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could be
regrouping**

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Crude Oil theft as Economic sabotage



Apart from insecurity, crude oil theft poses the greatest threat to the well-being of the nation. VICTOR GAI, investigates and unveils the depth of this economic sabotage and certain issues Nigerians may not be aware of.

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Facing up to Nigeria's healthcare saga

HEALTH, the popular adage goes, is wealth. The healthier a nation is, the wealthier it is. Nigeria, the most populous black nation in the world is not an exception. Blessed with both human and natural resources, the "giant of Africa", has remained a bundle of contradiction. Things are not working. Almost everything has gone awry and nothing is working. But how did we get to this path? Leadership or followership?

REPUTED to have some of the most intelligent medical personnel in the world, Nigeria's medicare is an eyesore. To say that Nigeria's health care system has deteriorated is an understatement. Most of the highly rated doctors and nurses abroad are Nigerians.

BRAIN drain has been the country's Achilles' hills. Available records show that, in the past few months over two hundred and sixty-six doctors (266), minus nurses left the country in search of greener pastures from other climes. Even though these personnel were trained by the country yet, the country has not been a beneficiary of its investment.

WE recall, way back in 1983 in the aftermath of the military coup that toppled the democratically elected government of the late Alhaji Shehu Usman Shagari, which brought in the then Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, the coupists did alleged, and very correctly that, Nigerian hospitals were mere consulting clinics. It is now worst because, they are confirmed mortuaries.

AGREED, the economy is not friendly, but Nigerian hospitals have no business being in this sorry state. The precarious economic situation is not peculiar to Nigeria. According to one writer, in November 2008, amid growing evidences that the worst international financial crisis in general, was taking a heavy toll on economies around the world, the then President of the United States of America, George W. Bush told leaders from the G20 countries who were at a working dinner at the White House to discuss the challenges facing the globe that the financial crisis will not be resolved overnight.

HE said, "This problem did not develop overnight and it will not be solved overnight but with continued cooperation and determination it will be solved. "Nothing can be further from the truth. The dilapidated health infrastructure in the country is worrisome and the works of the health personnel should be appreciated.

WE frown at the attitudes of some doctors and nurses who measure everything in terms of moneyconsigning their professional ethics to the dust-bin. It is common knowledge that most Nigerian doctors have their private hospitals. And that is where they refer patients to. And, in good conscience, that ought not to be the case. Nigeria must, therefore, reinvent the health sector for a better society.

SOKAPU frowns at moves to form vigilante

From JOHN
FWAH, KADUNA

The Southern Kaduna Peoples Union has condemned moves by Fulani herdsmen under the aegis of 'Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore' to form an armed Vigilance Force.

The Miyetti Allah group said the formation of the force to bear arms was to protect herders across the country especially in Benue State.

But the SOKAPU, an umbrella body of the Southern Kaduna people in Kaduna State, argued that the move by Fulani to bear arms, was a call to anarchy and another civil war in the land.

In a statement by its spokesperson, Luka Binniyat, in Kaduna recently, he pointed out if the Fulani herdsmen would be allowed to form Vigilance Force, then, other ethnic nationality must be permitted to form theirs.

Consequently, the union urged the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.) not to treat the move by Miyetti Allah to form a Vigilance Force with levity as usual.

SOKAPU noted that by now, the presidency ought to have moved swiftly to call for questioning the leadership of the Miyetti Allah group, saying, "That is what a serious country will do, he pointed."

However, the union praised the Governor of Zamfara State, Bello Matawalle for forming a volunteer vigilante service to be trained by the Nigeria Police



SOKAPU spokesperson, Luka Binniyat

Force. He urged other states in the Middle Belt region and the North to emulate the Zamfara State helmsman.

The statement partly read, "The unwelcomed news that Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore, a powerful socio-cultural Fulani group, is forming its own vigilante group, should alarm all Nigerians who care about the existence of Nigeria as a corporate entity."

"The Secretary General of the group, Saleh Hassan, made the grim disclosure four days ago in an interview he granted the International Centre for Investigative Reporting.

"Hassan ought to have been called for questioning to find the real motive behind such an unwarranted plan and to ascertain how far his group has gone into the scheme. In fact, the group ought to have been banned. That is what a serious country will do.

"The Fulani, even as a large ethnic group, does not have an

exclusive state in almost all the states of Nigeria, and are certainly not natives of Benue State or anywhere in the Middle Belt.

"With over 200 Southern Kaduna Communities sacked and displaced by armed herdsmen and allied criminals after hundreds were killed and more wounded, the sight of an armed Fulani vigilante force on our soil will be a very provocative act that will push other tribes to form same."

It added, "Any attempt therefore, to allow the Fulani to form, arm, kit and operate an armed wing so brazenly, is to also approve other ethnic groups to do same."

"In other words, SOKAPU is saying that a civil war might be sparked off if Fulani and other ethnic groups obtain arms for the exclusive reason of protecting themselves as groups under various independent commands.

Reduce pure politicking, focus on developmental aspirations-Sha

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

The Director of Research, National Institute of Policies and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru-Jos, Professor Pam Dung Sha, has challenged politicians to reduce politicking that has been endemic to the progress of Plateau State and focus on issues driven compassion that goes with developmental aspirations.

He gave the charge while delivering a lecture titled; "Beyond Politicking: Harnessing Plateau Potentials", at a discourse organised by the Plateau State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) ahead of 2023 elections, held at Tamarald Events Centre Jos, the state capital Thursday.

The don said, "as a student of Political Science, I will not ask anybody to not politick, participate and engage in it, but we also advise people to never stagnate at the level of politicking. We need to go beyond that and start thinking of development politics. This will not enable us take advantage of the huge endowment we have and harness our potentials.

"It is unfortunate that currently, nationally and statewide, politicking has taken

a different dimension of the winner takes it all. Pure politicking has also denied us the political will that should have been our base on issues driven ideas and developmental aspirations", he enthused.

Sha however, blamed this on rising praise singing even when the leader was not doing well. He called on whoever wins the forthcoming 2023 election to reduce pure politicking, sit down and think and creatively because pure politicking lowers service delivery and could also bring lack of unity positive cohesion.

He, therefore, commended the leadership of Plateau State NUJ for drafting this mind blowing topic, "I give whoever drafted this theme of this discourse 99.9% and will be a pace setter in the political history of not only Plateau State, but the country as a whole.

Earlier, the Plateau State Council Chairman of NUJ, Mr. Paul Pringkwap Jatau, said the political space over the years has not been encourage but and competitive and the council thought wise to bring this initiative and engage political analysts like Prof. Sha to discuss on the way forward.

On his part, the Chairman of

the occasion who is also the Vice-Chancellor of Karl-Kumm University, Prof. Nanven Gambo, said, Plateau State has been in a cold. He expressed concern over the exchange of words on the social media and called on supporters to market their candidates in a decent way and stop over hitting the polity.

Meanwhile, the Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, represented by the State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Dan Manjang, thanked Journalists on the Plateau for being gracious to his administration disclosed that, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD Newspaper** would be celebrating its 50th Anniversary and an Editorial Board has been set up to write a book on that.

There were words of commendation from the National President of the NUJ, Comrade Chris Isiguzo, through his Vice President Zone "D", Comrade Chris Asaka, also, gubernatorial candidates of respective parties were given the opportunity to showcase their manifestos.



With
**Katdapba
Y. Gobum
On Sunday**



gobum_katt@yahoo.co.uk 07037977744 (sms)

"When you spend time taking a look at their lives, you are the more encouraged to help; for in doing so, you are also putting on track many who may not have known them to the point one has taken them to."

The home return of two good women

IT is not always that one is 'forced' to write about loved ones in the past. When you have to do so, there must be cogent reasons why they must be put on the spot. One of the reasons readers may be asking is: While they lived, did they impact on the lives of the people and communities they come from? Did they return home in a blaze of glory? Don't get it wrong: I am diminished in the death of any person.

They may or may not be difficult questions to ask, however, our probing is not to ask why God has returned them to himself; but just so that their lives can serve as guide to many who may have come in contact with them while they are (were) alive.

I have since discovered that those I have often written about them in the past have, in more ways than one been shining lights to the lives of others. They have helped shaped the destinies of more people than they ever thought they may have done while alive.

When you spend time taking a look at their lives, you are the more encouraged to help; for in doing so, you are also putting on track many who may not have known them to the point one has taken them to.

In the family homes of these two families, there has been an outpouring of grief, sadness; however, one thing stands out: There is a palpable sense of fulfillment that their loved ones walked this earth touching lives and their various communities, and beyond.

Many organizations, individuals and family members on a daily basis have walked in and out of the homes; some of them not believing what has happened, but have had to express their heart-felt condolences in official letters and personal visits.

Such may have helped cushion their pains momentarily; as they often pay glowing tributes to the deceased; recalling what they did in the lives of individuals, of community members, church and society generally. Their loved ones will not return, yet, to be consoled they need the presence of others.

The two women, one by birth and the other by marriage are both from Kabwir in Kanke local government area of Plateau State. Both of them passed away in the same week at the age of 59 and 62 years respectively. God helping me, I shall endeavour to describe their lives in the way that best suits the description they are known for.

The painful passage of Isaac Wadak's PRO

You may not have known her. She was not loud, but I bet you, if you ever had met her before her passage on August 21, 2022 in Abuja after a battle with cancer, you would have fallen in love with her personality and character of her faith in God.

Her education at the famous Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria enabled her get a wider view of the world; which made her made impactful foray into the business. Those who came into contact with her instantly had a different from what they held before they met her.

Zainab Asabe Wadak was the



Wadak

matriarch of Isaac Gofub Wadak's family been married on May 17, 1997. She worked in the background to stabilize the home front, in more ways than one; but particularly in raising a family that had a foundation rooted in Christ.

Zainab was his wife until August 21, 2022, when she was called home to rest, after battling ill health to get the best of treatment from the best of health institutions here and abroad for some time. At the point she knew that the pains were wearing her down, she had faith it was a lesson the Lord wanted her to learn as her family also.

Isaac Wadak, an accountant, former state chairman of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria and a former Permanent Secretary in the Plateau State civil service, their two sons, Abba and Zingak and family are in great pain for the loss of a woman who was always on her knees interceding on their behalf.

