" was another reason for coming up with the scouting programme.

One of the scouts, Wahib Bensouci (CEO of FC Frankfurt City in Germany) could not hide his admiration for the array of talented players and serene vicinity of Nasarawa State.

He opined, "We are here in Nigeria, particularly, Nasarawa State, hoping to see a lot of good talents for the European football market.

"This is my second time in Africa. I was in Ghana before, but Nigeria is the biggest country in Africa, more than two hundred million people are living here, and there is a lot of talents here.

"So, all of Europe, including my colleagues here, Andrei Datsenko from Russia and Ozan Isir from The Netherlands, know that a lot of good players come from Nigeria, and that is what we are trying to follow.

"Our target is to get as many good players as possible who can meet our requirements and take them to the next level. "This is my first time here, and I am planning to come back again if everything goes fine.

"The organizers are doing a very good job. We are very safe here and they are taking good care of us. "In fact, I hope to be here again, maybe soon."

Before the commencement of scouting activities, Mr. Agyo Ismaila Ewa had led the Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development together with the foreign guests to the Palace of the Osoho of Osoho, His Royal Highness, Dr. Umar Oji Abubakar Apeh, in Agwalashi.

For the next three days, more than three hundred budding talents drawn from over thirty teams within North-Central Nigeria as well as from Cross-River and Adamawa States, respectively, will be displaying their potentials for the foreign scouts and agents from Germany, Russia, and The Netherlands to watch and pick from.

Among the participating teams are SAJEWA FC, JAF Sports Club, Onyibe FC, Greater Tomorrow FC, Destiny Football Academy, Osho FC, Ugwu FC, Amor FC, Discovery FC, Obi United FC, Dodor Football Academy, Tent Football Academy, Plateau Peace Football Academy, and Luji FC

Commissioner hosts football supporters'

NASARAWA State Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Amb. Lucky Isaac Yargwa, on Wednesday, hosted the newly inaugurated leadership of Nasarawa United FC Supporters' Club at the Conference Hall of the Ministry in Lafia.

In his address, the commissioner appreciated the leadership for the visit and charged them to prove naysayers wrong by delivering on the mandate given to them.

"Thank you for the visit.

"While we wish you well in the task ahead, do not forget to identify and familiarise yourselves with the relevant stakeholders so your job can be made much easier.

"Aside the stipend you will get from the government, you must also think outside the box to begin to generate funds to meet some of your needs.

"We want to see, not just a vibrant Supporters' Club, but one which will be unique and the envy of the society.

"Already, you have your constitution to guide your actions. Don't forsake to consult it so you won't derail from your responsibilities", Yargwa advised.

Speaking earlier on, Chairman of the Supporters' Club, Jibrin Ali 'Baggio' said the visit was to appreciate the Commissioner and the Ministry for reposing confidence in them and to also intimate him on the steps they are taking to rebrand the Supporters' Club for better performance by the state-owned men's football club, Nasarawa United, as the new football league season approaches.

In their vote-of thanks, Deputy Chairman of the Supporters' Club, Yakubu John, commended the Commissioner and Ministry for initiating numerous and transformative programmes aimed at developing youth and sports in the state. He thanked him for granting them audience to discuss the way forward for football in the state.

He gave the assurance that the new leadership would do everything within its powers to support the Governor Abdullahi Sule administration to succeed.

Recall that the new leadership of the Nasarawa United Supporters' Club was inaugurated on Thursday, 8th September, 2022, alongside the Supporters' Club leadership of Nasarawa Amazons, the women's football club, for a tenure of three years, at a ceremony held at the Conference

hall of the ministry.

In a related development, the state Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Amb. Lucky Isaac Yargwa, on Wednesday, received, on courtesy call, the leadership of the Lafia All Stars Football Club at his office in Lafia.

Responding to the purpose of the visit, the Commissioner commended the leadership of the Club for their foresight and thanked them for honouring him with their presence, assuring them that their requests would be given the desired attention by the appropriate authorities.

He called on them to galvanize support for the Governor Abdullahi Sule Government to achieve its goals and aspirations for the overall benefit of Nasarawa State.

