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FG plans salary increase: For real?

Workers in the Nigerian public service may soon heave a sigh of relief that is, if the assurance by the Labour and Employment Minister Chris Ngige on the plan by the Federal Government to increase salaries for its workforce can be taken to the bank. Turn to pages 10, 31



State Police: Towards bringing sanity to society

For several special reasons, the mantra of state policing has garnered popularity amongst the generality of the populace as a result of the surge in the rate of highly sophisticated crimes in the country, and the inability of the federal police command across the country to contain the challenges.

Therefore, the clamour by state governments and the recent cries by especially the northern governors for the introduction of state police into the Nigerian policing system is the affirmation that a new dawn has come. This is because it has been widely suggested that creating a state policing platform is a deliberate and strategic solution towards curbing incessant security challenges across the country.

It is in this regard and in order to address the volatile security situation in the country, that the Northern Governors' Forum has fully lent their support for the establishment of state policing platforms throughout the country in order to help curtail insecurity and bring to an end issues of banditry, kidnapping, ritual killings amongst other criminality being perpetrated across the country.

The governors and traditional rulers have also agreed to support the amendment of Nigeria's Constitution to pave way for the establishment of state police so as to curb insecurity which is threatening to destroy the north, and, indeed, the entire country.

When given the nod to establish state police, states will heave a sigh of relief as they would be empowered to tackle headlong issues of insecurity in their domains. This would reduce time wasted in taking permission before deployment. And this too would save lives and property.

Unfortunately, some aggregated opinions still insist that state police will lead to chaos and a situation in which there will be two rival institutions which might work at cross purposes. This to them would not be for the good of the citizenry. Indeed, they go on to posit that governors are likely to misuse state police. True as it might sound, they forget that there is need for institutions to build and laws made for their functioning. This is the only way to curb the abuse of state police.

We, therefore, believe that the closeness of the state police to the society places it at an advantaged position to serve the people better and their jobs should not interfere with those of the federal police.

As we congratulate state governors for taking the bold step in proposing for the establishment of the state police, they need to go further by sending an executive bill to the National Assembly so as to concretize the issue. Models from the United States of America, USA and the United Kingdom UK, who for long have established states and local governments constabulary police should be studied and applied in our country.

We strongly believe that the creation of the state police is one of the deliberate, strategic and critical solutions to curbing Nigeria's security challenges given the present reality in our country.

NEWS

Travellers stranded as Air traffic control strike

Several Airlines on Friday, cancelled flight operations to and from Africa as air traffic control strike grounded flight operations across 18 countries in the continent.

According to Reuters, flights to and from Europe, the United States, as well as within Africa, were halted on Friday.

Staff at the Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA), which regulates air traffic control across 18 countries, stopped working on Friday, during a dispute over working conditions and pay, despite court rulings and government bans restricting such

action. ASECNA's head of Human Resources, Ceubah Guelpina, said, "In spite of the prohibition of the strike by all the courts... the Union of Air Traffic Controllers' Unions (USYCAA) has launched a wildcat strike.

"We have already exhausted both administrative and institutional remedies in the management of this crisis, but we have in front of us trade unionists who are stubborn to do whatever they want."

The USYCAA union said in a statement that its members would cease providing services to all, but "sensitive" flights until their demands are satisfied.

A leader of the Senegalese air

traffic controllers, Paul Francois Gomis, said some union members in Cameroon, Congo and the Comoros had been arrested for participating in the strike.

However, ASECNA said it has developed a contingency plan to allow airlines to take alternative routes when certain airports are impacted by temporary staff shortages, in case the strike should drag on.

A source, who was due to fly into Nigeria from South Africa, said his flight, which should have departed the O.R Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, to Nigeria on Friday night, was grounded as a result of the strike action.

"Our flight has been grounded. We're basically stranded here", the source said.

Osinbajo out, Amaechi makes presidential campaign lists

The All Progressives Congress has released a list of 422 members of its Presidential Campaign Council (PCC).

Secretary, APC presidential Campaign Council, James Faleke, released the list in Abuja on Friday. According to the list seen by THEWILL, the names of Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo; former speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara; former secretary to the government of the federation, Babachir Lawal, and Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, former minister of state for education, are not included in the list.

According to the list seen by THEWILL, the names of Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo; former speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara; former secretary to the government of the federation, Babachir Lawal, and Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, former minister of state for education, are not included in the list.

Also, Bayo Onanuga retained Director of Media and Publicity, Alhaji Ali M. Ali as his Deputy, Felix Morka as Co. Deputy Director and Ibim Semenitari, as the Secretary.

Mohammed Idris heads the Strategic Communications Directorate with Danladi Bako as Co Director, Lanre Issa Onilu as Deputy Director and Dilli Ezuaha as Secretary. Minister of State Labour and Employment, Festus Keyamo, heads the Public Affairs Directorate as Spokesperson, while Aminu Sani Jaji heads the Contact and Mobilisation Directorate.

Former Aviation Minister, Femi Fani Kayode, heads the New Media Directorate with Bashir Ahmed as Deputy, while Seun Olufemi White is the secretary.

Senator Godswill Akpabio made the list as the Vice Chairman (South-south) and Uju Kennedy is the Vice Chairman (South-east).

The Governor of Jigawa State, Abubakar Badaru is the Regional Coordinator for North, while Abubakar Kyari is the Deputy Regional Coordinator, North.

The governor of Ebonyi State, David Umahi, is the Regional Coordinator for South and Chief Emma Eneukwu was appointed as his Deputy.

Other directorates are Support Groups Coordination; National Youth Mobilisation; Parliamentarian; Trade and Economic

Agriculturist/Commodities; Campaign Planning; Civil Societies; Diaspora Directorate; and Support Service; Medicals; Policy Research and Strategy; Protocol and Events; PWD

Also included are Election Mobilisation; Sustainable Development Goals; Stakeholders Relations; Special Duties; Local government directorate and Performing arts directorate.



Osinbajo

FG, states, LGs share N673.137bn August allocation

The Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) has shared N673.137 billion to the three tiers of government, as federation allocation for August.

A statement released on Friday, by Phil Abiamuwe-Mowete, Director (Information/Press), Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, said the Federal Government received N259.641 billion, the states, N222.949 billion, and the Local Government Councils got N164.247 billion.

The N673.137 billion was inclusive of Gross Statutory Revenue, Value Added Tax (VAT), and an Augmentation of Non Oil Excess Revenue.

The communiqué issued at the end of the meeting indicated that the Gross Revenue available from the VAT for August was N215.266 billion. The amount was an increase distributed in the preceding month.

"The distribution is as follows: Federal Government got N32.290 billion, the States received N107.633 billion, Local Government Councils got N75.343 billion."

The communiqué said the Gross Statutory Revenue of N437.871 billion distributed was lower than the sum received in the previous month.

This is from which the Federal

Government was allocated the sum of N216.815 billion, states got N109.972 billion, LGCs got N84.783 billion, and Oil Derivation (13 percent mineral revenue) got N26.301 billion.

"Also, the N20 billion Augmentation of Non Oil Excess Revenue now converted to distributable revenue was shared to the three tiers of government as follows; the Federal Government received N10.536 billion, states got N5.344 billion, LGCs received N4.120 billion."

The communiqué further said that VAT, Import and Excise Duties recorded significant increases, while Companies Income Tax (CIT), Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT), Oil and Gas Royalties decreased considerably.

It disclosed that total revenue distributable for the current month of August was drawn from Statutory Revenue of N437.871 billion, and VAT of N215.266 billion.

The revenue was also drawn from N20 billion Augmentation of Non Oil Excess Revenue which brought the total distributable for the month to N673.137 billion.

However, the balance in the Excess Crude Account (ECA), as at Sept. 23 stands at \$470,599.54 million.

“As a matter of fact, most of the parties hardly gave the women any room to operate and express themselves. But it was not reason enough to get that decimal outing they got. Several of them made their marks without the men's support. That is what the men wouldn't want to hear about.”

Needed: A fight for Nigerian women

LET me make a confession right from the onset, and I won't hide under any guise: women the world over have come of age. They are everywhere proving their mettle. They have done a lot to be appreciated by the men. Those who think otherwise may not discard such views for a long time to come. The views are purely held on the basis of gender and for us, mark it; it is dangerous to our development as a people.

Like it or hate it, we can't deny the fact that women have changed the face of how things are done. We have examples to show; in fact even those who do not want to hear about the exploits of women, are quick to point to the fact that women have tremendously made their marks in Nigeria's development.

I have chosen a topic that several of Nigerians would prefer not to talk about. Each person you meet has a different version to the issue. Some of the reasons are spurious as they are laughable in content. The reasons don't reflect logic but are in the main chauvinistic in reason. Well, that is what the women don't want to hear, so also are some men.

Even as it is explosive, I would rather talk about it as perhaps just gloss over the issue. For how long would we ignore the issue? For how long would the men think that the women do not matter, so long as we think we are in a man's world? Who says that the women do not matter in these issues that we have always excluded them?

Several statistics have been provided on the level of acceptance of the quality of work and representation in the last couple of years. This is not to run away from the realities that in years pass, women were not considered to be 'good' enough to give quality representation. This is no doubt chauvinistic in orientation and thinking.

We know that the balance of power is tipped heavily greatly against the women. They don't just need appointment; they need to slug it out with the men during elections. The truth is that the women don't have the financial muscle to wrestle power from the men; hence they have to depend on the men for tickets to contest elective positions.

The women may be more in number, but it is always the men that are in command. One woman wrote: "sometimes I think that men are afraid of the speed with which we will achieve development if they gave power to women and so they hold on to it." We shall soon come to this point.

Below it has been considered why there are impediments in the way of women. I have reproduced the views so as to make a point in the area that even the men and women have continued to ignore. We need as a people to study what other countries have achieved in the area of balancing the negative stats against women. It is a different story altogether today. Consider this, and let me warn;



Tallen

these views are expressed by some Nigerians. Let us consider these:

In August 2003, women won 48.8% of the parliamentary seats. In the 2008 elections, women won 45 out of the 80 parliamentary seats, amounting to about 53.25% of the votes. Rwanda's post-genocide 2003 constitution reserves 30% of parliamentary seats for women. Perhaps as a result of genocide, the population of men in Rwanda today is 45% while that of women is 55%, so you could argue that the current representation in parliament is a fair reflection of current demographics. These women voted a new law granting women land inheritance rights, a thing which almost a heresy in our traditional African setting.

Within Africa, the average for women representation is 18.5%. Uganda and South Africa have an average of 44%. The post-Apartheid Constitution of South Africa has outlawed all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, gender or sexual orientation. And they enforce those rights with great relish.

The Nordic countries have traditionally had the best tradition of gender balance in parliamentary government. The average representation of women is 44%. Norway and Finland have produced remarkable women prime ministers. The average for North America is 23.1%, while that of Europe is 19.9% (not that far ahead of Africa)! The Arabs, predictably score the lowest world-wide (11.7%).

Nigeria is extremely far behind in women representation. The problem exists throughout the 3 tiers of government. So far, no woman has made to Governor's position. Of the 700+ local

governments, there until last year only 4 LG women Chairmen (funny, that one)! Obasanjo in his second coming did bring in a good number of women into the cabinet (although the murmurs of the 'Obasanjo women' being literally his were all the rage. And it was said that he dislodged the remarkable Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala because she did not understand what it meant to be "an Obasanjo woman". I am sure there were some who were totally above board, but one of them so ferociously defending his right to be philanderer got me rather suspicious of her and in fact of most of the "Obasanjo women".

Unfortunately, I have to also say that the type of women who make it in Nigerian politics are the types that none of us would like to identify with. Most are considered fair game for the after midnight dark complots by wheeler-dealer politicians. These women are seen as part of the national cake (excuse my French, ladies)! In Hausa land, all the women politicians were viewed as being only slightly better than whores (Gambo Sawaba and Laila Dogonyaro who passed away recently). I am sorry to say, one of them did not have an enviable reputation in Aso Villa when she was in the Cabinet. One of those types has made it to the Senate in my own Southern Kaduna. No decent woman would be prepared to do what some of these people are prepared to do to get where they are.

Where does that leave us? Politics is a murky business, but it is also a calling demanding the highest ideals in moral character. It is about our very lives and destiny -- and the life chances of millions of our citizens. Women must be part of it, because they are the bedrock of our society. We need to create a political culture that allows the right sort of women to make it into

politics and to be a pride not only to the womenfolk but to our society and nation. We need great women, noble women -- and I am sure they are there in our country, our communities and even in this Forum of ours. We must encourage them not only through progressive laws but through positive affirmation.

Patricia Etteh was removed for allegedly misusing 600 million naira. Her successor Bankole is in trouble for allegedly diverting a staggering 35 billion naira. Women, clearly, are better, if you truly look at it. Professor Adenike Grange was handcuffed for taking 10 million naira. Some of our men politicians are walking away literally with murder. Hassan Lawal, formerly of Works, had 25 billion in one account along. Let's allow the women to take over this country. Women are most reluctant to fight wars. They may be corrupt, but they seem more compassionate at the end of the day.

Again whether we like it or not out there, 'women are still struggling to be heard, of the 13 women that contested the governorship elections (in Nigeria), none was successful. 59 women contested as deputies, mainly in inconsequential parties except in Lagos State. 22 women contested the House of Representatives poll and only 15 were elected into the 360-member lower chamber. 7 women were elected into the 109 member senate out of the 97 that contested the election. In the 36 States Houses of Assembly, 517 women contested for seats and only 42 were elected. More so, only 1 contested the presidential election-Ebiti Ndok of UNPD, she did not win'.

Well I didn't expect her to make any impact. Even as a reporter I never read about her candidacy or given as much publicity as the others. Perhaps it could be attributed to her lack of financial muscles as the men who contested alongside with her. Nigerians are quick to point to the foray of Sarah Jubril, who since time immemorial has contested elections with the men. While it is a fact that she was not the only female delegate, she got only a vote during the presidential primaries at Eagle Square, Abuja.

While it was apparent, she may have voted for herself, the other female delegates chose to go

with the men. We do not know of any reason, but we do know that the women may have always stood against themselves and victory. She, like other women may have lost because they were not supported by the womenfolk. It has always been like that; as a result they hardly go far in such political contest.

We can count so many women who attempted or rather competed with the men but got wounded in the process. You don't need to go too far, remember, former NAFDAC and Minister of Information and Communication, Dora Akunyili. She almost (yes almost, that word again) got it, but got burnt on the way. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala also got burnt because the men wouldn't want the women to create any impact.

There was no doubt she put up a spirited fight like most women are wont to do. She no doubt lost gallantly. There are several women such as her. They got consumed by the political 'fire work' of their men counterparts. That does not mean they are inferior. They are not; it is only the imagination of the man; and indeed some the women who do not believe in their ability to conquer the world. This is the category that has stood between women and the realization of their enormous potentials.

As a matter of fact, most of the parties hardly gave the women any room to operate and express themselves. But it was not reason enough to get that decimal outing they got. Several of them made their marks without the men's support. That is what the men wouldn't want to hear about.

There is a national shortage of women politicians just as there is a shortage as engineers. But we know that some women have come out tops of the men in certain areas of human endeavour. There is so much to reap from the women. Their capacity for insisting of why things should be done rightly is awesome and can be appreciated in the final analysis.

That is what the country wants now. We have gone through so much and for negative reasons indeed. The time has come for the women to change the country's orientation in good governance and accountability. We are lacking in such regards, my instincts continuously tell me, and the women can provide that platform.

“There is a national shortage of women politicians just as there is a shortage as engineers. But we know that some women have come out tops of the men in certain areas of human endeavour. There is so much to reap from the women. Their capacity for insisting of why things should be done rightly is awesome and can be appreciated in the final analysis.”



Silent cry of the girl-child

WHEN I was a kid, my mother's immediate younger brother (from her mother's side) travelled down to their mother's village and came back with a bride. Unlike his other siblings, he was an introvert who kept mostly to himself. And in spite of the fact that he was not bad looking, he could not approach any girl in the city, it was just impossible. In the end, it was agreed that he should travel down to the village in company of his mother who was to arrange for a wife for him.

Mission accomplished, they came back with a wife for my uncle. But from the first night with her husband, she proved to be an unwilling bride. My uncle tried everything in the book to worm his way to her heart and get to bed her, but she refused to have anything to do with him.

Eagerly, he tried everything he was asked to do, from spoiling her with gifts to filling her ears with endearments. However, it was all exercises in futility. At night she became hostile to him. My uncle was frustrated. He looked like a hyena forced to guard meat.

Days were running into weeks and the story was unchanged. One day, my grandmother and her co-mates came up with a plan. The plan was that four of my uncles were going to help my uncle lay claim to his wife.

I did not get wind of that plan until I saw my grandmothers at my newly married uncle's window anxiously asking in our local dialect if it had entered. Curious because of the feverish excitement surrounding them, I climbed the slab that encircled our well to have a good look. What I managed to see over their heads looked very barbaric.

The unwilling bride was the center of attention. She was being held by 4 of my uncles. Each held either a hand or leg as hard as they could, while my uncle was trying very hard to insert his private part into hers. He was finding it very hard because his unwilling bride was still wriggling around.

At one point, the cheers that greeted my uncle's actions were deafening. "It has entered", my grandmothers were celebrating and so were my uncles who were holding the unwilling bride. My frustrated uncle shamelessly proved that he was a man, disregarding everyone as he finished what he started amid cheers.

By this time, I was not watching but getting the gist from my grandmothers. I felt disgusted and sympathized with this young girl who was all alone among her husband's family. From every indication, she was forced into the marriage. Sadly, she had a humiliating experience which was her first. The blood testified of that fact.

The very next day, as early as possible, she ran away from the humiliation, betrayal by not just women but mothers and disappointment and pain she felt towards her husband's actions.

I once shared with us the misfortune a young girl suffered because she wanted the better life that the city can offer.

This girl was living with distant relations who had promised to enroll her in school in exchange for her service. Nobody told her what that service entailed.

This family had a mentally derailed son who was under lock and key. Anytime he got out of control and started shouting in an abnormal way, scratching the wall, the young girl would be summoned and pushed into the room to be used and sexually assaulted by the boy. This was the remedy that used to calm him down.

This case was brought up at a programme where several women activists were in attendance. WRAPA and FIDA decided to take up the issue to free the young girl from bondage and to bring the wicked parents to book.

If it is not child or forced marriage, or sexual exploitation, it may be boy-child preference or harmful cultural practices against the girl-child. She has to contend with too many challenges that compete with her self actualization.

A young girl who was forced into marriage at age twelve said when she developed VVF because her womb was not well developed, her husband abandoned her. He said he could not bear the stench of urine which announced her presence everywhere. VVF is a condition often suffered by minors when they go through labour. The after effect is that urine will constantly be dripping from their private part.

One of the victims of VVF, aged 13, ended up on the garbage dump almost losing her mind when her child was taken from her and she was abandoned by her husband. Her condition was arrested fast when her parents got wind of the situation and came for her.

Most worrisome is the case of girls who are being raped by their fathers and forced to bear it in silence. Cases abound where the mother would sweep it under the carpet to save her marriage or save face.

There are girls whose parents will not allow to go to school. The parents believe a woman's place is in the kitchen. These are the ones that are unrepentant believers in child marriage. Girls in this category are dependent on man for everything. If anything happens to the man, poverty sets in.

As partners in progress or as a woman godly man, boy let us seek to promote those policies that make the life of the girl-child better. For example, education, empowerment, knowing her rights and discovering her potentials and putting them into constructive uses for self actualization

Discrimination against the girl-child should not be condoned. In the same vein, neither should harmful cultural practices like female genital mutilation be encouraged. Perpetrators of such acts should be brought to book.

The girl-child has proven her worth as dependable and reliable, a selfless caregiver who makes everything beautiful. She needs to be loved and appreciated not made to feel like a second class citizen.

NEWS

DOSA donates hospital equipments to Plateau Specialist Hospital

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Dengi Old Students Association (DOSA), has donated hospital equipments to the Plateau Specialists Hospital Jos, worth millions of naira as part of its programmes of events for their 2022 National Convention to improve medical services in the state.

This took place at the Conference Hall of Plateau State Human Virology Research Centre (PLASVIREC) at the Plateau Specialists Hospital Jos, the state capital Friday.

Presenting the equipments, the National President of Dengi Old Students Association, His Excellency, Professor Abdullahi Shehu Yibaikwal, said, "as you know, this is a young students association, but we are very ambitious and we have a vision. Our vision is to impact lives and we recognize what the government has given us and we felt we have a responsibility to give back to the society what government has given us.

"So we organised this visit to the hospital as a symbolic gesture to commend the government for what they doing in this direction and to call their attention to the health sector in particular and to the Specialists Hospital in Jos so that, the services of this hospital can impact our people not only in Plateau State, but Nigeria as a whole.

"The spirit behind what we have done is more important than the amount we sank here because even we had brought in one billion naira here, it is meaningless to say it since we did not do it for publicity. We did it with good intention to draw attention so

that, other people should do what we have done and they can even do better", he enthused.

Yibaikwal, called on government and the private sector as well as spirited individuals who felt and were concerned about the health of their people to contribute even little because health is wealth and sympathize with the situation being faced in this Specialists Hospital no matter how small.

While appreciating DOSA for the kind gesture, the Chief Medical Director of Plateau Specialists Hospital, Jos, Dr. Filimon Golwa, said this was the first time an association such as this was donating to the hospital. In his words; "Whoever invest in humanity, invest in God. We promise to

use these equipments for the service of humanity".

The Gbong Gwom Jos and Chairman Plateau State Traditional Council, His Royal Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, expressed joy and that it was a reawakening challenge to all who cherished Plateau State. He appealed that people should donate no matter how small to the hospital irrespective of tribe or religion for them to save lives.

There were words of commendations from the Chief Medical Director of Plateau State Hospital Management Board (PSHMB) and Dr. Dajom Y. Dakwak, Plateau State Chairman of the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Dr. Bapigang Williams Audu respectively.



Professor Yibaikwal

Kogi moves to control outbreak of diseases

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

IN its bid to tackle outbreak of diseases, the Kogi State Government has commenced the distribution of response commodities to its health facilities, particularly the tertiary health institutions and zonal hospitals in the state.

The State Health Commissioner, Dr Zakari Usman, who flagged off the distribution in Lokoja, the state capital at the weekend, said it was meant to keep any disease outbreak in the state under control.

He said the beneficiaries of the health facilities included the State Teaching Hospital, the Specialist Hospital and the five Zonal Hospitals within the three senatorial districts of the state.

The Commissioner noted that the programme was geared towards assuring the populace that the "government is committed to providing quality health care services to our people at all times." "As you are aware, health commodities are very critical to respond to disease outbreaks and prevention of health care infections in the hospitals.

"It is in line with this that the

state government, under the leadership of Gov Yahaya Bello, decided to equip our public health institutions with the needed commodities in response to public health threats that may confront the health security. "This is the first phase of the distribution and we will extend the same to other facilities as the need arises. "This is an addition to the giant strides we have attained in the area of massive infrastructure development in the health sector across the state," he

said.

Usman enjoined health workers to always watch for emerging incidents of public health threats at their places of work and report same to the Ministry of Health as early as possible. He said such vigilance would enable the government to mount an appropriate response to safeguard the health of the populace.

The commissioner, however, implored the benefiting facilities to make good use of the items to improve health care delivery services in their hospitals and Kogi in general.

77 NCS get new ranks

From GYANG PAM, Yola

ONE hundred and seventy-seven men of the Adamawa State Correctional Service (NCS) have been decorated with their new ranks in Adamawa State.

According to the Comptroller of the State command of the Service, Ahmed A. Usman said they were being celebrated and deserving the merit of it.

Usman said the promotion to a higher rank is the product of loyalty, industry

and performance appraised over a period of time as well as having passed prescribed examinations.

He added that the promotion was well deserved and not on a platter of gold.

In a response on behalf of other officers, newly promoted DCC Authority Sanda thanked God for the development and commended the Comptroller General for the approval.

SUNDAY POLITICS

NPC warns against, violence, during campaign

From MATHEW JWANTU, Minna

THE National Peace Committee, NPC, has called on all political participants in the country, especially, their spokespersons and media advisers to shun personal attacks, avoid insults and incitements, reject the spread of fake news, and commit to issue based campaigns and political rallies toward the 2023 general elections.

To this end the Committee in an address, after its meeting in Minna, the Niger State capital, said it has organized the signing of two Peace Accords holding on Thursday, 29th September, 2022.

The address was jointly signed by the Chairman, and former Head of State General Abdulsalami Abubakar, and the convener, who doubles as Catholic Bishop of Sokoto, Most Rev Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah.

The first Accord, according to the Committee, will commit all political parties, Presidential candidates, and their spokespersons to peaceful political campaigns and rallies, devoid of violence, incitements and personal insults, but defined by issues at the very heart of national development and progress.

The Committee stated that the second peace Accord will come up shortly before the elections and it is intended to commit candidates to accepting the outcome of the votes as long as it is adjudged to be free, fair and credible.



Kukah

The NPC, therefore, called on Nigerians, politicians, political parties, security agencies, the election management body, INEC, and all stakeholders to ensure that Nigeria is placed first above regional and sectional claims.

The Committee also reminded Nigerians that the 2023 elections are more than elections, The elections are the opportunity to serve the country, defend Nigeria and to uphold her unity and progress.

The NPC then admonished Nigerians to avoid the spread of fake news, and uphold the principles of tolerance, respect, civility and decency in all public and private conversations and engagements about the election and progress of

Nigeria. The Committee felt concerned by the current pattern of public communication among political actors, their publicity agents, spokespersons and media consultants that amplified the potential for personal attacks, insults and incitements, relegating to the background, the civility and decency in public discourse and debate.

The Committee regretted the rise of fake news and misinformation that continues to pose a significant threat to the pattern of democracy in Nigeria, informing public perception, creating the platform for incitements and endangers the country's efforts at deepening the culture of democracy.

APC gubernatorial candidate unveils campaign council

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE gubernatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Plateau State, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, has unveiled his campaign council with Professor Sebastian S. Maimako, as the Director General.

The event which took place at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos, the Plateau State capital witnessed a mammoth crowd of party supporters from the seventeen Local Government Areas of the state.

The Campaign Council is to be Chaired by Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe,

the Gubernatorial Candidate with the State APC Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature, as the Deputy Chairman, while the position of Deputy Director General Operations and Administration went to Rt. Hon. Shehu Yipmong and Comrade Jibrin Bancir.

Other key campaign players include the Executive Chairman of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council, Hon. Ernest Da'a, as Deputy Director General Election Management with

Professor Shem Bindas, as the Campaign Council Secretary, while the remaining appointments into the respective Directorates shall be made in due course.

While unveiling the Campaign Council, the Gubernatorial Candidate, Dr. Nentawe Goshwe, said these structures were the drivers of his campaign ahead of the general election and that he was confident of the caliber of people carefully selected to sail the ship to victory.

He disclosed that the unveiling of his campaign council was to test the microphone that would be used on the grand flag off of his campaign and promised to set aside ten percent (10%) of the monthly allocation for youth empowerment because the huge employment deficit could not be addressed at once when elected.

Earlier, the State APC Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature, said they were going to embark on a door to door campaign to ensure that APC wins elections from the national to the state level, but warned party faithfuls who would want to use the APC funds and work for another party

FORMER PLATEAU GOVERNOR, CHIEF Joshua Chibi Dariye has promised to continue to work for the peace, unity and prosperity of the state.

He stated this when he paid a visit to government House, Ray field Jos, shortly after his arrival to Jos.

Dariye used the forum to express deep gratitude to Governor Simon Bako Lalong for the immense role he played to ensure his release from Prison.

The former Governor who was accompanied on the visit by his wife Valentina, family members, supporters and well wishers said he had officially come to register his deep gratitude to Plateau State Government for standing by him during his period of incarceration in Prison.

He said his return to Jos is prove of God's mercies upon him adding that the prayers offered by Plateau citizens saw him through.

He challenged the ruling party the All Progressives Congress (APC) to intensify efforts of uniting aggrieved members of the Party in the State.

Secretary to the State Government Professor Danladi Atu who received the former Governor on behalf of Governor Simon Bako Lalong

Dariye sues for peaceful coexistence

By PALANG KASMI

said the entire State is elated to have one of its illustrious sons back home.

While recalling the remarkable foundation laid by the Former Governor towards a strong and formidable State, he urged him to continue to wax stronger and and to relent in giving his wise counsel towards the growth of the state.

"We pray to God to bless

you. Our prayers are with you. You are a man of so many parts, and those parts are distributed in so many dimensions", Atu said.

SUNDAY STANDARD reports that the former Governor also took his thank you visit to other stakeholders in the State including Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) as well as the Palace of the Gbong Gwom and Chairman of the Plateau State Joint Traditional Council.



Dariye

Journalists eulogise deceased colleague

From GYANG PAM, Yola

PERSONALITIES who spoke Thursday at the farewell ceremony to deceased veteran Journalist Timawus Mathias eulogises his contributions to the Journalism profession.

In a valedictory speech organised by the Adamawa State Chapter of the Nigeria

Union of Journalists (NUJ) Chairman of the Council Ishaka Donald Dedan who says the deceased veteran will be immortalized.

In his speech as guest speaker, Professor Umar Pate Vice Chancellor Federal University Kashere in Gombe State said of Mathias, "Like all mortals with frailties, Timawus Mathias popularly called uncle Tim lived a glittering life with credible success and when his time came, he bowed in honour and took his eternal exit".

According to Professor Pate in Life, he was dutiful, thoughtful, insightful, faithful, prayerful, thankful and truthful.

"Thus writing on such a fellow can be a challenging task for someone like me", he adds. Professor Pate says more of uncle Tim as he is known had

exceeded at home and abroad as a star broadcaster of outstanding talent and phenomenal versatility.

Furthermore says Professor Pate, Chief Mathias remains a passionate broadcaster of integrity who believed in quality production, good taste and courageous and compassionate broadcasting.

"Through the media he contributed enormously to disseminating knowledge and to helping Nigerians to know and to understand each other and to informing the rest of the world about Nigeria, he was a multi-talented fellow who outpaced as a journalist, educator, guitarist, writer and an advocate", says the V.C.Timawus Mathias was a born broadcaster who joined the Radio Television Kaduna (RTK) after a short stint at the Radio Voice of the Gospel in the late 1960's and 70's. He attended primary and secondary schools in Numan and Yola and received his professional trainings from the BBC training school in London, Institute of Journalism in Budapest, Hungary and the Nigerian Television College Jos.

Also, this was in addition to dozen of short term capacity enhancement exercises and with dint of hard work and passionate professional competence, he rose through the ranks from Radio Television Kaduna through the NTA Network News department to become the General Manager of NTA Yola and the acting Managing Director NTA Zone 'E' in Maiduguri.

He retired in 1991 to establish his media business which proposed satisfactorily with significant interest in production, publishing, training, media entrepreneurship and consultancy services and events management among others.