The pains may have been enormous, but the assurance that she lived a life well dedicated to the Master would diminish the sadness of the loss. It is evident in the deluge of testimonies at the service of songs held in her honour at the St Pirans Church on September 2 and her burial which was held the following day.

You may not have known what she meant to them until you have heard from the widower. Indeed, you would appreciate the pains of the loss when described by the man who has spent a significant number of years together.

Isaac remembers the efforts to keep her alive during the struggle traversing even foreign countries to be attended to. It was time to return to her maker; for even in the last communications between husband and wife, she had this to say: Don't weep for me, for I know where I am going'.

There cannot be anything more reassuring that for one at the point of death to console her family to stay strong for her. She had reason to know where she was going. One of the letters of condolence delivered to the Isaac Wadak family; which was instructive came from the Fulbe Christian Association in Nigeria (FULCAN).

A jewel, the association wrote, has been snatched from us, and whose absence can never be filled. Precious it is in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints, says the Psalmist. She was a full member, herself being a Fulani from Wusasa, Zaria.

If you know Isaac Wadak and his late wife, Zainab, you would understand the degree of pain since her passage August 21. I have read some parts of the tributes by the husband, children, family and friends about the kind of woman she was while alive and the impact she made in their lives.

Don't throw away the fact that she is called Isaac Wadak's PRO. It is indeed instructive as it tells the story of a woman who stood in the gap for him, while checking on his agenda to know what activity he needed to attend. If he was not available for any, she stepped into his shoes and represented him well.

She was interred in a blaze of glory at her family compound on Gboko road, Jos after a funeral service at St Piran Anglican Church. She died at 59.

Yavala: The Commandant who worked for peace

I cannot remember how I got to know her that I closely associated with her, but I do know that we have come a long way. However, I recall that during my tenure as state Secretary of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Plateau State chapter, she served as daughter of honour in a programme initiated for the cause of peace, but basically



Yavala

because she was going to be given an award for the cause of peace in the state.

Starting from that year, our paths crossed regularly, while she served the nation in various states commands of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, I am aware she played roles that have become a reference point for me and many others; whose paths had crossed.

Suzane Yavala had recently been pulled out from the NSCDC having completed her tour of duty as Commandant in the NSCDC. Ordinarily, anyone would have wanted her to enjoy her retirement and last longer serving humanity. This prayer is always said to any person who is returning to rest on completion of work with government.

Today, sadly, however, I am writing on the woman of peace in the past. How sad could this be! Suzane Rotjimwa Yavala came to mother earth as the first child to Nde Sylvester Shwarji Walbe, who retired as a Permanent Secretary; while her mother, Magdalene Bunchini Walbe, retired also as Home Economist with the Plateau State Government.

If you ever knew her parents; being the strict disciplinarians that they were, together with her siblings, they were brought up in the best of Christian tradition. Without doubt, that tradition must have helped influenced them all over the years.

Having had stint at the University of Jos, her working career began with the Plateau State Government but she later transferred her service to Federal Ministry of Interior, working with the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps. She became the pioneer Commandant, Plateau State Command. Being the hard-working officer that she became over the years, her services were utilized in other commands such as Delta, Akwa-Ibom in the

same capacity.

In the course of her service, Suzane Yavala served at the zonal headquarters of Makurdi and Bauchi. In 2020, she retired having paid her dues as a dutiful officer of the law and setting examples that have become reference point as the Commandant, Bauchi Command.

It was in the course of her coming to her own that the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) Plateau State chapter observed the role she patriotically played in the aftermath of the 2001 crisis in Jos. She was honoured by the Institute in 2004, as the NSCDC under her command in Plateau State were heavily involved in evacuating the dead as well as the injured to the hospitals and others to safer grounds for medical attention in the case of the latter. This was not an easy task, by any stretch of imagination possible.

In 2015, recognition came knocking again. A prophet in her case is with honour with her people. That was why, having helped in securing employment opportunities for young men and women into the service, she came recommended for an award by her people.

Those young men and women are today indebted to her. It is hoped that they will serve the nation the way and manner that she did; just so if they can leave her memory incandescent.

She was buried on September 2, 2022 in Jos at age 62.

The governor appears to have gone 'mad'

In the last two months or so, a lot has happened in the PDP. No need to stress what has led to it; no Nigerian is oblivious of the development.

I hope that something is done fast, otherwise, many hospitals will be receiving patients in droves.

I shall soon return to this case soon and I hope to hear your own side.



How we make public officers steal

THE Nigerian public servant or those at the helm of affairs see themselves as gods. It is the weight of the responsibility, the power that goes with it and the resources at their disposal to do with as they please that first puts them in this fool's paradise.

Secondly, the realisation that everything within the stipulated parameters is under you and everything answers to you- can easily go to somebody's head. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

There are uncountable numbers of African leaders who took the issue of their power far beyond what it should be. One of such leaders was Idi Amin, the Ugandan dictator whose reign was a reign of terror. He committed so many atrocities including gruesome murder, rape, taking anything he wanted, maltreating foreigners. In fact, he was law unto himself. He was so power drunk that he gave himself the highest military rank that anyone could attain.

Idi Amin needed no prompting from anyone to unleash the dragon. He was conceited, inconsiderate, greedy, individualistic, self-serving. Most of our leaders share some of, if not most of Amin's attributes. Everyone takes the mantle of leadership with his own expectations. First on the list is to make sure he puts a plan in motion to make sure his family and himself will never experience poverty again in their life. That is the case in Nigeria, anyway. In developed nations, it is one of their reasons to write their name in gold, that is apart from the power it avails them.

Secondly, top on their priority list is paying back or compensating their strong supporters whose actions gave them the exalted position. This is a 'must do' or else the leader would be called an ingrate.

Recently, some political analysts opened my eyes to some subtle ways some people make sure the elected leader is indebted to them. One of the things they do the moment their acquaintance is declared winner of an election is to sew up to 20 caftans and *bapban riga* and present to the leader as a sign of goodwill. Unfortunately, some of these clothes are coming along with charms to force the one who wears it to become their puppet. It is borne out of the most selfish and wicked intentions. Such people often boast that 'Mr Governor is in our hands'. God pass man.

There was a particular case I heard of. It was reported that if not for the financial assistance rendered by a particular wealthy man, a particular governor would not have scaled through to emerge winner of the gubernatorial race. Money politics. Afterwards, when it was payback time, no quality of contract was deemed good enough to repay Mr Good's generous

action. As a result, they don't see eye to eye.

One public servant complained that the amount of requests he gets for financial assistance on a daily basis will take millions to take care of. To be on the safe side, he only helps the sick and his wife handles the hungry. In spite of that, they have been called names- that they are tight- fisted and insensitive to people's needs.

In his words: "Some people think we have our local government's account at our disposal to do as we please. Every kobo has to be accounted for."

A lady whose husband was once a member of the State House of Assembly said they used to start receiving visitors from the break of dawn till the setting of the sun. And the language was the same: Request for financial assistance to feed the family or pay school fees.

This lady reported that they used to eat their breakfast, lunch and dinner with the visitors. On top of it, her husband would try his best to take care of their problems. It is no wonder she was disappointed when she overheard somewhere that her husband is tight-fisted. It's like they are insatiable and they will prefer one to be corrupt to satisfy them.

So many of us celebrate former Governor Dariye as a very generous man who gives money to anyone he come across. That seems to be the criteria. If you want to be celebrated, throw money around, your flaws will be forgotten.

It is a common practice that the moment one makes it known that he is an aspirant, invitations for launching, fund raising and chairing occasions begin to flow. Have you noticed that it is usually during electioneering campaigns that churches begin fund raising, musicians begin album launch and so many political groups come back to life? All these entail money. We make it look as if they have to win a popularity contest in which language is money.

It is for this reason that when they ascend the throne, they tell themselves, it is payback time. To be in our good books, they have to borrow from sharks and they are often up to their necks in debt before ascending the throne.

We are all accomplices to embezzlement- the religious bodies that expect too much from our public officers to the loafers that expect them to take care of all their needs. We are all guilty of swindling our local governments and states huge sums of money because without remorse, we ask our leaders to sponsor, fund, provide, and take care of issues outside governance.

Until we become responsible citizens, we can never have responsible leaders. Until we allow them to follow the right path as dictated by law and their oath of office, we are never going to be taken seriously by the comity of states.

NEWS

Man, 37, kills parents in Jigawa

THE Police in Jigawa have arrested a 37-year-old man for alleged murder of his parents in Gagara Local Government Area of the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Jigawa Command, DSP Lawan Shiisu, confirmed this in a statement in Dutse on Thursday.

Shiisu said the suspect was arrested after he allegedly attacked his father, mother and two others with a wooden pestle.

Those attacked by the suspect are, Ahmad Muhammad, 70, Hauwa Ahmadu, 60, Kailu Badugu, 65 and Hakalima Amadu, 60.

The PPRO said that a team of policemen evacuated the victims to Gumel General Hospital, where Ahmad Muhammad and Hauwa Ahmadu were certified dead by a medical doctor due to the injuries they sustained in the attack.

Shiisu said the other two victims were on admission at the hospital for



Alkali

treatment.

"Today, at 11:30 a.m., information received had it that one Munkaila Ahmadu of Zarada-Sabuwa village in Gagara LGA of Jigawa, used a wooden pestle and attacked the following persons:

"Ahmadu Muhammad, the village Head of Zarada-Sabuwa, Hauwa Ahmadu, Kailu Badugu and Hakalima

Amadu, all of Zarada - Sabuwa village in Gagara LGA."

He added that preliminary investigation revealed that the deceased were the biological parents of the suspect.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Aliyu Tafida, directed for discreet investigation into the case, after which the suspect would be charged to court.

Flood: ICRC engages 700 youths for drain clearance

THE International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says it has engaged 700 youths for conduct of drain clearance exercise to control perennial flood in Borno.

This is contained in a statement by Mr Musa Aliyu, Project Field Officer, Cash-for-Work project, recently in Maiduguri.

He said the organisation had engaged the youths for desilt exercise at Bulumkutu, Dala and Bulabulin communities in Maiduguri and Jere Local Government Areas of the state.

He said the Borno Environmental Protection Agency (BOSEPA) had deployed 35 environmental workers to facilitate effective

supervision and conduct of the exercise.