According to the leader of delegation, Isiaaku Garba Jibrin, the rationale behind the visit was to appreciate the commissioner for approving the appointment of one of their members,

Yargwa attends opening ceremony IMAP Rector's cup

AMBASSADOR Lucky Isaac Yargwa, the Nasarawa State Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, has assured the authorities of Isah Mustapha Agwai Polytechnic, IMAP, Lafia, that his Ministry would partner with the Institution to unravel hidden sporting potentials for podium appearances.

The commissioner made the disclosure when he attended the opening ceremony of the maiden edition of the Rector's Cup and Mini Sports Festival hosted by the Polytechnic on Wednesday.

In his remarks, the Commissioner who is an alumnus of the Institution, stated that it was homecoming for him to his Alma-Mater.

"I feel honoured to return to my first tertiary institution and meeting with my former lecturers.

"Thank you for inviting me to be part of the opening ceremony of this remarkable event.

"As a ministry, we are pleased with this talent hunt development as it eases the burden on us.

"I want to assure you that we will take it upon ourselves to nurture any

exceptional talent discovered from this tournament by providing him or her with the appropriate environment to thrive.

"The Governor Abdullahi Sule-led administration continues to prioritise local contents development for self-sustenance, and programmes like this one cannot be an exception as we will synergize with you to discover talents that can represent the state at regional and national Championships.

"I thank the leadership of the polytechnic headed by a workaholic and result-oriented Rector, Dr. Justina Anjiodo Kotsu, and other critical stakeholders for coming up with this laudable initiative to keep the students physically fit, mentally alert and academically sound for better performance in their different fields of endeavours."

Yargwa, thereafter, donated five pieces of customised football, crested with the portraits of Governor Abdullahi Sule, to the Institution, with a pledge to lend more support towards the development of sporting activities in the school.

According to the Chairman of the



SUNDAY SPORTS

Neymar tells Vinicius to keep dancing after racist attack

THE Newcastle midfielder has been left infuriated after a Spanish football agent made a racist comment during a live television broadcast.

Goal said that, Newcastle star Bruno Guimarães has called for a Spanish agent to be arrested after he told Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr to "stop playing the monkey", with Neymar urging his Brazil team-mate to keep on dancing.

The racist comment was made by Pedro Bravo – the president of Spanish football agents - during an appearance on the controversial *El Chiringuito* television show.

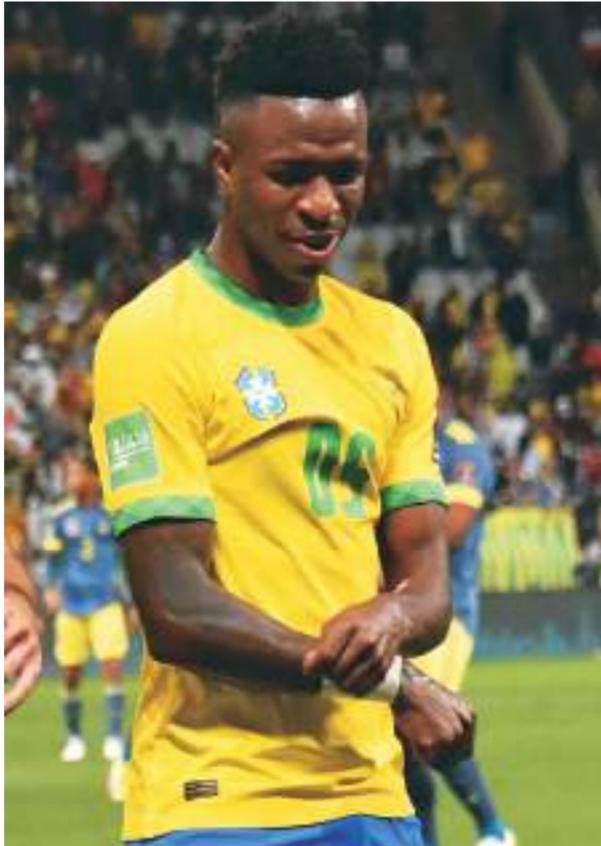
He said when discussing Brazil international Vinicius: "You have to respect your opponents. When you score a goal, if you want to dance Samba, you should go to sambodromo in Brazil. You have to respect your mates and stop playing the monkey."

Bruno has since come out in support of his fellow countryman and called on the relevant authorities to take action.

He has said in a social media post: "This MORON needs to leave this place arrested! No excuses. If a guy says this on live TV, just imagine what he says when he's not. Inconceivable if this guy is not jailed."