Prominent at the occasion were the Secretary to the Adamawa State Government Alhaji Ahmed Bashir, the Head of Service Dr. Edgar Amos among many others.

PLSG releases itinerary for 62nd independence

By PALANG KASMI

PATEAU State Government has released the timetable for the 2022 Nigeria's 62nd Independence Day celebrations in the State.

The details of governments almost one-week line up of activities was presented in a statement signed by the State Commissioner for Information, Hon. Dan Manjang.

According to the statement, "The 62nd Independence is to be marked with fanfare, pomp and pageantry".

The statement read " The Executive Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong, has directed that this year's 62nd Independence be marked with fanfare, pomp and pageantry".

"In this light therefore, the following activities have been lined up to commemorate the day.

"Pre-Independence Prayer to be held on Sunday, 25th September, 2022 at the St. Peter's Cathedral, Anglican Communion, Bukuru

Diocese at 10.00 a.m".

"A Pre-Independence Muslim prayer to be held on Friday 30th September, 2022 at the Jos Central Mosque at 2.00 p.m".

"Parade by the Military, Police and selected para-military agencies, Primary, Secondary Schools and Voluntary organizations on Saturday 1st October, 2022 at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos at 8.00 a.m".

"There will be the 62nd Independence golf kitties and Novelty football match, the details of which will be made available in the course of the week".

The statement also indicated that the Governor will parley with a cross section of the media.

The Governor while praying for a successful celebration on behalf of himself, family and the people of Plateau State used the opportunity to felicitate with Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari, and all peace loving citizens and publics on this historic and memorable day.



Yilwatda

POLITICS

Wike hits Atiku, but gives hope to PDP

GOVERNOR Nyesom Wike of Rivers State has issued what looks like cheering news to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) family by assuring he was staying put in the party.

He made it clear he was staying put to fight. He also seemed to hit hard at the former Vice President and Presidential flag-bearer of the party, Atiku Abubakar, saying he was not like those who lost at the Eagles Square in 2014 and fled the PDP to the other party (All Progressives Congress, APC).

Wike spoke while addressing the stakeholders of the PDP in the Government House where he declared that he was not defecting anywhere but that he was rather staying to fight for inclusiveness, unity, peace and justice. He said he was rather interested in preserving the sanity of the party and would stay back.

Throwing pebbles at Atiku, Wike said he was a man of character, unlike those who he said could not keep their words but walked out of the party at the Eagle Square in Abuja in 2014.

"One thing I have always told people is, if anybody is thinking, doing anything to think that we will leave PDP, foul. We will do the fight in the party."

"Did they remain to fight inside the party? But we remained, they ran away. Now, there is a fight in the party, we will not run. We will fight it in this party. Those who run away from fight are weak people. We will not. So, everybody should know this is the state where we are, so that nobody tells you all kinds of stories."

Crux of the matter: On the crux of the troubles in the party, Wike insisted that the constitution of the party clearly stated that elective and party offices must be zoned which, should be respected.

He wondered why the former PDP BoT chairman would be pressurised to resign and the PDP national chairman excusing himself from keeping to doing what is right.

"You have taken presidential candidate, you have taken party chairman, you have also taken the D.G (director general) of the campaign. We are talking about party politics. Decisions are made by the presidential candidate, chairman of the party and the D.G of the campaign."

"They are telling you they told the chairman of the BOT to resign. So, you know there is a problem. You said he should go and resign. You can put pressure on him to resign when his tenure hasn't come to an end. But you cannot put pressure on the chairman to resign. You think at our level you will deceive us. You'll tell us stories."

Gov Wike said in 2015 the FG allegedly used the military to invade Rivers State, interfered with and even annulled elections, but was resisted.

The governor recalled he



Ayu

made sure the senatorial result for Rivers East was announced that delivered George Thompson Sekibo and that of Rivers West that produced Betty Apiafi.

Wike regretted that despite the risk taken to deliver them, the same people were now in Abuja allegedly plotting against him.

The Rivers State governor also clarified that he never promised anybody governorship ticket of the PDP despite the pressure some leaders mounted on him or attempts made to divide the State House of Assembly.

Wike said though he didn't clinch the PDP presidential ticket, he actually made a good account of himself at the primary.

The governor informed that by next week, Rivers State PDP campaign team will be unveiled and the campaign pattern adopted will be based on each local government peculiarity.

Vows that all PDP candidates will win

Governor Wike emphasised that all PDP candidates in the State will be returned elected by Rivers people who are satisfied with the performance of his administration.

"We will take all. We are taking all because Rivers people are happy with what we have done in this state. We have not only provided infrastructure, we have also defended the interest of Rivers State."

He explained that it took courage and firmness for him to protect the interest and assets of Rivers State without compromising it with politics.

Governor Wike explaining that besides securing a refund of money illegally deducted by the federal government over the Police Trust Fund, his administration recovered oil wells wrongly ceded to Imo State and is collecting the accruing revenue from the oil wells in disputed area between Rivers and Bayelsa States.

The governor stated that the federal government won't be able to use the army and the police in the 2023 election because Nigerians will vote for political parties on the basis of their performance.

Gov Wike cautioned party members who want to be

moles and work against the PDP because they were not given the ticket that they sought.

The governor urged party members to be steadfast because God is on their side, and since they have not known defeat, PDP cannot be defeated in 2023 general election in Rivers State.

Where you go, we go – PDP state chairman

In his response, State Chairman of the PDP, Desmond Akawor, said the party in the state has already passed a vote of confidence on Gov Wike for the way he has piloted the affairs of the State.

He commended the governor for the consistent delivery of projects, defending the interest of the State, and declared that they will continue to follow the leadership that he provides.

'I'm one of the best friends of Christians'

The presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Tinubu, has met with some Christian clerics under the aegis of Pentecostal Bishops Forum of Northern Nigeria.

The clerics, led by John Praise, the presiding bishop of Dominion Chapel International Church, met with Mr Tinubu in Abuja.

At the meeting, Mr Tinubu



Tinubu

The governor of Sokoto State, Aminu Tambuwal, has emerged as the acting chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF).

Mr Tambuwal was appointed the NGF chairman at the meeting in Abuja on Thursday, a statement by the Forum said. He will be in office till May next year when a new chairman will be elected.

He will replace Governor Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State whose tenure as governor ends on 16 October.

Until his appointment, the Sokoto Governor was the deputy chairman of the forum. He is also the chairman of the PDP Governors' Forum.

The statement reads, "The Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum and Governor of Ekiti State Dr John Kayode Fayemi, today at the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting, held at the Aso Rock Villa Abuja transferred power of the NGF to the Governor of Sokoto State, Rt Hon Aminu Waziri Tambuwal.

Tambuwal has served meritoriously and harmoniously as Vice Chairman of the Forum under Dr Fayemi in the last four years. Dr John Kayode Fayemi who was only a few weeks ago elected as the President of the Forum of Regional and State Governments in Saidia in the state of Casablanca in Morocco attended the NEC virtually from New York City, where he is currently attending the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

The Sokoto State Governor will be holding fort until May next year when a proper election is conducted among the governors.

Before making the announcement, the Ekiti State

Tambuwal emerges as NGF interim chairman



Tambuwal

Governor acknowledged the result driven output of the NEC and thanked his colleagues and other members of the council for their support, explaining that yes, we may be occasionally troublesome, coming from the Forum of Governors, and we do test your patience but you have never really expressed any frustration with all our truculent questions and the insistence that the federation must be a true federation."

The new President of the forum also did not forget to thank the Secretariat of the NEC and through the NEC thanked the President and Commander in Chief of the Country for taking the resolutions of the NEC seriously by implementing them.

In his response the Vice President Professor Yemi Osinbajo said the NGF

chairman had taken the wind out of their sail, because he was "meant to, on behalf of the NEC commend the Ekiti Governor and NGF Chairman's informed and patriotic services to the council in the last four years and that was enhanced by your chairmanship of the NGF, admitting that the NGF has ensured that we move to a true federation, not just in words but in deeds as well."

Professor Osinbajo prayed that Dr Fayemi's services both nationally and globally to development, and to all of the good which the nation deserves and the global community deserves will continue.

Dr Fayemi formally hands over the Chairmanship of the NGF to Rt Hon Amuinu Waziri Tambuwal on the October 16th.

added that he is one of the best friends of the Christian Community in Nigeria.

"How will Nigeria develop? How do we banish hunger, improve security and eliminate killings of one another? That is what we must take to the office, not our religion. When the shortlisted names came, I looked at their characters, their background and everything."

"Yes, somebody so brilliant, so committed, who had, during the crisis in Borno, protected Christians, my intention is clear, not for religiosity. My intention is to develop this country, to bring prosperity. I have better qualifications, a better track record and better vision than any of my mates."

"Why do we want to stay divided? I am standing before you that I am one of the best friends of the Christian community in this country. Let us develop intellectual inquisitiveness. To build an understanding. Which way Nigeria."

The decision of Mr Tinubu, a Muslim from the south, to tag Mr Shettima, a Muslim from the north, as his running mate is still generating backlash from some quarters in the country.

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) had strongly opposed it. During the unveiling of Mr Shettima as the APC vice presidential candidate in Abuja, CAN disowned the clerics that attended the event, calling them fake bishops.

Equally, some northern politicians in the APC who belong to the Christian faith, have vowed to defeat the Muslim/Muslim ticket.

On Tuesday, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara, asked Christians not to **waste their votes** on a Muslim/Muslim ticket.

Similarly on Wednesday, Babachir Lawal, a former secretary to the government of the federation, during an interview on Arise TV, said he will be **mobilising** supporters to defeat the Muslim/Muslim ticket.

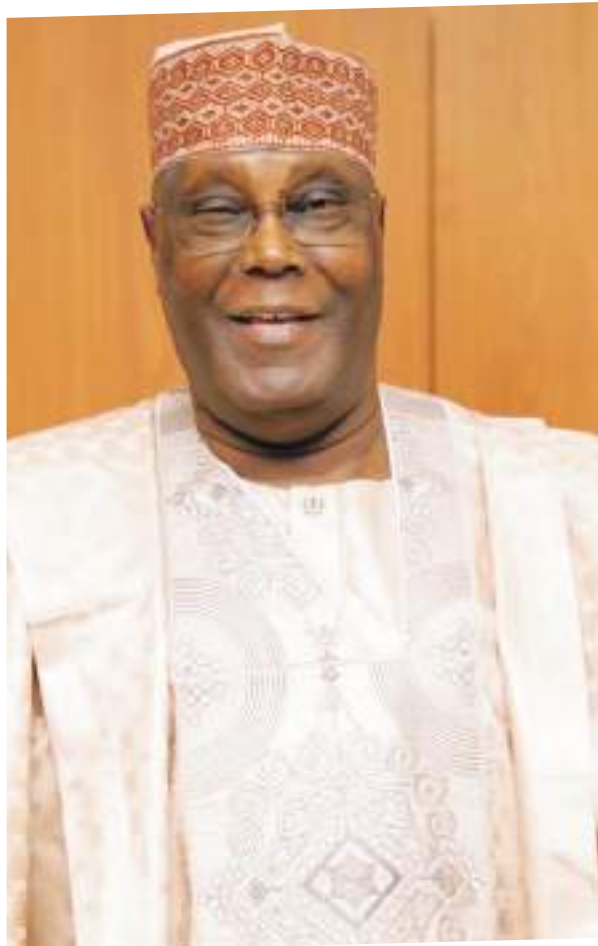
SUNDAY POLITICS

As PDP crisis deepens days to campaign kick-off

The crisis rocking the main opposition party, Peoples Democratic Party, took a turn for the worse on Wednesday as Governor Nyesom Wike's camp pulled out of the campaign council of Atiku Abubakar, the party's presidential candidate.



Ayu



Atiku



Wike

THE Rivers State governor and his camp explained why they pulled out of the party's campaign council, saying the party failed to resolve the issue of the party chairman's resignation first.

Wike, his Oyo State counterpart, Seyi Makinde; Bode George; and other stakeholders issued a statement, saying they resolved not to participate in the PDP presidential campaign until Iyorchia Ayu resigns as the national chairman of the party.

The statement signed by Wike's media aide, Kelvin Ebiri, said they emphasised that the publication of the Presidential Campaign Council list without the resolution of the debacle over the party chairman translated to "putting the cart before the horse."

The statement said the Wike camp rose from a crucial meeting in the early hours of Wednesday in Port Harcourt, quoting Makinde as saying they hoped that the powers that be within the PDP would listen to the voice of reason and do the needful.

The former PDP South-West national vice chairman, George, who read out the communiqué after the meeting, said they were concerned about the divisions in the party, and bemoaned the failure of the leadership to utilise the internal conflict resolution mechanisms to ensure inclusiveness of all and guarantee victory for the PDP.

It said: "The published presidential campaign council list translates to putting the cart before the horse. The pertinent issue before the party remains the resolution of the Ayu

leadership debacle, which is a departure from the spirit and letter of our constitution which undermines the unity of our great party.

"We, therefore, resolved that Senator Iyorchia Ayu resigns as the national chairman of the party for an acting chairman of Southern Nigeria extraction to emerge, and lead the party on the national campaign.

"Consequently, we resolved not to participate in the campaign council in whatever capacity until the resignation of Senator Iyorchia Ayu."

In the same vein, former Plateau State governor, Jonah Jang, said the description of Sokoto State Governor, Aminu Tambuwal, as the PDP presidential primary's hero by Ayu was antithetical to the principle of justice, fair play and equity on which the party was formed.

He said: "It is true that everything is being done for us to have internal democracy in the party. But, for the national chairman to go and embrace Tambuwal, calling him the hero of the convention, which means there was a private arrangement that was done with Tambuwal to shortchange other contestants, including Governor Wike. Here was a referee who now helped one of the sides to score a goal, and then blew the whistle that a goal had been scored.

"This is not what we formed the PDP to do for Nigerians, and therefore, we unequivocally ask that Ayu has to step down so that having gotten the presidential candidate from the northern part of the country through his assistance, he should as well now step down so that a national

chairman can move to the south, and the party can be united for the campaign towards 2023."

Jang said that Wike and others' call for Ayu to resign was aimed at addressing the structural imbalance in the party's hierarchy.

On his part, Jerry Gana, former minister of information, said if PDP cannot restructure itself, it cannot restructure Nigeria. Therefore, this call for the chairman to step down or resign is not because any of us is aggrieved, but because we believe it is important to ensure a fair structure, a just structure, a principled structure, a constitutional structure for the party.

Gana said they would remain committed members of PDP, but would continue to insist that the right things be done. "We remain PDP, but we want things done justly, fairly, equitably."

Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo, former Gombe State governor, said they would work for the party to the extent that fairness, equity and justice were ensured in the party.

Other members at the meeting include Ayo Fayose, Olusegun Mimiko, Donald Duke, former governors of Ekiti, Ondo and Cross River; Dan Orbih, PDP South-South national vice chairman; and Mohammed Adoke, former Attorney General of the Federation.

Reacting to the development in a statement he personally signed, Atiku insisted that Ayu would not resign.

He expressed surprise over the threat by the Wike group to pull out of the party's campaign

council.

Atiku said the council was "set up by our party to judiciously plan and prosecute the general elections set to hold in February and March 2023".

He said: "As to the calls for the removal of Ayu from office, however, I will state that, as a committed democrat and firm believer in the rule of law and democratic tenets, and our party being one set up, organised and regulated by law and our constitution, it is my absolute belief that everything that we do in our party must be done in accordance with, and conformity to, the law and our constitution. If Ayu is to be removed from office, it must be done in accordance with the laws that set out the basis for such removal."

The PDP flag-bearer recalled how "the very body that is empowered by law to initiate this removal from office has already passed a vote of confidence in him (Ayu)".

Atiku, who said the people that addressed the press must have their reasons for withdrawing from the Presidential Campaign Council added "I will not speculate as to what those reasons may be.

He said: "Personally, I am quite surprised with this withdrawal because, as I have been informed by officials of our party, apart from the Rivers State chapter of the PDP, all the remaining states of the federation submitted names of people who they wanted included in the Presidential Campaign Council.

"On the calls for the resignation or removal from office of our national chairman, however, I must reiterate what I have said

severally in public and in private; the decision for Iyorchia Ayu to resign from office is personal to Ayu and, neither I nor anyone else can make that decision for him.

Atiku, while calling on the supporters of the party not to abandon the party, reminded them that the nation was facing challenges which the PDP was out to address.

The former vice-president said: "Our nation is currently in the throes of a multidimensional crisis encompassing insecurity, economic meltdown, disunity and mutual mistrust and educational dislocations, to mention a few.

"I have a plan to address these issues and I have, graciously, been given the ticket to lead our great party in next year's presidential elections, with the singular mandate to come and lead the efforts to cure these ills. It is in this light that I have reached out to every single member of our great party to join me in the massive undertaking required to reset the ship of state, and help rebuild our country.

"Every single person who loves this country, as I do, is needed for the arduous tasks that face us ahead as a nation, and this includes every member of the PDP. And it is my fervent hope and prayer that every man and woman of goodwill will join hands with us to help rebuild and reposition our beloved country.

"In this light, therefore, I will urge those members of our party that have stated their resolve to withdraw from the Presidential Campaign Council to have a rethink, retrace their steps, and join us in these efforts."

SUNDAY PEOPLE

DARIYE RETURNS HOME

Former Plateau State Governor, Sen. Joshua Chibi Dariye on Wednesday returned to Jos and paid a call at the Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos where the Senator was received by Governor Lalong through the Secretary to Government of the State, Prof. Danladi Atu



Representative of Governor Lalong, Prof. Atu (left) with Chief Dariye at Government House



Chief JC Dariye (left) with Chris Tapse, Protocol Officer to the SGS



Sen. Joshua Chibi Dariye delivering his message



Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye with his wife, Chief (Mrs.) Valentina during the visit at Government House



Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (left) looks on as Sen. Dariye signs the register



Chief Joshua Dariye, Mrs. Valentina and Prof. Danladi Abok Atu in a photograph after the visit



Governor Lalong's representative, Danladi Atu, responding to the message by the former Governor, Joshua Dariye



Sen. Joshua Chibi Dariye, SGS, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu with other well-wishers in a group photograph

AS the Plateau State House of Assembly Committees on Finance and that of Labour and Security conduct public hearing on the 'Bill for a Law to Establish a Contributory Pension Scheme for Employees in the Public Sector of Plateau State and for Other Matters Connected, 2021', one thing that resonated during the exercise is the fact that the bill has still not gained much acceptability. This is the second time that the bill is being considered at the state assembly. Recall that the eighth assembly attempted to conduct a public hearing on the bill but it was not conclusive.

For as long as one can remember, retirees in the state have been grappling with the issues of pension, gratuity and other accrued benefits. The establishment of the Contributory Pension Scheme was meant to address these issues but why exactly is it not doing so? The Contributory Pension Scheme was established under the Pension Reform Act of 2004 which was later repealed and replaced in 2014, with the aim of providing a sustainable system of payment for retirees and pensioners in the country. In a nutshell, the Pension Reform Act 2014 basically seeks to ensure that everyone who has worked in the public or private sector receives their retirement benefits as and when due.

Having said that, the establishment of the contributory pension scheme is no different in the state. It is established for every employed in the public service of the state and local governments for the payment of retirement benefits of employees. Therefore, the main objectives of the scheme shall be to establish a uniform set of rules, regulations and standards as may be prescribed for the administration and payment of retirement benefits in the public service of the state and local government councils. Secondly, it is to make provision for the smooth operation of the scheme.

Thirdly, it is to ensure that every person who has worked in either the public service or local government in the state receives his retirement benefits as at when due. Lastly, is to assist improvident individuals by ensuring that they save in order to cater for their livelihood during their old age. However, for the proposed bill to be passed into law, it has to undergo certain legislative process one of which is the public hearing stage. A public hearing is an exercise that affords stakeholders, interest groups and members of the public the opportunity of airing their views while making contributions and inputs on the bill. It is also required that those making presentations will either endorse, reject or add to the proposed bill. For this particular bill, the turnout was large, indicating the weighty nature and importance attached.

Various stakeholders across the state public service and local governments, including the state government owned tertiary institutions were represented. In a presentation made by the Secretary, Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN) Plateau State chapter, Comrade Mafeng D. Bot, he observed that while they cannot deny the rich

content and structure of the document, the body believes that if well managed, it has the potential of absolving corrupt practices in the system. However, a problem was noticed in the bill's practicability which creates a likelihood of doubt, going by past experiences. Another observation made is on the general unacceptability of the bill which attracts resistance from the state public servants, reason of course informed by some uncertainties.

PASAN in its recommendations agreed that the implementation of the bill should be made



Stakeholders stance on contributory pension scheme bill



Sanda

voluntary and not compulsory, and the clause was refracted to read: "The provisions of this bill shall apply to any employment in the public service of the State and Local Government Councils of the state who voluntarily choose to be part of the Scheme". That clause 9 add a new sub-clause (3) immediately after sub-clause (2) to read "Any employment or organisation in the State and the Local Government Councils in the state who is not desirous of participating". While clause 14 correction in line 9, replaces clause 14 with clause 13.

In their submission, the Joint Union of Plateau State Owned Tertiary Institutions (JUPTI), presented by the Chairman, Comrade Sunoe P. Longbaam while appreciating the twin Committees on Finance, and that of Labour and Security for coming up with the proposed bill described it as a welcome development. He however, said there are grey areas which are a source of concern. For example, attention was drawn to the fact that this same bill as amended is currently before the National Assembly for further amendment in order to exempt the Nigeria Police Force and to increase the lumpsum withdrawal to a maximum of seventy five percent which shows that the bill is not worker friendly.

In addition, it was observed that other colleagues at the federal level who have been on the scheme are agitating to opt out



Na'anlong



Gyendeng

from the National Pension Scheme due to certain irregularities and lack of transparency. In the light of this and other issues raised, JUPTI is recommending that tertiary institutions be exempted from the new scheme while requesting that their existing scheme be sustained. Also, that its current pension and gratuity scheme be strengthened, using

a legislative framework that will make it more effective in the face of current realities.

Another observation made is that the institutions be allowed to manage the funds in a manner that would guarantee payment of terminal benefits as and when due. And where it has become very necessary to make some amendments in the existing scheme to accommodate any

current realities in terms of funding, that all stakeholders be carried along by way of interaction and enlightenment. The union also stated its concerns on the implication of the bill based on certain peculiarities encountered in the past. It noted that the imposition of certain government policies has not been favourable, citing the case of Plateau State Contributory Health Insurance Scheme (PLASCHEMA) as example.

Presentations were received from the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Plateau State chapter made by the Chairman Mr. Eugene Manji, the state chapter of the Trade Union Congress (TUC), State and Local Government Civil Service Commissions, Coalition of Civil Societies in the state and other stakeholders. Some of the things to take away from the public hearing exercise and resolutions arrived at include the fact that there are certain peculiarities and grey areas to be holistically looked into. Secondly, that the state public servants would rather stick with the old pension scheme and last but not the least, if the new scheme must be adopted, it should be voluntary and not made compulsory. From all indications, a lot of advocacy and enlightenment still needs to be done on the part of the lawmakers concerning this bill.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Ngige



Wabba

FG plans salary increase: For real?

Workers in the Nigerian public service may soon have a sigh of relief that is, if the assurance by the Labour and Employment Minister Chris Ngige on the plan by the Federal Government to increase salaries for its workforce can be taken to the bank. KENNETH DARENG writes.

SENATOR Ngige, made the disclosure at the public presentation of a compendium of the Nigeria Labour Congress [NLC] at 40 titled; "Contemporary history of working class struggles" held recently in Abuja, said the pay raise is likely for workers in the Public service to cushion the effect of the global economic downturn.

He also admitted that inflation has eroded the purchasing power of workers who are on N30,000 minimum monthly wage. Noting further that; "The inflation is worldwide. We shall adjust the minimum wage in conformity with what is happening and much more importantly, the 2019 Minimum wage Act has a new clause for review."

Ngige added, "That adjustment has started with the Academic Staff Union of Nigerian Universities [ASUU]

because the stage where they are with their primary employers, the Federal Ministry of Education, there is Collective Bargaining Agreement [CBA].

SUNDAY STANDARD in a chat with a civil servant in one of the Plateau state Government Ministries who prefers to remain under anonymity said, "I think this is quite suspicious for the led Government that has barely less than seven months to go is now contemplating salary increase for workers."

"Even though it is long overdue considering the present hardship workers are going through. My worry is, we had a situation in the past where similar pronouncements were made by the Federal Government only for the states to start foot dragging and again some may even begin to complain of lack of funds to

pay. "As we speak, how many states are up to date in monthly payment of salaries not to talk of the novel idea of adjustments here and there. All I know is that the time is quite short for this administration to implement such increase within its lifespan except for political exigencies."

Besides, there are other concerns that Government's consideration for the minimum wage review may be a hoax as it may be an exercise in futility because many states are currently not able to pay the existing N30,000 minimum wage, while some workers told **SUNDAY STANDARD** that, "what use or benefit will that serve if at the end the states cannot afford to pay?" they asked.

In his swift reaction on the issue, Trade Union Congress

[TUC] President Festus Osifo noted that Nigerian workers have been subjugated and oppressed by the ruling class. He said, the N30,000 minimum wage was no longer feasible in the current economic circumstances, stressing that workers' transportation fare to work is in excess of their take home pay.

According to Osifo, "The value of the N30,000 minimum wage has been eroded and can no longer take workers to work again."

"The Labour Movement in the country is committed to the protection of the interest of workers and if not for the struggle of the founding fathers of the movement, the story would have been different today. Therefore, the Federal Government must recognize the power of agreement at all times."

Meanwhile, former NLC President Adams Oshiomhole has advised Labour Leaders to interrogate those aspiring for political positions on their manifesto on the economy. He carpeted state Governors who have failed to implement the N30,000 minimum wage because of lack of funds.

He said, "The other day I saw some councils' chairmen in a state where the N30,000 minimum wage was not being implemented praising these governors, even giving them awards. Where is the conscience?"

"At the Governors' Forum when we were debating the whole idea of whether N18,000 was reasonable, or we should deregulate minimum wage and let every state pay according to its ability, we had a Labour Party Governor then who said minimum wage should be abolished. Nothing can be more humiliating to you as workers than somebody who is elected on your platform taking a position that is completely in conflict with what you stand for."

"We should have well paid people and more prosperous people. We don't just want to say that we have the largest GDP in Africa. We want to be able to say that our people are better off than people in other African countries. If not, then there is crisis of description and we cannot be progressive."

"If we post two contradictory indexes, the human index is going down and then, the economy index is going up, something is going wrong. I want you to know that what makes us different is that if you are grounded on those core values of labour, nothing in life will make you change." Oshiomhole said.

However, as the Federal Government plans salary increase, some people have argued that it is not the salary that matters but the value of the take home pay. Mathias Maigari, a retired civil servant

Inflation has eroded the purchasing power of workers who are on N30,000 minimum monthly wage. "The inflation is worldwide. We shall adjust the minimum wage in conformity with what is happening and much more importantly, the 2019 Minimum wage Act has a new clause for review."

Continued on page 31

NEWS

Salem varsity graduates 4,000 students since inception

SALEM University, Lokoja, has so far graduated no fewer than 4,000 students since its inception in 2007. Prof. Alewo Johnson-Akubo, the university's Vice-Chancellor, disclosed this in Lokoja in an interview with newsmen at the weekend. He described Salem University as a "God-inspired vision," which targets the transformation of the youths he called "change agents."

According to him, graduates of the institution create positive global impact immediately after they pass out.

Johnson-Akubo said: "We have had 12 sets of graduation with all our programmes in the six colleges accredited by the National Universities

From **AMEDU JOSEPH**

Commission (NUC) as the institution operates collegial system and not faculty system.

"The six colleges are College of Management and Social Sciences, College of Natural Sciences, College of Information and Communication Technology, College of Humanities, College of Education and College of Law, as well as the Postgraduate School."

"Interestingly, we have met the vision of the university in very concrete terms due to the testimonies we have heard about our graduates even at NYSC orientation camps and their places of primary assignments, standing out amongst others." He explained that the

students come into the university as raw materials, but in four years' time, the institution returns them to their parents/guardians as already processed and finished products called "change agents."

According to him, they go out into the world not looking for jobs, but to be self-employed and be employers of labour, creating global impact.

"This is because when the students come into Salem University, we don't just give them academic knowledge, but take care of their spiritual needs to be found worthy in character and in learning."

"In fact, Salem University has a vision of raising global leaders that are spiritually and mentally alert and intellectually developed to

change their World," he said.

On the lingering ASUU strike, he warned against the danger "where at the end, our universities will be deserted by quality lecturers, thereby making it difficult to have natural replacements for such lecturers."

"The Federal Government and ASUU must quickly end this strike in the interest of the nation's economic growth and development, considering its consequences."

He expressed worry that there could probably be massive movement of lecturers in droves immediately after the strike was called off, which would not augur well for the Nigerian education sector.

'PLSG outlines activities marking Nigeria's 62nd independence'

THE Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG, has directed that the 62nd Nigeria's Independence would be marked with fanfare, pomp and pageantry and outlined the following activities to commemorate the day.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Honourable Dan Manjang, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the state capital.

According to the statement, activities would start with Pre-Independence Prayer to be held on Sunday, 25th September, 2022 at the St. Peter's Cathedral, Anglican Communion, Bukuru Diocese at 10.00am and Pre-Independence Muslim prayer to be held on Friday 30th September, 2022 at the Jos

By **EZEKIEL DONTINNA,**

Central Mosque respectively.

On the main Independence day, Saturday October 1, 2022 at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos at 8:00am, there would be parade by the military, Police and selected para-military agencies, Primary and secondary schools as well as voluntary organizations

However, the Governor has also billed to parley with a cross section of the media in the state. 62nd Independence golf kitties and novelty football match details, date and time would be made available in the course of the week.

Meanwhile, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG on behalf of himself, family and the people of Plateau State used this opportunity to felicitate with His Excellency, Muhammadu

Buhari, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and

indeed all peace loving citizens and public on this historic and memorable day.



Lalong

'Review laws on deployment of security to VIPs'

SOME women groups have called for a review of legal administrative parameters used for deployment of force personnel to Very Important Personalities (VIPs) to avert assault, sexual abuse and other inhumane treatment meted on them.

These groups made the call at a joint press conference on Friday in Abuja over the alleged recent assault and human right abuse of Inspector Teju Moses by Prof. Zainab Abiola, a legal Practitioner and human rights activist.

Prof. Joy Ezeilo, Founder, Women Aid Collective (WACOL) described the incident as barbaric and inhumane, calling for thorough investigation to establish the culpability of the suspects and prosecution.

Ezeilo decried the plights of security forces attached to VIPs, who are often abused physically, psychologically and used in manners inconsistent with their line of official duty.

"The fall out of the instant case calls to mind the need to review the legal and administrative parameters under which the force personnel, particularly the female gender amongst them are deployed to VIPs.

"It also underscores the need for psycho socio assessment and validation to be carried out on these VIPs before police personnel will be attached to them."