"The total direct beneficiaries of the project is 735 with over 100,000 indirect beneficiaries across the three selected communities..

"The objective is to support and create temporary employment opportunities in the communities by engaging the most vulnerable to conduct of

Reject ethnic, religious politics, Jonathan advises youths

FORMER President Goodluck Jonathan on Saturday urged young people to reject those trying to divide the country

desilt exercise, and earn an income to enable them to cater for their needs," he said.

The project, he said would control flood, clear waste, enhance sanitation as well as improve the social and economic wellbeing of the people.

According to him, the organisation has cleared over 125 kilometers of drain in the communities under the 2019 and 2021 exercises. (NAN)

with ethnic and religious politics ahead of the 2023 elections.

He made the remark while giving a speech in Owerri at the 80th birthday symposium of Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu.

Jonathan noted that Nigeria's politics is steeped in ethnicity and religion "to the detriment of our country and our own collective roots. I think we need to reduce this."

He added: "Collectively, if we work together and accommodate our differences, we can build a nation where everybody would have a sense of belonging. And everyone's rights would be guaranteed.

"That is the way we must go a Nigeria where justice and equality reigns."



Zulum

SUNDAY POLITICS

Shettima has proven his mettle

-Ajaka

All Progressives Congress (APC) and Deputy National Publicity Secretary, Hon, Murtala Yakubu Ajaka, has described Vice Presidential candidate of the APC Senator Kashim Shettima as a shining light of the party even as he celebrated his 56th birthday anniversary on Friday, September 2nd.

A congratulatory statement made available to newsmen by the APC's deputy spokesperson said, "The choice of Shettima as the running mate to Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu has added a milestone to the presidential ticket of the ruling party in the country's political history."

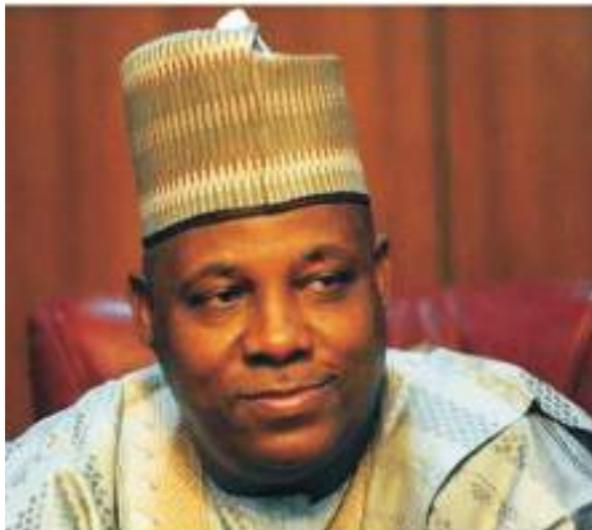
According to Ajaka, the ticket symbolises the party's determination to be a leading light among political parties in Africa, just like the celebrant himself (Shettima) who has been a shining light as governor, Senator and Vice President to be in 2023.

While recalling laudable achievements of Shettima as governor of Borno state, especially in education and infrastructure, Ajaka said the APC Vice presidential candidate was able to make his mark despite the challenges of insecurity in the

North-east, adding that "crisis is the truest test of a man's ability and Shettima proved his mettle."

The APC spokesman said the party is proud of the principles that threw up Shettima as a running mate to Asiwaju Tinubu.

"As a party, the principles of competence, innovation, compassion, integrity, fairness, and adherence to excellence among others that determined the choice of Senator Kashim Shettima as our running mate is



Shettima

something APC is proud of."

While joining Shettima's immediate family, friends, supporters and the progressive family to celebrate his 56th birthday, Ajaka offered prayers that "God's blessings, protection, and guidance continue to abide with the APC Vice Presidential candidate as he marches on with his daring vision to break new grounds and set new pace in the country."

THE Northern Elders Forum (NEF) has said the North will be more critical about who gets support of the people in the region in the 2023 General elections.

Convener of the forum, Prof. Ango Abdullahi, made the elders' position known recently in Kaduna, during the 2022 public lecture and book presentation, organised by the Centre for Leadership Development and Research/Arewa Youth Alliance for Good Governance in collaboration with NEF.

Abdullahi, who said the North is now wiser and knows who it will vote for if the time comes, emphasised that Northern votes will make an impact on who becomes the next president in 2023.

He said, "The North will participate in all political and electoral activities as equals and with respect to other Nigerians who respect us. The North want leaders who will lead with integrity, competence, compassion and the fear of God."

"We will not support a candidate that fails to

North wiser, will vote leaders with integrity, competence



Ango

convince that he will radically improve the quality of governance and the integrity of leaders.

"We will be more critical than all others, over who wins our support. We bear scars from governance by one we substantially voted into power twice. Northern votes will make a major impact in the 2023 elections as well, but they will be cast to the people who are now wiser and more discerning."

"No candidate should, therefore, take our support for granted, and we state again that we will vote entirely for the candidate that convinces us that he understands our problems and will seek solutions to them with commitment, courage and conviction."

"Secondly, Northerners will not be intimidated into making choices that do not improve the chances of real changes in their current circumstances."

"We have paid a high price in conflicts around religion in the North, and we do not need to do more. Our insecurity and collapsing economy do not discriminate between Christians and Muslims."

"We cannot seek solutions from them as Muslims or Christians. I have to state here that we are witnessing some of the crudest and most unproductive campaigns to create divisions between Hausa and Fulani people, and create distances between Christians and Muslims in the North."

Specifically, Abdullahi noted that the Northerners will not support candidates who seek to benefit from strategies that seek to deepen and exploit Nigeria's ethnic or religious diversity.

"I want to use this opportunity to state that the Northern Elders Forum has no candidate in this

election as we speak. We plan to engage all willing candidates to discuss their plans and ideas and we have our own yardstick for assessing candidates."

"The North wants what all Nigerians want, which are leaders who will lead with integrity, competence, compassion and the fear of God. Our hope is that all Nigerians will share our vision of a country that overcomes its current fears, challenges and limitations and embarks on a journey of rediscovery."

"Northerners will not be intimidated into making choices that do not improve the chances of real changes in their current circumstances."

"We will participate in all political and electoral activities as equals, and with respect to other Nigerians who respect us."

"In the north, we consider attempts to create divisions and conflicts around religion as hostile acts. We have paid a high price in conflicts around religion in the North, and we do not need to do more."

"Our insecurity and collapsing economy do not discriminate between Christians and Muslims. We cannot seek solutions from them as Muslims or Christians. I have to state here that we are witnessing some of the crudest and most unproductive campaigns to create divisions between Hausa and Fulani people, and create distances between Christians and Muslims in the North."

"We warn that these contemptible attempts will fail, because they find no support in history going back into centuries, or in the recent past. While we differ in faith and ethnicity, history, geography and our experiences in living as Nigerians have created roots and bonds that cannot be destroyed by desperate political gambits."

PDP elders condemn demolition of campaign office

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Elders Forum of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Gombe State has condemned the demolition of its campaign office by the Inuwa Yahaya led State Government.

The State Government, through the Gombe State Urban Planning and Development Authority (GOSUPDA) had on Tuesday afternoon demolished the property used by the PDP as its campaign office as it described the building as an illegal structure.

The demolition, which is the second this year, created a lot of tension and chaos leading to the manhandling of two journalists by the Police and political thugs. The first demolition of the same property took place in February this year.

But reacting to the State Government's action, the PDP Elders Forum said the action was dictatorial, callous, barbaric and uncalled for and cannot in anyway demoralize the party in its efforts at reclaiming the State from the APC during the 2023 election.

Chairman of the Forum, Alhaji Bala Mohammad Magaji, along with other members, during a press conference, also called for calm from the people of the State and especially from its entire PDP members by ensuring that peace prevails.

The Forum said the action of the State Government was contrary to democratic tenets and shows how desperate and intolerable the Inuwa Yahaya Government has

been and has derailed from the dreams and aspirations of the founding fathers of the State.

According to him the founding fathers' dreams and aspirations was to see that the State developed in all spheres. He said it was however unfortunate that things have changed negatively.

He recalled that during the immediate past

administration of the PDP, the Government was tolerant to the extent that opposition posters were pasted everywhere including the Government House.

He added that the current PDP Governorship candidate, Mohammed Jibrin Barde, used the same structure for his campaign even as an opposition Governorship aspirant of the APC in 2018/19.

He said, the structure is close to the Presidential Lodge as

well as the Government House and nobody complained about it.

He advised the Inuwa led Government to concentrate on governance by ensuring that peace prevails and not cause friction among the people.

He also cautioned security agents to live up to their expectations of protecting all the people of Gombe State and allow them the freedom of political association.

...why we demolished campaign office

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Gombe State Urban Planning Development Authority (GOSUPDA) says it has cogent legally backed reasons to demolish the campaign office of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the State capital.

The Executive Chairman of GOSUPDA, Group Captain Bitrus Bilal (Rtd) stated this while addressing newsmen shortly after supervising the demolition of the building situated opposite the Presidential Lodge in GRA Gombe.

According to Bilal, Government's action was not politically motivated, but a reclamation of distorted master plan of the State capital.

He said, the demolition of the illegal structure belonging to Gombe Good Leadership Association was carried out in the spirit of the ongoing reclamation of the development master plan of Gombe and maintaining the prevailing peace and tranquillity the State enjoys.

He explained further that the unauthorised structure, which is sited directly opposite the Presidential Lodge, contravenes the and laws of the land and

capable of compromising the prevailing peace and tranquillity the State enjoys.

He said the unauthorized structure was clandestinely converted into a campaign office of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP by its Governorship candidate, Mohammed Jibrin Barde.

Bilal said, "the demolition exercise became necessary because the building in question, not only contravened some sections of the land use act Decree of 1978, urban and regional planning and development board law of 2001 and other development laws of the State but has turned into a buzzing political arena."

"It is also in a location directly opposite the Presidential Lodge within the Government House vicinity, an area clearly marked for residential and Government offices. Such is capable of compromising security if allowed to operate as a political party office", he maintained.

Bilal also recalled that, "On the 29th of December 2021, an organisation, Gombe Good Leadership Association applied and secured an approval for the erection of a temporary structure for the conduct of its affairs but that activities at the site took a different turn when the State Urban Planning Development

Authority noticed the construction of a permanent building in contravention to the earlier approval."