Neymar also posted on social media, seemingly in reaction to the negativity surrounding Vinicius Jr's choice of celebration, as he simply wrote in Portuguese: "DANCE VINI JR". He added on Instagram: "Dribble, dance and be you! Happy just the way you are. Go for it my boy, next goal we dance!"

The Madrid star replied: "All the



time!"

Racism in Spanish football has been a long-standing issue, with Vinicius himself having been targeted previously.

The Real Madrid forward claimed he suffered racist abuse during a Clásico clash against Barcelona in 2021, while in 2022 he was subjected to alleged racist

chants from Mallorca fans - to which he responded by dancing in front of them after scoring.

Vinicius, who scored the only goal of the game as Real Madrid edged out Liverpool in the 2022 Champions League final, has been in fine form for the Blancos this season - with five goals and three assists recorded through eight appearances.

TUNISIA captain Wabhi Khazri says this month's friendly against Brazil will be an acid test for the North Africans before November's World Cup.

BBC SPORTS revealed that, Tunisia, who will meet France, Australia and Denmark in Qatar, face the five-time champions on 27 September in Paris.

Prior to that, the Carthage Eagles meet Comoros, impressive debutants at this year's Africa Cup of Nations Cup, in Orleans next Thursday but it is Brazil that is understandably the main draw.

"When I heard the news, it was incredible," Khazri told BBC Sport Africa.

"When we talk about football, we inevitably talk about Brazil because it's the country of football and the chance to face world-class players.

"It will be a great party and also a great challenge to measure ourselves against the best in the world of football. It's important to play against big teams before the World Cup, because at the World Cup you meet the best.

"It also allows us to see what we are missing. We can draw conclusions at the end of the match, see what we are capable of doing well and what we can do better."

It is little surprise that Khazri is relishing the challenge against Brazil as the two sides have met just once before, back in 1973 when the South Americans won 4-1 in a friendly.

In Qatar, Tunisia open up against Denmark, on 22 November, and then face the Socceroos four days later before finishing with a massive tie against defending champions France, on 30 November.

Tunisia captain relishes historic Brazil friendly



Wabhi Khazri made one and scored one as Tunisia beat Panama in 2018 to win their first World Cup match in 40 years

The Carthage Eagles have never made it out of the group stage.

Earlier this year, the 2004 African champions impressed at the delayed 2021 Nations Cup, **stunning highly fancied Nigeria** - who had won all their group games - in the last 16 only to be **surprised themselves** by Burkina Faso in the quarter-finals.

Africa's five World Cup representatives had been set to spend this international window playing Nations Cup qualifiers

for the next finals, in Ivory Coast in 2024.

However, **these fixtures were moved to next year** by the Confederation of African Football in July to allow the continent's five World Cup sides better preparation games.

"It's good that they have moved the Nations Cup qualifying matches," Khazri added.

"It will allow the five African teams to gauge themselves and to prepare themselves. There will be very little preparation time before the World Cup, so this match will be very important.

"It won't leave us much time afterwards to work because I think there will be a week to 10 days before the World Cup to prepare."

As the last matches being played before head coaches have to name their final squads for Qatar, with the Fifa deadline for the squads of 26 being midnight on 14 November, these are vital games.

After the Brazil encounter, Khazri will return to his French club Montpellier until his league, like many, pauses in early November, to prepare for a tournament which starts when host nation Qatar take on Ecuador on 20 November.

In 1978, Tunisia made history when becoming the first African team to win a match at the World Cup - but they have struggled since, with just one victory from their past 14 games at football's showpiece event.

That came in their last fixture at the 2018 World Cup when they **beat Panama 2-1** in a dead rubber, with Khazri making Tunisia's first before scoring the match-winner himself midway through the second half.

All five of the continent's World Cup sides are in action next week, with Ghana also playing Brazil next Thursday - a day when Cameroon take on Uzbekistan and Morocco face Chile.

Senegal meet Bolivia the following day, before 27 September sees a fuller round of games with Tunisia taking on Brazil, Ghana meeting Nicaragua, Morocco playing Paraguay and Cameroon up against South Korea.

Ronaldo scores first Europa goal in Man U

CRISTIANO Ronaldo ended his barren spell with the first Europa League goal of his career as Manchester United earned victory at Sheriff Tiraspol.