"This is to ascertain whether the VIPs have the mental, psychological, social and emotional wellbeing to accommodate and work with these police personnel," she said.

She also called for urgent review of the working and posting conditions of the police service personnel, especially the female police officers attached to VIPs remain paramount in the circumstances.

Also, Mrs Ene Obi, Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria commended the Inspector General of Police for acting promptly in responding to right violations and arrest of the suspects.

"This will serve as a deterrent to all those abusing the rights of both male and female officers attached to them, that the eyes of the law are very active, and justice will be served," she said.

Obi, however, called on the police to review the welfare and roles of the orderlies and

officers assigned on special duties as well as other police officers to avert future occurrences.

She also advocated a panel to conduct a survey or assessment on how officers assigned to private citizens were treated and ensure the Nigerian Police Force support the development and implementation of workplace policy to address GBV.

"The Nigerian Security Officers are toiling day and night to protect the citizenry and it is time to protect them too," she said.

On her part, Ms Chibuzo Nwosu, Chairperson, International Federation of Women Lawyers, FIDA, Abuja Branch, said the association cannot prosecute, but would monitor the prosecution and ensure justice is served.

Meanwhile, Mr Emmanuel Ikule, Network of Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN), Foundation said cases of abuse meted on orderlies and special duty officers were recurring, calling for immediate action to forestall it.

"The police should not just look at this case alone, but seize the opportunity to look at other similar ones that have

been reported and take action to stop such," he said.

Mrs Moji Makanjola, Executive Director, International Society of Media and Public Health (ICSMPH) called for prosecution and justice to prevail in cases of abuses, irrespective of the highly placed position of the suspects.

Makanjola, said "our health institutions were overburdened by such preventable cases."

NAN reports that Abiola was alleged to have assaulted her police orderly, Insp Teju Moses on Tuesday at her residence in Abuja following refusal to carry out menial and domestic chores at her residence.

The trending and viral audio clip available all over the social media showed the police orderly bleeding profusely on her face.

It was later reported that the suspect has been arrested together with her housemaid, Rebecca Enechido, while certain domestic servant and cohorts in commission of the alleged unlawful act remain at large. (NAN)



Queen Elizabeth II laid to rest

Britain's longest reigning monarch, has been buried in the King George VI Memorial Chapel in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in a small private ceremony attended by family.

Earlier on Monday, 2,000 guests including Heads of State gathered in Westminster Abbey for her funeral.

The coffin was then taken to Wellington Arch in a procession featuring members of the armed forces and their bands. The Queen's children, including King Charles III followed behind the coffin on its journey after it left the abbey.

Former Governor Dariye is back in Jos, after release

Dariye, who was granted presidential pardon along with former governor of Taraba State Jolly Nyame and some others arrived at the Yakubu Gowon Airport Jos, on Wednesday in the midst of a welcoming large crowd. From the airport, he visited Plateau Governor, Simon Lalong, religious and traditional leaders to thank them for the roles they played leading to his pardon.

ASUU rejects court order

The striking Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has vowed to appeal order by the National Industrial Court on Wednesday for them to resume work immediately.

The union said it had started assembling its lawyers to file an appeal. ASUU Chairman, Lagos Zone, Adelaja Odukoya, in a statement, said: "Our comrade president, Comrade Victor Osodeke, has urged members of our great union to remain calm as there's no cause for alarm on the back to work order delivered."

"Our lawyer is filing an appeal and stay of execution of the judgment. Members should remain resolute and strong. United people can never be defeated. Solidarity without compromise," Odukoya said.

Ariwoola confirmed CJN

The Senate on Wednesday confirmed Justice Olukayode Ariwoola as Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN). Ariwoola was confirmed after responding to questions from lawmakers on the floor of the Senate.

He had been acting as the CJN following the resignation of his predecessor, Justice Tanko Muhammad. Justice Muhammad had, on June 27, resigned on health grounds barely two weeks after 14 justices of the Supreme Court, in a widely circulated memo, accused him of neglecting their welfare, not carrying them along in managing the affairs of the court, the deteriorating condition of services generally, and the state of the litigation department.

Muhammad has since denied the allegations and condemned taking the issues to the public.

FG: plans to review workers salary

Federal Government has said it would soon embark on the readjustment of salaries and allowances of civil servants to bring it in line with economic realities in the country.

Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, disclosed this on Monday, in Abuja, while addressing members of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) at a public presentation of a publication titled, "Contemporary History of Working Class Struggles". Ngige stated that the increment in the minimum wage was necessary due to the current global inflation that has impacted on citizens' purchasing power.

President Muhammadu Buhari, in 2019, signed Minimum Wage Act into law. However, many states, according to labour leaders, are yet to implement the law of paying their respective workers N30,000.

Ngige said, "The inflation is worldwide. We shall adjust the minimum wage in conformity with what is happening."

Buhari at UNGA

President Muhammadu Buhari on Wednesday said he would like to leave a legacy of free, fair, transparent and credible elections for Nigeria.

He said this in his farewell speech to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, United States.

Buhari told the 77th session that next year, there would be a new face speaking for Nigeria from the podium of the Assembly Hall.

He said: "we believe in the sanctity of constitutional term limits and we've steadfastly adhered to it in Nigeria. "We've seen the corrosive impact on values when leaders elsewhere seek to change the rules to stay on in power."

"Indeed, we're now preparing for general elections in Nigeria next February."

"We've invested heavily to strengthen our framework for free and fair elections."

"As president, I've set the goal that one of the enduring legacies I'd like to leave is to entrench a process of free, fair and transparent and credible elections through which Nigerians elect leaders of their choice. "The wheels of democracy turn slowly."

Compiled by **HOSEA NYAMLONG**

SUNDAY FEATURE

ASUU strike: Way forward for Nigerian students

The ongoing industrial action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has undeniably affected many things positively and negatively, especially the Nigerian students. Since its commencement on February 14, it has led to the shutdown of most public universities in Nigeria, caused an unwanted break in academic activities, and left most students clueless about what to do next with little or no hope of resumption. This has been on for over seven months now. Samuel Sodunke writes.

AMONG the numerous reasons for the strike, the unfulfilled promises by the Federal Government have been the bane of the strike, which has also broken the trust system ASUU has in them. Also, the refusal of the Federal Government to pay the six-month salaries of the lecturers' union has been adding more passion to the unyielding spirits of the union recently.

As one of these 'Nigerian students' who have been victimised by the industrial action, I would agree more that while some of us have found the strike interesting and helpful, most of us have also found it depressing, hard to cope with, and uninteresting. With the ample time the strike has afforded us in the last seven months, some of us have been able to maximise the time to acquire skills, network, make money, and intern.

On the contrary, some students have not been able to do the same as a result of their circumstances, low level of exposure, fear of resumption, and so on. For example, some of us have missed out on opportunities, particularly scholarships because the strike has hindered us from obtaining the required essentials such as our results.

It saddens my heart to know that some of us that are final-year law students in public universities will not be mobilised for the Nigerian Law School in 2022, mainly because of this ongoing strike. The affected students would have to wait till 2023 after spending not less than five years in the universities. While their



Osodeke

counterparts from the private institutions would be accepted into the Law School, they would be at home at the mercies of either ASUU or the Federal Government.

Unfortunately, with the recent way the court has been adjourning the case between the Federal Government and ASUU (although the court ruled on Wednesday that ASUU should call off the strike), our situation could worsen as the reopening of public universities is far-fetched this year.

Those of us who can still afford to hope for resumption this year

do so to the glory of the Lord. But as far as I can think of this annoying situation, to be frank, the hope for resumption this year is implausible. It would take divine intervention for the two parties to reach an agreement that would birth resumption, this year. I hope that divine intervention would be the court.

Waiting until 2023 will be tiring if the two parties do not reach a consensus. I cannot imagine how staying at home would be till 2023, or till another administration takes over from the current administration in May 2023, when staying at

home for over seven months without a way forward has already been depressing for us.

It is saddening to think about. Hopefully, with the way things are going between the Federal Government and ASUU in court, the National Association of Nigerian Students' protests, and the intervention of the House of Representatives, the public universities will be reopened as soon as possible.

But what if resumption will not take place this year? What if there would be no divine intervention? What if the court keeps adjourning? What if Federal Government refuses to pay the salaries of ASUU?

What if we would have to wait even longer? In the meantime, what is the way forward for us when the resumption still tarries? When the two parties do not reach a consensus on their differences, what should we do? I am not a pessimist, and I want to resume more than anything as a student.

As a student, I have thought about the foregoing questions many times. The thought of them alone weighs me down. However, I have been able to come up with some way forward.

Although there are different definitions of 'entrepreneur,' the most common phrase used by scholars has been 'risk taker.' As Nigerian students, we must become risk-takers. We must be willing to take risks no matter our circumstances. Most of us have missed out on opportunities because of the fear of resumption. That should end now.

By also becoming an entrepreneur, we have to develop ideas that would turn into a business, providing

solutions to problems. In this way, we will become our own bosses.

There are a lot of skills to be learned nowadays, but I would suggest that we leverage more on high digital skills because the world has gone digital. Most of the digital skills are available online for free: copywriting, coding, graphics design, content creation, content marketing, social media management, UI/UX design, video editing, virtual assistant, and so on.

We can use this period to acquire the aforementioned skills that will make us self-reliant and independent. Most of us have seen the opportunities to register for these skills, but we have overlooked them, expecting resumption. It is important for us to know that the skills we would acquire today would not only be useful now, but would also be useful when we eventually graduate. As a matter of fact, when we become experts in them, we would earn passive incomes and also improve our growth.

Having only good grades or degrees cannot afford us a job in this 21st Century. Most organisations now value experience over grades and degrees. So, applying for internship opportunities would help us greatly to explore different career paths that would give us work experiences, which we would later need in the labour market.

Although most of the internship opportunities might be without pay, it would still be helpful to give us the platform to train and provide us with work experiences useful for our curriculum vitae (CVs), even before graduating.

Contrary to popular belief, internship opportunities are open for both students and graduates.

Taking online courses from credible platforms such as Udemy, Google, Udacity, Alison, Coursera, LinkedIn Learning, and so on is also a way forward for us. Some of the courses these platforms provide are free, while some are paid. These platforms would offer us certificates, which we can include in our CVs.

Online courses offer flexibility. We can choose to enrol for them at any time, and we can enrol for them anywhere as long as we have the needed materials such as our phones, laptops, etc. to access the courses online. So, even if ASUU eventually put an end to the strike, their decision would not affect our enrolment for online courses.

Sodunke, a Nigerian student, writes from Lagos.



SUNDAY FEATURE

Juice diet for perfect health

Every therapy that has no faith in the efficacy of medicine has conceded the importance of food for a healthy life style as it has been found that the diet of raw food juice can help human beings. Writes, Adebayo Esther

SOME of the eminent experts of modern medicine now lay emphasis on food-therapy. It has been reliably established that the use of improper food is perhaps the root cause of every disease. Raw foods such as vegetables and fruits are better for health than cooked, fried food or food prepared in any other way compared to milk, juices of grapes carrots, strawberries and raspberries are more effective for health and nourishment.

Vegetables and fruits juice help to cure diseases that cannot be cured by modern medicine and various therapies.

Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that there are yet many doctors and patients who show their reluctance to the above facts.

Man by nature now recognized the right direction of cultivating the attitude of the body and the mind in maintaining health by using natural foods and juices which mankind will find as a source of real hope and joy in this new trend.

It is now imperative for all to choose juice-diet or juice therapy in place of modern medicines because toxic elements contained in these medicines can be harmful to the body and very often they prolong illness instead of curing it. We all desire happiness, peace and prosperity, but the basic condition of achieving them is good health. How many of us observe the basic rules of physical and mental health and take proper food and follow these good habit?.

The best diet is that which maintains our health in a natural way, nourishing the limbs and the organs of the body, makes them active and supplies whatever is deficient in the body.

Sanripened fruits and raw food are considered more beneficial to health than canned fruits and sweet biscuits, bread, pickles and sweets etc, because minerals and enzymes can be obtained only from fresh vegetables, fruits and natural food are minerals contained in food-grains, vegetables and fruits, sugar, salt and delicious condiments. When added, makes the food indigestible and without nutrients.

Beside, diets with improper combinations such as fruits salad, rice-pudding with pulses, milk with onions and garlic impair our health.

The number and varieties of items of eatables and drinks are multiplying day by day, more over as we become gluttonous at late night parties.

Today's life is that of haste, puzzle and bustle with the possibility of tension under this, we can now get use to taking refreshments every now and then



throughout the day. The irregular timing of eating, drinking, sleeping and walking disarrange the excretory function of the body.

This is the reason why constipation, insomnia body ache and headache are the common complaints of today. The use of intoxicating substances like tea, coffee tobacco, bhang, ganja (hemp) etc is also the cause of the accumulation of toxins and other harmful elements in the body. The trend of adding colour, taste and flavor of food and the various processes through which it passes destroys its life giving nutrients.

And look at manufactures, after food is processed, synthetic vitamins are added to make it nutritious But all these additives and processed foods are vitality.

Sugar, can be a sweet poison whereby modern therapeutic use of it for the purpose of maintaining health should be avoided while aloe vera and naturopathy can be recommended as a replacement for sugar diet. Harmless substances like honey and fruits should be substituted for sugar.

Jiggery, is produced from pure juice while white sugar is also produced from sugar-cane-juice through modern processes. Considering their nutritious, sugar-cane-juice is more beneficial to health than jiggery, but white sugar has

no role as a nutrient.

Part of the human system has a combination of alkaline and acidic substances. Cholesterol when accumulated in the inner surface of the arteries consequently becomes narrow and hard. The heart has to work vigorously to push blood into such narrow arteries. Consequently the heart become exhausted and weak, sometimes it fails. Thus, the excessive use of sugar has adverse effects on health. Not only that, it interrupts smooth function of the body and the mind and hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) leads to various diseases, which is the reckless use of sugar that leads to margarines, by dieticians. All of us wish to live healthy and happy life free from all

amount of cholesterol in the blood. Cholesterol when accumulated in the inner surface of the arteries consequently becomes narrow and hard. The heart has to work vigorously to push blood into such narrow arteries. Consequently the heart become exhausted and weak, sometimes it fails. Thus, the excessive use of sugar has adverse effects on health. Not only that, it interrupts smooth function of the body and the mind and hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) leads to various diseases, which is the reckless use of sugar that leads to margarines, by dieticians. All of us wish to live healthy and happy life free from all

diseases, but very few of us make the right choices in this direction. It is a pity that man, the most intelligent and clever of all living being is unable to check the risk involved on health issues. This is because the life of modern man is far removed from nature. We do not realize that health, life is possible only by following the rules of nature. Life is nature's gift to us and we can make the most of it only by reverting to Mother Nature.

Nature has provided variety of nutrients in our natural form of diet, we go for hot spicy foods prepared as per various recipes given out by modern books on cookery, little realizing that they cater to our tastes rather than to our dietary needs.

No wonder, there is need to go for more medicines and drugs to save ourselves from the harmful effects of such in natural foods. It is really deplorable that not only the common man but also that of medicine and dieticians have remained in different to food on which our whole existence life, and wellbeing depend. It is high time we pay attention to our food and cultivate proper food habits to prevent ill health, since prevention is better than cure.

It has been found that the diet of raw food, juice can help us remain healthy. Juice diet, can cure us of chronic diseases and keep our mind and body healthy. It is worthy to note that of late our awareness of the importance of Juices in our diet has been increasing and that having realized the food value of juices more and more people are taking juices in their diet. People should endeavour to maintain the habit of adding juice to individual homes and locality where we find ourselves. **Adebayo Eseh M. is of the National mesuem.**

"Man by nature now recognized the right direction of cultivating the attitude of the body and the mind in maintaining health by using natural food and juices which mankind will find as a source of real hope and joy in this new trend. It is now imperative for all to choose juice-diet or juice therapy in place of modern medicines because toxic elements contained in these medicines can be harmful to the body and very often they prolong illness instead of curing it. We all desire happiness, peace and prosperity, but the basic condition of achieving them is good health. How many of us observe the basic rules of physical and mental health and take proper food and follow these good habits."

LAST week we started a discussion on the differences between politics and Governance and today we continue.

We saw the tools that governance uses in justifying tax-payers money and curbing corruption. Tools such as strategic planning, monetary and evaluation, data-based decision making and performance-based budgeting. This stands in total contrast to political tools such as rallies, political promises, lobbying, horse trading, which have nothing to do with the welfare of society but the pocket of the politician. The following Excerpt from the International Bureau of education throws more light on our subject matter:

Governance has been defined to refer to structures and processes that are designed to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment, and broad-based participation. Governance also represents the norms, values and rules of the game through which public affairs are managed in a manner that is transparent, participatory, inclusive and responsive. Governance therefore can be subtle and may not be easily observable. In a broad sense, governance is about the culture and institutional environment in which citizens and stakeholders interact among themselves and participate in public affairs. It is more than the organs of the government.

International agencies such as UNDP, the World Bank, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and others define governance as the exercise of authority or power in order to manage a country's economic, political and administrative affairs. The 2009 Global Monitoring Report sees governance as 'power relationships,' 'formal and informal processes of formulating policies and allocating resources,' 'processes of decision-making' and 'mechanisms for holding governments accountable.'

Often there is a tendency to equate governance with management, the latter primarily referring to the planning, implementation and monitoring functions in order to achieve pre-defined results. Management encompasses processes, structures and arrangements that are designed to mobilize and transform the available physical, human and financial resources to achieve concrete outcomes. Management refers to individuals or groups of people who are given the authority to achieve the desired results. Governance systems set the parameters under which management and administrative systems will operate. Governance is about how power is distributed and shared, how policies are formulated, priorities set and stakeholders made accountable.

The above forgoing is from the International bureau of Education. What role can the electorate play in bringing about good governance? The electorate can scrutinize its candidates for Governance skills and ask questions. We need debates like never before. Let aspiring politicians come to the media and solve case studies. Stop asking them direct question. For example, I ask: if you become the counsellor of your local government where poverty is prevalent, tell us the strategic plan you have drawn up for tackling the problem of poverty? How will you advise the local Government Chairman? How will you spend the money put in your care for projects and how will you give account to your community? How will you raise revenue in your locality if federal allocation does not come? What community projects will you make a priority? How can you determine what is priority? Can you give us the blueprint of strategies you intend to use in solving the problems in your community? How can you demonstrate accountability?

What is merit? What does that mean to you? What does strategic planning mean to you? What does monitor and evaluation mean to you? What does performance-based budgeting mean to you? Do you intend to use these tools IF you are voted into power? What does data-based decision-making mean to you? what does need assessment mean to you.? How do you intend to use these tools IF we vote you in to power? Why is it important to use these in your administration?

Tell us about the performance indices you are going to use when carrying out the monitoring and evaluation of the projects that you

intellectually inclined and there is a limit to how long we can continue to use money as a political cloak for covering our ignorance. This new generation is a question-asking generation. They are an entitled generation and an intelligent one at that. Sooner than later, they will start disgracing politicians with their question. They are Thirsty for knowledge and understanding. They will not be fooled or hood winked. That means that if a politician believes he can distribute bags of rice and wrappers for votes for these upcoming elections, he will be wasting his money and disgracing himself.



Governance versus politics (2)



will put in place for the implementation of your strategic plan in order to ensure that your objectives of ending poverty in your community is realized. This is assuming that you have a strategic plan and you know the concept of strategic planning and implementation. This is also assuming that you desire to end poverty in your community. How do you intend to create jobs?

It is time to up the ante. Politics in Nigeria should be for those who are willing and able to intellectually equip themselves and bring knowledge into their leadership style. It is not all politicians that do not mean well for their electorate. Sometimes, it is that they do not have the prerequisite education, management and leadership training and experience. Every politician should know strategic planning and monitoring and evaluation. Sometimes it is not the politician. It is that those who surround him, who know better than he does and know how to cut corners and steal in his name and at his expense. They are our problems. The aspiring leaders need to go for training and evaluation because politics does not have the tools required for good governance and leadership. It is governance that does. Money can buy a political ticket but it will not help in giving the politician the tools to transform himself from a politician to a leader. Furthermore, politicians should choose their assistants wisely because whatever they do will be in the name of the politician. They need to appoint intelligent people who know and have their best interest at heart.

The era of the blind leading the blind is over. You are now facing the next generation and they do not play. 2023 is coming. This is the new order. This is Generation-Z. The young people of this generation are

Politicians will be asked questions. Intelligent questions that will determine their fate. This generation Z is data savvy. Did you say electronic voting system? They have everything electronic on lockdown. They are databased. Their DNA is technology. The era of money and power politics is over. This is not 1980 when only rice and wrapper will get you votes or were manipulation and ballot snatching will help. Even the political thugs are tired. So, it is time to put your house in order. If you do not know strategic planning and monitoring and evaluation, run o! Go and learn it now because generation Z have no patience and the younger ones after them have questions that require a lot of education and gray matter. Do not be disgraced. Go and learn now before 2023. To make matters worse for politicians, the country is in such a situation today that even little children are feeling it and the young generation is concerned for their future. They are concerned about the debt-riddled country that they are going to inherit, and any straight-thinking politician will do well to sit up straight and acquire governance and leadership skill that he is expected to put to good use.

To the electorate who are not generation Z, we should demand accountability and knowledge of the subject matter from our politicians. As such, we must stop politicians in their tracks when they come at us with their promises. What we need to do is identify community problems and then ask our politicians who come for campaigns, for written blueprints giving us details of the strategic plan they have for the problem in our communities and how they intend to use Monitoring and evaluation and other tools in seeking for solution and realizing the objective of solving the problem. If they fumble and their presentation does not fly, we do not vote for them.

We will also ask them case study and outside-the-box question based on their submissions. That is one way of ensuring that we vote people who have what it takes to turn our economy around.

Problem number one is energy, followed by infrastructure and insecurity. If the politician climbs that podium and says that he will give you roads and water and hospitals, ask him or her HOW he or she intends to do that considering the condition of our economy. Ask the politician how he intends to boost foreign trades and increase our foreign exchange reserves. Ask him how he intends to boost exports and develop SMES. Ask him what he knows about green energy. Ask him if he knows the correlation between energy and criminality. Ask him what he knows about the relationship between job creation and security. Ask him about the relationship between export and development.

When there is a political debate, politicians should all come with WRITTEN blueprints of strategies on how they intend to solve our problem and the electorate should be ready to ask them case study question. E.g how do you intend to come up with the resources for fixing the energy sector? What do you know about wind and solar energy in industrialization? If he says that he will take a loan, please ask him to leave and escort him politely to his convoy. Safe journey. E no sabi anything...We are already in debt up to our eyeballs and the generation Z are supposed to be the generation to pay these humongous loans.... and they are not smiling. Such politicians have already sold the future of our children and we need to redeem it through intelligent governance-based leadership.

This means that every voter must educate himself in governance and know the difference between governance and politics. Demanding

for astute politicians who are grounded in governance, that is half of the election. That is the duty of the electorate. To know exactly what they want by knowing what governance is so that they can demand if from aspiring politician who wish to represent them. It is the right of the electorate to ask for substance and get it. Gone are the days when politicians sign off contracts awards that they cannot read or understand. Gone are the days when wearing a starch agbada is enough to be a leader.

Strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation do not only ensure good leadership but also provides us with a tool for measuring accountability. We cry about corruption without knowing how to stop it. We cannot all run away to Canada and United Kingdom, so we must learn from their electorate and show courage in politely asking for good governance.

For the politicians, the tool of governance also gives you a good opportunity to record your good performance. Knowledge of same will also put you at par with your counter parts across the globe. Think about it. When you meet your counter parts from UK and USA, what will you say if they ask you questions in the area of governance? Politics and Governance are not the same. They can marry but they are not the same. Do you know your onions? Will you disgrace yourself and your country? Would you like to show off to the world what a great leader you are through your works and achievements? Would you like to write your name in the history book of Nigera, would you like to be a legend? It is so easy to achieve these if you apply good governance in your campaign promises and keep these promises. However, you must agree to be a student and learn the ropes before 2023. You must stoop to conquer.

The Government of today has a role to play in this. Partnering with the Institute of Public Administration and development partners such as GIZ and the Institute of Human Capital Development, to teach aspiring politicians governance in the public and private sector is a first step in the right direction. Knowing how both sectors operate is indispensable knowledge for any leader because the former is the body, and the latter is the blood. If a politician has a political strategy for winning the election, he or she must also have a governance strategy. Before you get a job, you sit for an interview. Only politician get the job of leadership without being closely examined. The tools of governance should be taught even at the party level. Every party headquarters in every locality can have a classroom to bridge the education gap. It is never too late to learn before you start. Any party who makes the job of educating its party members and aspirants generally and particularly in the area of good governance, will win the hearts of Nigerian. Education can be in any Nigerian language suited to any locality. If we want something different, we must do things differently.

Dear friends it is a privilege and honour for me again to continue this great teaching series which I have entitled as Fear Not Trust God. If you are reading this for the first time, I will like to encourage you to continue to follow this series. If you have been with us for some time, I believe that it have been an empowering and life changing series for you so far.

Again, we have been talking on the subject, fear not trust God, in which you will find two big thoughts – one is refusing to be afraid and two is trusting God. We are going to take our Bible text from Isaiah the twelfth chapter.

Isa. 12:2 - **Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.** Now, in previous lessons, we have talked about the fact that the word salvation is used twice here to show you the emphasis that God puts on it. The word salvation used there is actually the Hebrew word Yeshua which is the title of Jesus in His office as redeemer, saviour and messiah.

The Bible is saying that Jesus or Jeshua is God's salvation. The word salvation is also translated as welfare, prosperity, deliverance, rescue and safety. Therefore, when God thinks about the safety on mankind, he thinks Jesus. when He thinks about the healing of mankind or the deliverance or the prosperity of mankind, He thinks Jesus. I believe this is how the Spirit of God is trying to train us to think.

When you look at your life and see the challenges you are going through, think Jesus for He is your salvation. In Him is your welfare, prosperity, preservation and safety. Dear readers, I dear say that there is nothing that you are going through now or will ever go through that, God has not made provision for in Jesus Christ for you to be delivered. Jesus, Jeshua is God's salvation – He is all that you need.

In this world, when you are faced with crisis or difficulty, there are only two ways available to you to take. You can either chose to trust God or you can chose to be afraid. But if you chose to trust God, it will bring the deliverance or the help that you need.

As we have already established, fear is not a normal natural thing. Many people do not know this; they take fear to be normal but it is not. We have to understand the spirituality of life or what the Bible teaches about life and

about the subject of fear. Scripture tells us in 2 Tim. 1:7 that **God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.** This tells us that fear does not emanate from God.

The question now is, if fear does not emanate from God then where does it come from? As far a scripture is concerned, there are only two primary spiritual forces. One is Almighty

material. Some needs in life can be handled by material things and money but there are other needs in life that material things and money cannot handle, but I tell you that God's economy provides for both those things that material things and money can handle and that which they cannot handle.

This is why when we talk about trusting God and refusing to be afraid, we are talking about getting hooked up to God's economy. Only the power of God



Fear not, trust God (26)



God, and the other is the devil or Satan. One emanates from the Kingdom of God while the other from the kingdom of darkness. So if fear does not come from God, then it comes from the devil.

Therefore, please do not trivialise fear. Do not think that fear is normal; it is not because God did not give it to us and 2 Timothy 1:7 is telling us not to be afraid but to go the way of trusting God. if you will not go the way of trusting God, there is no other option left to you but to be afraid.

Many times people are looking at the situation they are faced with and they are overwhelmed not having the resources nor the wherewithal to handle the things they are faced with. But guess what? God has the resources and the wherewithal. His economy has the ability to handle things that are beyond

the power of the devil. If you do not have the power of God working in your life, you are already a slave to fear. The invitation the Almighty God gives us in His word is, chose to trust in Me and open the door for my resources and power to begin to flow in your life. I hope somebody is making up their mind to trust God today.

Again, Isa. 12:2 - **Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.** He says Jehovah is my strength and my song – this song is talking about a testimony. When you trust God and His power begins to work in your life, things that seem naturally or humanly impossible begin to become possible. When you are trusting God, it welcomes you to a world of divine possibilities.

There is nothing that the power of God cannot produce and handle. Trusting God is what opens the door for that situation to be handled and for His power to flow in that circumstance. When the power of God begins to flow in any circumstance, crooked things are made straight, rough roads are made smooth, valleys are exalted, and mountains are made a plain.

When the power of God begins to flow, people are preserved, provided for, protected and delivered. If we make up our minds to put our faith in Jesus Christ, not only will that handle the eternal aspects of life (meaning that the day we leave this earth; our last breath on earth will be our first in the presence of God) but also the temporal aspects.

What Christ did for us when He died for our sin and broke the power of the devil, not only handled our eternal destiny and security but also gives us the opportunity to call upon the name of the Lord in this life. We have the opportunity to call and see the power of God coming to our aid as we learn to trust in His word and promises.

We must understand the spirituality of life. Life, dear friends is spiritual. We have found out from the word of God that fear is a spirit. The next most important thing you need to understand about fear is that it is the only weapon or tool the devil has against the human

race and fear is based in deception. You see, the objective of fear is to get your mind off God and off His capacities and to put your mind or yourself and on your own capacities.

You see, when you stand alone without God in life, you are bound to fail. God is the only one that has the ability to defeat the wicked in this world. When Adam our forefather sinned, according to the scriptures, a curse came upon this earth and Satan became the god of this world as it says in 2 Corinthians 4:4 and 1 John 5:19 which says this **whole world lieth in wickedness.** This means that no human being in this world attempting to be a proper success that can do it without the power of God. Eventually you are going to face a situation or circumstance that only God's power can handle.

Therefore, if you are not in covenant with God you are without hope in this world. This is what Ephesians 2:12 says. It says that if you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour then you are not in covenant with God and if you are not in covenant with God then you are without hope and without God in this world.

If you know the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, automatically, you have come into a covenant relationship with Almighty God. Whatever has become impossible to normal men that are not connected to God has become possible to you because of this God-factor. Hallelujah!

What Christ did for us when He died for our sin and broke the power of the devil, not only handled our eternal destiny and security but also gives us the opportunity to call upon the name of the Lord in this life. We have the opportunity to call and see the power of God coming to our aid as we learn to trust in His word and promises.”.

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine war: 'Russia now in total fear'

Russian President Vladimir In the centre of the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, a large banner is taped to a tall building, above a Ukrainian flag, that reads "Putin, the Hague is waiting for you. On city buses, electronic displays flick between announcing their destination and declaring "love" for Ukraine with little hearts. SARAH RAINSFORD writes.

This week Lithuania - together with Latvia, Estonia and Poland - banned all Russian tourists, arguing they should not be enjoying democracy and freedom in Europe while their government attacks those very values in Ukraine.

The move has raised concerns among Russian opposition activists already abroad.

"It's strange to ban people for being Russian, whether or not they support Putin's regime," argues Anastasia Shevchenko, an activist who spent two years under house arrest for protesting against the Russian president.