"The authority in several notices, had asked the Association to come forward to regularize their documents but they didn't," he added.

Group Captain Bilal said that the Authority in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities as enshrined in section 27 of the Gombe State Urban Planning and Development 2011, approached the construction site and served it with stop and demolition notices.

He said despite a partial demolition of the structure to allow owners of the building do a controlled demolition, illegal construction work continued through the erection of billboards belonging to the PDP gubernatorial candidate in the State which was an indication that the site has been converted to a party office.

The Executive Chairman of GOSUPDA maintained that the administration of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya is committed to the entrenchment of law and order in the State and will not fold its hands and watch the actions of individuals or groups that are capable of disturbing the peace of the State.

POLITICS

Lalong felicitates with Shettima, Ambassador Dimka

By PALANG KASMI

Plateau Governor and Chairman of Northern Governors Forum (NGF), Simon Bako Lalong has sent encomiums to celebrate the All Progressives Congress (APC) Vice Presidential Candidate Kashim Shettima @ 56.

He has also felicitated with Nigeria's former Ambassador to Liberia, Mr. James Dimka at 75.

The Governor in separate statements described the celebrants as hardworking personalities who have played their part in the countries development.

He described Shettima who was a former NGF Chairman and Governor of Borno State as a patriotic Nigerian and a man of honour who has used every opportunity to serve his people with utmost responsibility.

He said the story of Shettima's life from his career in banking, academia and politics is replete with honesty, dexterity, diligence, resilience and commitment to serve and unite people irrespective of tribe, religion and political differences.

He recalled how Kashim Shettima worked assiduously to deal with the insurgency in the North East during his term as Governor of Borno State where he also did his best to deliver impactful projects despite the distractions of Boko Haram.

Governor Lalong also reflected on the leadership of Senator Kashim Shettima as Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum where he gave sound leadership that galvanised Governors and other stakeholders within the region towards addressing illiteracy, poverty, disease and other challenges.

These attributes he said continued to dominate the interventions of Shettima at the Red Chamber of the National Assembly where he displayed tremendous zeal towards passing laws that will strengthen institutions to deliver quality service to Nigerians.

While wishing him many more years of God's blessings, good health and divine protection, Lalong urged Senator Shettima to remain loyal, humble and focused on building a greater Nigeria even as he has been chosen to be the running mate of the APC Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

In the same vein, Lalong has congratulated Ambassador Dimka for attaining the age of 75 Ambassador Dimka a



Shettima

veteran Journalist, Diplomat and Politician represents one of the best minds on the Plateau.

He said the former Ambassador has contributed enormously to the development of the State and nation at large adding that Dimka rose through the ranks to become one of the finest journalists in Plateau State and Nigeria.

He described Dimka as one who played a key role in the growth of the telecommunications industry and contributed to the expansion of the sector particularly at the grassroots level, and further acknowledged his contributions to the political development of Plateau State and Nigeria where he served as Chairman, Pankshin LGA among other roles he played within the political circle in the State and national levels.

Lalong praised Dimka for discharging his duties

The National and States Assembly Elections Petition Tribunal sitting in Jos, Plateau State, on Friday, nullified the election of Musa Aggah, a member of the Peoples Democratic Party representing the Bassa/Jos-North Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives.

The tribunal held that Aggah was not validly nominated by the PDP for the bye-election conducted on February 26, 2022.

Aggah was declared the winner of the Jos North/Bassa Federal constituency bye-election held on February 27, by the Independent National Electoral Commission.

He had polled a total of

diligently and representing the interest of Nigeria with high sense of responsibility and passion.

"Your credentials is eminent you as a reliable and patriotic citizen, and I commend you for the role that you have continued to play within the Elders Council in Plateau State towards consolidating on peace, security and development, said Lalong.

Court dismisses suit against PDP Senatorial candidate

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

JUSTICE Johnson Usman of the Federal High Court, Lokoja on Friday dismissed a suit challenging the nomination of an Abuja based lawyer, Barrister Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan as the Senatorial candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for Kogi Central.

The Judge held that the legal

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

LEAGUE of Lawyers in Bauchi state have pledged to offer free legal services to All Progressive Congress (APC) gubernatorial candidate Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar (RTD) in the state.

The team leader, Mr Ahmed Sani while briefing journalists in Bauchi, said "we are ready to navigate legal issues against mischief makers on APC guber candidate."

Sani said they are committed to taking legal action against mischief makers to malign the good name and reputation of the All Progressive Congress (APC) gubernatorial candidate in the state.

He explained that they are legal practitioners with the platform league of Bauchi lawyers for Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar gubernatorial candidate under APC in the state.

"Our blueprint is geared towards providing free legal services and galvanizing massive support for Abubakar, as well as ensuring his victory at the polls in the forthcoming 2023 general election.

"We are not oblivious of rumors peddled by mischief makers to malign the good name and reputation of our candidate and his campaign team," he said.

Sani warned that henceforth the league would not hang in and remain aloof while the

Bauchi lawyers offer free legal service to Sadique

ugly trend continues.

"We shall use the means within the law to seek redress whenever the need arises," Sani said.

The team leader, noted that their convictions to support Air Marshal Abubakar (Rtd) is not out of sentiments or mere display of love but because of his track record and his capacity to deliver on his promises,

"We are confident that Abubakar has the competence

to bring back the groove and pride, hope, power and responsibility to improve the living standard of the people within the State," he said.

The league, however, lamented the unemployment rate and lack of access to clean water, these are hard facts.

"Our mission is to support a candidate who has the capacity to stem the tide and lead Bauchi State to its desired destination," he said.



Sadique

action instituted by another contestant, Adamu Atta was grossly incompetent and incurably defective and thereby robbed the court jurisdiction to entertain it.

Atta had in his Originating Summons alleged that Akpoti-Uduaghan did not win the primary election of the PDP for Kogi Central Senatorial District for the

2023 General election and therefore her nomination should be nullified.

He claimed among others, that the May 25 primary election which produced Akpoti-Uduaghan was flawed and not validly conducted as required by law.

The plaintiff asked the court to void and set aside the primary election as well

as the eventual nomination of the defendant.

However, Akpoti-Uduaghan through her counsel, John Usman SAN vehemently objected to hearing of the suit on the ground that the Originating Summons was not endorsed as required by law.

The lawyer in his preliminary objection against the legal action relied on section 97 of the Sheriff and Civil Process Act to establish that the originating summons was incurably defective and incompetent having not been endorsed in line with provisions of the law.

Besides the incompetence of the originating summons, Akpoti-Uduaghan had in her counter affidavit averred that the primary election conducted on 25th May, 2022 was monitored by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and that she validly won, attaching the result, delegates list and INEC report.

In his judgment, Justice Mallong agreed with Usman SAN that the suit was improperly commenced and that the Court lacked jurisdiction to hear it and subsequently dismissed it in its entirety.

Tribunal sacks PDPs Rep in Plateau

40,343 votes to emerge the winner. He was closely followed by the Peoples Redemption Party's candidate, Mohammed Gwani, who polled 37,857 votes, while the ruling All Progressives Congress candidate, Joseph Aku, who came a distant 3rd, scored 26,111 votes.

The tribunal on Friday, in a consensus judgement led by its chairman, Justice Hope Ozoh, and others, Justices Khadi Umar and Zainab Bashir, held that the petitioners had proved their case against Aggah beyond reasonable doubt.

The tribunal also declared that Aggah did not score the highest valid votes in the election.

It also ordered INEC to return Mohammed Gwani of

the Peoples Redemption Party as the valid winner of

the February 26, 2022 bye-election.



Agah

SUNDAY POLITICS

Why diaspora voting may not be possible – INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said it does not as yet have the enabling laws to carry out diaspora voting in 2023. The explanation came amid calls by many Nigerians that it was high time Nigeria toed the path of other countries in Africa that allow their citizens resident in other countries to exercise their franchise in their home countries.

THE calls it was gathered, became necessary following rising interest in the nation's electoral process by citizens in the diaspora.

In an interview with BusinessDay, Rotimi Oyekanmi, chief press secretary to the INEC chairman, said the commission had no laws allowing it to do so at the moment.

"The current operative law does not allow diaspora voting. The National Assembly needs to amend the law to allow it. Once that is done, the commission will put the machinery in place to implement such law," Oyekanmi said.

He said the commission was doing everything possible to bring all Nigerians, whether within the country or outside, to actively participate in the nation's electoral process.

Mahmood Yakubu, chairman of INEC, had recently urged the National Assembly to expedite action on the amendment of sections of the Constitution and the Electoral Act (2010 as amended) to make way for Nigerians living outside the country to participate in the electoral process and vote.

He made the call when members of the Senate Committee on Diaspora and Non-Governmental Organisations, led by its chairperson, Rose Oko, visited the commission's headquarters in Abuja.

Yakubu said: "INEC believes that Nigerians living outside the country should have the right to vote for a variety of reasons: they are citizens of Nigeria interested in the affairs of their own country; they make considerable contribution to the economy through huge financial inflow to the country; there is a sizable amount of Nigerian citizens living outside the country; and Diaspora voting is consistent with global best practices.

"Allowing Nigerians living abroad to vote will allow Nigerians in diaspora to register and vote in their country of residence... For this to happen, several sections of the Constitution and the Electoral Act have to be amended to provide for the legal framework to allow for registration and voting by citizens living in the diaspora."

Abike Dabiri-Erewa, chairman and chief executive



Mahmood



Dabiri-Erewa

of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, had recently said there was a need for Nigeria to consider exploring diaspora voting in the 2023 general election.

Dabiri-Erewa, who commended Nigerians in the diaspora over their consistent contributions and aid to the economy pre and post-COVID-19 pandemic through foreign exchange remittances, urged stakeholders to continue to engage the National Assembly to amend relevant sections of the law to enable INEC accommodate Diaspora voting in the 2023 general election.

The National Assembly however, had, during the recent Constitution Amendment exercise, rejected the bill for an Act to alter the provisions of the Constitution

of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to provide for diaspora voting, and for related matters.

Speaking on the issue, Christian Okeke, a Political Science lecturer at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, said that making diaspora voting possible in Nigeria is not rocket science but that it is a process that basically requires legislation, technology and data to materialise.