BBC SPORTS said that, Erik ten Hag's men suffered defeat at Old Trafford in their Group E opener against Real Sociedad but responded by claiming all three points in Moldova.

The Red Devils opened the scoring in the first half as a lovely team move was coolly finished off by Jadon Sancho from Christian Eriksen's reverse pass.

Sancho, who was left out of the England squad earlier in the day, came close to a second but his low shot was brilliantly cleared off the line by Sheriff captain Stjepan Radeljic on the stretch.

But United did double their advantage before half-time courtesy of Ronaldo's penalty, awarded after Patrick Kpozzi tripped Diogo Dalot in the box.

Ronaldo could have taken his tally to 700 club goals but side-footed over from the edge of the area while at the other end, Sheriff could not force David de Gea into any meaningful

saves.

In the group's other game, Real Sociedad made it two wins from two with a 2-1 victory over Neil Lennon's Omonia Nicosia.

United's revival following a poor start to the season was brought to a halt at home by Real Sociedad last week, but the side got back to winning ways with a professional job against Sheriff.

Portuguese star Ronaldo played a key part in the triumph, having requested to leave Old Trafford during the transfer window for Champions League football, but ending up

staying as no club came in for his services.

The 37-year-old had not scored in his previous eight games for United, a run stretching back to the end of last season, but he showed signs of ending that goal drought when he blazed over from an angle.

He did get off the mark of the campaign by slotting in a spot-kick - which was the 699th club goal of his career - but will not get the chance to add to that until 2 October against rivals Manchester City, as Sunday's scheduled Premier League game against Leeds has been postponed.



Against Sheriff, Cristiano Ronaldo scored the 699th club goal of his career

SUNDAY SPORTS

Williams welcomes Federer to 'retirement club'



Serena Williams and Roger Federer teamed up to open the Miami Open in 2019

FELLOW living legend Serena Williams, who has said she is 'evolving away from tennis' herself, has hailed retiring Roger Federer as an inspiration.

"You inspired countless millions and millions of people - including me - and we will never forget," said Williams.

"Welcome to the retirement club. And thank you for being you."

BBC SPORTS said that, Federer, 41, will end a career that featured 20 Grand Slam singles titles after the Laver Cup, which begins in London on 23 September.

"I have always looked up to you and admired you," said Williams. "I applaud you and look forward to all that you do in the future."

Williams and Federer played against each other only once on

court, facing off in a mixed doubles match at the Hopman Cup in 2019.

Roger Federer's first Wimbledon title in 2003 coincided with Serena Williams' second.

Federer and fellow Swiss Belinda Bencic beat Williams and American compatriot Francis Tiafoe in front of a tournament-record 14,000 crowd.

Federer's decision to retire from the sport after three years blighted by knee injuries has prompted a wave of tributes.

Federer's great rival Rafael Nadal, one of only two men's players with more Grand Slam singles titles, said it was "a sad day" for sport.

Current world number ones Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz, 21 and 19 respectively, thanked Federer for inspiring them.

"I just want to thank you for everything you've done and

everything you are for our sport," Pole Swiatek said.

"It's been a privilege to witness your career. I wish you all the best."

Spaniard Alcaraz said: "Roger has been one of my idols and a source of inspiration! Thank you for everything you have done for our sport. I still want to play with you!"

Andy Roddick, who lost to Federer in a five-set Wimbledon final in 2009, joked that Federer's retirement could prompt him to launch an All England Club comeback.

"Thanks for the shared memories my friend," the American said.

"It was an honour to share time/experiences on the most hallowed grounds in our sport. Don't be a stranger."

"Also, seems like a good time to start training for Wimby (Obviously kidding)."

PLAYING tennis matches late at night does not look very "professional" and the sport needs to look at the issue, says Andy Murray.

The former world number one was still on court at nearly 01:00 BST on Thursday in Glasgow, playing doubles with Joe Salisbury in Great Britain's Davis Cup defeat by the United States.

Earlier this month Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner played until 2.50am in the US Open's latest ever finish, one of two occasions champion Alcaraz competed beyond 2am in New York.

"It's something that tennis needs to sort of have a bit of a think about," Murray, 35, told a news conference. "I don't think it looks that professional."

While a good-sized and passionate crowd remained at Emirates Arena to watch Murray and Salisbury in their 5-7 6-4 7-5 doubles defeat by Rajeev Ram and Jack Sock that decided the Davis Cup group-stage tie, it was far from the packed arena it had been earlier in the day.