When Russia invaded its neighbour, she was serving a suspended sentence and one wrong move, even an anti-war comment, could have put her behind bars.

But Anastasia could not bear to be silenced, so she squeezed her family's life into a couple of cases and they fled in the middle of the night for Lithuania.

Anastasia Shevchenko left Russia for Lithuania after her son was asked to write a letter wishing Russian soldiers victory.

"What is going on in Russia now is like total fear," Anastasia tells me, in Vilnius. "So many people are frightened because we know they can do anything. It's not only prison, or fines: you can be killed or poisoned. It's like a huge prison. All the country."

Since we spoke, Vladimir Putin has declared a partial mobilisation of Russian reservists - the first real test of support for his invasion. The early signs do not look good.

Protesters came out in several cities shouting "no to war!" and even "Putin to the trenches!". More than a thousand people were detained and some were then served with call-up papers at the police station.

But even more Russians are heading for the border by any route left to them.

While queues to enter Finland are growing, Latvia and Estonia both say escaping enlistment is not grounds for asylum. Lithuania will consider cases individually, but the prime minister clarified that it was "not the duty of other countries to save Russians fleeing mobilisation".

A building in central Vilnius, Lithuania, displays an anti-Putin



Putin's order for partial mobilisation led to protests in Moscow

message above the Ukrainian flag Ukrainians have no sympathy with those now protesting against the draft, if those same people did not come out against the killing of Ukrainian civilians.

Some see even the most persecuted Russian activists as cowards, because the risk they face for resisting President Putin is nothing compared to being bombarded by his military.

Those activists, however, insist that it is not that simple.

"Of course, we feel this

responsibility. We should have used the opportunity to change our country," former opposition MP Dmitry Gudkov accepts.

"Putin is a war criminal, he is killing people. But how can Russians inside Russia stop Putin? It's not possible."

Mr Gudkov left Moscow well before the war, saying he was warned to go - or go to jail. Today, all prominent Russian opposition figures are either in custody, dead or in exile.

So at a recent gathering in

Vilnius, a slogan on stage called on those abroad to "be brave, like Ukraine", but the mood was subdued with a hint of helplessness.

Many are actually now looking to Ukraine to do what they could not achieve peacefully inside Russia: defeat Putin.

"I think the West should ramp-up military assistance to Ukraine, that's the only option," Mr Gudkov says.

Alexei Navalny's team agree, but go further. Since the opposition politician was imprisoned,

"Putin committed his gravest mistake when he invaded Ukraine. I believe he dramatically decreased the duration of his reign," Mr Navalny's right-hand man, Leonid Volkov, tells me.

This week's call-up has confirmed that belief, as videos of men saying tearful goodbyes to their families pop up all over the country.

"No-one attacked Russia, no-one needed these separations and these deaths," Mr Volkov wrote on Twitter. "But on 24 February, a maniac led his country down a dead-end."

Mr Navalny's team have been trying to undermine support for the war via YouTube. The audience for their shows, made in Vilnius, has doubled since the invasion.

They are also pushing for more Western sanctions - not visa bans against a whole nation.

They want Ukraine's allies to look beyond President Putin's near-circle and sanction those whom Mr Volkov calls "war enablers" - a list of over 6,000 names, from judges to state journalists.

"Our call to Western governments is to sanction all

those people and present them with an exit strategy: tell them what they have to do to get off the list," Mr Volkov says.

"This will create splits. Many will start to jump ship, and Putin's system can't work without them," he adds.

In a televised address this week, Vladimir Putin said he was calling up thousands of extra troops to fight in Ukraine.

Russian troops have since been forced into retreat from large areas of Ukraine and President Putin has responded as usual: by escalating.

As well as the call-up, there is his threat of annexing more Ukrainian land and another nuclear warning for the West.

Russia's president has staked a huge amount on this campaign and things could well get much worse.

That leaves activist Anastasia Shevchenko struggling with a sense of guilt that she could not do more to stop him.

"I blame myself and it's not a good feeling, believe me," she admits.

But her decision to leave Russia was sealed when her son had to write a letter at his primary school to the soldiers, wishing them victory.

Instead, he told them they had no right to fight their neighbours.

"I think all we can do now as Russians is say sorry - and protest against Vladimir Putin," Anastasia says. "Because Putin personally is the reason for what's going on. Why so many people are dying."

Source: BBC News



Putin

INTERNATIONAL

Israel to supply air defence system to UAE

ISRAEL will sell an advanced air defence system to the United Arab Emirates capable of defending the Gulf country against drone attacks, in a further sign of the growing alliance between the two countries.

Israel had approved a request from the UAE for the Rafael-made SPYDER mobile interceptors, according to two sources.

A third source said that the UAE would be acquiring Israeli technology that would be able to prevent a repeat of the drone attacks that hit Abu Dhabi earlier this year.

Ram Ben-Barak, the Israeli parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee chairman, was asked about the deal on September 20, but declined to comment aside from saying that there was broad cooperation between the UAE and Israel.

The UAE has been targeted by missile and drone attacks claimed by Yemen's Iran-allied Houthi rebels. The UAE is an active part of the Saudi-led military coalition fighting the Houthis in Yemen, while Israel and the UAE normalised ties in 2020.

The deal was said to have been reached this summer, around the time the United States and Israel were pushing Arab states to link their air defence systems to counter Iran.

However, that proposal was



The UAE is attempting to boost its defence capabilities in response to missile and drone attacks earlier this year [File: Christopher]

met with resistance from some Arab states that do not have ties with Israel, and was never fully implemented.

Details of the air defence deal are unclear, with the number of interceptors to be supplied by Israel, and whether they have already been shipped, unknown.

Interceptors are fitted to vehicles and used against short to long-range threats.

Three civilians were killed in Abu Dhabi in January in the deadliest of a spate of attacks that targeted the UAE earlier this year, and are believed to have originated from Yemen.

An under-construction terminal at Abu Dhabi airport was also hit, injuring workers, according to sources briefed on the attack.

While the majority of the attacks conducted in January and February were intercepted by the UAE's current United States-supplied defence systems, the threat has forced

the country, which has long benefitted from its reputation as a safe and stable place to do business, to boost its defence capabilities.

Sources told Reuters that some of the missiles and drones that hit the UAE escaped detection by flying at low altitude, thereby avoiding the US-built Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) and Patriot interceptors.

The Israeli-made SPYDER system, on the other hand, can defend against low-altitude threats, including drones, cruise missiles and helicopters.

During a visit to the UAE at the end of January, which coincided with an attempted Houthi attack, Israeli President Isaac Herzog said that his country supported the UAE's security needs.

Prime Minister Yair Lapid also reiterated that support last week.

HEALTH workers prepare a body for burial at an Ebola treatment centre following an outbreak in North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in November 2021.

Uganda has confirmed seven cases of Ebola, as authorities try to track down 43 contacts of known Ebola patients – two days after the East African country announced an outbreak of the contagious disease.

The cases confirmed on Thursday include a 24-year-old man who died this week after he developed a high fever, diarrhoea and abdominal pain, in addition to vomiting blood. After initially being treated for malaria, he was diagnosed as having contracted the Sudan strain of the Ebola virus.

Seven other deaths are being investigated as suspected cases of a strain for which the authorities do not yet have a vaccine, officials said.

"As of today, we have seven confirmed cases, of whom we have one confirmed death," Kyobe Henry Bbosa, Ebola incident commander at the Ugandan Ministry of Health, told a briefing.

"But also we have seven probable cases that died before the confirmation of the outbreak."

He also spoke of a "rapidly evolving" situation where "we think cases may rise in a few days".

Ugandan authorities have not yet found the source of the outbreak, or "patient zero" –

Uganda confirms seven cases of Ebola, one death



Medical team at site

the key first case.

But they were able to pinpoint the epicentre of the outbreak, which is the central Ugandan district of Mubende, whose main town lies along a highway into the capital, Kampala. That travel link and several crowded artisanal gold mines there are concerning, Bbosa told the World Health Organization.

Authorities have also been able to confirm an Ebola outbreak of the Sudan type earlier this week after testing a sample from the 24-year-old man who died. Six others in the same area, including three children, died earlier in September after suffering what local officials called a "strange illness".

Ebola, which is spread by contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person or contaminated materials, manifests as a deadly haemorrhagic fever. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, muscle pain and at times internal and external bleeding.

Uganda last reported an outbreak of the Ebola Sudan strain in 2012.

The strain is less transmissible than Ebola Zaire, Patrick Otim, an epidemiologist with the WHO in Africa, said at a briefing, adding that the strain had a lower fatality rate in previous outbreaks.

However, Otim said the Sudan strain posed a greater

threat because the world did not yet have a vaccine for it, as it has with the Zaire strain.

"It's very critical at this point that we treat this outbreak as serious, because we may not have the advantage that we have gained in terms of the advancement in medical countermeasures," Otim said.

Mubende lies on a highway that starts from the capital Kampala, connecting Uganda to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Otim said this meant there was a threat of cross-border transmission.

In 2019, Uganda experienced an outbreak of Ebola Zaire. The virus was imported from neighbouring DRC, which was battling a large epidemic in its northeastern region.

Scientists do not know the natural reservoir of the virus, but they suspect the first victim in an Ebola outbreak gets infected through contact with an infected animal.

Uganda has had multiple Ebola outbreaks, including the one in 2019, and another in 2000 that killed more than 200 people.

Congo's 10th outbreak of Ebola in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri killed more than 2,000 people from 2018 to 2020. During that time, neighbouring Uganda reported some cases that authorities said were linked to the outbreak in Congo.

Last month, authorities in Congo said a new case of Ebola in the eastern city of Beni was linked to a previous outbreak.

US judge urges Trump's legal team to justify claims

THE US Justice Department is conducting an investigation into former President Donald Trump's possible mishandling of classified materials.

The United States judge appointed to vet documents seized from Donald Trump's Florida home last month has ordered the former US president's legal team to provide evidence to back up Trump's unsubstantiated claims that some of the files were planted by the FBI.

In a legal filing on Thursday, Raymond Dearie asked the Justice Department to certify by Monday a detailed inventory of the documents that were seized during the FBI's August 8 search of Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate.

He then asked Trump's lawyers to submit by September 30 a list of specific items they believe "were not seized from the premises" during the search, as well as to

submit any corrections to the US government's property list. "This submission shall be plaintiff's [Trump's] final opportunity to raise any factual dispute as to the completeness and accuracy of the Detailed Property Inventory," Dearie wrote.

Dearie was appointed this month to serve as a neutral third party, known as a special master, to vet the documents seized during the FBI search for any material covered by executive privilege or attorney-client privilege.

US District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee, had agreed with a request from the ex-president's team to freeze the government's review of the files until a special master could be appointed.

The Justice Department is conducting an investigation into Trump's possible mishandling of classified material in an unprecedented

criminal probe targeting a former president.

The search warrant for Mar-a-Lago said federal agents were investigating potential violations of three different federal laws, including one that governs gathering, transmitting or losing defence information under the Espionage Act.

An unsealed property receipt also showed the FBI seized 11 sets of classified documents, some of which were marked not only top secret but also "sensitive compartmented information".

Trump's legal team has slammed the investigation as "misguided", saying that US law grants presidents "extraordinary discretion" to label documents from their administration as presidential or personal.

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

The former president's legal team has also questioned whether documents marked "classified" that were recovered from Mar-a-Lago were indeed secret files, suggesting that Trump may have declassified them before leaving office.

In an interview with Fox News on Wednesday, Trump suggested that the FBI might have planted documents during the search.

"The problem that you have is they go into rooms, they won't let anybody near them; they wouldn't even let them in the same building. Did they drop anything into those files? Or did they do it later? There's no chain of custody here with

them," he said.

Meanwhile, a US appeals court approved the Justice Department's request to lift Cannon's hold on its review of the records.

The ruling amounted to an overwhelming victory for the government, clearing the way for investigators to continue scrutinising the documents as they consider whether to bring criminal charges against Trump.

Ukraine conflict: UN experts conclude war crimes committed

UNITED Nations investigators have concluded that war crimes have been committed in the Ukraine conflict, listing Russian bombardment of civilian areas, executions, torture and sexual violence.

A team of three independent experts visited 27 towns and settlements, as well as graves and detention and torture centres in four regions – Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy.

Their findings are based on interviews with more than 150 victims and witnesses.

"Based on the evidence gathered by the commission, it has concluded that war crimes have been committed in Ukraine," Erik Mose, the head of the investigation team, told the UN Human Rights Council on Friday.

The categorical nature of the statement was unusual. UN investigators typically couch their findings on international crimes in conditional language, referring the final confirmation of war crimes and similar violations to courts of law.

The council was set up by the Commission of Inquiry (COI) – the highest possible level of investigation – in May to

investigate crimes following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February.

Speaking a day before the seven-month anniversary of the war, Mose pointed to "the Russian Federation's use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas", which he said was "a source of immense harm and suffering for civilians".

Mose highlighted that a number of attacks the team had investigated "had been carried out without distinguishing between civilians and combatants", including attacks with cluster munitions in populated areas.

The team, which plans to broaden the probe beyond the four regions, had been especially "struck by the large number of executions in the areas" that they visited, Mose said, and the frequent "visible signs of executions on bodies, such as hands tied behind backs, gunshot wounds to the head, and slit throats".

Mose said the commission was currently investigating such deaths in 16 towns and settlements, and had received credible allegations

regarding many more cases which it would seek to document.

Forensic technicians dig at the site of a mass grave in a forest on the outskirts of Izyum, eastern Ukraine on September 18, 2022. Ukrainian authorities discovered about 450 graves outside the formerly Russian-occupied city of Izyum with some of the exhumed bodies showing signs of torture.

The investigators had also received "consistent accounts of ill-treatment and torture, which were carried out during unlawful confinement".

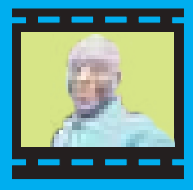
Some of the victims had told the investigators they were transferred to Russia and held for weeks in prisons. Others had "disappeared" following such transfers.

"Interlocutors described beatings, electric shocks, and forced nudity, as well as other types of violations in such detention facilities," Mose said.

The commission chief said the investigators had also "processed two incidents of ill-treatment against Russian Federation soldiers by Ukrainian forces", adding that "while few in numbers, such cases continue to be the subject of our attention".



Trump



With **BULUS GAMBO**

'I am studying journalism's future'



WHAT books or kinds of books did you read growing up?

My diet growing up was full of school-mandated books. Some required for me, others for my siblings. Those books often transported me to hamlets, towns, histories, customs literature, and a richness— usually but not always in southeast Nigeria—that I still haven't visited till date. Yet I have lived them, in a way. When I read Eddie Iroh's *Without a Silver Spoon*, or Chukwuemeka Ike's *The Bottled Leopard*. Or what I consider to be the most compelling piece of literature I have ever read: Elechi Amadi's *The Concubine*. Or Festus Iyayi's *Violence*. J. P. Clark's deliciously mischievous *The Wives' Revolt*.

I would eventually find young adult novels— usually British or American— which, in hindsight, were what I should have been reading all along—for their lightness. The *Baby-Sitters Club* and *Sweet Valley High* series. *Archie Comics*. And a little-known serial called *Harry Potter*. I should have been reading these and Nigerian young adult novels, if they existed and I knew about them. I say this because the heart-breaking story in *The Concubine*, of Ihuoma, possessing a beauty and grace that would attract many that could come close but only so her... that told of how she was doomed to never love—else fatal consequences—was really quite heavy for a twelve-year-old! But I regret nothing. That book moulded my mind in ways I can't articulate.

If your life so far was a series of texts, which text (fiction or non-fiction) represents you at this moment?

All the chapters in bell hooks' *All About Love*, which are collectively a guide, an enduring attempt to try and be better at love. I think it might be a 30 thing, but I often think a lot about love these days: not necessarily the romantic kind but what it means as a daily, active service. What it means between friends; what it can mean in a power dynamic (we recently saw an astonishing lack of love or compassion in employer-employee relations when the TechCabal story on #HorribleBosses broke). What it can mean between those elected to serve and the people they reliably disappoint. *All About Love* doesn't necessarily go this far in scope but it's definitely a take-off point and fuel for my thoughts.

What's the last thing you read and disagreed with?

Every comment on Twitter over the last two or three years that shows an increasing and disturbing lack of grace or compassion for women, for children, for queer people; for inventive citizens who have responded to a lack of housing by creating theirs on lagoons (branded 'slums') for people of faith who protest the detention of their leaders, for people who don't have any faith at all; for people who protest police brutality, women's rights; for nursing mothers.

There's a lot of punching down going on Nigerian social media these days. It's not like it hasn't always happened but I do think there is a particularly wicked edge to the 'opinions' shared these days. In them, to my mind, there is barely concealed hate. There are too many absolute hard lines and a truly stunning intolerance. Someone said once—I can't remember who—that people keep planting flags instead of building bridges. It's true.

There's a lot of punching down going on Nigerian social media these days. Someone said once—I can't remember who—that people keep planting flags instead of building bridges. It's true.

What's the last thing you read that changed your mind about something?

I used to think it was a given that African Americans and really anyone of African descent, should automatically, be in fellowship with Africans since we share an ancestry; and I would be cross and disappointed when I saw instances when the opposite was the case, convinced that African Americans, Afro-Latinos, Afropeans were in the wrong.

This incredibly well researched, argued, nuanced piece by Alden Young, *How Black America Fell Out of Love with Africa* put paid to my assumptions and makes a case for how and why there is little ground for solidarity between both groups. I would highly recommend this read.

What is your writing process: edit as you write or draft first, then edit?

The more I write, even in writing responses to this interview, I edit as I write. It's certainly a more tiresome process, but it's a good exercise, working at clarity in real time. Sometimes I find when I have finished drafting, I am so drained. I don't want anything to do with the piece for a few days or weeks. If you are a writer/author, this might fly but not when you're a journalist with a deadline; so, I edit as I write.

What's the greatest story /piece of journalism you've ever read?

Should caveat this by saying this changes every few years and protest that I have to choose one. Journalism can do different things, in different moments, and in different ways. A great piece of journalism can be called so sometimes for its timeliness, and not necessarily its content or application; or for its interrogation of something, and not necessarily the way it was interrogated.

One of the greatest pieces of journalism I have read is Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah's Pulitzer Prize winning, *'A Most American Terrorist'* I don't know if I could describe it better than the Pulitzer Prizes itself, which said the piece is: 'an unforgettable portrait of murderer Dylann Roof, using a unique and powerful mix of reportage, first-person reflection and analysis of the historical and cultural forces behind his killing of nine people inside Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.'

For context, Roof is white. The folks he killed in the church were all Black. Ghansah is African American. So, the piece is, in some ways, righteously personal. It is a long read too, about 10,000 words if not more. What gives the piece its power is both the compelling, visual, resonant style in which Ghansah writes it and the deep, painstaking reporting that involved bringing many pieces, as told by Roof's family, friends, former teachers and the surviving members of those killed. It had many intersections: racism, gun violence, hate crimes, mental health.

Another piece of journalism I've loved and has stayed with me a while is Nanjala Nyabola's sound analysis on the fate of Rafiki, a Kenyan film featuring queer love interests and leads, that faced cultural, social and constitutional battles in Kenya. Nyabola's piece was quite breathlessly argued, and again, intersectional, drawing on distinct but interconnected factors as to why this film was so fraught with risk.

What's a common misconception about African journalism/African storytelling?

That there's such a thing as African journalism or storytelling.

A great piece of journalism can be called so sometimes for its timeliness, and not necessarily its content or application; or for its interrogation of something, and not necessarily the way it was interrogated.

You're Deputy Editor at African Arguments. What makes a pitch good?

Clarity. I see too many pitches where the writer or journalist is unsure of what exactly they might cover or focus on; or can't speculate convincingly on what they might discover. Sometimes, you could have a hunch, and not have all the answers—and seek to find those answers in your reporting. But then said hunch has to be communicated. Also, every piece needs to answer the question: Why? Why does it matter? Why should anyone care about this? And this answer needs to be clear in the pitch.

Competence. When you make a case for or prove why you are the best placed person to write a particular story, as an editor, you are more comfortable, more inclined to trust the writer— especially when it's one you haven't worked with before.

Access. Tell us: who are your sources! Who do you have access to? What do you hope to learn from them?

This isn't a definitive list but some of the top considerations, I would say.

What is more important to you: the story or how it is written?

How it is written. I am a stickler for style. Even the densest topics—the most restless to tame—can be solved with stylistic writing. I am particularly partial to literary journalism anyway because my entry point into any writing at all was fiction.

I have seen too many juicy, rich stories with plenty of opportunities to do wonders on the page—to inform, illuminate, trigger thinking, as well as entertain—squandered with bad writing.

In what ways can African art contribute to political activism?

African art can make political activism more digestible. Unfortunately, for some inexplicable reason, some of us don't respond to protests, placards, rightfully angry op-eds, Twitter threads, people movements making good trouble and disturbing the peace. We don't like things that startle. Too on the nose, maybe. Art can take the edge off.

Continued on page 25

Where do the richest Americans live?



L - R: Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg and Michael Bloomberg.

Have you checked the newest "Forbes 400: The Full List of The Richest People in America" yet?

Surprise, Bill Gates, with a net worth of \$81 billion, is ranked No. 1 for the 23rd year running. Meanwhile, his friend Warren Buffett fell to third place for the first time in 15 years with a net worth of \$65.5 billion.

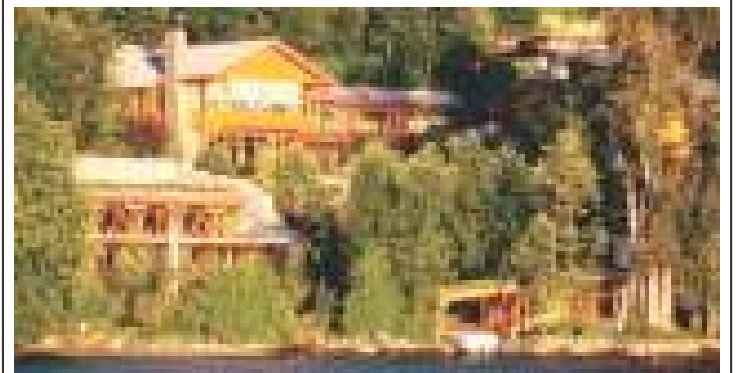
Thanks to soaring stock prices of hot tech firms, CEOs at the helm of those companies seem to have been accumulating wealth at a much faster pace than others. Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos gained \$20 billion to boost his net worth to \$67 billion, making him the second-richest person in the U.S.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg jumped into fourth place, his highest rank ever, with a net worth of \$55.5 billion. However, Oracle founder Larry Ellison landed at No. 5 for the first time since 2007. His net worth is \$49.3 billion.

Standing on the No. 6 spot is former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, CEO of the eponymous firm Bloomberg L.P., who has a net worth of \$45 billion.

These six richest multi-billionaires have a combined \$363.3 billion at their withdrawal, most of which is still held as stakes in the companies they founded. However, part of their fortune is vested in real estate. Mr. Gates, for one, owns a Washington mansion worth about \$170 million, several horse ranches across the U.S. and shares in some luxury hotel chains through his private investment firm, Cascade.

Here, take a look at the residences the six richest moguls call home:



Bill Gates Worth: \$81 billion Home: Medina, Washington

Mr. Gates, 60, spends most of his time at his 66,000-square-foot Medina, Washington, mansion, nicknamed Xanadu 2.0 after the title character's estate in *Citizen Kane*. The mansion overlooks Lake Washington. It took Mr. Gates seven years and \$63.2 million to build this house, which is filled with lots of high-tech features. He purchased the lot for \$2 million in 1988, but it's now worth an estimated \$170 million, according to public records.



Jeff Bezos Worth: \$67 billion Home: Medina, Washington

Mr. Bezos, 52, in the process of building his e-commerce empire, scooped up a vast amount of real properties over the years,

Continued on page 25

EVIE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Foods that totally kill your libido

By **BRONZEMAN**

HAVE you been using the phrase "Not tonight" more often than usual? It could be something you consumed. These days, many men experience diminished sex drive, and some of the main causes are as basic as what they're eating. It's critical to identify foods that won't impair your libido, especially as you become older.

Sexual desire is influenced by testosterone levels, therefore anything that lowers these hormones in males can gradually make them less interested in having sex. To figure out which meals to avoid if you want your romantic side to be in tip-top form, I spoke with a number of specialists.

Too Much Soy

If you consume small amounts of soy in your diet, you shouldn't be worried about gaining "man boobs," but excessive consumption of the products made from legumes (soy milk, tofu, and sauce) can lower testosterone levels and lessen your desire to fall in love, according to a study on Clinical Nutrition.

Researchers discovered that testosterone levels in individuals who consumed 120 mg of soy daily decreased. Make sure to reduce or eliminate it from your diet if you're trying to become a father.

Processed Carbs

Any refined carbs, like the ones found in crackers, can still ruin a man's private time. Increased consumption of refined carbohydrates, such as white flour, can lower testosterone levels. In addition to making a guy gain weight, sugars from refined carbohydrates can also increase a man's estrogen levels and lower his testosterone levels.

Foods With Hormones

Foods with added hormones or



antibiotics, including some red meats, are a major sex offender because they can upset a man's natural hormonal balance when eaten in excess. Some diets can even have an impact on some people's secretions, including semen, sweat, urine, and breath.

However, when eaten lean and

in moderation, red meat does have some benefits. It is a fantastic source of zinc, which is essential for reducing fat and growing muscle. Choose slimmer cuts with the names round or loin or a traditional filet mignon.

Over indulging in heavy foods

Eating too much of anything decreases sex desire in males and is the leading cause of sex drive death. Too much of it, he claims, is the worst thing a man can consume for his sexual appetite.

Diet has a negative impact on aging. Anyone who is overweight between the ages of 35 and 60—or who leads a life of high stress, bad nutrition, and inactivity—is accelerating the aging process. A healthy diet leads to satisfying sexual experiences.

Too Much Alcohol

Moderate consumption of alcohol never hindered anyone's desire, but heavy drinking can make things unhappy by morning. Alcohol can negatively impact your sexual performance, resulting in erectile dysfunction, difficulty eliciting orgasm, and premature ejaculation, according to Dr. Amy Levine.

According to sex therapist David Yarian, too much wine, rich food, or food in general will make a person drowsy and uninterested. Watch what you eat for your own good.



EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

What clove does on empty stomach

CHEWING 1-2 cloves daily on an empty stomach could lower your blood sugar, prevent tooth decay and promote digestive health.

Chewing clove on empty stomach can do wonders for your health.

By Parmita Uniyal, Delhi

Cloves, also known as laung in India, are dried flower buds from the clove tree and is a popular spice used frequently in rice preparations, curries, bakery items, ground spice mixtures that is used in soups, stews and meat preparations. Clove oil on the other hand is used more for medicinal purposes like pain relief, curing digestive issues and helping with respiratory conditions. Different parts of clove tree like dried flower buds, stems and leaves are used in Ayurvedic medicines.

Clove has a compound called Eugenol that has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties that helps curb inflammation caused by diseases like arthritis and help your body to fight free radicals and cut risk of heart disease, diabetes, cancer etc.

With so many amazing properties, chewing clove daily on empty stomach can reduce risk of several diseases, take care of your dental health and keep your digestion strong.

• Enhances liver health: "Dried clove buds are said to have a hepato-protective effect on the liver. It boosts liver health by promoting new cell growth, liver detox and also has a protective effect due to a range of active compounds like

thymol and eugenol," says Arooshi Garg, Nutritionist at GOQii.

• Controls blood sugar: Consuming a pinch of clove powder on an empty stomach has shown a positive effect on the blood sugar management of diabetic patients. It leads to less insulin resistance, improvement in insulin secretion, and beta cell function, says Garg.

• Reduces nausea: "Those who suffer from morning sickness could benefit from chewing cloves on an empty stomach due to their anaesthetic and antiseptic properties. When it mixes with saliva, certain enzymes are produced that help in reducing nausea related symptoms," says nutritionist Ishti Saluja.

• Amazing for oral health: Cloves have been used since ages as a tooth pain reliever. Along with the pain-relieving properties, it also helps in reducing oral inflammation, plaque, gingivitis and fights bad breath.

"Cloves help freshen breath after waking up. Their antibacterial properties ensure better oral health and hygiene throughout the day. They also prevent the buildup of plaque (sticky substance made from leftover food particles and saliva that mix in the mouth).

• Boosts digestive health: Cloves are said to improve the digestive fire due to its warm tendency.

"Clove can help in improving secretion of digestive juices and reduce bloating issues. However,



one should be cautious about the amount used, as an excess intake of cloves can lead to slow blood clotting, diarrhoea, vomiting and other health issues.

"Cloves have antimicrobial properties that help kill unwanted bacteria in the gut. This promotes better gut health, digestion and absorption of nutrients. Cloves are known to kill E. Coli - a strain of bacteria that causes food poisoning.

• Helps reduce joint pain: Cloves contain elements like manganese and flavonoids that help maintain bone density. These elements help in repair of bone tissue, thus reducing or preventing joint pain, while also delaying muscle loss in elderly people. Applying clove oil is also a good way to help reduce joint pain and support muscles, says Saluja.

• Relieves constipation: cloves support healthy digestion. and chewing them first thing in the morning enhances the production of saliva, which sets the right tone for digestion at the start of the day. Other than reducing constipation, cloves also help in reducing nausea and acidity.

• Acts as a natural pain killer: Eugenol is what gives cloves its analgesic properties. Consuming cloves regularly on an empty stomach helps reduce migraines and headaches. It

can also be consumed in a powder form, mixed with a pinch of rock salt in a glass of warm milk, says Saluja.

• Builds immunity: Winter related flus, cold, bronchitis, sinus, viral infection can all be reduced by increasing your

consumption of cloves. The anti-viral and blood purification properties of cloves reduce toxicity in blood, therefore increasing the body's immunity, says the nutritionist.

S o u r c e :
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Why we must sustain peace in our lives

THERE is no alternative peace". This is a popular quote that everyone uses especially peace experts and stakeholders once there is any form of conflict and crisis among individuals and communities.

Indeed peace is something that we all need to survive and without it, economic, political, infrastructural, social values are lost including 'life', the previous gift given to us by God.

In Nigeria, conflicts with ethnic, religious, geographical, political and social colourations has affected and hampered the development of the nation. The upsurge of kidnappings, insurgency, religious extremism, terrorism and ethnic intolerance has led to crisis in many communities leading to loss of lives and livelihoods.

To buttress the need for peace around the world, each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

But achieving true peace entails much more than laying down arms. It requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race, says the UN.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said: "Racism continues to poison institutions, social structures, and everyday life in every society. It continues to be a driver of persistent inequality. And it continues to deny people their fundamental human rights. It destabilizes societies, undermines democracies, erodes the legitimacy of governments, and... the linkages between racism and gender inequality are unmistakable."