Okeke told BusinessDay that Nigerians in the diaspora reserve the right to participate in the process of choosing their country's leaders.

He said: "However, whereas some African countries have continued to be shining examples on a number of issues, particularly Kenya, on diaspora voting, Nigeria keeps

paying lip service to such issues and lagging behind on many fronts.

"Take for instance, National Assembly has critical role to play in actualising diaspora voting by way of enacting relevant legislation. The two Chambers know this. They know that Section 77(2) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) restricts registration and voting to persons residing in Nigeria only."

"Whereas the way out would have been to amend this section, yet diaspora voting was conspicuously missing in the recent constitutional amendments by the parliament. Even the necessary guidelines and policies to smoothen the

amendment process were not formulated and have remained on the drawing board," Okeke added.

The university lecture further observed that a reliable technology for diaspora voting is yet to be developed.

He said: "As we speak, there is morbid fear about the general security of technologies in Nigeria. The reliability and integrity have always raised doubts, the same way no one can vouch for the personnel to man the technologies are patriotic professionals and men of honour. As it stands, there is no guarantee that the political elite will not sabotage the integrity of the technology driven process.

"On the other hand, the country currently struggles with up-to-date information on the actual number of citizens presently living abroad. The dearth of data makes it difficult to enable diaspora voting in the country."

He, however, said: "There is strong belief that any day the political elite in the country get determined to effect the necessary changes for common good, including diaspora voting, that would be achieved and Nigeria will join the league of states that respect the rights of their citizens abroad to vote in.

BusinessDay

"INEC believes that Nigerians living outside the country should have the right to vote for a variety of reasons: they are citizens of Nigeria interested in the affairs of their own country; they make considerable contribution to the economy through huge financial inflow to the country; there is a sizable amount of Nigerian citizens living outside the country; and Diaspora voting is consistent with global best practices. Allowing Nigerians living abroad to vote will allow Nigerians in diaspora to register and vote in their country of residence... For this to happen, several sections of the Constitution and the Electoral Act have to be amended to provide for the legal framework to allow for registration and voting by citizens living in the diaspora."

SUNDAY PEOPLE

PLATEAU NUJ INTERFACE WITH POLITICIANS

The Nigeria Union of Journalists, Plateau State Council on Thursday held a discourse with candidates of the different political parties in the state at the Tamarald Event Centre with the theme: Beyond Politicking: Harnessing Plateau Potentials



NUJ Plateau State Council Chairman, Mr. Paul Jatau (left) welcoming the guest speaker, Prof. Pam Dung Sha, Director of Research, NIPSS, Kuru middle is Mr. Katdapba Gobum, one time NUJ Chairman



L - R: Hon. Sylvanus Namang, Rev. Dr. Kyenvel Saleh, President, Plateau State Baptist Conference, Nde Jonathan Ishaku and Mr. Nanyak Miner



A cross section of Women Journalists at the occasion



Governor Simon Bako Lalong, represented by Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner, Information (middle) exchanging pleasantries with Mr. Luka Panpe (left) and the representative of Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda, Comrade Jibrin Bancir



Dr. Boniface Gwotbit, KSM, General Manager, PPC (left) in a handshake with Mr. Sunday Dagwom, Perm Sec., Information



Mr. Peter Amine, NUJ State Secretary (2nd right) putting heads together with the Vice Chair, Ayuku Pwaspo (left) and other journalists



L - R: Mr. Jabbe Wudetawo, Ayuku Pwaspo and Pam Musa at the occasion



L - R: Hon. Diket Plang, APC Candidate for Plateau Central, Barr. Gyang Zi, LP candidate for Plateau North and Ishaya David Lalu, APC candidate for House of Reps., Mangu/Bokkos

Photos: DANLADI DUK

IF you have been following events on the Plateau in the last couple of months, then you must be familiar with the controversy surrounding the Jos Ultra Modern Main Market. You will recall that the market, popularly known as Terminus Market which was said to be the largest modern indoor market in West Africa, got burnt in 2002. Ever since, it has remained a shadow of itself with no hope of regaining its lost glory despite efforts by past administrations in the state. Then came the Lalong administration, who thought it wise to rebuild the market once considered as the pride of Plateau. In his efforts, Governor Simon Bako Lalong approached the management of Jaiz Bank, requesting to partner with it on the rebuilding project.

Jaiz Bank by the way operates an Islamic and Sharia compliant banking system in Nigeria. According to reports, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was expected to be signed between the Plateau State government and Jaiz Bank to rebuild and reconstruct the burnt Jos Main Market at the tune of about ten billion naira. Details from the agreement showed that upon completion of the market, Plateau State will own forty percent shares while Jaiz Bank gets to have more control by owning the remaining sixty percent shares. The decision arrived at was based on the fact that the project is to be fully funded by the bank.

The Plateau State government will only provide land, security and an enabling environment with the project billed to be completed within the period of twelve months while duration on the proposed deal is to run for a period of forty years. This terms and conditions of course did not go down well with most stakeholders on the Plateau as it faced condemnations and backlash, resulting in a huge controversy.

The heightened reactions generated however, prompted a call for all legislators of the Plateau State House of Assembly to engage their constituents in order to create more awareness and better enlightenment on the MoU and benefits derivable thereof.

It was also hoped that the feedback gotten from the meetings in the various constituencies will inform the lawmakers position on the matter. As the people's representatives, it behoves on them to ensure that their constituents who are major stakeholders have a say concerning the project. Leading the meeting in Kanke Local Government Council was the member representing Kanke constituency who is also the House Deputy Majority Leader, Hon. Wallok Goma. He was in company of the council Chairman, Hon. Henry Gotip, the District Head of Amper Nde Emmanuel Koprit and other traditional rulers, including former legislators, religious leaders and politicians from the area.

The lawmaker did not mince words when he spoke on the importance of the infrastructure

in question, as he demanded that the people be educated on the nitty gritty of the project. As far as Wallok was concerned, this will avail them the opportunity to contribute by offering useful advice that would help the state government actualize its intentions. Mr. Peter Dogo, a member of the state technical team on the project who was on ground to shed more light advised stakeholders from Kanke constituency to support government on this project. He expressed optimism that the town



JMMA: Between lawmakers and constituents



Goma



Dasun

hall meeting will give the needed support for the state government to sign the MoU. Interestingly, some of the constituents obliged and were emphatic on some areas like the forty years duration, the sixty to forty percent stake while insisting that the issue of insurance must be revisited before signing the agreement or any document. In Mangu North East, the member and representative Hon. Adamu Abdul Yanga began the day's engagement by educating and enlightening the people on the significance of rebuilding the once revenue spinning terminus market. Hon. Yanga apart from conscientizing his people on the rationale behind the choice of Jaiz Bank to handle the project noted that the primary aim of government was to revamp commercial activities which Plateau was known for.

Stakeholders in Mangu worthy of mention, gave their affirmation to the government to go ahead with the reconstruction of the market. An interesting thing noticed was their expression of dismay at the negative commentaries going on in the public domain concerning the project. Many wondered why using Jaiz Bank should be an issue when it is for the benefit and betterment of the state. For the people of Pankshin North

constituency, the planned

Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties involved must be put on hold until certain gray areas are addressed. Like other legislators, Hon. Philip Peter Dasun representing Pankshin North constituency parleyed with his constituents before arriving at the decision taken. The meeting had in attendance, the council Chairman Hon. Kadmena Goteng, the state Commissioner for Higher Education Dan Hirkop, Deputy Leader of Pankshin legislative arm Hon. Panman Tokat with other stakeholders made up of youth and women representatives. In the lawmaker's words:

"At the end of our Pankshin town hall meeting with stakeholders, following the fact that this matter is a very critical one and has attracted the interest of the whole state, we arrived at two basic decisions, that consultations be widened and deepened to the understanding of the common man in the village and that gray areas especially the forty years of administration of the shops and the sixty percent share to be dispatched by Jaiz Bank be made clearer to the understanding of the common man if not, such MoU should not be signed". Toeing the line of his colleagues on the economic benefits of rebuilding the project, House

Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency Hon. Na'anlong Gapyil Daniel opined that rebuilding the burnt Jos Main Market will no doubt create a robust avenue for revenue generation.

According to the legislator, for many years Plateau was referred to as a 'civil service state' simply because of its low economic and commercial activities. He was of the view that had the market been in existence, this notion would not have come up in the first place.

For him, it was time to change the narrative, hence the need to rebuild the market. While making clarifications on the MoU, Na'anlong disclosed that the state government had on three occasions approached Jaiz Bank before the financial institution finally gave its consent to embark on the project. The lawmaker who did not hide his approval described Jaiz Bank as a serious financial and business entity that is willing to commit hundred percent of its resources on the project.

He equally revealed that some details in the MoU were arrived at after the bank undertook a feasibility study of specifications in the contract. The council Chairman Austin Bako on his part, said he did not see anything wrong with the

idea as he encouraged the people to support the idea so that government can improve the state economic potentials. Main issues raised by stakeholders was that of security around the market. They were also of the view that the interest of Plateau people must be protected at all cost, especially in the final draft of the MoU.

Majority of them expressed fear at the sixty percent shares allocation for shops given to the bank. Those in attendance included the Miyom of Garkawa Joseph Dabup, former council Chairman Daniel Kungmi amongst others. It was indeed not different in Bokkos as Hon. Amurudu Usaini, member representing the constituency tasked his people to pay attention to the details since it was the desire of government for legislators to generate feedback on the issue. Even though members of Bokkos constituency did not object to the idea of rebuilding the market, one of the women representatives Victoria Yusuf insisted that government should use local contractors while advising that ongoing projects be completed first. In attendance during the town hall meeting were the council Chairman Joseph Goluwa, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Tourism and Culture Issac Maren as well as a former SGS Lita Shindai amongst others.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Sylva



Kyari

Crude oil theft as economic sabotage

Apart from insecurity, crude oil theft poses the greatest threat to the well-being of the nation. VICTOR GAI, investigates and unveils the depth of this economic sabotage and certain issues Nigerians may not be aware of.

THE mere mention of crude oil theft on national TV might suggest the criminal activities of petty thieves, pipeline vandals and oil bunkerers in the Niger Delta creeks. It could also suggest an activity carried out in a particular region of the nation by some of the less privileged members of the society.