"It would be better if they were earlier I think for everyone involved," said Murray, whose match started at 22:00 BST.

The tie had got under way at 16:00 BST with back-to-back singles rubbers both going to three sets.

"I don't think it's ideal for you guys [media]. I don't think it's ideal for the fans," he added. "That match that we played there, there's probably half of the people in there at the end of the match that were there at the beginning."

"It's a bit of a shame because they missed a great match. It's not probably because they didn't want

Murray questions late-night matches after defeat

to stay. If you [have] got children here, you can't stay with them. [If] you [have] got to get a bus or train home, [you] can't do it."

He added that for the ball boys and girls late finishes were "inappropriate" and that while the players were still able to compete to a high level, the knock-on effect the next day was tough.

"It's not ideal for the US team to come back and play tomorrow," he said.

"They're probably not going to be tucked up in their beds until ... probably 3:30, 4:00 in the morning by the time they've done their recovery and managed to sort of calm down after a tie like that."

United States stand-in captain

Bob Bryan, whose side play Kazakhstan at 16:00 on Thursday, said: "These guys gave everything, Team GB gave everything. It's 01:00 on a Thursday. We've got to go again in 13 hours. Kazakhstan won't be any easier."

There have been six group matches so far this week in Glasgow and all have gone to three sets, with play on both days going past midnight.

Great Britain return to action on Friday against the Netherlands at 15:00 BST seeking a win to keep them in contention for a top-two finish that would mean they qualify for November's knockout stage in Malaga.



Andy Murray (right) and Joe Salisbury were still on court at nearly 01:00 BST in their Davis Cup match

Italian open:Fitzpatrick leads McIlroy one back

US Open champion Matthew Fitzpatrick tops the leaderboard after day one

of a weather-delayed Italian Open, with Rory McIlroy in a group one off the pace.

BBC SPORTS revealed that, Fitzpatrick was at five under after 15 holes when play was halted - helped by three straight birdies from the 11th.

McIlroy recovered from a slow start to post a four-under 67, which was aided by him holing a 115-yard approach shot.

England's Eddie Pepperell and Scotland's Scott Jamieson were among a six-strong group that also hit 67.

Malaysia's Gavin Green, Spain's Adri Arnaus and France's Antoine Rozner also finished on four under with another Spaniard, Alvaro Quiros, and Dutchman Joost Luiten on the same mark after 16 and 13 holes respectively.

The first-round action could not be completed on Thursday after the threat of lightning had earlier caused a one-hour delay to play.

After starting at the 10th, McIlroy turned in one over par but he holed a 115-yard shot to eagle the third before carding three late birdies in Rome.

"I felt like I was still half asleep playing that front nine," said McIlroy.

Next year's Ryder Cup takes place at the same Marco Simone Golf and Country Club and McIlroy met Europe captain Luke Donald and fellow likely team members for dinner and a "bonding" session on Wednesday night.

Referring to his early struggles in round one, the

four-time major winner joked to Sky Sports that "I shouldn't have stayed up so late last night".

McIlroy threw his ball away in frustration following a bogey on the 17th and had to hole from 18 feet to save par on the 18th before his holed approach shot at the third helped turn his day around.

"That eagle obviously ignited something and sort of kick-started my round a little bit and I played some really good golf on the way in," added McIlroy, who is leading this year's DP World Tour rankings after clinching the PGA's Tour FedEx Cup title last month.

Wednesday's discussions with Donald and other prospective Europe team members most likely included the topic of which type course set-up would best suit the hosts and McIlroy alluded to that after his opening round.

"Stats-wise the American team are very good from 150 (yards) in, so they're trying to set the golf course up that it's a challenge to get your tee shots within that range," he said.

"I think by forcing people to play more conservative off the tee helps the Europeans a little bit, I think that's part of the strategy for next year."

Denmark's Nicolai Hojgaard, who clinched the Italian Open title last year in his first tour victory, closed his round impressively with five birdies over his closing eight holes to fire a 68 which left him two strokes behind Fitzpatrick.

Raducanu loses in Slovenia Open second round

EMMA Raducanu is out of the Slovenia Open after a disappointing defeat by Germany's Anna-Lena Friedsam in Portoroz.