"As conflicts continue to erupt across the globe, causing people to flee, we have seen race-based discrimination at borders. As COVID-19 keeps attacking our communities, we have seen how



certain racial groups have been hit much harder than others. As economies suffer, we have seen hate speech and violence directed at racial minorities".

"We all have a role to play in fostering peace. And tackling racism is a crucial way to contribute. We can work to dismantle the structures that entrench racism in our midst. We can support movements for equality and human rights everywhere. We can speak out against hate speech – both offline and online. We can promote anti-racism through education and reparatory justice", the UN says.

Racism, xenophobia and related discrimination and intolerance exist in all societies, everywhere. Racism harms not just the lives of those who endure it, but also society as a whole. We all lose in a society characterized by discrimination, division, distrust, intolerance, and hate. The fight against racism is everyone's fight. We all have a part to play in building a world beyond racism.

Peace is the key to development and having any form of livelihood because without it, nothing meaningful can be achieved.

That is why to Commemorate the World Peace Day in Plateau State, The Plateau Peace Agency organised a Peace walk across parts of the state, and other interactive forums with Non-governmental Organisations, Religious, ethnic, political and social groups to call for the sustenance of peace in the state.

A worrisome statistics

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) has said that at least 60,000 people have been killed in Nigeria's 18 Northern in the last 10 years due to insecurity.

The CDD report titled "Multiple Nodes, Common Cause: National Stocktake of Contemporary Insecurity and State Responses in Nigeria", said between 2011 and 2021, conflict related casualties in the North Central States of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Kogi, Kwara, Nassarawa, Niger, and Plateau was around 11,000 people killed while about 35,000 people were killed in North East States of Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe. In North Western states of Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara showed about 14,000 people lost their lives in the year under review.

Why peace is more important than ever

Peace, security, and a future are basic needs that people in the midst of violent conflict desperately want and seek. However, Peace Experts say building back trust, livelihoods, institutions and relationships is a complex and long-term endeavour, full of steps forward and back. This is the task of peacebuilding.

According to Dr Teresa Dumasy, of Conciliatory

Resources, Peace, security, a future are basic needs that people in the midst of violent conflict desperately want and seek. However, building back trust, livelihoods, institutions and relationships is a complex and long-term endeavours, full of steps forward and back is the task of peacebuilding and we can't afford not to do it.

Dumasy states three reasons why peacebuilding matters today:

1. Because the effects of conflict are far reaching

The majority of those risking their lives trying to reach Europe are from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia and other areas beset by violent conflict, insecurity or political repression. While we can and should respond generously to their immediate plight, a strategic peacebuilding response looks at what can be done 'at source'. It takes concerted efforts over the medium to long-term to help people confront and tackle the root causes and drivers of conflicts and their legacies.

2. Because military answers alone to political problems don't work

At the heart of many violent

conflicts lie issues of inequality, injustice and exclusion. While criminality can feed on and into a conflict, there are often genuine and unaddressed grievances at play, which are expressed in violence. Military power may be deployed to prevent or defend against an immediate threat, but it cannot resolve underlying political, social and economic problems and sustain peace. In fact it can sometimes complicate that task.

3. Because conflict shatters lives and stunts development

More than 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by violent conflict. 59.5 million are currently forcibly displaced worldwide, 19.5 million of them refugees, of which half are children. No low-income conflict-affected country has achieved a single one of the UN Millennium Development Goals which expire this autumn. Peacebuilding approaches, including mediation and diplomacy, dialogue and participation, are an essential part of the toolkit we need to meet Goal 16 of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals, to 'promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development'.



EVE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Relationship

Men don't understand things women consider as love

WOMEN are not as complicated as you may imagine; women are complicated when you don't understand them; yet, minor things about women, like men, are complicated. Men must endeavor to understand women in order to comprehend what makes relationships successful. God designed women to act and behave the way they do; you can't change their nature. Women will always be women.

WHAT DO WOMEN INTERPRET AS LOVE?

1. Caring is a form of love, and every woman values a man who is caring. She will believe you never love her if you don't care for her. Every woman considers care and respect to be signs of love. Make every effort to look after and respect your wife.

Learn to care for your woman, respect your wife, and adore your wife if you want your woman to treasure and love you as you deserve. Women value appreciation a lot when a man cares and respects her.

Women believe in do me and do you; if you treat her well, she will treat you well, and if you treat her badly, she will treat you badly. That is why it is critical that you treat your girlfriend with respect at all times.

2. Every woman craves attention above all else; your money and worldly possessions are valuable to her, but if you don't make time for her, your money and gifts will be useless. Women want everything, which

is why some men always say, "You can't satisfy a woman because she'll always want more," but making time for a woman shouldn't be a difficult task; this is your woman, the mother of your children, someone you love, and you chose her; it's not an easy decision to marry a woman, but you chose her; remember, if you can't make time for her, it's totally bad or your money, gift, or material possession.

Attention is interpreted as love by women. If you don't spend time with a lady, she will presume you love someone else above her, no matter how much money you spend on her. Make time for your wife.

3. Give her money, keep giving her money, and never stop giving her money. Money and surprises are interpreted as affection by women. Try to do some, and offer it to your wife; she needs money for other things.

Everyone needs money, whether you like it or not, and men should stop acting like women are overly demanding.

4. Women appreciate it when you admire them, and they appreciate it much more when you value them and don't compare them to other women. Women want you to think of them as the best in the world. Your wife wants you to perceive her as the most important person in your life, and she wants you to adore her alone.

When you boost her self-



esteem and morale, when you tell her she's the best you've got, when you refuse to compare her to anyone else. She sees it as a sign of affection. Love her and don't compare her.

Never compare a woman to another woman, never expect too much from her, love her for who she is and help her improve in areas where you want her to improve, but don't try to change her; improvement is important, but improvement is not the same as change; don't try to change her, but help her improve.

5. Women are like eggs simple things break them down. A lady does not want a man to yell at her or mistreat her. When you don't scream at her in private or in public. When you don't say anything insulting to her when you're upset, she takes it as a sign of love. To preserve your woman's love, respect her, keep your cool, appreciate her, don't scream at her, don't beat her up, don't slap her, and never abuse her cruelly.

6. Be romantic and pamper her; every woman appreciates being pampered, and she desires nice discussions, sweet phrases, and pleasant amusements. Make time for her and cherish every moment you have with her.

To be honest, I can't list them all, but I'm sure you're aware of them all. Try to do what is right and treat your woman right, do things at the right time and never hold back in doing the right things at the right time, respect your woman, care for her, love her, show you love her every day, and most importantly, be faithful

to your woman. When you are faithful to your woman, you have already proven to her that you love her.

Always keep in mind that women and men are not the same. Allow your woman to be a woman and stop expecting her to act like a man because you will be disappointed because God did not create a woman to be a man. Women were created by God to be women. When you grasp this simple concept, you will gain a better understanding of women and a greater appreciation for

your own woman, you'll treat her better and love her.

Stop trying to turn your woman into a man, just love her; women were made to be loved. Love runs through their veins. Women are love, and everything they are surrounded by is love. Never hurt or malign a woman; treat her the way she deserves to be treated. Love her, respect her, care for her, appreciate her, support her, be honest and contented with her, never cheat on her. Many women has beautiful soul, don't shattered her.



BUSINESS WORLD

Can Bitcoin save developing countries from inflation?

Historically, gold has done its bit to tackle inflation, another reasonably stable asset. However, because it is conceivably more accessible, Bitcoin has grown to be a more attractive choice. Many countries' economies have benefited from Bitcoin (BTC) and other cryptocurrencies. Despite widespread poverty, Bitcoin is a digital currency for internet transactions in Third-World countries. This is most likely because anyone may connect to the internet and engage in the cryptocurrency economy. Madeline Young writes

Many emerging countries, like India, and continents like Africa, have significant cryptocurrency adoption rates. As a Bitcoin holder, you can sell Bitcoin in Nigeria for profit or keep the coin as an investment after buying Bitcoin on sites accessible to local cryptocurrency enthusiasts.

Bitcoin's decentralised structure allows people from Third-World countries to trade with others all around the world. In principle, all that are required to begin Bitcoin trading is a crypto wallet and a stable internet connection while staying abreast of Bitcoin news in Nigeria to inform your decision on the best time to trade the coin.

Bitcoin serves individuals and businesses well as a decentralised alternative to centralised money, especially in nations with significant rates of unbanked citizens.

People from low-income backgrounds may find it challenging to acquire essential financial services because financial institutions might be unwelcoming. Because banks nearly always have many documentation requirements and prerequisites, even creating a basic savings account may be difficult for some. Even for entrepreneurs who might require start-up capital for their firms, loans may be inaccessible to many.

Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, through decentralised finance (DeFi) systems, make financial services available to the unbanked. Cryptocurrencies also aid emerging markets because they cover the voids left by developing countries' official currencies.

Cryptocurrencies, whether used as a method of trade, a store of value or a unit of account, address specific concerns that frequently affect national currencies, like:

- Fast-moving exchange rates
- Unpredictable inflation
- Regulatory and financial restrictions. The inefficient and expensive banking system.

The traditional remittance industry, a vital source of income for many developing nations, is also challenged by the rise of cryptocurrencies. Peer-to-peer (P2P) cryptocurrency networks with significantly cheaper transaction fees are a potential alternative to using established but excessively expensive platforms like Western Union to move money across borders.

Impact of Bitcoin on developed Vs. developing Countries

In developed countries, cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin are frequently regarded as investments or viewed with scepticism. Bitcoin is sometimes considered a dangerous venture and extremely unpredictable fad, particularly in the banking world, where old conceptions of centralised finance still reign supreme.

Crypto enthusiasts, on the other



hand, are free to participate in the crypto economy as they see fit.

We may witness Bitcoin acceptance among investors, miners, and traders in wealthy countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Regulations vary, and persons interested in cryptocurrency continue to oppose regulators.

However, in countries like Nigeria, which ranks as one of the largest traders of Bitcoin across the globe, its people have grown to rely on Bitcoin to handle financial issues, and the freedom to transact is not as easy because of restrictions or warnings; the Nigerian government banned transaction fees are a potential stumbling obstacle on the route to crypto-enabled financial freedom.

Cryptocurrency is gaining traction in underdeveloped countries, particularly in locations with a history of financial instability. The impact of Bitcoin in Africa, for example, is proven by solid adoption rates within the region. "Africa could be the next frontier for cryptocurrency," the United Nations stated. Individuals and business owners have discovered practical applications for Bitcoin, such as paying for overseas suppliers in Bitcoin rather than dollars.

Bitcoin allows people in developing countries to break free from the shackles of poverty and,

at the very least, negotiate the problems that come with living in a developing country. Third-World countries' deficiencies in existing banking systems create gaps, making them a ripe setting for Bitcoin use. People can overcome financial inequity and currency volatility by accessing cryptocurrency and blockchain technology.

How does cryptocurrency help in improving developing countries?

The list of benefits that Bitcoin provides developing countries begins with financial inclusion, but it does not end there. Individuals in underdeveloped nations can save money by trading Bitcoin and negotiating reduced transaction costs. Small firms can also engage in worldwide trading utilising Bitcoin as a payment channel, avoiding the bureaucracies associated with traditional financing.

1. Combating Inflation

Devaluation of the currency and rising costs for goods and services are the hallmarks of inflation. Particularly for fiat currencies, it still poses a threat that occasionally pops to the surface. As a result, consumers frequently use cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin to hedge against inflation because they are assets that hold their value over time.

Historically, gold has done its bit to tackle inflation, another reasonably stable asset. However, because

it is conceivably more accessible, Bitcoin has grown to be a more attractive choice.

2. Reducing Corruption and Promoting Transparency

In Third-World nations, corruption is one of the leading causes of poverty. An investigation by the anti-corruption NGO Transparency International reveals a relationship between the two. A country that is already poor becomes furthermore impoverished by corruption.

Some individuals in authority steal cash that could be useful for infrastructure, healthcare, crisis response, and other things.

Cryptocurrency can use blockchain technology to assist developing countries in eliminating corruption. Because blockchain records are accessible to the public through an immutable distributed public ledger, governments may be held accountable. We can track government spending on programs and initiatives without the possibility of documents being forged or altered.

3. Higher Financial Inclusion of the Marginalized

In places where banking services are unavailable or inaccessible,

blockchain technology enables underprivileged communities to use banking services. Peer-to-peer international money transfers are instant, secure, and affordable using blockchain technology.

People can invest in and borrow tiny sums of money from other people using cryptocurrency. These microloans and micro-investments are excellent methods for dividing the risk among different lenders.

Without opening a bank account, the unbanked can use cryptocurrencies as long as they have a crypto wallet. Due to the open access provided by blockchain technology, people don't require documentation to participate in microfinance (microloans and micro-investments).

Conclusion

Developing countries have a favourable environment for adopting Bitcoin because of the shortcomings of their traditional banking systems. Due to its advantages, many people and businesses in these areas are already accepting Bitcoin. People in these nations are being impacted by this trend in a variety of ways, including by enabling them to transact internationally and generate income from Bitcoin trading.

Source: Financial Nigeria

BUSINESS WORLD

Buhari seeks increase in volume of trade with US

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has described the United States as Nigeria's main trading partner and one of "our most important diplomatic partners", underscoring the need for concerted efforts to increase the volume of bilateral trade.

The President spoke at a meeting with the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU), at the Nigeria International Economic Partnership Forum, held on the margins of the 77th UN General Assembly in New York on Thursday. He told the gathering that in 2020, Nigeria exported over \$1.69 billion worth of goods to the US, adding that these exports were primarily made up of crude oil and other petroleum products. "Nigeria's capability is not just limited to the oil and gas industry, but variety of other sectors that hold notable potentials.

"We are the largest economy in Africa and have over 200 million-strong consumer market that is home to a range of attractive opportunities in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, light manufacturing, infrastructure development and technology.

"The beauty of this forum is that the Ministers responsible for all of these sectors are here today, as are some of



Buhari

Nigeria's premier business leaders who are already excelling in these spaces", President Buhari said in a statement issued by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina. The President further said that Nigeria is open to deepening collaboration with BCIU, pledging this administration's continued commitment to maintain an enabling business environment that is friendly to foreign investors.

"Going into partnerships with trusted local and foreign partners who have well-established networks and understand the dynamics of the country is one way to guarantee success in Nigeria. "Today's event provides a platform for businesses under the BCIU umbrella to make connections with credible Nigerian partners. I trust that this event will help build partnerships that will translate into increased trade and investment flows between Nigeria and the United States", he said.

African central banks poised to raise interest rates

AFRICA'S three biggest economies are poised to raise interest rates this week as well as next week while policy makers in several other countries stake out different approaches to navigate inflation shocks and bring prices under control, Bloomberg reported yesterday.

The Central Banks of Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt are among six likely to tighten monetary policy in the days ahead, it said, while another six countries are set to pause as they assess the impact of previous hikes and relief measures to contain

prices. Topping the agenda would be the implications that weaker local currencies would have on the cost of imported goods, as aggressive rate hikes by the Federal Reserve and expectations of more to come boost the dollar. The repercussions of Russia's war in Ukraine and an anticipated downturn in Europe and China, alongside emerging price pressures from extreme weather events, are also likely to be in the spotlight.

Nigeria's central bank was expected to step up monetary tightening after inflation hit a

fresh 17-year high in August. It threatens to remain elevated because of floods in its food-producing regions, a surge in diesel costs and continued currency weakness, the report added. Bloomberg quoted Central Bank of Nigeria Governor, Godwin Emefiele as saying at the July MPC meeting that policy makers could lean towards additional hikes if inflation continues to be "aggressive." An increase in the benchmark would take it over 14 per cent for the first time since the rate was adopted in 2006. The central bank, "may feel there is still some scope to raise rates in order to attract foreign exchange inflows," said Joachim MacEbong, lead analyst at Lagos-based Acorn and Sage Consulting. "Inflation remains a serious concern," he added. In South Africa, worries over unanchored inflation expectations and increased depreciation pressure on the rand will probably see the country's Reserve Bank raise its key rate for a sixth straight meeting, said Sanisha Packirisamy, an economist at Momentum Investments. All the economists polled by Bloomberg said they expected the MPC to raise its benchmark to 6.25 per cent from 5.5 per cent, in what would be the first time it hiked rates by 75 basis

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Oil, gas industry operators to get tax vacation - Sylva



Sylva

the absence of the right framework led to the lack of funding for project decommissioning and abandonment, including poor environmental stewardship as well as insignificant direct benefits to resource host-communities.

Surmounting these challenges, Sylva noted, required strong determination to reform the industry in order to build a robust, thriving and resilient economic backbone for domestic growth in the era of global energy transition.

Sylva argued that Nigeria was already reaping positive results from the enactment of the PIA 2021, stressing that for example, existing and potential investors now have certainty on the regulatory regime, which were not available in the past. "This has helped to clear one of the major challenges that held back the sanctioning of new projects," he noted. The minister maintained that government has taken the necessary steps to sustainably implement and operationalise the PIA 2021 within the timelines stipulated in the Act.

To this end, the government, the minister added, has inaugurated the steering

committee, which he chairs and is responsible for PIA implementation immediately after the PIA was signed into law. He added that the law will also aid our energy transition plan through efforts to focus on natural gas, a much less CO2 emitting energy source, to power the country's energy sufficiency. "Natural gas remains our transition fuel, a viable and sustainable pathway to a clean energy transition, as it provides the energy needed for our growing population in terms of power generation, transport, feedstock for industries and clean cooking solutions." Our reforms focus encompass energy security, economic competitiveness, and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Our abundant natural gas can conveniently meet all three priorities simultaneously.

"With over 200 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF) of proven gas reserve, and a potential upside of up to 600TCF, the most extensive in Africa, and among the top 10 globally, natural gas will be a major component of our energy mix for the foreseeable future," the minister explained.

FAO, World Bank calls for action on food crisis

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group, World Food Programme, and World Trade Organisation have called for urgent action to address the global food security crisis.

This is contained in a joint statement issued by the Director-General, FAO, Qu Dongyu; Managing Director, IMF, Kristalina Georgieva; President, WBG, David Malpass; Executive Director, WFP, David Beasley and Director-General, WTO, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

They said the war in Ukraine continues to worsen global food security and nutrition crisis, triggering higher volatility in energy, food and fertiliser prices.

They said in spite of the reprieve in global food prices and the resumption of grain exports from the Black Sea, food remained beyond reach for many due to high prices and weather shocks.

They said the number of people facing acute food insecurity worldwide is expected to continue to rise. Fertiliser markets, they said, remained volatile, especially

in Europe, where tight natural gas supplies and high prices had caused many producers of urea and ammonia to stop operations.

"We welcome the efforts of the Global Crisis Response Group and the Black Sea Grain Initiative: through the Joint Coordination Centre, over three million metric tons of grain and foodstuffs have already been exported from Ukraine.

"We are encouraged by the downward trend of trade-restrictive measures implemented by countries and hope that the trend continues," they said.

The World Bank is implementing its 30 billion dollar programme to respond to the food security crisis and front loading resources from the IDA20 Crisis Response Window.

The leaders added that the IMF was proposing a new food shock window within the IMF emergency lending instruments.

"The FAO has proposed a series of policy recommendations and launched detailed soil nutrition maps at country level to increase efficiencies in the use

of fertilisers.

"Maintaining momentum on these fronts and building resilience for the future would require a continued comprehensive and coordinated effort to support efficient production and trade, and improve transparency.

"Also to accelerate innovation and joint planning and investment in food systems transformation," they said.

In terms of supporting efficient production and trade, they said, governments in all countries need to urgently re-examine their agricultural trade and market interventions, such as subsidies and export restrictions.

"This would help to identify and minimise distortions.

"In terms of improving transparency, food market monitoring must be supplemented with transparent tracking of financing by the international community to respond to the food crisis.

Addressing both infrastructure bottlenecks and input supply bottlenecks, for example, fertilizers and seeds, they said are critical to an efficient food supply system.



Emefiele

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

Entrepreneurship development in Nigeria: Problems and prospects

The need for entrepreneurship development in Nigeria has never been so high in the history of the country. However, despite the increased call for entrepreneurship, it still requires much improvement. The reason for this is the huge number of the challenges that entrepreneurship development in Nigeria is facing today. This article has highlighted some of the major problems and how we can overcome most of them. Entrepreneurship development in Nigeria problems and prospect. JOHNSON OLAWALE writes.

A person who has created and owns a business is known as an entrepreneur. But some people believe entrepreneurship is more than just starting a business. It is a mindset, a way of thinking and acting. Entrepreneurship in these modern age involves thinking of new ways to solve problems and create value. An entrepreneurial spirit is said to be characterised by innovation and risk-taking. ADVERTISEMENT Ads by Read also Reasons for underdevelopment in Nigeria and possible solutions Entrepreneurship in Nigeria Brief history of entrepreneurship in Nigeria History very often has a direct impact on what the nation is facing in the present. Entrepreneurship in Nigeria today is not what it used to be. Majority of Nigerians used to be entrepreneurs.

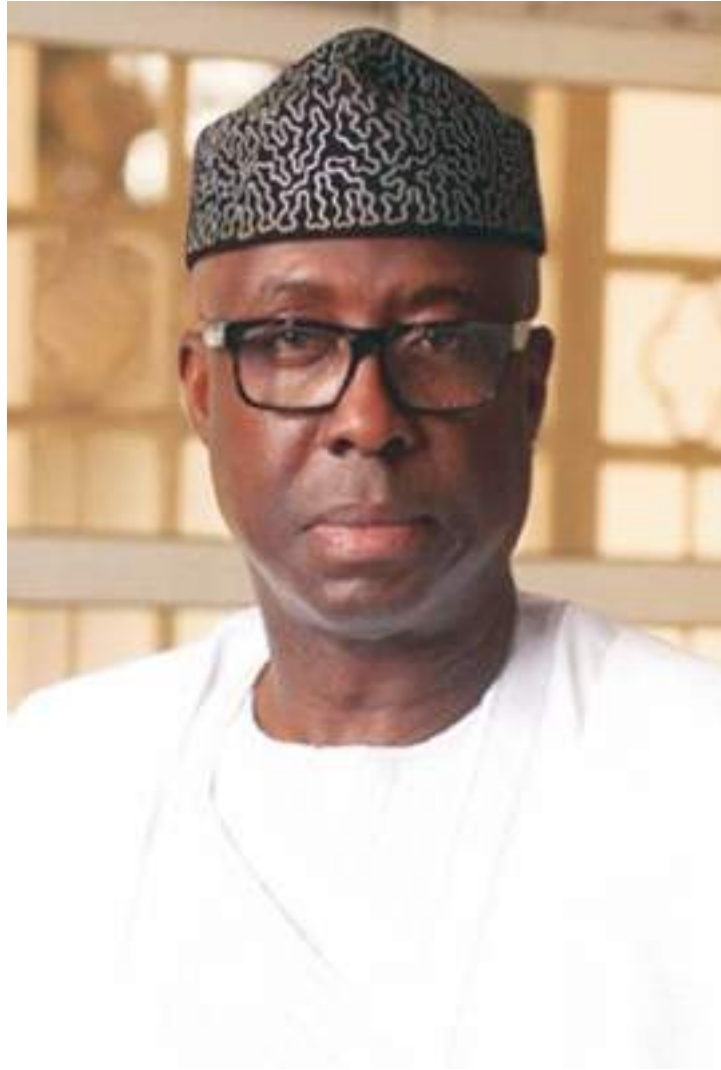
Before the colonization era, a lot of Nigerians were majorly involved in trading. In fact, the wealthiest at the time were the traders. Even before money was generally accepted as the ledger tender, people exchanged what they had in surplus for what they don't have.

Entrepreneurship was a way of life for most people then. Nigeria always was full of people with a business mindset and Nigerians always had a high moral standard and value system for doing business. During the colonial era, the mode of entrepreneurship changed.

The colonial masters brought their goods and made Nigerians their middlemen. Then came formal education and the companies established by the colonial masters. A lot of young Nigerians were employed by these companies.

As many Nigerians began to accept formal education, most people were being trained to join the labour force and not to be entrepreneurs. The entrepreneurial mindset began to fade away. Read also Challenges of entrepreneurship in Nigeria and potential solutions READ ALSO: Federal Government loan scheme for youth in Nigeria 2017 - Youth Ignite Project Youth Empowerment Schemes Nowadays, there is a high need for entrepreneurship in Nigeria and many organisations and the government have been working on improving entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. However, due to the set of challenges the entrepreneurship in Nigeria is not flourishing as in many other countries. Let's have a closer look at these problems.

Entrepreneurship development in Nigeria Major problems of Nigerian entrepreneurs As the need and call for entrepreneurship increases day by day, the development of entrepreneurship has been stalled in the last few years. This is because of the problems affecting and limiting its development. Many Nigerian entrepreneurs face a lot of challenges. Here are the major ones that have been affecting the development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. 1. Lack of capital There are thousands of Nigerians with wonderful ideas that could be turned into a real business. However, most of them lack the capital to push their ideas into



Adebayo

reality.

The lack of capital is the number one reason why the development of entrepreneurship has not improved over the years. Read also Meaning of entrepreneurship, its development and use for the economy 2. Difficulty in securing loans from financial institutions In the first point, we established that the first problem most Nigerian entrepreneurs face is the lack of capital. Most people then try to turn to banks and other financial institution to secure loans to fund their idea or business. But getting a loan is very difficult and most times impossible for average Nigerians who are looking for funds to start up a business or who already have a small business.

The reason for this is that the banks and financial institution feel it is a huge risk lending money to them. Financial institutions are not sure if entrepreneurs will be able to pay back the loan. Another major reason why securing a loan is so difficult is the requirements needed for securing this loans. Most of the financial institutions demand huge collateral and high-interest rate that small business owners or start-ups cannot afford.

This discourages most Nigerian entrepreneurs and kills many promising ideas. Read also 10 social issues Nigeria has to deal with right now Challenges of Entrepreneurship development in Nigeria 3. Poor state of infrastructure in Nigeria The lack of

good infrastructural facilities is another major problem affecting the development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. The number one issue of infrastructure affecting entrepreneurship is the unstable power supply that has forced a lot of businesses to close down. Most entrepreneurs have to rely on generators to run their businesses. They have to spend a lot of money on fuel to run their generators. Also, lack of good roads and transport system in another infrastructural challenge plaguing entrepreneurship in Nigeria. The poor state of infrastructure in Nigeria makes the cost of running a business or company high. Most small businesses and start-ups can't afford it. 4. Unstable state of Nigerian economy The state of the Nigerian economy is also a major challenge for entrepreneurs in Nigeria.

The state of a country and its economy plays a significant impact on the level of entrepreneurship in any country. The socio-economic problems and the unstable economy of Nigeria has killed a lot of businesses in the last couple years. All these mixed with political instability is not helping businesses at all. Read also What are the major causes of poverty in Nigeria?

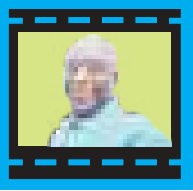
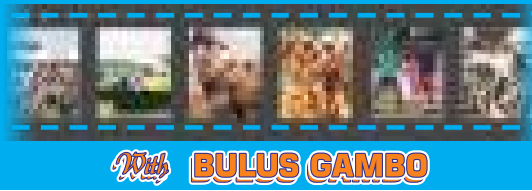
Aliko Dangote, Nigeria most successful entrepreneur 5. Inconsistent government policies There is no continuity in Nigerian government especially when there is a change in governance.

Unfortunately, there are no good policies that could create necessary conditions for the development of entrepreneurship in the country. The government needs to create policies and an environment that will give more freedom and possibilities for entrepreneurs. 6. Poor knowledge on how to run a business Not all the problems are from the government or capital related. Another problem is that most people don't know how to manage and grow a business properly.

They don't seem to learn or have the resources to learn how to manage and grow a business. 7. Inadequate planning and poor execution This is the result of the poor knowledge on how to run a business. Most people don't plan properly before they start their business. They don't make researchers about the business, the market for the business, the cost of production, etc. Many do not even make a business plan. So, after they start a business, they get stuck and the business fails. Also, a lot of people start off the wrong path and eventually the business ends up failing. Read also Top 5 benefits of entrepreneurship for Nigerian economic development Small and Medium-sized Enterprises 8. Lack of patience and greediness A lot of new business owners and young entrepreneurs are looking to make money quickly. They are more money oriented and not entrepreneurship oriented. In fact, a lot of people go into business because of the money and they want it fast. Many people want quick money but as a result, they don't have enough patience to grow a business that has the potential of becoming big. Also, due to the desire for quick returns and greediness, a lot of people try to find easier means of making more money in business and ends up getting duped. 9. High risk involved in starting a new business Many are afraid of the risks and give up the idea to start own business. However, it is important to understand that a business and risk go hand in hand. no pain, no gain. 10. Lack of entrepreneurial mindset Read also 3 reasons why entrepreneurship is important for all developing countries This is the result of the mentality that was brought instilled in us in the last decades. This is how the colonial era influenced the mindset of many Nigerians. As we have already mentioned, most people were taught to be in the labour force and not to be entrepreneurs. Development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria What are the prospects of entrepreneurship in Nigeria? You have read about the problems of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. However, you also need to know that despite all challenges there are great prospects for entrepreneurship in Nigeria. With the present on-going economic transformation plan by the Nigerian government, solid foundations for economic growth are being made. Also, the government is making effort to create an environment that will allow businesses grow profitably. Entrepreneurship

development can affect the future of Nigeria in the following ways: 1. Entrepreneurship will promote Nigeria's economic development. The role entrepreneurship development has to play in the economic development of Nigeria cannot be overemphasised. Even though there are a lot of barriers limiting entrepreneurship in Nigeria, it is still needed for the country to develop. Read also National development: What positive changes should happen in Nigeria? In 2009, reports showed that small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in the industrial sector contributed about thirty-seven percent (37%) of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for that year. It was the second largest contributor after the oil sector. So, entrepreneurship development has got a lot to offer and improve the economy of Nigeria. 2. Entrepreneurship will create employment opportunities and help to reduce the level of unemployment in the country Entrepreneurship creates new opportunities of employment for many Nigerians. More programmes are being laid out to encourage and facilitate Small and Medium-sized businesses (SME's) in Nigeria. In most developed countries, the existence of SME's has provided more jobs for their citizens. And so, if entrepreneurship continues to develop in Nigeria, more SME's will arise and in turn reduce unemployment in Nigeria. 3. Development of entrepreneurship will also improve the standard of living of Nigerians Prospect of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria Finally, we would like to suggest some moves we believe will foster entrepreneurship development in Nigeria: Read also What are the 10 economic problems that Nigeria is facing? The government needs to work with other organisation to foster the creating a better environment for entrepreneurship and the private sector in Nigeria. This will include improving the level of infrastructure in the country. Also, formal education needs to be revised to produce more innovative mindsets rather than ordinary job seeking dummies. Mark Zuckerberg in Nigeria Also, easy access to capital should be provided by the government and financial institutions. The government should also increase the funding of financial institutions that provide loans to SME's and start-ups. Modern technology needs to be incorporated in the country and also in the educational system. The agricultural sector needs to be actively revitalised. It has a lot of entrepreneurial potentials and it is embedded in the culture of Nigerians. Tony Elumelu, Chairman United Bank of Africa. Nigeria is said to have the second largest economy in Africa. So there is a great potential and prospect for entrepreneurship development in Nigeria. All that is needed for everyone involved, is to work together in advancing the course of entrepreneurship in the country.