But far from that, the menace is a sophisticated form of organised crime of local and international dimension. It is an economic crime that eats deep into the economy than most people can imagine including those involved in it.

Contrary to popular beliefs, the crime is perpetrated by a cartel comprising of politicians, current and former workers of the oil industry, security agents and the local population. That makes it very complicated to deal with indeed.

Only recently, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Timipre Sylva, did lament that hoodlums who perpetrate the act of oil theft have caused the production level to reduce by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd), translating to a drop from 1.8 million to 1.4 million barrels per day.

Also recently, Managing Director of Chevron Nigeria/Mid Africa Business Unit, Richard Kennedy while speaking in a panel session held at the recently concluded NOG Conference in Abuja, described crude oil theft as an organized crime with a monumental cost on the economy of the nation.

"From my experience, the issue with crude oil theft should not be confused with host community issues. It is much bigger than that. It is completely different from host community issues. Quite frankly it is organized

crime.

"The volume of crude that is being stolen is well beyond comprehension. You can see some of the figures in the press, maybe it's about 100,000 barrels per day at \$100 per barrel and that's \$10 million per day that is being stolen. NNPC owns 60% while taxes of 85% are paid, so it's a huge loss for the country," he revealed.

On his part, the Group CEO of Oando, Wale Tinubu, said about 20% of Nigeria's daily crude production is lost to oil theft.

"There has been a 43% reduction in our production from March 2020 to May 2022. We lose almost 20% of our daily crude production to oil thieves and pipeline vandals and 20,000 barrels a day of oil is lost to oil theft. Basically some three million barrels on average yearly is lost to oil theft and pipeline vandalism," he disclosed.

Also, just recently, the Chairman of Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) Gbenga Komolafe, revealed that only about 132 million barrels of the 141 million barrels of oil produced in the first quarter of 2022 were received at export terminals.

Komolafe said, "This indicates that over nine million barrels of oil have been lost to crude theft...this equates to a loss of government revenue of approximately \$1 billion...in just one quarter".

He added: "This trend poses an existential threat to the oil and gas sector and, by extension, to the Nigerian economy if left unchecked."

Now, how is the business of oil theft carried out and who are those involved in it?

In a recent article by **Emma Amaize**, titled *Oil Theft: How*

security operatives, govt officials run bunkering cartel, exposed the complicity of government officials and security agents in the illegal business.

"It is not hidden information that a sophisticated mafia of powerful Nigerians and foreigners, including top military operators, government officials, highly-placed and retired oil industry personnel, politicians and business persons are the big-time oil thieves and financiers of oil bunkering syndicates, which over the years have to suck the life out of the country's economy. "Their oil bunkering cartel working with insiders steal crude directly from major crude oil pipelines in the Niger Delta, while officials pump crude to the different Terminals. They know the time and duration of pumping and exact pipelines.

"The damage inflicted by small-time oil bunkerers in Rivers, Delta, Bayelsa and other states, who illegitimately refine crude oil in the Niger-Delta region is a child's play compared to the havoc the connected cartel that owns giant vessels and equipment wreak on the economy.

"There are local thieves who also siphon from major pipelines and later sell their product to the big players, who use superior tubes and experts to drain off crude oil.

"The biggest advantage of the cartel is that they have security operatives that provide security on the instruction of top officers for vessels laden with stolen crude, which sail outside the country's waters to ready buyers with foreign collaborators

"Every security officer involved in the business is well 'taken care of' and so, secrecy is maintained. Security operatives who mount sentry on waterways also collect levy from small-time bunkerers

and many want to serve in such lucrative beat. They also make returns to superior officers," the article says.

It was also revealed that security operatives serve as escorts of oil vessels who "lead them outside the country's waters and leave the crew and other members to proceed to purchasers in foreign countries". The vessels are also labeled as untouchable in Nigerian waters because of the caliber of the owners, causing the country to lose billions of dollars.

The Vanguard says that Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, NUPRC, reported recently that the nation's oil output dropped by 12.5 per cent to 1.4 million barrels per day, including condensate, in the first half (January – June) of 2022, from 1.6 million barrels per day in the corresponding period of 2021.

It also added that oil thieves stole between 200,000 and 400,000 barrels of crude daily during the period.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, NUPRC, Gbenga Komolafe, who reportedly described the development as a national threat, stated that the total value lost for the period spanning January 2021 to February 2022 was about \$3.27 billion, as average monthly value loss for the period is about \$233.99 million with a daily average of \$7.72 million.

Presently, the nation is unable to meet the quota of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, currently standing at 1.826 million barrels per day.

According to a report, government has not demonstrated tangible inclination to fight the big-time oil thieves and whatever tough measures

said to have been adopted have not put off the cartel.

It added that government paid little attention to activities of these cartels until the nation was terribly hit and unable to meet Organization of Petroleum Export Countries', (OPEC) quota.

In fact, all the while, the Presidency was made to believe that oil theft was being carried out by small-time oil bunkerers and Niger-Delta militants bent on destroying the country's economy, and so they must be eliminated.

The Federal government then responded and planned to deal with the situation. The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Shehu Garba, in his words said: "Oil theft is being tackled. The big problem we have in this country is that we ought to see more commitment from communities in assisting law enforcement agents. In some cases, where some actors in the law enforcement are complicit, it becomes bad...We used to fight the OPEC for more quotas; now, they have given us and we are not able to meet up. This is embarrassing. Security agencies are fully involved in stopping this act. I am hopeful that in the next few days, the office of the National Security Adviser will be presenting to the country, big men who are promoters of this kind of business as they are being caught and illegal refineries are being bombed out...The Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited is also installing a monitoring capacity to detect or advise immediately when sabotage of oil pipelines happens."

Quite disturbing was the recent oil theft by a vessel, MV. Heroic Idun, which operated undetected

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NEWS

Africa must unite to address issues

By DUMAH RANDONG

THE Speaker Caffee Oromia Region in Ethiopia, Seada Addurehman says Africans must unite and work together to address the issue of conflicts in the region.

The Oromia Speaker stated this when she paid a courtesy visit to Governor Simon Lalong at Government House Rayfield, Jos, recently.

Mis Abdurehman who led other members of the Ethiopian parliament, said they were in the state on fact funding mission on how to resolve conflicts among different ethnic groups hence the need for synergy and sharing of ideas in order to mitigate conflict among its people.

She noted that Ethiopia and Plateau State share



Lalong

similar culture stressing other. The Oromia Speaker appreciated PlateauState

government for the reception and look forward for a collaboration in different areas of benefit to both Countries.

Responding, Governor Simon Lalong who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Professor Sonni Tyoden explained that conflict is globally and could be resolve through dialogue.

The Governor thanked the Oromia parliament for the visit stressing that both countries need to work together, share experience in order to address the issue of peace and conflicts which was part of human existence.

The Governor appreciated the institute of Humanitarian Dialogue for assisting the state with some strategies and recommendations tips years back which has helped the state in addressing Conflicts.

He sought for more partnership with the institute to sustain the relative peace being enjoyed in the state.



Nigeria's doctor patient ratio 1 to 5,000

Persistent brain drain by doctors is depleting the country's medical care expertise and taking the country farther away from the recommended number of doctors per population, medical associations and experts have said.

Their position faulted the claim by the Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire that Nigeria has a sufficient number of medical doctors despite the brain drain. The minister during a briefing on Tuesday stated that there were enough medical doctors in the country and that the number of doctors produced annually exceeds the number leaving the country.

But the umbrella body of medical doctors in the country, the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), and other stakeholders said the claim by the minister was far from the truth.

The NMA insisted that just about 30,000 medical doctors were currently practising in Nigeria out of the about 80,000 registered with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) from 1960 to date.

Interest rate on treasury bill hits higher

Money market data released by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has shown that interest rate on Nigerian Treasury Bills increased to 2.76 per cent in July 2022 from 2.49 per cent in January 2022 after the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) was hiked to 250 basis points.

This was due to rising inflation, which led to an increase in the benchmark interest rate from 11.5 per cent to 14 per cent. The money market indicators revealed that the last interest rate on Treasury bills is the second highest since January 2020 when it was at 3.45 per cent.

The development is seen as a good opportunity for local and foreign investors to reduce negative real returns on their investment.

"It is positive for investors because it reduces the impact of high inflation on their investment

FG may borrow N11 trn for 2023 budget

Federal government may borrow about N11.3 trillion to fund expenditure in the 2023 budget as the deficit is projected to be at most, over 12.41 trillion next year or at least, N11.3trn which is over 100 per cent of the N7.35trn deficit for the 2022 fiscal year.

Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs Zainab Ahmed, stated this on Monday while presenting the draft 2023-2025 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper (MTEF&FSP) before the House Committee on Finance.

On government expenditure, the minister stated that given the constrained fiscal space, the deficit was projected to be N12.41trn in 2023, up from N7.35trn in 2022, representing 196 per cent of total federal government's revenue of 5.50 per cent of the estimated GDP.

PDP: Crisis worsens as Wike, Bode George insist Ayu quits

Following the resolve of National Chairman of People's Democratic Party, PDP, Iyorchia Ayu, not to step down, Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State, on Thursday took a swipe at him, accusing Ayu of ingratitude after he (Wike) and allies helped return him as chairman. Governor Wike, however, insisted that nothing would save Ayu from being ousted.

Also throwing his weight behind the Rivers Governor, former Deputy National Chairman of the party, Chief Olabode George, insisted that Ayu must quit as the party's national chairman before commencement of campaigns for 2023 general elections.

Senator Ayu had dismissed calls for his removal from office, wondering where those championing such calls were when he and other Nigerians formed the party.

2023: Nigeria enters critical stage this month

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said the nation is entering the critical stages ahead of the 2023 general elections and that all hands must be on deck to ensure the success of the elections.

The INEC chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, said this on Thursday in Abuja at the 'Expert Meeting on Conducting Elections in Volatile Security Environment', organised in collaboration with the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD). "Activities towards the 2023 general elections will enter the critical stages this month. In the next 19 days, that is on September 20, the commission would publish the final list of candidates for national elections (presidential, senatorial and House of Representatives) as provided in Section 32(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 and the Timetable and Schedule of Activities released by the commission.