BBC SPORT, the British number one was top seed at the event but fell to a 7-5 6-6 6-3 loss in the second round.

Raducanu was leading 5-3 in the first set against qualifier Friedsam, ranked 213 in the world, before appearing to look uncomfortable in her movement.

Her left thigh was strapped following a medical timeout after the first set.

The Briton cruised through the second set without dropping a game but fell short in the decider.

Raducanu's ranking plummeted to 83 following her recent first-round exit at the US Open, but she will retain her position as British number one after Harriet Dart failed to reach the second round.

Britain's Jodie Burrage was also beaten in the second round, losing 7-5 6-1 to Katerina Siniakova, but Katie Swan reached the first WTA Tour quarter-final of her career with a 7-6 (7-5) 6-2 victory over Anastasia Gasanova at the Chennai Open.



Emma Raducanu received heavy strapping to her left thigh after the first set

SUNDAY SPORTS

Federer a tennis great who reached sporting perfection



Federer

OVER the past 20 years it was not only Novak Djokovic who wondered if Roger Federer had been crafted and dropped onto Centre Court by the tennis gods.

Federer, who has announced he will retire later this month, was also one of a select few who could draw you in and grab your heart, while seemingly reaching perfection.

Others may now have won more titles - let's leave the 'GOAT' debate for another day - but for many the once stropy youngster was sport at its pure best.

With a graceful swish of a forehand, a pinpoint delivery of a serve or a gentle wave to the crowd, the Swiss legend gained fans unlike anyone before him.

The 41-year-old's skills were learned on the courts of the Swiss National Tennis Centre in Basel.

As a teenager he was supremely talented but known for his temper. It is said he was given the punishment of cleaning toilets after one costly throw of the racket aged 16.

It may now be a distant memory but Federer's penchant for petulance continued into his early years on the professional tour.

"It took me like two years to find

that fire and ice," he said in 2018. "The fire to win but the ice coolness to absorb losses and bad mistakes. Then my career went through the roof."

Roger Federer: Images of his 103 career ATP title wins

In truth, when Federer found that state his game did not just go through the roof, it continued into another stratosphere.

After making his name as a 19-year-old by beating Pete Sampras at Wimbledon in 2001 and a year after the death of his influential early coach in a car accident, Federer won his first of a record eight men's SW19 titles in 2003 - and cried during his post-match interview with Sue Barker to endear himself to a nation.

In the four years that followed he won 11 of the 16 available Grand Slams in a period of dominance the sport had rarely seen.

A swagger, shown in the gold-trimmed cardigans worn on court, was now fully justified.

Another eight Slams would come across the next 11 years but Federer's story, and his popularity, has been shaped by crushing lows too.

The first came in 2008 when he was beaten in the Centre Court gloom by Rafael Nadal in the Wimbledon final - a five-set epic widely regarded as one of the greatest tennis contests of all-time.

Six months later when the Spaniard denied him again in the Australian Open, the Swiss broke down in tears.

"God this is killing me," he said.

But in June 2009, Federer was overcome again - this time shedding tears of joy - after responding to the previous loss by winning a long-awaited first French Open title.

That completed the career Grand Slam, a feat only five men had previously achieved although both Nadal and Djokovic have matched it since.

Three more wins quickly followed, including a victory over an emotional Andy Murray at Wimbledon in 2012, but for five years afterwards it seemed as though Federer's Grand Slam tally would remain at 17, as the first signs of serious injury began to seep into his career.

To come, though, was a second golden period for Federer - one shorter but no less remarkable.

Now aged 35, and after six months out with a knee injury, he won the

2017 Australian Open - Nadal, of course, the opponent in another five-set thriller.

After a winning forehand Federer screamed in disbelief, while the world cherished another encounter between great rivals turned friends. His eighth win at the All England Club, and a sixth in Australia, followed in the next 12 months.

Federer won the 2017 Australian Open to end a five-year spell without a Grand Slam title

Federer's legacy will of course be intertwined with that of Nadal and Djokovic, who gatecrashed the Swiss' one-man party at the top of the men's game and made it an event for three.

Federer set the benchmark at 20 Grand Slams but, while struggling for fitness in much of the past three seasons, has seen first the Spaniard and then the Serb go past his major tally.

Throughout it all, though, Federer has been number one for fans and also sponsors.

He sits alongside Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, LeBron James and Tom Brady in a list of the world's richest sportspeople.