Source: Legit.ng



'I am studying journalism's future'

Continued from page 16

When we sit in a cinema, or in front of my TV at home, and we see love between two queer people is humanized; or we watch a play, in which women are the authors of their own fates and destinies, with impressive results; when we see a sculpture that unusually centres little children at play, and creates a world in which they can escape from child labour, abuse; when we read satire that makes plain, humorous and ridiculous the state of political affairs... we may be more easily convinced of activists' ambitions. Through aesthetically pleasing, experiential means, we may be encouraged to join a cause.

What is the most meaningful piece of writing advice you've ever received?

'Don't say purchase, when you can say buy.' — Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Farafina Creative Writing Workshop, June 2015.

Who's an author you wish you had discovered earlier?

bell hooks. I only started reading her after she passed but, my God, what a woman. What a writer. What a gift. I am catching up and I will. I have been sitting with *All About Love* for a few weeks and it has completely turned me inside out on my thoughts on love, compassion, trauma, hurt, living? May she continue to rest with angels.

Who are the journalists you're most excited about today?

This is a shameless plug—but I am very excited about the young journalists in the African Arguments Fellowship for Young Freelancers whom I have the privilege to work with closely: Ope Adetayo, Immaculata Abba, Yared Tsegaye, Lara Reffat, Nicolas Nhalungo and Wyban Kanyi.

The reason is a little selfish: I have a front seat to watching them grow and get better in real time but, more importantly, they are producing compelling journalism. Have you read Abba's breathless review of a Nigerian work installed in St. Paul's Cathedral, positioned as 'challenging British history'? Or Adetayo's timely, lucid reporting on the plight of African students trying to flee war in Ukraine? Or Reffat's visual, resonant telling of women in Egypt taking back their power and flipping the finger to Egyptian patriarchy by riding bikes? You should!

Figurative works of the 'black body' are very popular in the West at the moment, triggered by some guilt post the murder of George Floyd and the racial reckoning that followed.

What is your favourite topic to write or read about these days? (Please include the names of articles and books, if possible)

My favourite topic to write about these days is restitution. We are seeing a slow, yet maddening, but somewhat exhilarating paradigm shift in the relations between Western museums and governments and our ancestral, spiritual, cosmological, religious artefacts, they pillaged by military conquest or 'bought' in contexts of power imbalance.

It is fascinating to see countries like Benin find some success in getting sacred royal treasures of Abomey returned through pragmatic diplomacy; Nigeria's Benin Bronzes, ivories, wood, returned through relentless advocacy; countries like Germany having a come to Jesus moment after having been glib about these works for so long; countries like Britain maintaining a retentionist stance; France giving works back piecemeal to Benin, Senegal and soon, Ivory Coast and the Seychelles, on a case by case basis. France does this, maintaining that this return is not an act of repentance for the violence visited on their former colonies and subsequent theft, but rather friendship. A really interesting time in cultural geopolitics.

I write about all of this not only because it is topical but also because restitution is still perceived to be an elitist pursuit by (some) African observers—when it should be everyone's interest. There's a good reason why. Pitt Rivers Museum curator and author of *The British Museums: The Benin Bronzes, Colonial Violence and Cultural Restitution*, Dan Hicks, once told me in an interview that what colonizers did in pillaging these works from us was 'seeking to undertake a cultural dispossession, seeking to destroy sovereignty, seeking to destroy religion' and most importantly to my mind, the 'destruction of knowledge.'

Of course, restitution seems abstract and unrelatable, because we have been separated from our heritage, no longer able to understand or appreciate our history, ancestry, our pride, religions, which some of these artefacts—and the customs around their use, were vessels of propagating. If these works weren't valuable proponents of all the aforementioned; and if our histories and religions weren't powerful, they would not have been so painstakingly taken apart.

And so, I write about this mainly to mainstream the idea of restitution for Nigerian readers—and at large African readers, should the work reach them. I hope to express the importance of these works, how they tell our story as a people, how they are markers of identity, of pride; to recall their positions as works of truly—and I must borrow

this cliché—immaculate conception.

And if you are not even compelled by the cultural, historical, historical significance — consider that they are works of wonder, who in today's capitalist world invite curious eyes and paying hands. Western museums have put on exhibitions, displays with a Cameroonian wood sculpture of the Bangwe Queen, Sossa Dede's life-size, anthropomorphic statues of past Benin kings, Glèlè and Béhanzin, or Mukanda masks from southern Congo or North-East Angola. And they have charged visitors handsomely for it. While we may not have a culture of monetizing sacred objects, who does this windfall really belong to?

I also fully realize that writing with this kind of intention, I can be easily branded as not being objective as journalists should. I welcome any questions or debate in this regard.

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on understanding or studying what the business and future of journalism, and media sustainability looks like in the Nigerian context. I am interested in what new business models will be—particularly as it concerns coverage of arts / culture / history, or even more traditionally successful beats like politics, business. The ads-based, patronage revenue model still works for most traditional print publications now—but not for much longer as the reading audience evolves and even the way they want to consume media changes too.

For folks who want to produce compelling, independent journalism free from political influence or private interests, they must start thinking of alternative business models to the ads-heavy one. We have seen what happens to publications when they hold power to account. (hello, 234Next?). They can be needed by the government, who, by extension, can exert pressure on private companies who can starve them of ad money. This could be an exaggeration, but it seems to me that there is no way to be a journalist in this country—working in a traditional, legacy print publication, without serving political interests somehow. So, we must explore alternative revenue streams, some of which directly collect from the audience: subscriptions, paywalls, live events, merchandize, consulting services, more. We must also interrogate the audience culture and ease of paying for media content—which is still problematic.

David Adeleke analyses these issues beautifully in his newsletter. Particularly on the South African example, investigative publication, *Daily Maverick* and their membership model, challenges of the subscription model in Africa and the cost of good journalism in Nigeria. I'm invigorated by the promise of the likes of Big Cabal Media and Stears Business who've fundraised recently and are exploring interesting revenue models and mixes: paywalls, donations, consulting services, etc. They are yet the exceptions to the rule. I am deeply invested in thinking out what similar ambitious media ventures could look like: how engaged journalism or membership programmes can work here, how product thinking can be applied, how journalism can be more responsive, service-oriented, how or if it can be paid for; and how culture, internet penetration, language, social media behaviour, play a role in all of this.

Restitution seems abstract and unrelatable because we have been separated, no longer able to understand or appreciate our history, ancestry, our pride, or our religions.

If your work would never be published, would you still write?

Probably not. I—perhaps hubristically—see, hope, and work hard at my work being a service to those who encounter it: that it informs, that it illuminates, that it humanises, it deepens knowledge of something, that it questions, that it breaks stereotypes. There's a satisfaction I get from knowing when I have succeeded in doing any of these things. That satisfaction is facilitated by the world seeing the work... published. Although that is my journalism.

For my creative writing—not to say journalism isn't a creative pursuit—I would probably still write to record, to document, to tell memories, events, histories for myself. Sneaky two-for-one answer, yes. Can't help it!



Where do the richest Americans live?

Continued from page 16

earning him the No. 26 spot on The Land Report's list of America's largest landowners last year. In terms of residences, he has a 165,000-acre ranch in West Texas, a waterfront house in Washington state, three linked apartments in Manhattan's Century Tower, and a 12,000-square-foot Beverly Hills estate that boasts Tom Cruise as a neighbor, according to Forbes.

His home at Medina, Washington, close to Amazon's headquarters, boasts 5.35 acres and about 29,000 square-foot of living space. Aside from the main home, there's also a caretaker's cottage and a 4,500-square-foot boathouse on Lake Washington.



Warren BuffettWorth: \$65.5 billion Home: Omaha, Nebraska

Although the shrewdest investor on earth holds multiple real estate investments, Mr. Buffett, 86, is known for living humbly.

His home sits on a corner in Omaha, Nebraska, which he bought in 1958 for \$31,500. Mr. Buffett has lived there ever since. The house, originally built in 1921, underwent several expansions to make it a cozy and comfortable 6,500-square-foot home for the man who has a net worth of over \$65.5 billion.



Mark ZuckerbergWorth: \$55.5 billion Home: Palo Alto, California

The youngest richest entrepreneur docks most of his wealth in schools, health and other philanthropies. His real estate portfolio include his home in Palo Alto and a 9.9-million pied-a-terre near Dolores Park in San Francisco.

Mr. Zuckerberg, 32, purchased his first Craftsman-style 5,000-square-foot home in Palo Alto in 2011 for \$7 million. He snapped up four of the houses surrounding his home in the following years for about \$43.8 million to better keep his privacy. But his plan to tear down and rebuild those four homes has been stalled.



Larry EllisonWorth: \$49.3 billion Home: Woodside, California

Oracle executive chairman Larry Ellison, 72, has an extensive real estate portfolio. He has bought up large parts of whole neighborhoods in Malibu and around Lake Tahoe. He owns a \$70-million Beechwood Mansion in Newport, Rhode Island; a garden villa in Kyoto, Japan; and 98% of the land of Lanai, Hawaii's sixth-largest island, which he purchased in 2012 for \$500 million, according to published reports.

His estate in Woodside, California, with an estimated value of \$110 million, is modeled after 16th-century Japanese architecture, complete with a man-made 2.3-acre lake.

Source: Mansion Global



QUA'AN PAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLATEAU STATE

INVITATION TO TENDER BID

We hereby invite any reputable and competent contractor to submit bid for the under mention projects in Qua'an Pan Local Government Area.

1. Construction of Skill Acquisition Centre in Deomak Qua'an-Pan LGA
2. Construction of an examination hall at G.S.S. Kwa Qua'an Pan LGA
3. Renovation of the Old Secretariat Complex within the LGC.
4. Purchase of medicine to use in Primary Health Care Centers in Qua'an Pan LGA.
5. Purchase of clinic equipment, disinfectants and laboratory equipment for distribution to PHCs in Qua'an Pan.

Note: Details of all construction works can be obtain in the Works Department of the council.

REQUIREMENT:

Any contractor willing to bid for the above projects must:

- i. Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- ii. A Registered Contractor with Qua'an Pan LGC
- iii. Must have the last 3 years company tax clearance certificate
- iv. Paid a non-refundable tender fee of N35,000.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER BID

Fully completed tender bid document financial/technical in duplicate copies with complete company profile to the secretary of Qua'an Pan Local Government Tender Board, drop in the Executive Chairman Office within two weeks of this advertisement

NB: Qua'an Pan LGC is neither committed nor obliged to reply company or person non-refundable fee unsuitable.

STEPHEN BULUS DUL
Secretary
Qua'an Pan LGC Tender Board
For: Executive Chairman

NEWS

Poor polices, challenges to child marriage

THE Coalition of Civil Society of Nigeria on Ending Child Marriage has attributed poor policies framework and non implementation as challenges to ending child marriage in the country.

The Co-chair of the Coalition, Mrs Carolyn Seaman, said this at a two-day road planning workshop for UNICEF/ GTA project in Abuja.

According to her, the current statistics says 44 per cent of girls are married before they turn 18 years of age and 18 per cent before they turn 15 years of age.

She said the statistics was alarming, saying the coalition major aim was to promote gender-transformational action to address child marriage and advance girls' right in the country.

"Apart from the big treaties and international instruments who signed to ending child marriage, domesticating the laws has been a problem.

"Ending child marriage should be approached differently depending on the geo-political zones. "We are mindful of the different perceptions and fears of the different zones and that is why our approach and messages will be different" Seaman said.

She said, the coalition was going to leverage on the project of government on ending child marriage in which was the core mandate of the Ministry of Women Affairs.

The Steering Committee member of the Coalition, Mrs Comfort Ikpeme said, child marriage limited a child's development, violates children's rights and places them at high risk of violence, exploitation and abuse.

She said that child marriage affected both girls and boys, but it affects girls disproportionately.

"Child marriage ends childhood. It negatively influences children's rights to education, health and protection.

"These consequences impact not just the girl directly, but also her family and community," Ikpeme said.

She also said child marriage was an harmful practice that should be stopped saying, this barbaric act should not continue and not be seen as a normal thing.

"We might not be able to end child marriage now but it is our hope that in the nearest future, the practice will end with

strategies and activities in place we hope it will end.

"Ending child marriage was achievable in Nigeria it all depends on our attitudes and behaviour if our leaders are ready to listen to us," Ikpeme said.

She however, said government should put systems and structures in place to end child marriage adding that services should put in place for child marriage survivor.

Ikpeme said services should be rendered for

survivor who drop out school and can access scholarships to continue in their education.

The Co-chair of the Coalition, Mr Kola Olatosimi said at the end working the group hope to come up with a 12 month work plan in community that was more prevalence.

He said that ending child marriage was a collective effort and its achievable in the country through gender transformative approach. (NAN)

2023: Ishaku tasks youth to engage in active politics



Darius

From
VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

AS the 2023 elections approaches, the Taraba State Governor, Darius Ishaku, has encouraged youths in the State to get involved in active politics. He also asked them to shun cultism, drug abuse, kidnapping and other violent crimes.

Ishaku made this call on Saturday during a Peace and Security Summit to mark Taraba at 31 with the theme: The Role of the Youth in the Sustenance of Peace and Security in Taraba, organized by the Taraba Youth Council of Nigeria.

Represented by the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Hassan Bappa, Ishaku said given the security challenges the State has been facing, the security summit has become crucial.

According to him, the youth population was an asset to any society and that education was the best legacy to be bequeathed to the youth.

In his paper presentation, the Commissioner of Police, Taraba State Command, Abimbola Shokoya, stated that in modern policing, the youths are the backbone adding that community policing has helped in creating special constabularies to complement the security agencies. He advised the youth not to allow themselves to be used as tools of destruction and also shun violence and drugs.

The second paper presentation was delivered by Dr. Julius Ngomba, where he noted that the youths must be included in policy making. He said the resources of the youths are important in societal transformation adding they are triggers of violence and at the same time chief victims of violence in the society.

Meanwhile, a traditional ruler, Kpam Sanwi, Haniel Banti, in a goodwill message, stressed the need for Taraba to produce a youthful governor. "Taraba needs a youthful governor. Youth must be given an upper hand. When you bring the weak and the confused to lead us, then we are taking our State to no where," he warned.

Earlier on, Chairman Taraba Youth Council, Comrade Hikon Atoshi, commended security agencies for the maintenance of peace in Taraba State.

He decried the rating of Nigeria as the third most terrorized country in the world after Afghanistan and Iraq by the Global Terrorism Index.

Atoshi also condemned "in totality the killing in southern Taraba and other areas" and therefore charged youths on giving useful information to security agencies. He also called on the Taraba State governor to give attention to the Taraba Marshals in order to complement the efforts of other security agencies.

NEWS

Committee kick-starts assessment visit

By LONGWEN TONGKAM

THE Think Thank Committee set up to oversee the construction of Levities Foundation Agricultural Training Institute has embarked on assessment visit to the site for the construction of the institute.

Speaking while leading the committee to the site in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State, the commissioner for Higher Education in Hon. Kuk'mena Gotang said the school would enhance skills manpower development as well as boast the agenda of Plateau State to the wider world on modern agricultural techniques and youths empowerment.

He expressed the readiness of the present administration in the state to support organizations that have well designed programmes that are tailored towards impacting on the citizenry.

Speaking separately, the Executive Director, Scripture Union West Africa, who facilitated for the siting of the institute in the state, Dr. Rhoda



Alamba

Udanyi and Dr. Mafiu Mohammed, the Zonal Director Apurimac Nigeria, congratulated Plateau citizens for the approval gotten from Levities foundation in the state.

They however disclosed that, the institute will offer notional Diploma on practical agriculture because the foundation is aiming at making her graduates self-reliant.

In a thank you message, the Chairman of Barkin Ladi Local

Government Council, Jock lamba, acknowledged the contribution of the Plateau State Governor, Simon Lalong and Scripture Union West Africa towards facilitating the project.

He expressed his deepest appreciation to Levities foundation for considering Barkin Ladi for sitting the institute, as a result of the performance of one of the trainees in Abaji study Centre, Lyop Christopher, who hails from Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State.

THE Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) has trained 40 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Prison Inmates and Retired Civil Servants in Katsina State.

The Director-General (DG), of the Agency, Mr. Olawale Fasanya disclosed this to newsmen on the sidelines of a training in Katsina recently.

Represented by Alhaji Ado Bello, Deputy Director, Enterprisership, headquarters, Abuja, Fasanya said that the training was designed to provide entrepreneurship and vocational skills as well as provide equipment to fill the existing gaps for the target group. "Insecurity has forced many people out to take refuge in places called IDPs Camps,

"About 700,000 low men and women were also released from prisons each year, and most of them were rearrested after returning home because they don't have any income or employment to rely upon

"A lot of public servants spend their lives serving the nation without acquiring any skills that will support them after the service"

According to him, many public servants ran into serious problems after retirement and died of frustrations.

SMEDAN expends 8.5m on equipments

From SHEHU DANJUMA, Katsina



Masari

"We therefore designed the training programme to provide opportunities for these people to acquire skills that will make them relevant in the society," he said.

About 40 participants that benefitted in the training, 20 of them got 20 Make-Up

materials at the rate of N250,000 each, while another set of 20 people got 20 Sowing Machine at the rate of N175,000 each.

It was gathered that a total sum of N8.5million was expended on procurement of equipment after the training.

Your visit will end banditry-Bello

From MATHEW JWANTU, Minna



Bello

Governor Abubakar Bello has said that the coming of the General Overseer of the Deeper Life Bible Church, Pastor W.F. Kumuyi to the state marks the beginning of the end of banditry in the state.

Bello stated this on Tuesday when Kumuyi paid him a courtesy visit at the Niger State Government House in preparation for Global Crusade with the theme, The God of All possibilities, holding at the Trade Fair Complex, Minna from Thursday 22nd to 27th September, 2022.

Bello who was represented by his Deputy, Alhaji Mohammed Ahmed Ketso expressed confidence that the 6-day Global Crusade with Kumuyi (GCK) will bring abundant blessings to the

people of the state.

Kumuyi's crusade is coming at a time when terrorism is ravaging the state.

Bello said, "We are happy to see you. You came to Niger State at the right time. We are not doubting the fact that your coming is a blessing. We also believe our security situation is over"

"We thank God that our biggest daddy, Pastor W.F. Kumuyi has decided to visit our state. His visit will mark the end of insecurity in the state.

He assured Kumuyi of the cooperation of the state government to the success of the crusade.

Earlier in his speech, Pastor Kumuyi said the aim of the crusade is to bless the state and its people beyond

measure.

Kumuyi noted, "God is able to do all things in the lives of the people. God is loving and always ready to bless His people. and that is why we are confident that he will put smiles on the faces of Niger State".

He also used the occasion to pray for peace and security of the state.

Present in the courtesy call was the State Secretary to the Government, SSG, Ahmed Matane, The CAN North Central Deputy Chairman, Rev Dr. Mathias Echioda, among others.

BSPHCDA engages medical doctors in LGCs

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE Executive Chairman Bauchi State Primary Health Care Development Agency Dr Rilwanu Mohammed, has disclosed that, the state primary health care development agency with support from UNICEF has concluded plans to engage twenty Medical Doctors one each in all the 20 local government areas of the state.

Dr Rilwanu made this public at the just concluded

Four day training organized for civil society Organizations in the state.

The Chairman who was represented by the Deputy Director disease Control, Mr Yusuf Fateh said when engaged, the Doctors will be rotating days of client's service round the available primary health care centers in all the 20 LGAs of the state.

Speaking at the training session, the UNICEF Bauchi field office health specialist, Dr Zigye Icunoamlak, said the

training was for active community mobilization towards better health service delivery.

She expressed concern over the high rate of maternal and child mortality in Bauchi state which she said required aggressive team work to change the pattern.

At the end of the training which was held in Kano, participants unanimously agreed to change the approach towards better health outcomes especially Male involvement in the maternal health campaign.

PLSG outlines activities marking Nigeria's 62nd independence

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG, has directed that the 62nd Nigeria's Independence would be marked with funfare, pomp and pageantry and out lined the following activities to commemorate the day.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the state Commissioner for Information and Communication, Honourable Dan Manjang, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the state capital.

According to the statement, the activities would start with Pre-Independence Prayer to be held on Sunday, 25th September, 2022 at the St. Peter's Cathedral, Anglican Communion, Bukuru Diocese at 10.00am and Pre-Independence Muslim prayer to be held on Friday 30th September, 2022 at the Jos

Central Mosque respectively.

On the main Independence day, Saturday October 1, 2022 at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos at 8:00am, there would be Parade by the Military, Police and selected para-military Agencies, Primary and Secondary Schools as well as Voluntary organizations

However, the Governor has also billed to parley with a cross section of the media in the state, but 62nd Independence golf kitties and Novelty football match details date and time would be made available in the course of the week.

Meanwhile, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Simon Bako

Lalong, KSGG on behalf of himself, family and the people of Plateau State used this opportunity to felicitate with His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and indeed all peace loving citizens and public on this historic and memorable day.

Ari family grateful for honour done them

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE entire family of Ari Ntung of Namu Town of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Area of Plateau State, has expressed gratitude to all those who honoured their invitation to attend the wedding ceremony of their son, Dr. Shitnaan Ari and his wife Dr. Laetitia Kabasele recently.

This came in press statement signed by the Director General/Chief Executive of the Industrial Training Fund, Sir Joseph Ntung Ari, KSM, KSS, and made available to

SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital Friday.

The statement said, "on behalf of the entire Ari Ntung family, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to you for honouring our invitation to the wedding of our son, Dr. Shitnaan Ari and his dear wife, Dr. Laetitia Kabasele.

"While restating our deep appreciation for your prayers and the Goodwill you showed the couple, I must note that beyond adding glamour to the event, your presence made

the wedding ceremony a memorable occasion.

"Once again, I thank you for the honour done us and for your contributions and support towards the success of the wedding. May God Almighty bountiful reward your display of love and affection", he prayed.

It would be recalled that, the wedding of this couple to place at St. Monica Catholic Parish Rantya Jos and reception took place at Basel Events Centre Dong in Jos-North Local Government Area of Plateau State and it witnessed personalities from all and sundry.

NEWS

NIOB president calls for building code

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA,

THE President of the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB), Professor Yohana Izam, has renewed the call for the domestication of the provisions of the National Building Code through New Urban Development Laws for Plateau State.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Public Relations Officer of the Plateau State University Bokkos, John K. Agam, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently.

Professor Izam, who is also the Vice Chancellor of Plateau State University Bokkos made the call after visiting the site of a collapsed one storey building in Bukuru where he described the incident as an avoidable catastrophe.

He called on professionals in the building environment and the Plateau State House of Assembly to urgently recalibrate their efforts towards giving Plateau State a



Izam

New Urban Development Law. Izam, maintained that new frameworks of control were required to stem the activities of quacks and unplanned building projects he note, that a large number of developments were being initiated across the State

without requisite planning and construction approvals. Meanwhile, the NIOB President thanked God that no lives were lost in the building collapse and equally called on clients to engage professionals in all aspects of their building projects to avoid the repeat of this similar

without requisite planning and construction approvals

Meanwhile, the NIOB President thanked God that no lives were lost in the building collapse and equally called on clients to engage professionals in all aspects of their building projects to avoid the repeat of this similar

Yarima bags UN prestigious award

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE United Nations International World Peace has conferred on Mrs Jennifer Yarima, of Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), the publishers of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** and **SUNDAY STANDARD** Newspapers Jos, the Ambassador of UN Prestigious Award of Diplomatic Attribute in recognition of her contributions to human capital development in line with MDGs goals.

This took place Wednesday, at the Merit House, Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT), under the seal of APRTC Number 2 0 2 2 / U N , E.M.AMB/VOL.3/1027 following her dogged fight against domestic violence against women.

Yarima, who is the

immediate past Chairperson of the Plateau State Chapter of Nigerian Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), has now been gazetted into the International Data base and been crowned as Ambassador and would have access to any international projection on human capacity development.

While in an interview with our correspondents, the UN Eminent Prestigious Award Diplomat, Ambassador Jennifer Yarima, said, "I give God Almighty the glory for this because I never thought of getting an award like this. It is all about God. Secondly, I dedicated this God Almighty and NAWOJ Plateau State, the platform that gave me this recognition.

"I also thank my organisation for being supportive to me. My superior, the NUJ Chairman,

Mr. Paul Jatau and my General Manager, Sir. Dr. Boniface Gwotbit, as well as other top management officers who always give us the opportunity to do all these work for humanity. So, I want to celebrate them all.

"Being an Eminent UN Ambassador is a big responsibility. The Organisations that have come together me this award are very reputable organisations for security and peace here in Nigeria and abroad. I am trusting God that we need to do more by extending this to communities to let people know that we are out there to help.

"I hope and think that, we need to come together as UN Ambassadors on the Plateau because we have three Police Officers among us including, Sadiq Plaza, so that we can be able to do on a broader space so that the impact can be felt by matching words with action", she assured.

Ambassador Yarima, however, described the Plateau State Chapter of NAWOJ as one of the outstanding chapter in the country and called on the NAWOJ members to work together as one and continue to sacrifice to the peace and security of the society for development of Nigeria and beyond.

SUNDAY STANDARD understands that, with this UN Eminent Prestigious Award, Ambassador Jennifer Yarima, has been placed on notary of a Senior Citizen of the Country and would henceforth be given other privileges just like any other person that can enjoys privileges abroad as an Un Eminent Ambassador.



Yarima

THE Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja Catholic Archdiocese, John Onaiyekan has called on government and religious organisations to collaborate in boosting humanitarian works across the country.

Onaiyekan made the call in a keynote address titled "The Church in the Service of Integral Human Development: The Nigerian Experience", at the Caritas Nigeria Day Celebration, on Thursday in Abuja.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the celebration with the theme: "The Church in the Service of Integral Human Development: The Nigerian Experience", marked the 12th anniversary of Caritas humanitarian activities in the country.

Caritas activities cover Health and HIV/AIDS, Good Governance, Anti-Human Trafficking and Force Migration, Emergency Response and Humanitarian Services.

Other areas are Institutional Development and Capacity building, and Agricultural and Livelihood Interventions.

"Looking forward there is need to put more effort on collaborations with government and other organisations, including religious organisations.

"Caritas Nigeria has different departments in which they render humanitarian assistance to individuals, groups and society. They also have many partners," he added.

Onaiyekan also said the organisation had worked with Nigerian Government in the areas of education and health, until the civil war, when the collaboration was terminated.

"It is better to collaborate than to stay apart and I think it is not too late for us to insist that we must collaborate with our government.

"Once in a while, the government talks about Public Private Partnership with private business people, have they ever thought of partnership with groups like the churches and other agencies?" Onaiyekan asked.

He explained that in other countries, religious organisations were given

Archbishop calls for collaboration humanitarian works

funds to carry out humanitarian activities, adding that it was necessary for Nigeria to adopt that.

"The collaboration between the church and the state must continue to grow. It is only then that we can belong to clubs of countries that are helping others.

"The church needs to be seen as agent of integral human development that no person should be left out.

"We must continue to make our services available to everybody who ask for it. This is in line with church doctrine," he said.

Earlier, the Executive Secretary of Caritas Nigeria, Rev. Fr. Uchechukwu Obodoechina said the celebration was organised to showcase what Caritas has been doing and motivate men of good will to partner with the organisation.

"We all know the level of the unavailability of basic necessities to Nigerians, and the responsibility of the church that is close to the people is enormous.

"That is why we feel we have a duty as a church and as men and women of the faith to build hope among those who have no hope. So Caritas is a participation of the work of the church.

"The church has a responsibility for her sons and daughters, men and women of

goodwill, but this job has to be systematically and professionally carried out.

"That is why we work in partnership with other agencies and funding partners to realize the goals and vision of Caritas," Obodoechina said.

According to him, Caritas is working on 31 projects in 35 states, touching the lives of over seven million poor and vulnerable households in the country.

In their responses, the panelists, Dr Chichi Aniagolu-Okoye from Ford Foundation, Dr Rose Uchem of Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary and Rev. Fr. Maurice Kwairanga, also highlighted the need for corroboration to boost humanitarian works.

Prof. Chidi Odinkalu, the former Chairman of National Human Rights Commission who spoke virtually, cautioned that the collaboration between government and the church should not lead to silencing the church or compromising the word of God.

According to Odinkalu, it would be wrong for a politician to win election on the altar of rigging and come to give thanks to God for such victory in the church.

The event attracted many stakeholders, including National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, Catholic Relief Services, among others.



Onaiyekan

Lalong celebrates Kwashi, Tyoden

By PALANG KASMI

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State has sent warm encomiums to celebrate his Deputy, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden on his 72nd birthday.

He has also sent heartwarming tributes to eulogise The Anglican Archbishop of Jos, Rev. Benjamin Argak Kwashi on the occasion of his 63rd birthday.

Governor Lalong sent his felicitations in two separate statements signed by his Director of Press Makut Simon Macham.

He described his Deputy Tyoden as an accomplished academician, politician, administrator and person of integrity, honour and reliability.

"Prof. Tyoden has spent many years teaching and mentoring the younger generation in various areas with many of them

successfully taking on roles in the academia, politics, business, public and private service among others" said Lalong.

He also described Tyoden as one who has proven his loyalty and faith in the Rescue Administration by his constant commitment to the actualization of its vision, projects and programmes.

The Governor in the message acknowledged the role that Tyoden has played in advancing solutions and wise counsel towards addressing very critical issues that the administration has had to confront in the last seven years.

He wished his Deputy best in the years ahead, and prayed for good health, wisdom and protection for the erudite scholar, administrator and politician.

For The Anglican Bishop Kwashi, Lalong described the special occasion of his 67th

birthday as a moment to give glory to God for sustaining him over the years.

He acknowledged the resilience, faith and passion of Archbishop Kwashi in propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ and sharing God's love to people of diverse backgrounds including the less privileged and the downtrodden.

"I thank God for giving Kwashi the heart to respond to the needs of others through philanthropic activities as well as mentoring the youth by constant engagement, counselling and other special activities", Lalong said.

The Governor also thanked The Archbishop for constantly praying for the government as well as offering words of wisdom which have helped in enabling the administration fulfil its mandate to the people.

He wished the Man of God long life, good health, God's protection and happiness in the years ahead.

NEWS

IGP condemns assault on woman police

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Usman Alkali Baba, has strongly condemned the grievous assault of a female Police Officer, Inspector Teju Moses, by her principal who is a legal practitioner and human rights activist, Prof. Zainab Duke Abiola.

This came in a press statement signed by Force Public Relations Officer, Force Headquarters Abuja, CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently.