"This will be followed on October 4, by the publication of the final list of candidates for state elections (governorship and state Houses of Assembly). Campaign in public by political parties will officially commence on September 28 as provided by Section 94(1) of the Electoral Act 2022," Yakubu said.

INEC boss also urged all political parties and candidates to focus on issue based campaigns. He also commended the CDD for providing a platform for stakeholders to discuss as an important enabler to the full participation of citizens in the electoral process.

Compiled by Hosea Nyamlong

NHRC, NGOs want legal framework

THE National Human Rights Commission NHRC, NGOs want legal framework mmission (NHRC), OXFAM and Connected Development (CODE) said the adoption of National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights remained key to effectively regulate business-related human rights violations.

The stakeholders said this when a delegation from Connected Development (CODE) and OXFAM paid an advocacy visit to the commission, to discuss some of the challenges witnessed in oil-bearing communities.

CODE in partnership with OXFAM, is working to domesticate the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in Nigeria (NAP) as a tool to support the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights at the federal and state levels.

The Executive Secretary, NHRC, Tony Ojukwu, said the adoption of the NAP was mandated by the United Nations General Principles on Business and Human Rights, demanding that countries should leverage on them to protect human rights in businesses.

"This is because there have been a lot of issues, as the business climate in Nigeria so far, has been one of making profits alone, without looking at the consequential effects on promotion and protection of human rights.

"This is not proper; now, the adoption of the NAP on business and human rights, obviously will improve the business climate

"If human rights are protected, companies will have a better climate to do their business and make better decent profits, not blood money."

Ojukwu said that some parts of the country were experiencing gas flaring and

soot, with a lot of effects on the environment and health of Nigerians, yet much was not being done.

"How long can that go on? so the issue of adoption of the NAP on business and human rights is the way to go; we cannot shy away from this for too long.

"For us as a commission, we have identified this and already, we have a draft plan on business and human rights," he said

Ojukwu, however, said the broader NAP for promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria was also being reviewed.

He said that the draft NAP had been submitted to the Attorney General of the

Federation who would present it to the Federal Executive Council and hopefully before the end of this administration, it would be adopted.

Mr Hamzat Lawal, Chief Executive Officer, CODE said the organisation highlighted some human rights violation and abuses from oil companies in oil host communities, leading to environmental degradation and health issues

Lawal said the environment itself took over 20 years to recover ecologically, adding that the soot would make people develop cancer and all these were human rights violation that needed to be checked.

"So I am thinking about a

tripartite collaboration among the NHRC, CODE and Oxfam, where we can document lessons, share them and engage government and hold these agencies to account to ensure proper regulation.

"This is because if we have proper regulation, then there'll be less or no human rights violation.

"So we need a stronger framework that highlights how we can jointly as civil society and human rights organisations and international partners, work together."

Lawal said that the engagement would help to properly implement and accelerate action around the National Action Plan.

2023: Presidential candidates to pay N10m for billboards

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Presidential candidates are to pay N10 million to erect billboards and posters in Kogi. This follows the passage of the State's Signage Agency Establishment Law by House of Assembly on recently in Lokoja.

Our Correspondent reports that the legislators, who

considered the bill clause by clause at plenary, said the law would regulate outdoor display of signage and advertisement in the state.

The law also aims at curbing the indiscriminate pasting of posters on side walks, walls, bridges and public buildings in the state.

By the new law all governorship candidates are

to pay N5 million, Senatorial candidates, N2 million and House of Representatives, N1 million.

The law also stipulates that House of Assembly and Council Chairmanship candidates are to pay N500, 000 each.

Consequently, the law provides for the establishment of a signage agency saddled with regulatory functions. This means that until permits are issued no politician, political party or organisation can erect any billboard or paste a poster at any designated place in the state.

Also at plenary, the house passed a second bill regulating pool betting in the state. By the new law, if assented, all operators of pool centres in the state must register with the state government before operating such a business in Kogi.

The Speaker of the House, Mr Matthew Kolawale, explained that with the passage of the two bills, defaulters would face the wrath of the law.



Mahmood

SUNDAY FEATURE

Will writing: Myths and misconceptions

A Will is an acknowledgement of mortality – a physical reminder that we are after all mortals. A Will is often regarded as remembrance of death, and therefore coming to terms with the fact that we will die or even imagine that one has finished his "race" in the world or that he has completed his life assignment here on earth and therefore must depart to another realm of the unknown is one of the most difficult things most people would want to contemplate. BUNKAYA BITRUS GANA -Writes

I am therefore in agreement with recent research which indicated that 8 out of 10 Nigerians over the age of 45 don't have a will and that 7 out of 10 will sadly not make one before they pass. The subject is therefore not only very difficult to discuss but also difficult to accept.

I have, while making presentations on this topic, come to realise that a sizeable number of my audience do not bother writing a Will because of the myths and misconceptions surrounding the topic.

The average Nigerian, and most surprisingly some highly educated adults, are put off by the idea of writing a will due to certain cultural myths, misconceptions and fears surrounding the topic. The first reaction when the topic is either discussed or mentioned is that "it is not my portion" and you are left then to wonder, whose portion is it?

Myths and misconceptions about writing a Will in Nigeria:

In this write up, I will attempt to identify and possibly list some of the key reasons why people generally abhor writing will or putting in place any form of trust to safeguard their family members when they die.

i. As remembrance of death. Once the idea of writing a will is conceived or where one is encouraged to write his will, there is the psychological fear that one is most likely about to die. I remember inviting two of my friends who coincidentally are both lawyers to witness my will. I was shocked when the most senior amongst the two asked "lawyer (referring to me), are you sure you are ok".

For him, I was too young to write a will except something was wrong with me or that I had a terminal illness that was going to lead to my death or simply that I had a premonition of death.

There is the presumption in some African cultures that young people do not die except that such death is caused by unnatural forces. For them, only elders are assumed to have finished their assignments on earth and can be perceived as due to go home to their ancestors; anything to the contrary, is the hand work of the enemy.

This explains why it is often very painful when an aged father buries his son, the reverse should always be the case. There are tribes in Nigeria who believe very strongly that every death is caused by someone or something unnatural. To them, people do not die of natural causes.

Something unnatural or diabolical must have killed the dead man. In fact, oftentimes, the dead man will not be buried until someone owns up to being responsible for his or her death. Therefore, the assurance that if I do not offend my enemies, I would live very long, tends to give us the false assurance of insulation from death except at very ripe age.

For people with this mindset, they will live long to see their children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren, so the contemplation of death, particularly an earlier departure, is suppressed.

The religious, cultural, and socio-psychological biases fit into this narrative and makes the writing of Will unimportant. Such people often forget that having a Will means making proper plans for the division of their estate after death.

ii. Reliance on tradition in the distribution of assets. Nigeria is composed of more than 300 ethnic groups, the largest of which are the



Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba. Other than the Hausa that mostly practice Sharia law, each ethnic group has a system of customary law, although variations are noticeable among communities in these groups meaning that there is no uniformity in inheritance laws in Nigeria. This explains why most states in Nigeria have, as much as possible, try to enact their own laws relating to inheritance.

It is also important to note that the Nigerian society has a strong culture of male dominance. In Edo state for instance, this has been given judicial force and voids any will that transfers certain assets to beneficiaries other than the first male child.

Similarly, in Nigeria, most households are centred around a well-connected kinship. The fathers, as sole breadwinners, are oftentimes left under the illusion that their family and kinsmen will be reasonable enough to share their assets in such a way that all members of their family would be treated well after their demise.

To them, there is no need to write a Will as the interest of all their family members would be adequately taken care of by their surviving brothers or eldest son. Sadly, experience has shown that even children of same parents hardly agree on how the assets of their deceased father are shared not to mention the involvement of brothers to the deceased, which often makes matters even worse.

While they wallow in this ignorance, death strikes; and with no Will or any form of estate plan, their wives and children are oftentimes, subjected to dehumanizing practices and estate (property) grabbing. Also, there are communities where only the brothers of the deceased or his maternal uncles are allowed to inherit his assets to the exclusion of even his wife and children irrespective of gender. In Igbo land particularly, the female is sometimes excluded from benefiting from their father's estate

upon his demise in the name of custom and tradition. So, people who belong to these societies do not bother leaving behind a Will because for them, tradition would take care of his estate and those left behind. Sadly, they do not, in the process, put in place any form of estate plan to safeguard their loved ones but expose them to untold hardship when they are long gone.

iii. Unaware of the consequences of not having a will. A popular misconception among Nigerians is that once I have indicated a Next-of-Kin in my documents, that is my chosen heir. Unknown to many, a named next of kin is merely the first point of contact and information, empowered to make decisions for you in case of an emergency only. He may or may not be a beneficiary of your estate.

For instance, in case you become temporarily incapacitated, the Next-Of-Kin can make medical decisions for you during a medical procedure. Thus, the Nigerian conception of the term 'next-of-kin' as beneficiary is erroneous. Having clarified this misconception, we encourage workers contributing to pensions under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) to write a will as required by section 8(2) of the Pension Reform Act, 2014 (as amended) and not to rely on the false premise that the named Next-of-Kin on the pension documents would step in as beneficiary when they die.

Once a person dies without a will, his estate is subject to intestate succession which means that his heirs are imposed on him by law. The discretion to give out your property the way you want is thus taken away. For workers contributing to pensions, if you die without making a Will, your dependents can only access your RSA balances by obtaining Letters of Administration in line with section 8(2) of the PRA Supra which takes longer time, very costly and most

importantly, dis-entitles you from having any say on who gets what.

iv. The erroneous belief that only wealthy people need to write a will. There is always the excuse that I do not own anything, or I am just starting life and have no assets to put in a Will, therefore I don't need one. The above misconception tends to discourage many from writing a Will. For them, only the rich who have enormous wealth and a fleet of assets need a will to protect and share those assets.

Let me state for emphasis, that any sane adult irrespective of the few assets he owns, can and should make a Will. As earlier mentioned, all contributors to pensions are now required to have a will, detailing how the balances in their Retirement Savings Account (RSA) are to be distributed to their named beneficiaries upon death. The Pension Law has also provided two other options as to how beneficiaries can access your RSA balances. Sadly, those two options do not provide smooth and seamless means for your loved ones to have access to your pension contributions within months of your demise.