Federer and another tennis great Serena Williams, who also

announced her retirement last month, have not just excelled in the sport. They have transcended it.

Wherever he has gone, Federer has been cheered by spectators, none more so than at Wimbledon this year when he was given the most raucous reception among a cast of legends as part of Centre Court's centenary celebrations.

Such is his longevity, two generations do not remember a sporting landscape without him.

Touching tributes following Federer's retirement have come from Nadal and further afield, a regular theme that "tennis will never be the same again".

Federer, plus Nadal and Djokovic who look set to play on for a while yet, have left the next generation with a task similar to following The Beatles at Glastonbury.

The Swiss will appear once more on the professional tour, in the Ryder Cup-style Laver Cup later this month - a tournament he has helped create. Given it is more than a year since he last played, what standard he will be able to reach is not clear.

Tennis fans will descend on London, however, even if just to say one thing;

"Thank you Roger, for the memories."



'Fire on the mountain, run, run, run, run'



Odegbami

By SEGUN ODEGBAMI

I am writing on this issue again out of a sense of responsibility to the game that has dominated my activities through most of my years on earth.

I believe that if the elections into the Nigeria Football Federation, NFF, are held today, I have a good idea who the winner will be. I am almost certain about the long list of persons who would be left frustrated at the end of it all when the reality dawns on them on the futility of their ambition to become President through the present process.

The next President of the NFF would have come without question from one of the State FA Chairmen. Thereafter, that constituency would have continued their stranglehold on Nigerian football and its administration, something that has not augured well for the game during this outgoing regime.

Whilst many contestants will be busy counting their losses, on the other side of the aisle they will find a group pumping hands, hugging and kissing each other in celebration of an assured victory once again, having succeeded in cowering the government and the people of Nigeria into submission, making them surrender their most valuable sports property to the shenanigans of puppeteers manipulating the system of elections.

Without fixing that system and process, the crisis during national sports federations elections, and the resort to the civil courts for justice, will not end. The crisis of the past two decades are clear confirmation.

Crisis-ridden elections have become the norm, a well-established 'game' played every time the elections into the board of the Nigeria Football Association are to be carried out. They follow the same pattern - complaints by aggrieved stakeholders, litigation in Civil courts, Sports Ministry's intervention, and a rush to FIFA by those holding on to the rein of power, screaming 'Third Party' interference.

The outgoing regime 'wins' as soon as threats of suspension from international competitions are dangled, and the country retires from

the fight, its tail tucked between its legs, as the old regime, clad in new clothes, settles down to reap the bountifully from its harvest.

This pattern has become blatant, frustrating stakeholders who once clamoured for a withdrawal from all FIFA competitions for two years even at the risk of sanctions, to enable the country fix its domestic problems before returning to the world body again.

What is certain is that those enjoying the spoils of this present crisis-ridden process would not let go of the power gifted them by the same government that now wants to take it back. They will not give up without a fight, as no one surrenders power that easily. That is what these seemingly, intractable crisis during elections are about.

Meanwhile, I will not be tired of raising the issues and attempting to

clear the cobwebs of understanding the issues.

A few days ago, the old problem has reared its head again.

Two weeks to the elections slated for September 30, an aggrieved stakeholder, seeing the handwriting of the same old script on the wall, that some members are been side-lined from the elections, returned to the civil courts and secured an order suspending the elections.

Surely, the elections will not now take place in September again without the court order being vacated.

The Ministry of Sports had foreseen this possibility and, to forestall the present situation, got the President of the Country to intervene in the best interest of all Nigerians by advising the NFF to applying appropriate articles in its statutes to accommodate more members and give room for more equitable participation by all members.

It is clear to every Nigerian that something is wrong with the process of electing the leadership of National federations.

It had not always been so. Why has it been impossible to deal with it once and for all? It is not rocket science. What is it that needs amendment in the statutes?

Some of the current NFF board members say they will do the needed amendments after they have elected the next president? Why not do it now, instead of later?

They are independent, even from FIFA intervention, in their domestic affairs. They created the rules themselves.

FIFA does not hand out any template to national federations on how to conduct elections. Each federation establishes its own process. That's the reality. In the same vein, the federation can amend its rules, whenever it chooses to, period!

So, what actually is critical and needs amendment in the process of the present election process?