According to the statement, Prof. Zainab Duke Abiola, is an Mbaise born activist and grievously assaulted her orderly in company of some accomplices on Tuesday September 20, 2022 at her residence in Garki, Abuja, due to the refusal of the orderly to breach professional ethics by carrying out menial and domestic chores at her house.

However, the IGP has directed the express prosecution of the arrested suspects who were currently in Police custody and the preliminary investigation shows overwhelming evidence



Alkali

of culpability on the part of the Professor and her domestic staff, one Rebecca Enechido.

He has equally tasked the investigative team to ensure that the fleeing male suspect who currently at large, is arrested and made to face the wrath of the law. He said that, "it is pertinent to clarify that the suspect, Prof. Zainab, who name-drops the IGP, her family members and other officers in the top hierarchy of the Force has no acquaintance with the Police in any form as

erroneously peddled on social media.

The Inspector-General of Police, therefore, ordered the withdrawal of all Police personnel attached to the Professor expressing consternation that an individual who claimed to be an advocate for Human Rights could stoop so low to violate the rights of another individual, a police officer tasked with ensuring her protection.

ICPC chairman observes shocking revelations

CHAIRMAN of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye has observed that revelations from commission's Constituency and Executive Project Tracking Initiative will shock Nigerians by realizing the extent to which corruption has short-changed all Nigerians, especially the ordinary people.

"In the course of the presentations and conversations that will be held here today, you will listen to revelations from the Constituency and Executive Project Tracking Initiative embarked upon by the ICPC since 2019 that perhaps will shock you, as you realize the extent to which corruption has short-changed all of us, especially the ordinary people of this country".

The commission, at a dialogue it organized on National Ethics, Constituency and Executive Tracking Initiative for Positive

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

Behavioural Change held in Bauchi, described traditional rulers as custodians of traditional norms and values that project their communities and people as responsible people.

The commission chairman while declaring the dialogue opened, noted that as character moulders and champions of integrity and national development, traditional rulers, religious Leaders and community based civil society organisations, play crucial roles in the development of their various communities.

"These revelations, believe will underscore why every core value of the Ethics and Integrity Policy should be imbibed, practiced and upheld by all and why you as leaders should deepen your partnership with the ICPC in diminishing corruption and using your good offices in promoting ethics values and behaviour change and

building a better Nigeria for all of us".

Prof Bolaji told the stakeholders, "You have followership, you have influence and command respect, use these to bring about enduring positive behavioural change amongst our people. Nigerians are good people, let not the actions and attitude of a few bad eggs give us all a bad name".

He thanked the Bauchi state government for its assistance in mobilizing the dialogue audience especially the traditional rulers and religious Leaders, the NOA and other qualified persons to serve as resource persons in the collective desire to enthrone a Nigeria glowing with integrity, transparency and accountability in all spheres.

Earlier in his welcome address at the occasion, the Resident Anti-Corruption Commissioner of Independent Corrupt Practices And Other commission (ICPC) in Bauchi state, Baba Gali Rogo, said the dialogue is a follow up to a similar dialogue organized in May last year where stakeholders robbed minds together and discussed some critical government policies that assisted in curbing the menace of corruption and entrenching good ethical values in Nigerian society.

Rogo Said, "It is in its continuous recognition of the pivotal role value re-orientation plays in the fight against corruption that ICPC, in collaboration with

THE Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt.-Gen. Faruk Yahaya, has advised the retired and discharged officers of the Nigerian Army to make maximum use of their entitlements.

Yahaya gave the advice at the Regimental Dinner in Honour of Retired Officers of the Rank of Colonel and Below on Friday in Abuja.

Represented by Maj.-Gen. Gbemiga Adesina, Director, Personnel Services, Army Headquarters, the COAS advised them to stay guarded against the antics currently being used by fraudsters to target pensioners and retirees for monetary scams.

He urged them to be careful of falling victims of the fraudulent activities as many of their colleagues had fallen victims to their tricks.

Yahaya described the officers as fine crop of citizens who meritoriously served and contributed immensely to the growth and development of the Nigerian army and the country at large.

According to him, it is only befitting that this ceremony is arranged for all you gallant patriots, as a similar ceremony was held in this same venue.

NGO partner community against violence

THE Abiodun Essiet Initiative for Girls (AEIG) has collaborated with

the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and the Bauchi State Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs organized this dialogue to further sensitize you on the activities of the ICPC through various initiatives aimed at ensuring a corrupt free society and the role you all can play in this noble venture".

Malam Baba Rogo informed the gathering that a similar dialogue has been organized across 15 states in the six Geo-political zones of the country all aimed at achieving the same objective, hence it is pertinent for all participants to put hands on deck to see that they contribute their own quota in the fight against corruption by paying attention to the presentations that will be made today.

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NDE engages 41 youth on Graduate Attachments Scheme

THE Director-General of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Abubakar Nuhu Fikpo, says the directorate has engaged 41 idle Taraba youths into the Graduate Attachment Program (GAP).

In a supervising tour to Jalingo, the Director Special Public Works, Mrs. Rosaline Olawuni, who was represented by Mac Bernard Ishaya says, the directorate have recruited 41 youths across the three senatorial zones of the state, of which 14 are females and 27 males.

Speaking during the supervision of the GAP program in Jalingo, Ishaya says GAP is in line with President Muhammadu Buhari's desire to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty.

He asserted that "I'm supervising a Graduate Attachment Program in

COAS tasks retired officers on entitlements utilisation

He said that retirement was a phase of life, which most of the serving military personnel hopefully prayed to enjoy in a gratifying and peaceful manner after giving their best to the system.

"It is therefore, a milestone which is worth celebrating. I am certain that the transition from active military service to retirement is not without its own peculiar challenges.

"But I believe there is also much to enjoy in retirement especially if you have prepared well for it.

"All efforts are being made to ensure that entitlements for retired and all discharged personnel are paid on time," he said.

The army chief also commended the retired officers for their sacrifices to keep the nation peaceful and united, urging them to be ready to continue to contribute their quota even out of service.

"I will end this remarks by imploring all the celebrants to devote themselves to the service of the nation and to eschew any action that could

jeopardise the dignity and integrity of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and the nation at large.

"You still remain very important to the Nigerian army as your experience will continue to count and could be required at any time," he said.

The Commander, AHQ Garrison, Maj.-Gen. Kabir Garba, said that similar regimental dinner was held for officers in the rank of Major-Generals and Brigadier-Generals who retired in 2021.

Garba said it was the first time that regimental dinner would be held for officers who retired with the rank of colonel and below in the Nigerian army.

This, according to him, is another landmark achievement by the COAS in his effort to entrench full regimentation in the army in line with his command philosophy anchored on professionalism, readiness, administration and cooperation," he said.

community leaders, women and youths of Bwari Area Council, in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), to end sexual and gender-based violence.

Mrs Abiodun Essiet, the Executive Director, AEIG, made the commitment during an inter-phase meeting with the members of the community on Thursday, in Abuja.

She said that the meeting was aimed at enlightening the community and drafting an action plan on how to address the menace.

According to her, the meeting was important to strengthen traditional justice system on how to handle such cases, as community leaders were mostly the first point of call once there is a case.

"We want to eradicate this menace in the FCT and as we are in the right step in the right direction.

"That is why we gathered members and key stakeholders of the

community to provide them with more knowledge on sexual and gender-based violence and how to address it.

"So far, we have realised that some of them do not know much about it, some things that are categorised as sexual and gender-based violence are not regarded as such because of their cultural and religious background.

"So we are here to create awareness on how cases as such can be handled and how they can refer cases to appropriate agencies," she said.

Mr Timothy Dakcovey, Acting District Head, who represented the Esu Palace, Bwari Area Council, appreciated the organisation for the sensitisation and the partnership.

He added that the knowledge gained would be shared among other community members to effectively mitigate the menace.

From **VICTOR GAI, Jalingo**

Taraba, which is purposely meant to reduce numbers of unemployed youths in Nigeria. So far we have recruited 41 youths and they have been trained between the period of 14th to 20th September, 2022.

"Unemployment, especially among graduates of tertiary institution is, without mincing words, embarrassing to both the government and the graduates. This necessitated the management of the NDE to introduce GAP. NDE will generate data from all who participated and forward them to the Federal Executive Council through the Minister of Labour and Employment for consideration" he said.

Ishaya further stated that the head office had adequately provided logistics, tour allowance,

transport, accommodation and feeding for the program in Taraba.

He said GAP also plans in subsequent time to increase the number of participants in the program. Ishaya also disclosed that NDE will provide exit loans strategy for exited GAP beneficiaries.

In an interview with some of the beneficiaries, one Mr. Abdulwahab Yusuf Haruna living with disability lauded NDE for introducing the program and also called for its sustenance.

During the tour of the Taraba state University, Dr Akintade Afolabi Rotimi, Director Research and Development, who supervised some of the beneficiaries said GAP has finally fulfilled the major objective of GAP by permanently employing one Mr. Chia Asuaga after the program period.



Owasanoye

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Osifo



FG plans salary increase: For real?

Continued from page 10

in Jos told the SUNDAY STANDARD that, "I am not an advocate of salary increase as it were, my expectation is that Governments at all tiers should have rather provided subsidy for education, housing, health and transportation. These are the challenging and money consuming aspects in the life of an average Nigerian.

"When issues like that are taken care of, it takes away the stress and burden on the individual and offers the opportunity to even save from the income. Unfortunately, the emphasis is now on salary increase but come to think of the market forces, once there is an increase, prices of goods and services also change or are immediately hiked. So where lays the logic of the increase? Maigari quipped.

But former NLC chairman Alhaji Hassan Sunmonu, see it differently, as he wonders for instance, why a University lecturer have the salary equivalent to that of a sergeant in the army? If we don't take education seriously, then it will be at the detriment of our present, future and this is just one aspect of our challenges of disparity and exploitation by the ruling elite.

The need for salary adjustment is a fallout of the spiraling inflation being experienced in Nigeria and beyond its borders. SUNDAY

STANDARD gathered that the inflationary trend in the country which was heightened at the wake of Covid-19 some years ago had also triggered a lot of economic challenges coupled with the rise in insecurity resulting in more woes for all Nigerians.

It is also evident that in the last four months, the cost of general goods including stable foods such as, rice, yams, beans, garri, accha, tomatoes and onions have gone up by 80 percent, while a kilo of meat has gone up by 100 percent. The cost of every commodity has hit the roof while school fees, transportation and health are taking a wider toll on the civil servants thereby making it almost impossible for an average public servant to rely on the job income.

Also noticeable is the trend where some low income earners have become "executive beggars" soliciting assistance from relatives and friends in order to meet up with some family financial obligations. Some workers have also become perpetual debtors due to the fact that their salary is always in deficit and cannot meet with challenging economic realities.

Godwin Musa is a Local Government employee who barred his mind on the proposed salary increase saying that; " This is a good development and a cheering news from the Government. I

expect that for someone like me that has put up to 15 years in service on grade level 12, yet I cannot boast of a house of my own and not a bike to my credit, all because my whole salary goes on taking care of my mom, my younger sister who is in JSS3 alongside my wife and 2 children.

"At least, any salary adjustment now would be a great deal of help for one to put a roof over his head. But how sincere is this gesture remains to be seen judging from the present actions by the Local Government authorities in the state where salary arrears are being owed for months."

For James Doh, a businessman resident in Jos told SUNDAY STANDARD, "I sympathize with the workers because we in the business community are also affected

when workers do not have the right purchasing power. It generally affects the nation's economy and the well-being of the society.

There is however a general atmosphere of mixed feelings from across spectrum of society on the intention of the Federal Government where some people were able to pick holes in Senator Ngige's disclosure. Benjamin Jamoh who is a social commentator in Jos, wondered why the review now. Noting that, "This is pure politics, otherwise why has it taken Government time to resolve the ASUU impasse which the federal Government had failed to find a lasting solution.

According to Muktar Sani a 400 level student of the University of Jos, said; " This promise is too good to be true

which reminds me of the fact that the Federal Governments plan is just an attempt to woo voters ahead of the elections.

"Come to think of it, it took several months of persuasions and threats by the entire Labour Unions before a reasonable consensus was reached on the existing N30, 000 minimum wage and considering the bad shape of the economy at the moment, it will therefore, take a miracle to implement such increase nationwide." Sani noted.

As the workers wait in earnest for the minimum wage to come into effect, the general expectations is for the Federal Government to keep good its promise and for other tiers to key into the plan with a view to taking the interest of its work force at heart and the wellbeing of the entire citizens.

“ It is also evident that in the last four months, the cost of general goods including stable foods such as, rice, yams, beans, garri, accha, tomatoes and onions have gone up by 80 percent, while a kilo of meat has gone up by 100 percent. The cost of every commodity has hit the roof while school fees, transportation and healthcare are taking a wider toll on the civil servants thereby making it almost impossible for an average public servant to rely on the job income. ”

METRO-FOCUS

Dangers of building on waterways and consequences

By JIDAUNA DARING, FATIMA ABDULKARIM TAYE, MU'AZU ADAM HUDU

THE heavy downpour of rainfall presently being experienced with serious flooding has resulted to loss of lives, property and destruction of many houses in several communities in some parts of Nigeria.

Before this year's rainy season set in, the Nigerian Metrological Agency (NIMET) had on its part given early warning to Nigerians on impending heavy rainfall that was going to be accompanied with flooding. The essence of this warning was to keep people informed that there was going to be danger ahead during the season.

Despite making available this important information at the doorstep of the people by NIMET particularly for people to take precautionary measures, people did not take it serious. They handled it as if it was just mere prediction.

In fact, this type of flood has been attributed to the issue of global warming or climate change as from every indication. This type of disaster is a natural occurrence provoked by man's activities.

Records have shown that some of the places that have been ravaged by the flood are mostly flood prone areas or water ways that structures have been erected on. Unfortunately, some houses that were not built on the water ways were submerged as a result of the heavy downpour.

The flood has rendered thousands of people homeless. This unfortunate incidence has also disconnected communities because roads and bridges have been washed away. In fact, one of the examples that we have in our hand particularly in Plateau State is the washing away of the bridge linking Langtang North and Wase Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Information reaching us revealed that over 300 people have lost their lives and property to the flood that has wrecked havoc on many communities across the country.

Since prevention, they say is better than cure, people should as a matter of fact erect structures in places that are not flood prone areas. This, if adhered to will guarantee the safety of lives and property.

Reports have also indicated that farm lands were destroyed as a result of heavy downpourD



thereby affecting some crops washing everything and even the fertilizer that has already been applied on the farm.

In this regard, farmers have started lamenting on poor yield of some harvested crops. They attributed it to heavy rainfall almost on a daily basis which sometimes lasted for more than 9 hours in some places.

However, some flood victims within Jos and Bukuru

metropolis who spoke with **SUNDAY STANDARD** expressed shock with the unfortunate flooding which has wrecked havoc on many communities. They described this year's rainfall as more of torrential in nature in some parts of Nigeria. They also added that this type of heavy downpour is the first of its kind in years.

According to them, the

flood has sacked many people from their homes. It is now not the issue of building on water ways as even those who did not build their houses on water ways had their houses submerged in water. They said that many houses have been destroyed as a result of the heavy downpour.

They also said that the unfortunate incidence would now make life difficult for them particularly now that

some victims have become homeless.

They maintained that the victims would not have any other option than to start everthing afresh, considering the damages done by the flood.

The victims also described the flood as a natural disaster and called on government at all levels to immediately come to their aid.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

DANDERENG YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP DONATES OFFICE

The Youth Support Group in Gyel District of Jos South LGA for Ambassador Gideon Dung Dandereng Campaign recently donated an office for the APC candidate for Jos South/Jos East Representative



APC standard flag bearer for Jos South/Jos East Federal House of Representatives, Amb. Gideon Dung Dandereng delivering his remarks



One of the Dandereng Youth Support Group member (with mic) making some remarks



Chairman of Jos South LGC and APC flag bearer for House of Reps, Hon. Gideon Dandereng (left) receiving T-shirts from the group at the inauguration of the office



Amb. Dandereng flagging off the campaign office, flanked by other youths

PLASCHEMA VISITS STATE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

Plateau State Contributory Health Care Management Agency (PLASCHEMA) recently visited the Traditional Council of Chiefs and Emirs at Jishe, Jos North LGA



His Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, Gbong Gwom Jos and President of the Council delivering his message



A cross section of staff of the Agency during the visit



PLASCHEMA, Director of Marketing, Theresa Gofwen signing the Visitors Book at the Palace



A cross section of some members of the Traditional Council

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 SAFER TOGETHER

The mental characteristics of a good driver

IN previous editions of Road Runner, we have focused on the physical characteristics of a good driver. However, good driving goes beyond what we can see and perceive with our senses. There are also mental portraits of good and better driving. From the mental perspectives, what really is better driving? Here we are more concerned with the mental aspects of driving as opposed to the physical aspects. It is basically about analyzing mental driving skills and how attitudes and concentration affect driving performance.

Research has shown that attitudes affect driving negatively and positively. Developing appropriate attitudes is not simple. It depends on recognizing the importance of attitudes and making a personal commitment to change unsafe attitudes. What are the pattern of road traffic crashes in Nigeria over The years and who is most vulnerable to auto crashes? Understanding this can be an important step to recognizing and altering inappropriate attitudes.

Road traffic crashes

Most drivers think they are both safer and more skillful than the average driver-Road Accident Immunity Delusion Syndrome (RAIDS)-but we cannot all be right. In more than 90% of RTCs, human error is the cause. Crashes do not just happen; they are the consequences of unsafe driving practices. Driving safety cannot be thought of as an add-on extra; it has to be built into the way you drive.

Road traffic crashes (RTCs) account for:

Almost half of all accidental deaths in Nigeria

Nearly a quarter of all adult deaths under 30, whether accidental or otherwise

The largest single cause of death and injury for young adults

Your likelihood of having a crash

Average drivers cover 15, 000 kilometres a year and have a one in seven chances of a crash during that time. However, some categories of drivers are more at risk than others. These include:

Those travelling more kilometres than average per year

Men

Young drivers

Inexperienced drivers

What are the likeliest sorts of crashes?

We can all tell from statistics which are the commonest types of crash:

About a third of all crashes are rear end shunts-where one vehicle crashes into the back of another.

A quarter of all crashes are caused by one vehicle driving across another vehicle's priority

Another one sixth of all crashes involve a loss of directional control

Do we learn from our mistakes?

Drivers at risk

Sadly, evidence shows that we do not learn very well from our mistakes. Even after taking account of age, sex, annual mileage and driving experience, some drivers are consistently more at risk than others.

If you have had a crash in one three-year period you are twice as likely to have another crash in the next three years.

If you have had a crash for which you could be held at least partly responsible, you are four times more likely to have a similar crash in the next year.

Repeating crashes

Drivers also tend to repeat the types of crash they have. If you have hit another vehicle from behind you are twice as likely as an average driver to do so again. If you have crashed into another vehicle after pulling out into its path in one to three years period, you are three times more likely than normal to have a similar crash in the next three years.

Driving too close (Tailgating)

The practice of driving too close behind the vehicle in front gives a valuable insight into the way crashes occur. Because errors go unpunished-that is, they do not always result into a crash-they develop into a bad habit which increase the risk that one day the driver will be involved in a crash. Driving too close to the vehicle in front is probably the worst of these bad practices.

Tailgating is one of the commonest cause of crashes, it is so common that most drivers see no risk in it. Half the rear end shunts occur when the vehicle in front brakes sharply and the one behind does not stop in time.

NEWS

Cholera kills 10 in Gombe, 236 affected

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

AN outbreak of cholera in five local government areas of Gombe State has claimed ten lives with 236 persons affected.

State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Habu Dahiru, who declared the outbreak to newsmen through the Executive Secretary of the State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr

Abdulrahman Shuaibu, said, an upsurge in the cases followed an increase in rainfall, resulting in flooding in many parts of the state.

He said the cases were recorded in eight wards across Balanga, Yamaltu-Deba, Nafada, Funakaye and Gombe Local Government Areas of the State between 30th June, 2022 and 20th September, 2022.

Already, he said, government's immediate response to the outbreak included the activation of an Incident Management System for control at the PHEOC.

He said thirteen cholera treatment units have also been established across the five affected LGAs for the management of cases free of charge.

The state government has also directed a house-to-house sanitization and distribution of water treatment tablets in all affected communities.

Other measures taken by

government he said, were the decontamination of affected wells and boreholes in communities while active surveillance is presently going on across all the LGA's of the State.

According to the Executive Secretary, "The Executive Governor of the State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, has assured that all the

needed resources for free management of cases at the treatment centres and containment of the outbreak has been provided".

He advised the people of the state that cholera can be prevented by the use of clean water, consumption of hygienically prepared meals, particularly uncooked food, personal hygiene and environmental solutions are also proven preventable measures.



Yahaya

Kogi FRSC holds retreat, tasks officers on productivity

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

IN its bid to boost productivity on the job, the Kogi state Sector Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps(FRSC), recently, held its 3rd quarter 2022 Retreat for Heads of Operations towards achieving better services during the ember months.

The workshop tagged "Digitising Enforcement in RS8.3 Kogi Sector" is aimed at ensuring smooth operations of the officers to enhance productivity and effective performance.

The Kogi Sector Commander of the FRSC, CC Stephen Dawulung while declaring the workshop

open, charged operational officers on dedication to their duty.

The sector Commander described the operational unit as very critical and lifewire of the command to deliver on its constitutional mandate.

According to him "We see the operational unit on road as our first line officers and in that case we have to be mindful of the way they conduct themselves while on duty.

"If there is failure in the command it would certainly be attributed to lapses on the operational unit

"The officers of the operational unit suppose to

make the duty easy for all heads

"The essence of the quarterly retreat is to ensure that the officers gain from refresher workshops to make progress on their performances"

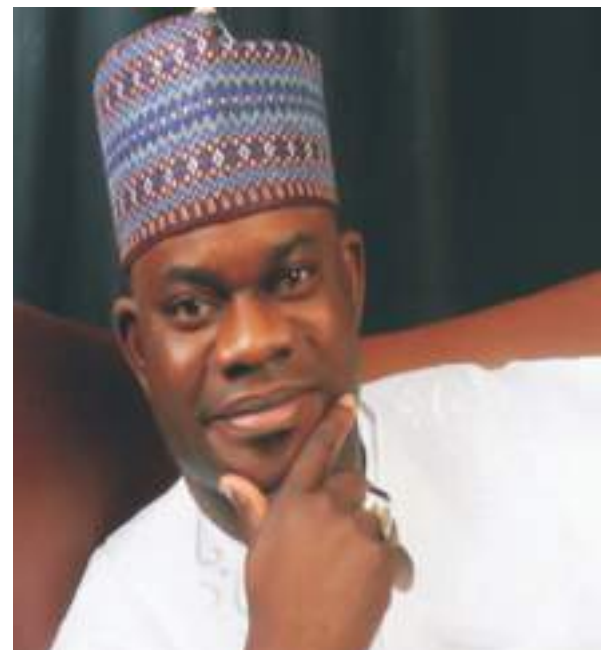
CC Dawulung therefore, urged benefitting officers to take the training very serious and ensure that they implement what they learnt on their duty places.

He also charged the operational officers to ensure free flow of vehicles on all public highways across the state during the ember months.

In his welcome address, Spokesman of the Heads of Operations, DCC Rawifu Adeyemo said that the retreat was an appraisal of their performances with a view to assessing areas of progress made and challenges, inorder to pave way for greater improvement on the job.

He enumerated some of their mandate that needed proper enlightenment to include; checking of motorists for enquiries about their vehicle documents, confiscation of vehicles that lacked necessary particulars and arrest of defaulters who should be handed over to the police for prosecution.

Highpoints of the workshop was paper presentation on "Appreciation of the E-tablet as an Effective Device for Operational Enforcement in RS8.3 Kogi Sector".



Bello



SUNDAY FEATURE

Challenges, prospects of Nigerian ecological heritage



By: SULE PHILIP
SHALLANGWA

NIGERIA is a country endowed with a lot of cultural norms sourced from its multicultural communities. Contemporary status of most Nigerian cultural heritage (both material and non-material) is best described as endangered. Efforts at preserving these heritages are obstructed with daunting challenges, particularly human activities such as trafficking and exportation of Nigerian arts, thefts and looting of museums, vandalism, iconoclasm, Christianity, civilization, commerce, changes and developmental projects among others. Hence, the clarion call for its preservation due to avalanche of prospects derived from an adequately preserved cultural heritage.

Globally, the importance of tradition to countries and even in developing nation like Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized. This is due to its economic, historical, tourist, aesthetic, educational and research, significance. Heritages are cherished characteristic features of a society passed down from generation to generation through conscious preservation. Heritage refer to the riches of extinct and extant societies which are of historic educational, recreational, and economic importance, preserved and handed cover from one generation to another. Put differently, traditions are significant endowments emanating from man and nature. Following from the above

heritage could be categorized into two, based on their sources namely. Ecological/natural heritage and cultural heritage. Ecological heritage which is the focus of this article is relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with its wild plants (flora and animal) (fauna) and its geomorphic features (caves, rivers, lakes, hill, mountains, cataracts) conserved for the specific objectives of studying admiring and enjoying the scenery which it affords (duke in Aremu, 2008, Eluyemi, 2002). Nigeria is endowed with about 29 game reserves, 1129 forest reserves, 4 game sanctuaries, 2 strict nature reserves and 8 national parks (Marguba, 2008, p.37).

Ecological heritages is faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics such threats are: armed conflict and war, earthquakes and other natural disasters, pollution, poaching, uncontrolled urbanization and unchecked tourist development pose major problems to all heritage sites. Dangers can be ascertained, referring to specific and proven imminent threats, or 'potential', when a property is faced with threats which could have negative effects on its heritage values. A good example is the sukur world heritage site attack by the Boko Haram militia that completely burnt the beautiful world heritage site.

This made the site to suffer severe deterioration of the natural beauty or scientific value of the property, causes significant loss of historical

authenticity and threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors that constitutes threats to the integrity of the property and important loss to cultural significance.

Other examples of some illustrative cases inscribed on the list of world heritage in danger include Bamiyan valley in Afghanistan. This cultural landscape was inscribed on the list of world heritage in danger in 2003 simultaneously with its inscription on the world heritage list. The property is in fragile state of conservation considering that it has suffered from abandonment, military action and dynamite explosions. Part of the site are inaccessible due to the presence of antipersonnel mines. UNESCO, at the request of the Afghan government, coordinates all international efforts to safeguard and enhance Afghanistan's cultural heritage, notably in Bamiyan.

Similarly, historic town of Zabid in Yemen: the outstanding archaeological and historical heritage of Zabid has seriously deteriorated in recent years, indeed, 40% of its original houses have been replaced by concrete buildings. In 2000, at the request of the state party, the historic town of Zabid was inscribed on the list of world heritage in danger.

UNESCO is helping the local authorities to develop an urban conservation plan to adopt a strategic approach for the preservation of this world heritage site. Also, the national parks of Garamba, Kahuzi-Biega, Salonga, Virunga and the

Okapi wildlife reserve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: since 1994, all five world heritage site of the DRC were inscribed on the list of world heritage in danger as a result of the war and civil conflict in the great lakes region. In 1999, an international safeguarding campaign was launched by UNESCO together with a number of international conservation NGOs to protect the habitat of endangered species such as the mountain gorilla, the northern white rhino and the Okapi. This resulted in a 4- years US\$ 3.5 million emergency programme to save the five sites, funded by United Nations foundation and the government of Belgium. 2004, international donors, non-governmental organizations and the governments of Belgium and Japan pledged an additional US \$50 million to help the democratic republic of the Congo rehabilitate these world heritage parks.

The way forward is to the communities to inscribe a site on the list of world heritage in danger to allow the world heritage committee to allocate immediate assistance from the world heritage fund to the endangered property. The listing of a site as world heritage in danger allows the conservation community to respond to specific preservation needs in an efficient manner. Indeed, the mere prospect of inscribing a site on this list often proves to be effective, and can incite rapid conservation action. Inscription of a site on the list of world heritage in danger requires the world heritage committee to

develop and adopt, in consultation with the state party concerning a programme for corrective measures, and subsequently to monitor the situation of the site. All efforts must be made to restore the site's values in order to enable its removal from the list of world heritage in danger as soon as possible because they want to avoid an inscription, which perceive as a dishonor. The listing of a site as world heritage in danger should in any case not be considered as a sanction, but as a system established to respond to specific conservation needs in an efficient manner.

If a site loses the characteristics which determined its inscription on the world heritage list, the world heritage committee may decide to delete the property from both the list of world heritage in danger and the world heritage list. To date, this provision of the operational guidelines for the implementation of the world heritage convention has been applied twice.

However, the state parties to the convention should inform the committee as soon as possible about threats to their sites. On the other hand, private individuals, non-governmental organizations, or other groups may also draw the committee's attention to existing threats; if the alert is justified and the problem serious enough, the committee may consider including the site on the list of world heritage in danger.

SHALLANGWA is a Chief Superintendent of Monuments National Museum, Kaduna

SUNDAY SPORTS

Federer played tennis with a balletic grace

By Russell Fuller

I was barely a month into this job when I suggested Roger Federer would never win another Grand Slam title.

The then 17-time Grand Slam champion had just turned 32, lost to Sergiy Stakhovsky in the second round of Wimbledon (thus ending a run of 36 consecutive major quarter-finals), and then in straight sets to Tommy Robredo in the last 16 of the US Open.

Put it down, perhaps, to the impetuosity of inexperience, and also to unawareness of a significant back problem, which Federer later detailed.

Not that it was remotely controversial, nine years ago, to suggest the best days of a tennis player in their thirties might be behind them. It is just that since then Federer and Serena Williams, with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic now following their lead, have overturned convention and expectation.

"I get inspired in a big way by the likes of Usain Bolt or Michael Jordan or LeBron James or Valentino Rossi or Michael Schumacher: guys who did things for a very long time at the highest of levels," he told me after winning an eighth Wimbledon title, a month before turning 36, in 2017.

"I would marvel at what they did when I was younger. I couldn't understand how they would get match ready day in day out, practise every single day and how they would give it 100%. I struggled with that in a big way when I was younger."

Federer also struggled with his fitness and his temper - racquet throwing, tears and profanities



Roger Federer won the last of his eight Wimbledon titles in 2017

were not at all uncommon in his teenage years. But two new relationships forged in 2000 made quite a difference.

He started working with the fitness coach Pierre Paganini, whom he had first met at the Swiss national training centre a few years earlier. The partnership has endured for Federer's entire career.

And he also met Mirka, who would become his wife nine years later. They both represented Switzerland at that year's Sydney Olympics, and played mixed doubles together at the 2002 Hopman Cup. Mirka's career was ended

by a foot injury later that year, but she swiftly became the "rock" in his life.

Federer's most golden spell was between Wimbledon 2003 and the Australian Open of 2010. He won 16 of the 27 Grand Slam tournaments played in that time (and reached the final of another six). But the autumnal years of his career also had a golden hue.