The problem is the composition of those that elect the leaders.

That is, the elective Congress. They, Congress, elects the members of the board including the President.

- NFA elections

It should not be such a difficult matter to resolve, therefore, but it is, now.

The present members do not want to give up the power (in their number) they have in the Congress and to determine who becomes the new President. Unfortunately, until and unless they give it, or part of it, up the present crisis will not go away.

What the Minister of Sports did with the 10-year Football Masterplan, is propose a compromise of some sort, asking every member to temper their demands, give a little and take a little, in order for enough peace to reign to enable for fuller reforms and amendments when a new board is installed after the elections.

The Amaju regime actually set up a reform committee. It abandoned the very sensible recommendations of the committee when it found that some of the recommendations would erode the overwhelming stranglehold on power.

The President's advise is that rather than go ahead with the elections, the organisation should use its independence to amend the rules and accommodate more aggrieved members, create a more level playing field, and then conduct elections that would usher in a leadership from a more equitable electorate. It makes sense.

The choices are now clear. The board can accept the recommendation of the President, or to go into a brawl with the Ministry and other aggrieved stakeholders. It appears the regime is bent on the former choice. So, the battle has returned to the courts, and, in the end, it is football and the people that will suffer the consequences.

Nigerians should now know who are responsible.

The Nigerian Players constituency have become a necessary 'evil' to bring an end to the crisis in Nigerian football, and by extension, in sport. The other constituencies are not even asserting their rights and

demanding their rightful place on the board. Their leaderships have either been compromised into silence, or are ignorant of their place and role. The referees association, the coaches association, the school sports associations, NAPHER, the military and para military constituency, the leagues, and even some relevant new members, have all become victims of their silence and acquiescence to their unwarranted exclusion from the board.

I have just read the letter from the NFA Secretariat inviting its members and delegates to the 2022 Annual General Assembly.

I can see the answer to the present crisis in that letter.

The AGM actually creates a platform to resolve this present impasse without offending the order of the Abuja High Court.

The NFF should go ahead with its General Assembly on September 30, and conduct the business of all the listed items in the agenda except those ones that have to do with the court order.

Interestingly, part of the listed items includes: (i) 'vote on proposals for amendments to the statutes, the regulations governing the application of the statutes...'

So, that meeting can discuss amendments to the statutes; (s) 'Election of the President, Vice President and Members of the Executive Committee'. This item, now temporarily halted by the Courts, and which must not be conducted until vacated by the court, should be stepped down at the meeting; (m), "...any further items proposed by the members of the Executive Committee of the NFA'.

If the present board means well for Nigeria and for football, they will seek the Ministry of Sports' input in setting up a transition committee that shall handle the affairs of Nigerian football until the court order is vacated and elections are eventually held.

The contribution of the Ministry of Sport is to ensure neutrality in choice of the committee membership.

That is my humble submission!

CAF CL: It's still 50-50

Despite securing an away draw in the first leg last weekend, the head coach of Nigeria's representative in the CAF Champions League Plateau United Fidelis Ilechukwu believes the game is still 50-50 for both teams.

The Nigeria Professional Football League runners-up played out a 2-2 draw against Stande Manji in Franceville, Gabon last weekend.

They are to host the same opponent in the second leg this weekend at the MKO

Abiola stadium in Abuja and the team has been preparing for the tie.

"Since we returned we have been talking to ourselves because it's an important game for me as a coach.

"I don't want to write off our opponent because we picked a draw last week at their backyard, this is football and both sides have a fifty-fifty chance of qualifying", he told the club media.

The winner over the two legs will face former champions Esperance of Tunisia in the next round of the qualifier.

ALSO, Ahead of the second leg of the CAF Champions League fixture

against Watanga FC of Liberia, Rivers United player Chiamaka Madu has set his eyes on outright winning in Liberia, according to BSNSports.com.ng.

The Nigeria champions are in the driving seat following an emphatic 3-0 first leg victory last weekend.

Despite that, Madu has maintained that their target is to get another win come Sunday in Liberia.

"We are ready for the game because our training programme in the past week shows how important the game is to us, so everyone is fully ready.

"Though we won the first leg 3-0 but is not a

-Plateau United Coach

pushover game. "We must work very hard to secure the important win,

we are not going there to defend or have a draw, we are going there to win", he told the club media.



Ilechukwu