Most remarkable of all was his run to the 2017 Australian Open title, achieved by beating four top-10 players and winning three matches over five sets, despite being 35 and

missing the previous six months because of knee surgery.

Federer was playing with a refurbished knee - and backhand. A switch to a larger racquet a couple of years previously was now paying dividends, offering him more power and spin, and more success against Nadal, whom he beat in the final.

An eighth Wimbledon title followed in the summer, a 20th Grand Slam in Melbourne the following January, and if Djokovic had not been able to save two championship points on Centre Court in the Wimbledon final of 2019, Federer would have become the

st player to win a Grand Slam in the Open era. many memories. None aps more special than ing his one and only French r, in 2009, to become only sixth man in history (at that e) to complete the career id Slam.

: French crowds were erate for him to win that nd Garros final against n Soderling, and many med conflicted when zerland took on France in Davis Cup final of 2014. A d record tennis crowd of 48 crammed in under the ictable roof of Stade Pierre roy in Lille to see Federer the famous team petition for the one and only

erviewing Federer was riably a pleasure - albeit perhaps one exception, just v days before that Davis Cup . The previous Saturday t, at the ATP Finals in London, Federer had survived

four match points to beat his Swiss team-mate Stan Wawrinka in the semi-finals. But Wawrinka had been very unhappy with what Mirka had been shouting from the stands during the match, and the two exchanged more than a few words in the locker room afterwards.

Two days later, I was the only English-speaking journalist in the first Swiss team news conference of the week in Lille. They started with questions in English. There was only one topic an English-speaking audience wanted to hear about. It certainly wasn't the one topic Federer wanted to talk about. But, as ever, he replied - even if his customary politeness was laced with a hint of irritation.

The debate about the greatest of all time is in the eye of the beholder. Federer has, statistically, been overtaken by Williams, Nadal and Djokovic, but played the game with a balletic grace beyond modern compare. He had balance and coordination in spades; he had an iron forehand with a velvet touch; and the footwork of Muhammad Ali.

Federer says he used to cry after every match he lost until the age of 15, and so it came as quite a surprise when he eventually started crying after winning.

And that was a big part of his enduring appeal. The tennis he played may not have been relatable, but his warm and emotional character certainly was.



SUNDAY SPORTS

Koulibaly: "It's time an African country delivers the World Cup"

SENEGAL defender Kalidou Koulibaly believes the time has arrived for an African nation to win the World Cup trophy.

Goal said that, the 31-year-old is expected to lead the Lions of Teranga at the 2022 Fifa World Cup in Qatar from November to December. Senegal have been drawn in Group A alongside Netherlands, Qatar and Ecuador.

During the last edition held in Russia in 2018, Senegal failed to make it past the group stage after losing to Colombia 1-0, drawing 2-2 against Japan and beating Poland 2-1. They became the first team in World Cup history to be eliminated using the fair play rule after being tied with Japan on the first six tiebreakers.

"We still remember the 2018 World Cup because we could have done better, we failed to qualify from the group stage and I was very sad about going home that early," Koulibaly, who moved to Premier League outfit Chelsea from Napoli this summer, told BBC Sport Africa TV.

"It is going to be even more difficult for us now we are the African champions because all the teams will be careful [when playing against us] and for me I think it is time an African country delivers and wins the World Cup because we are a very determined continent.

Koulibaly further revealed if African teams set up their goals heading to the Gulf nation, they will be able to get positive results. Apart from Senegal,



Koulibaly

Africa's representatives are Ghana, Cameroon, Tunisia, and Morocco.

"We should set our goals for ourselves, like in the Afcon in Cameroon when we qualified to the Round of 16, all the guys in the dressing room were like, oh great, and I was like guys we are not happy, our competition is just starting here, now if we lose one game we go back home, so we must always have our goals.

"People in the streets of Senegal will tell us laughing, I

hope you guys will win the World Cup, I do laugh back with them but in my head I really hope we will do it."

Senegal, who qualified for Qatar after defeating Egypt in the playoffs, will face Netherlands in their opener at Al Thumama Stadium on November 21. They will then tackle Qatar on November 25 before they conclude their group fixtures against Ecuador at Khalifa International Stadium on November 29.

IT will be almost impossible for Super Eagles striker Victor Osimhen to leave Napoli for any club in Italy or abroad during the January transfer window.

Newsnow said that, this is the position of Italian transfer market expert Fabrizio Romano in a YouTube chat with the United Stand in response to growing rumours that United could return for Osimhen in another four months.

Transfer guru Romano opines that Napoli would not make Osimhen, the club's most valuable player, available for transfer midway through what is shaping up to be an interesting campaign.

The Neapolitans sit clear at the top of the Serie A table after beating AC Milan 2-1 at the San Siro on Sunday in Osimhen's absence.

Luciano Spalletti's men are also the clear leader of their UEFA Champions League group following convincing victories over Liverpool and Glasgow Rangers.

Nigerian radio presenter and entertainment broadcaster, Do2tun was on the second episode of Carball with Babajide Guerrero, where he showed his knowledge of football and discussed issues around Arsenal, how he started

Osimhen ruled out from Man U, Chelsea



Osimhen

watching football, the World Cup and what he thinks about some footballers.

With the league and continental honours to chase in the second half of the season, it would be unthinkable for Napoli to sell arguably their most important player in January.

And as Fabrizio Romano puts it, "Victor Osimhen, I think he will never be available in January.

"He's such an important player, and they [Napoli] are doing great in Serie A. So I don't see them selling."

That would not be good news to several major European clubs with Osimhen on their radar.

Premier League giants Manchester United and Chelsea were credited with an interest in the Nigerian attacker in the summer.

But Chelsea ended up signing former Arsenal man Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang while Man United paid heavily to secure Brazil's Antony from Ajax.

It has still not produced the desired effect in attack for both clubs.

Raheem Sterling and Kai Havertz are the only attacking players to have scored for the Blues in the EPL this term.

At United, there has been just one goal scored between new boy Antony, veteran forward Cristiano Ronaldo, and Frenchman Anthony Martial.

Before surrendering to his latest injury, Osimhen had grabbed two goals and one assist in five Serie A games.

The 23-year-old striker is also in the third year of the five-year contract he signed when joining Napoli from Lille in 2020.

'Why did Arsenal give Nwaneri record-breaking debut'

MIKEL Arteta says a 'gut feeling' was behind his decision to make Ethan Nwaneri the Premier League's youngest ever player.

Goal said that, Arteta brought Nwaneri on for the final few minutes of Arsenal's 3-0 win at Brentford on Sunday, with the midfielder aged just 15 years and 181 days.

That sees the attacking midfielder become Arsenal's youngest ever player, beating Cesc Fabregas' record (16 years 5 months 24 days), and also the youngest player to ever play in the Premier League - seeing him surpass Liverpool's Harvey Elliott (16 years, 30 days).

Speaking to reporters after the game, Arteta was asked why he decided to involve Nwaneri, who only made his Under-18s debut in May. He

said: "It was a pure gut feeling. I met the boy (and) really liked what I saw.

"Per Mertesacker and the academy staff are giving me really good information, Edu as well. I met him, he's trained a couple of times with us. He had to come because we have injuries, especially the injury of Martin (Odegaard), and then I had that feeling that if the opportunity could come that I was going to do it."

Asked what his gut feeling was over Nwaneri, Arteta added: "I don't know what it is. When I met him, when I look at him, I had that feeling." The Gunners have a long history of standout youngsters - so they'll be confident Arteta's gut feeling translates to a successful career.

Nwaneri goes to school at St.

John's Prep and Senior School in Enfield. He wasn't even born when Emirates Stadium opened in 2006.

Mikel Arteta has suggested

that the midfielder will now probably drop back down into the youth ranks following the international break. He will also go back to school on Tuesday.

Lewandowski to wear Ukraine armband at World Cup

ROBERT Lewandowski will wear a captain's armband featuring the Ukrainian colours at the World Cup following a meeting with Andriy Shevchenko.

Goal said that, Poland captain Lewandowski was presented with the special armband ahead of the World Cup kicking off in November. The Barcelona star wore a similar armband last season for Bayern Munich in a Bundesliga clash with Eintracht Frankfurt in a show of support for Ukraine following the start of Russia's military invasion, and the country's former captain and head coach Shevchenko thanked him in a special ceremony at Poland's national stadium in Warsaw.

"This armband symbolizes for me many emotions related to my country. I thank you and the entire Polish nation for



Lew and owski

supporting my compatriots," said Shevchenko, who is an ambassador for Laureus Sport for Good.

Lewandowski posted a picture of their meeting on Twitter with the caption:

"Thank you @jksheva7. It was a pleasure to meet you! It will be an honour for me to carry this captain's armband in the colors of Ukraine to the World Cup."

Poland shares a border with Ukraine and Lewandowski has been vocal in his opposition to Russia's invasion, dropping Huawei as a sponsor over claims that the tech giant has been aiding the Russian state. He also tweeted back in March: "For all people who value freedom and peace, this is a time of solidarity with the victims of military aggression against Ukraine."

Lewandowski will wear the armband during his side's World Cup opener against Mexico on November 22. Saudi Arabia and Argentina are also in Poland's group.



Nwaneri

Barcelona threaten legal action over Messi contract leaks

BARCELONA are threatening to take legal action against the Spanish newspaper that leaked alleged contract demands from Lionel Messi.

Goal said that, the Argentine superstar left Camp Nou as a free agent in the summer of 2021, as he linked up with Paris Saint-Germain - but only after every effort was made to put fresh terms in place. El Mundo claims to have been made aware of certain details within those talks, with the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner

said to have stipulated that he wanted his release clause dropped to a symbolic €10,000, for his family and that of Luis Suarez to be given private boxes and guarantees over the payment of deferred wages, and for his brother Rodrigo to be paid backdated commission for his work as an agent.

Barca have not taken kindly to seeing their business discussed in public and have said in a statement released on the club's official website: "In relation to the information published in El Mundo under the

title 'Barca Leaks, the club's secret files', Barcelona express indignation at the intentional leaking of information that is part of a legal process. The club regrets that the media in question boasts of having 'access to a huge number of documents and emails that are part of the Barcagate investigation' when this information is yet to be shared.

"In any case, the article in question makes public documents that have nothing to do with the ongoing case

and their use is an affront to the reputation and confidentiality of the club. For that reason, and with the aim of protecting Barcelona's rights, the club's legal department are studying the legal measures that need to be taken."

'Barcagate' refers to the ongoing legal dispute regarding alleged third-party payments and smear campaigns against legends of the club by former president Josep Maria Bartomeu and a board of directors that resigned from their posts in October 2020.

SUNDAY SPORTS

We have a lot of task ahead –Coach Ilechukwu

By ANDRE BISYIT

Coach Fedelis Ilechukwu of Plateau United Football Club of Jos has emphasized that the team have a big task ahead as they play the Esperance of Tunisia in their next CAF Champions League game.

He disclosed that in an interview with sports journalists after his boys beat StadeManji Football Club of Gabon 1-0 in their return league match, played at the MKO Abiola National Stadium, recently.

The Technical Adviser maintained that, "We have a big task ahead, because we are meeting a more experienced and tactical side, the Esperance of Tunisia have the knowledge about the CAF Champions League, so we have a lot of work to do. This game is a game that we have to do a lot of work in our first team and our attack in order to get a good result," he said.

He further stated that their next game will not be played in the MKO Abiola National Stadium in Abuja.

"We can't play in Abuja again, because it was not easy to access the pitch to train on. We didn't not have enough time to use the pitch, which was not good enough for us", he ended.

On his part, Alain Mandraut, the Technical Adviser of Stade Manji Football Club of Gabon,



Plateau United

lamented that even though they didn't prepared well for the game, but the referee didn't favour them in the game and favoured the home team.

"We loss this game as a result of poor preparation, as you watched the home team took over the game in the first half, but in the second stanza my boys played well, but unfortunately they couldn't level up the goal deficit," he said.

"Even though the referee didn't favours us and my club was revived recently. When we are coming here we knew that the match was going to be a tough one, because we already have away goals deficit that we must over power to qualify, but we have

done our best," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Plateau United dominated the first half of game and missed a lot of chances, but in the 55 minutes, Nenrot Silas gave United the only goal of the game that take the visitors out of the league.

Plateau United will now meet the Esperance Football Club of Tunisia on the 8th October 2022 in Nigeria.

' Premier league can boost Africa's world cup dream'

Newsnow said that, Former Manchester City midfielder YayaToure has explained how he thinks the Premier League will help boost the chances of an African nation lifting the World Cup.

The retired midfielder

ROYAL Antwerp were left stunned at the decision of the Nigeria Football Federation to cancel the invitation extended to flying midfielder, Yusuf.

Newsnow said that, Yusuf, often dubbed the 'next Kante' due to his energetic style was voted the club's best player last month and has been impressive this season in the midfield for the team.

The club held back the announcement of cancellation of the invitation from Yusuf until after the club's 2-1 win against RC Seraing during the weekend.

Antwerp has won their first nine games of the season and Yusuf has been important in all. His invitation had made the rounds in the local press as he has been one of Nigeria's best players in Europe this season.

The club said they held back the information in order to allow him focus on the game.

Nigerian radio presenter and entertainment broadcaster, Do2tun was on the second episode of Carball with Babajide Guerrero, where he showed his knowledge of football and discussed issues around Arsenal, how he started watching football, the

Antwerp left stunned as NFF cancels Yusuf invitation



Yusuf

World Cup and what he thinks about some footballers.

Yusuf is however not affected by the development according to sources close to him per ScoreNigeria, and believes he will get his Super Eagles chance when God wishes.

He had also missed the Super Eagles American tour where they played against Ecuador and Mexico due to visa and passport hitches.

Yusuf was snubbed in Nigeria's squad list for the game against Algeria on the 27th of September in Oran.

I will restructure football administration -Yola

RENOWNED sports administrator, Abba Yola, who is currently the Chief of Staff to Sports Minister, Sunday Dare, has promised to give the round leather game a lift if in the country elected president of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF).

Newsnow said that, the former chairman of Kano Pillars Football Club, who led the team to a back-to-back win of the Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL), said his mission is to reposition the country's football from the grassroots to the national teams.

Speaking in Abuja, yesterday, Yola, who for eight years, served as desk officer on Nigeria football matters in both the Federal

Ministry of Sports and National Sports Commission, promised to bring discipline, orderliness and honesty to the Federation if given the mandate.

He said: "I have seen and experienced so much while serving football in several capacities.

"I have watched with fascinated disbelief how many wrong steps have been made while trying to better the lots of our football. Even though I am not pitching blames on anyone's doorstep, I know for sure, which right steps I will take to revive our football.

"The revival of our league, using previous successful templates is also a task that I intend to drive vigorously.

"I will also bring back the confidence of the corporate world by ensuring that the products owned by Nigeria Football Association are encouraged in all ramifications to be the golden goose that will give sponsors value for their investment."

Yola said he that he has the character and face to assure all that the country's football, in his control, will reach new heights that Nigerians within and in the Diaspora will be proud of.

"This is the jet age for world football and I see no reason

why we should stay at the backbench.

"Truly, the task to reposition the nation's football and its administration will be a Herculean one, but I can see myself overcoming all the tasks with support of well meaning stakeholders and the robust and vibrant Nigerian sporting press.

"Ask around, I give my best when the challenges are quite daunting and high. I can do same for the nation's football.

"I one word, I will simply revive our football and its administration and place it on an enviable pedestal globally. In Sha Allah," he said.

George backs Moffi for goals against Algeria

Goal said that, Nigeria assistant coach Finidi George has challenged Lorient striker TeremMoffi to prove he is the best to lead the team's attacking department in the friendly match against Algeria scheduled for September 27.

The competition for starting berth in the attacking department is stiff owing to the absence of star forward Victor Osimhen

The Super Eagles are missing the services of their top striker Victor Osimhen who was injured while on duty for Napoli. Real Sociedad's Umar Sadiq is also out - potentially for the remainder of the season.

Article continues below
CyrielDessers of Cremonese, Nottingham Forest forward TaiwoAwoniyi and his compatriot from Leicester City KelechiIheanacho are also battling for a starting berth.

"Moffi has to do what he has to



Moffi

do to make it into the starting team," Finidi told Punch Sports Extra as quoted by Pulse.

"Osimhen definitely, is the first choice; once he is back, he will

take his place in the team but we have other players that are pushing him but Osimhen is always Osimhen.

"There are other players that have other qualities that can make up for his absence, so we will see how it goes."

Moffi has been a hit for his club and has so far managed to score six goals in eight Ligue 1 matches. He is placed third on the top scorers' chart, with PSG duo Neymar and KylianMbappe leading with eight and seven goals respectively.

Meanwhile, Jose Peseiro has been dealt more injury setbacks as their outing against the 2019 African champions draws closer. Captain Ahmed Musa, Samuel Chukwueze, and Dennis Emmanuel have been declared unavailable for the upcoming international friendlies owing to injuries.

Godwin Saviour and EbubeDuru have been selected respectively in the absences of the aforementioned trio. Leon



Yola

SUNDAY SPORTS

Raducanu beats Wickmayer to run at Korea Open

BRITAIN'S Emma Raducanu defeated Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer 6-3 7-5 to progress to the Korea Open last eight in Seoul.

BBC SPORT said that, Raducanu, ranked 77th in the world, broke Wickmayer's serve three times in a row at the end of the first set to seal the opener.

A cagey second set ended with Raducanu breaking once more, after being taken to deuce in the previous game.

The 19-year-old will play Poland's world number 51 Magda Linette next.

Victory over Linette would be the first time Raducanu was won three matches in a single tournament since her extraordinary run to the US Open title in September 2021.

World number 460 Wickmayer, who was ranked as high as 12th in the world before taking a break for the birth of her first child in 2021, grew into the match and threatened to take the contest to a decider.

But Raducanu, who has been working with Russian coach Dmitry Tursunov since July, kept her composure and consistency to see out the win.

Elsewhere, defending champion **Naomi Osaka**



Raducanu is British number one, 10 places ahead of domestic rival Harriet Dart

withdrew from the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo because of illness.

The 24-year-old was due to play Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia in the second round.

"This has and always will be a special tournament for me and I wish I could have stepped on court today, but

my body won't let me," she said.

The four-time Grand Slam winner, who has slipped to 48th in the world, had won only one of her previous seven matches before arriving in her native Japan. Her first-round victory over Daria Saville came after the Australian tore knee ligaments in their match on Tuesday.

Roger Federer says his decision to retire came after he "stopped believing" he could continue playing because of injuries.

BBC SPORT said that, the 20-time Grand Slam champion is retiring from the sport after this weekend's Laver Cup in London.

The Swiss, 41, has not played since Wimbledon 2021, after which he had a third knee operation.

"The last three years have been tough to say the least," he told BBC Breakfast.

"I knew I was on very thin ice for the last year ever since I played Wimbledon.

"I tried to come back but there was a limit to what I could do. And I stopped believing in it, to be honest."

Federer, whose final match will be in Friday's doubles, said he had a scan a few months ago and it was "not what I was hoping for", adding: "Very quickly we realised this was it."

"Then the question becomes: how do you announce and when do you announce? This is when it becomes reality. It was OK but stressful."

In a wide-ranging interview with Sally Nugent, Federer discussed his emotional retirement statement, reflected on his trophy-laden career, looked at what's next for him and offered his memories of the late Queen.

The eight-time Wimbledon

'I stopped believing I could play amid injury'



Federer shakes hands with the Queen at Wimbledon in 2010

champion announced his retirement last Thursday in a statement on social media.

"It's been an emotional few weeks to go through those words to try to get them right, that they reflect how I'm feeling and thanking all the people who have helped along the way," he said.

"I always pushed my retirement thoughts away. I said, the more I think about it, the more I'm already halfway retired and this is not the way to go to work, you know, for me as a tennis player, so we'll deal with it when it comes. And it did. And I dealt with it."

"I think writing those words was, for me parts, partially also like, rehab, like going myself through all those words, feeling them."

Now regarded as an all-time great, Federer says he never went into tennis imagining he would have such success - and having achieved so much, he was now happy to step away.

He spent 310 weeks as world number one - including a record 237-week consecutive stint - and won 103 ATP singles titles.

"I don't think anybody grows up and thinks they're gonna win this much," said Federer. "You know, you're happy with winning a Wimbledon title, which is already crazy, or becoming number one, being the best."

"But then you don't think how many weeks, this is only the media and the fans talking about breaking records."

"Before it was just, I hope to be on tour one day. Just to make it into the top 100 is a huge deal. Coming from a small country, we don't have a base of so many players."

"I totally overachieved in my mind. It's been an absolute dream that I've had for so long. And I know that, and that's why I'm totally happy to step away as well."

Federer has played in an era where he, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray were dominant across the major tournaments.

The four men will be on the same team at the Laver Cup between 23 and 25 September, a Ryder Cup-style tournament in which Team Europe takes on Team World.

Federer, Djokovic, Nadal

and Murray will line up for Europe alongside Casper Ruud and Stefanos Tsitsipas, in what will be the Swiss' final professional competition.

He is happy his era has thrilled tennis fans, but does not believe they have to worry about the future of the sport now it is ending.

Federer said: "When I came up, we didn't expect it either. You know, we were more on a bit of a downslope after [Pete] Sampras retired. What's gonna come next, right? Well, here I came, and then came Rafa. And then there was Novak, and then Andy, all together."

"All of a sudden, there was this beautiful mix, we're all winning for 10 plus years, all the same tournaments, almost nobody else could win anything else. It was like a lock on the big tournaments."

"So I think, also for the fans, it's been a joy to watch, and I'm sure some fans will be sad I'm leaving, of course, but then again, there will always be wonderful new people."

"I think our tour allows for incredible storytelling so that's why I know that the game is very safe, and I'm sure it will see incredible new superstars."

Federer says he has not made specific plans for his retirement, but would like to stay in tennis and hinted he would be interested in youth coaching to bring through the next generation of talent in Switzerland.

However, Federer first plans on spending more time with his wife, Mirka, and their four children.

He said: "I always tried to keep a clean slate for when I retire, because I do have four children and they're amazing and they need my help. And my wife, too, she's always been by my side throughout. So it's a little bit let's see what they all want to do and what we should do."

"I would love to always mentor the children and get a new Swiss superstar going. If I can help the federation a little bit here and there, you know, I can see those things."

"But I still have to figure things out a little bit. I'll go home after this. And then we have vacation soon after that with the children. So I think it'll be a nice time to reflect and look forward."

I have gone through 'more downs than ups' - Osaka

FORMER world number one Naomi Osaka says she has gone through "more downs than ups" this year.

BBC SPORT said that, the 24-year-old from Japan has

not won a title since last year's Australian Open and has been defeated in the first round of her past three tournaments.

A four-time Grand Slam winner, she has dropped to 48th in the rankings going into this week's Pan Pacific

Open.

"This year has not been the best year for me but I've learned a lot about myself," Osaka said.

"Life is ups and downs, and this year was more down than up, but overall I'm pretty happy with where I

am now."

Osaka is defending her title at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, an event which returns after a three-year absence following the coronavirus pandemic.

In May 2021, Osaka pulled out of the French Open after revealing she had "suffered long bouts of depression" since winning her first Grand Slam title in 2018, and in September of that year she announced she would take a break from the sport.

Having withdrawn from Wimbledon with an Achilles injury and losing in the first round of the French and US Opens, the third round of the Australian Open was the furthest point Osaka reached in a Grand Slam this year.

She said the fall from the top of tennis was difficult to deal with initially.

"It was kind of hard at first, just because I feel like I should be somewhere where I'm obviously currently not," she said.

"I think for me it's more about being at peace with myself. I know that I'm here for a reason."

Osaka, who claimed her first Grand Slam title at the US Open in 2018 by beating Serena Williams, said she was "over trying to fill people's shoes".

"I don't think you can ever do that because everyone is unique, and we're all forging our own paths and we're all on our own journeys," she said.

Osaka will play Australia's world number 55 Daria Saville in the first round on Tuesday.



Osaka was defeated in the first round of the French and US Opens this year and was forced to withdraw from Wimbledon with an Achilles injury



NFF Elections:

Task Force warns against defying court order

THE Professional Footballers Association of Nigeria (PFAN) Task Force says the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) should not engage in the act of defying a court order regarding its upcoming elections.

Harrison Jalla, Chairman of PFAN Taskforce, told newsmen on Friday in Abuja that all those in the NFF defying court orders would face the consequences of their actions.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the NFF Electoral Committee had fixed Sept. 30 for the Federation's elective congress in Benin and proceeded to release a schedule of events.

But an order of a Federal High Court Abuja order on Sept. 15 has since put the NFF Elections on hold.

Justice Inyang Ekwo, ruling on an ex-parte motion, ordered the Youth and Sports Development Minister and the NFF President, or any person acting on their instruction, to maintain the status quo.

This he said would be pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice for interlocutory injunction.

"The attention of PFAN Task Force has been drawn to publications in the media space on the threat by the NFF and its Electoral Committee to defy the Sept. 15 court order.

"In the light of this, the PFAN Task Force has taken appropriate steps and has duly informed all relevant agencies of government that there is a threat to cause a breach of the peace by defying the court order," Jalla said.

He disclosed that PFAN Task Force was exploring all

possibilities within the ambit of the law to ensure those already defying the court order would face the consequences of their actions.

Jalla said it was worrisome that NFF has continued to violate and breach court orders.

"This is in spite of President Muhammadu Buhari's advice that they (NFF) go back as a body to amend the statutes, expand it and accommodate those who have been disenfranchised.

"As we speak, they are already breaching the orders of court because we see correspondences after the court order, and campaigns for elections are still going on.

"So, we are taking the appropriate steps to ensure that those who do this don't go scot-free."

He said PFAN Task Force did not need government to do the job of ensuring a stop is put to the act of defying court orders.

"We have all it takes within the ambit of the law to ensure that the election does not hold," Jalla stated.

He noted that the court order to halt the elections was a result of a consistent and deliberate acts of breaching court orders by the NFF since 2021.

"Every Nigerian is a citizen of the country, and the threat by NFF to defy the court order is unacceptable as nobody is above the law.

"The NFF has no immunity from the laws of the land, even as FIFA itself has no immunity from the laws of Switzerland.

"The order we got from court didn't just start today. We've been in court four times, and the two parties have been in court since 2021.

"At the last hearing date in



What for the Super Eagles?

June, the court gave us Oct. 31 to come back.

"We asked for an interlocutory order because we anticipated that an election would hold.

"They (NFF) said they are not going to do any election because there was no cause for that action and the court agreed with them as there was no electoral committee in place at the time."

The PFAN Task Force Chairman added that the judge thereafter stood down the order and gave all involved parties an Oct. 31 date to return to court.

"In between that period, they set up an electoral committee and started selling nomination forms. There is no court that will accept that anywhere in the world and that was how this fresh order came about.

"So, when the court order was issued, it was because they were already violating the process in court. This has really nothing to do with stopping the election.

"If any other group is now telling us that they are not bound by that order of court, then we will take it from there," he said.

Also, Victor Baribote, the PFAN spokesman, said it was very clear the Nigeria football governing body was not in order.

"In the last eight years, there has been nothing to show for all what the Federal Government did in terms of supporting the NFF with massive funding.

"Also, all the funds FIFA brought in and all the funds that were realised from the private sector cannot be seen in what is on ground.

"We are all aware of the activities which have been going on within the football circle of late.

"This is why on June 26 in 2021 PFAN set up a task force in its wisdom, to look at issues on how we can advance our football.

"We are all aware and are witnesses to the fact we have been recycling old

hands in the NFF.

"On the strength of that, the task force wrote a letter to the NFF last year in line with Article 29, requesting for an amendment of the Statutes to include every stakeholder.

"But to cut the long story short, the NFF has blantly refused to do anything about it," he claimed.

The former Nigeria Premier League (NPL) Chairman said the position of PFAN was that election was not important at the moment, and that "fixing" the nation's football was the top priority.

He noted that Nigeria had all it takes for its football to become the biggest employer of labour in the country, if the right things were done.

"It is not about election because the election we are talking about is the same one that will reproduce the same people who brought us to where we are today, and that is unacceptable.

"So, we are ready to answer any name to make football work again in this country.

We are not going to let it go. The President (Muhammadu Buhari) himself has said it is a national asset that should be guarded jealously.

"So, our position is that we have to sit down as a group, fix the game, include those who are supposed to be part of it and we take it from there.

"If that is not done, then if it is FIFA or the Federal Government that wants to intervene in this process, it is left for them to come and do what is necessary," Baribote said.

Jalla, Baribote, Austin Popo, and the registered trustees of the National Association of Nigeria Footballers (trading under the name of Professional Footballers Association of Nigeria) are the plaintiffs in the suit.

PFAN is advocating for equal representation for all the five statutory bodies that make up the NFF as it relates to voting rights and representation on the NFF board

Meanwhile, the Super Eagles on Friday in a test match against the Algeria local side in Constantine were held to a 2-2 draw, BSNSports.com.ng report.

The Nigeria team under Jose Peseiro has been training in Algeria ahead of the international friendly against the Desert Foxes.

After a goalless 30minutes J.S Kabiyle striker Karim Aribi opened the scoring in the 33rd minute and ended the half in favour of the hosts.

The introduction of the in-form Everton FC midfielder Alex Iwobi and Cremonese striker Cyril Dessers in the second half changed the game for Nigeria.

Both players scored to put the Super Eagles 1-2 before Aymen Mahious leveled the game to end the game 2-2.

Next for the Super Eagles is international match against Desert Foxes in Oran on Tuesday.

National Sports Festival gets new dates

THE 21st edition of the National Sports Festival, NSF, which was earlier scheduled to take place between 2-15 November, now has new dates.

A letter from the NSF Main Organising Committee on Friday addressed to the Commissioner and Directors of Sports across the federation conveyed the new dates.

The letter indicated that the 2022 NSF to be staged in Delta State will now hold from 28 November till 10 December.

As explained in the signed memo by the MOC Secretary, Peter Nelson, the slight postponement is necessitated by the pace of



Dare

ongoing works in various facilities that would host events during the Games.

"I wish to convey the request of Delta State

Government to shift the date of the 21st National Sports Festival earlier scheduled to hold from 2nd to 15th November 2022, is now

shifted to commerce on 28th to 10th December 2022.

"The postponement is to give more time to complete some facilities for the festival.

"We regret any inconveniences this might have caused you.

"While thanking you for your" cooperation, please accept the sporting regard of the Chairman Main organising committee (MOC)", the letter sent to the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory read.

In recent times, the National Sports Festival has continually been subjected to one postponement or the other for varying reasons.

The last edition hosted by Edo State was postponed on four different occasions before it was finally held between 4--15 April 2021--almost a year after the original set date.

The National Sports Festival hosted by Edo State was initially scheduled to hold in March 2020 but was continually postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19, which also affected social and economic activities at that time.

Delta State, the host of the 2022 NSF have dominated what is fondly referred to as Nigeria's version of the Olympic Games in recent years and would be looking to maintain that momentum on home soil.