How to address these obvious myths and misconceptions.

Having identified some of the key myths and misconceptions about whether we need a Will, what then can we do to correct some of these outdated and obviously unsubstantiated beliefs that contribute to inhibiting Will writing?

One of the tried-and-true ways of overcoming these misconceptions or erroneous postulations in Nigeria is for us to openly communicate, educate, and sensitize our people about the dangers of now making proper plans for our family. All stakeholders, facilitators at organised fora, Lawyers, Trust Companies etc should make themselves a resource for dismantling these myths and stereotypes by finding innovative ways of guiding average Nigerians and encouraging them to write a Will.

Governments can collaborate with the experts to come up with some incentives to encourage every Nigerian

to have a Will. The tax applicable to assets bequeathed to beneficiaries, should be reviewed to a manageable level so that those who are concerned about the tax on assets should be encouraged to make a Will. Government can also encourage people by allowing beneficiaries to pay the estate fees in stages rather than en bloc and in advance.

As stated above, the several estate planning laws recently promulgated by some states in Nigeria have made the understanding of the concept more confusing and difficult. In a bid to address certain potential red flags and challenges associated with Will writing, certain states have further complicated the issue by taking away the right of a testator to bequeath his assets the way he wants.

Some states in Nigeria, to correct perceived injustice in the way a testator distributed his assets especially where supposed beneficiaries are excluded, have made laws that mandate a testator to bequeath a portion of his assets to certain beneficiaries even if that is against his wish. Legislations like this, tend to take away the right of a testator to give out his property to and to exclude whoever he wishes.

What is the business of the state in how I distribute my private assets? For instance, why must I be compelled by legislation to give away my assets to a beneficiary who was probably a thorn in my flesh while alive? Some of these legislations which tend to take away a testator's discretion in the distribution of his property would further dampen the morale of those who would have loved to make a Will.

In view of the several inconsistencies in legislations dealing with inheritance law in Nigeria, the legislature should aim to amend and harmonise those inconsistencies to ensure smooth transfer of assets. By doing this, more people will be encouraged to take decisions pertaining to their estate without being anxious about whether justice will be served after their death.

Conclusion

While we all agree that writing a Will shows how responsible a person is even in death, there are still some myths and or misconception directly linked to psychological and cultural beliefs that tend to inhibit this. Cultural beliefs surrounding death or even ignorance on the implications of not having a will are strong reasons why many avoid the issue.

Therefore, to address some of these fears and or misconceptions, we need to find innovative ways of educating and sensitizing the Nigerian public on why a will is needed. By so doing, we will not only correct these misconceptions and fear, but we would have succeeded in addressing the long-standing beliefs and misconceptions about estate planning and particularly, will writing.

Gana, Managing Director, Greenwich Trustees Limited, writes from Lagos.

SUNDAY FEATURE

The way forward on Nigeria's healthcare delivery

In a civilized climate, this wouldn't stir interest but in Nigeria where public officeholders largely manifest adversely in contrast to public interest, it should. Recently, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo underwent a leg surgery in a hospital in home-country. It was a departure from the flawed status quo. Over the years, at any slight ailment, people in authority fly abroad with public funds which chiefly accounts why healthcare centres are left in decay. Osinbajo literally displayed leadership acumen, *CARL UMEGBORO - Writes*

THE message is simple – a prudent leader can't live foreign, abandoning the led to their fate in home facilities. The action is a template that must be sustained for a turnaround. Government is about the people. This accounts why Section 14 (2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, explicitly provides; "It is hereby, accordingly declared that (b) ... the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government."

The nation's leader, Muhammadu Buhari is more or less a foreigner as far as healthcare is concerned. In fact, the bills on his medical trips to London, crews alongside the aircrafts aggregately should fix a world-class clinic at the State House for government officials and critical issues. At a point, the first lady, Aisha Buhari on 9th October, 2017, by mission or omission raised an alarm over the deplorable condition of the State House Clinic. But after that, what changed? To shuttle a foreign land for healthcare, from inauguration to the end, and presently on countdown to handover after an aggregate eight years in office is an anomaly.

Also, by writing-off preceding administrations, it was justifiable to begin with overseas healthcare after inauguration, but unacceptable to sustain it to the end. Nonetheless, for severe cases, foreign healthcare is expedient.

The health sector critically suffers the same neglect as the education sector; most public officeholders abandon home institutions. Even jamborees overseas too. Recently, the Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike cheerily posted snapshots while on vacation with his Abia State counterpart, Okezie Ikpeazu in Turkey, France amid sundry crises including ASUU strike, which has grounded all federal universities in the country leaving students wondering about. Wike also posed at his son's overseas convocation when students are helplessly at home.

Obviously, public officeholders are largely, grossly insensitive, manifestly do not grasp the term 'leadership', else, their healthcare, education, jollity overseas alongside family members will be rare.

Back to healthcare, the government must pay compelling attention to the healthcare sector for a strong and healthy nation which contributes to the gross domestic product (GDP). For emphasis, healthcare includes breastfeeding on account of its sundry and compelling health benefits. Thus, to promote compulsory breastfeeding, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared 1-7 August annually as the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) for awareness and advocacy.

During a field trip to Lagos state



The Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH)

recently, a report by Mrs. Olubunmi Braheem, State Nutrition Officer, Ministry of Health suggests the 2022 – WBW in the state was impactful. From the intensive advocacy for exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) practices, the state reportedly launched breastfeeding toolkits for creation of breastfeeding spaces in workplaces, outlined activities to support nursing mothers, and advanced it with a symposium – focusing on healthcare actors and community actors.

At the Health Centre in Egbe-Idimu LCDA, the claims were arguably buoyed. Ditto at three other Health centres shuttled. However, outside those health centres, the grassroots obviously need vigorous sensitization. So, beyond the WBW activities, the challenge is sustainability of the promotion alongside plan implementation to meet the target. It is therefore expected that there should be success stories during the coming year's WBW for evaluation. Patently, the state 'talks the talk' in a joint statement by UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell and WHO Director-General, Tedros Ghebreyesus on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week – 2022 but remains to be seen if it 'walks the walk'. Thus, time will tell. The joint statement

emphasized; protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding is more important than ever, not just for protecting our planet as the vital importance of the ultimate natural, sustainable, first food system, but also for the survival, growth and development of millions of infants".

For breastfeeding: Educate and Support, UNICEF and WHO are calling on governments to allocate increased resources to protect, promote and support breastfeeding policies and programmes, especially for the most vulnerable families living in emergency settings.

"During emergencies, breastfeeding guarantees a safe, nutritious and accessible food source for babies and young children. It offers a powerful line of defense against disease and all forms of child malnutrition, including wasting. Breastfeeding also acts as a baby's first vaccine, protecting them from common childhood illnesses. And

health-care workers from the unethical marketing influence of the formula industry by fully adopting and implementing the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes, including in humanitarian settings; and implement family-friendly policies that provide mothers with the time, space and support they need to breastfeed are likewise requisite.

These horrid trends alongside needed interventions necessitated the duo (UNICEF and WHO) crying out, demanding from governments, donors, civil society and the private sector to step up efforts to prioritize investing in breastfeeding support policies and programmes, especially in fragile and food insecure contexts. This outcry is noble and deserves attention. Thus, synergy had better gather momentum in public interests as proper development of infants is essential.

Back to healthcare, the government must pay compelling attention to the healthcare sector for a strong and healthy nation which contributes to the gross domestic product (GDP). For emphasis, healthcare includes breast feeding on account of its sundry and compelling health benefits. Thus, to promote compulsory breast feeding, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared 1-7 August annually as the World Breast feeding Week (WBW) for awareness and advocacy."

LAST week, one of my eyes was inflamed. Geek mode. I was writing a coding project. No sleep for two days. I decided to buy over the counter medication. By the time I finished reading the side effects, I decided to keep my inflamed eye to myself. "Swollen throat, stinging or burning in the eye, blurry eyesight. This only should last for a short time". So the literature says. But my eyes were inflamed in the first place! I called up my friend, who sells pax herbal medicine to ask if she had something for my condition and she said no. Why can we not have Nigerian herbal eyedrop nah. I did not use that eye drop o. If my throat swells, I may not be able to breathe. I resorted to anti-inflammatory herbs such as ginger, thyme and turmeric in tea form and it worked. Inflamed eye came back to normal....I wish I had documented my great Aunt's herbal medical practice.

My friend, Anita, is a herbal medicine practitioner. Her daughter is a new medical doctor who graduated last year. You should hear the medical arguments we have, my friend and I on one side (the herbalists), the medical Doctor on the opposing side. However, this doctor has a soft spot for herbal medicine and actually treats her malaria fever with her mother's herbs and uses her mother's herbal skin care products and teas.... She trained abroad. She told me that I could use my shea butter on my skin after using my moisturizer as this would seal in the moisturizer. She outlined all the vital properties of shea butter including its use as sunscreen. That is African dermatology if you ask me. I pray that my friend's daughter keeps this open mind and continues to see the potentials in African medicine. I wish all Nigerian doctors could work with our Nigerian medicine practitioners in teams. Integration of the two medicines is a possibility through scientific innovation and education.

Often, while watching my friend and her daughter, a thought crosses my mind. I wonder why we cannot marry our traditional medicine with western medical practice in our general hospitals. I wish for the day our general hospitals will marry our African medicine with western medicine. When doctors form teams in hospitals, who says that we cannot have an African medicine medical doctor as a part of the team? Who says that we cannot have a department of Nigerian medicine in our medical schools? How did the Chinese start their multi-billion-dollar herbal and traditional medicine export industry? All that we need is research and innovation to make Nigerian medicine a good alternative to western medicine and a foreign exchange earner. Who says that we cannot open an African Medicine and Science University?

It is time to marry what we have with what we have borrowed for maximum value creation in the health sector for the economic growth of this sector and the economy as a whole. We can create cheaper alternatives for the less privileged in society. We can create a new health tourism and foreign exchange earner. Why not? First and foremost, locally grown Nigerian herbs are not as expensive as western medicine, and some people say that it addresses the root causes of diseases better than western medicine. Secondly, the economy is rough. It will not hurt anyone if we have alternatives to choose from. One may decide to be treated using either herbs or western medicines. This is helpful but requires some work.

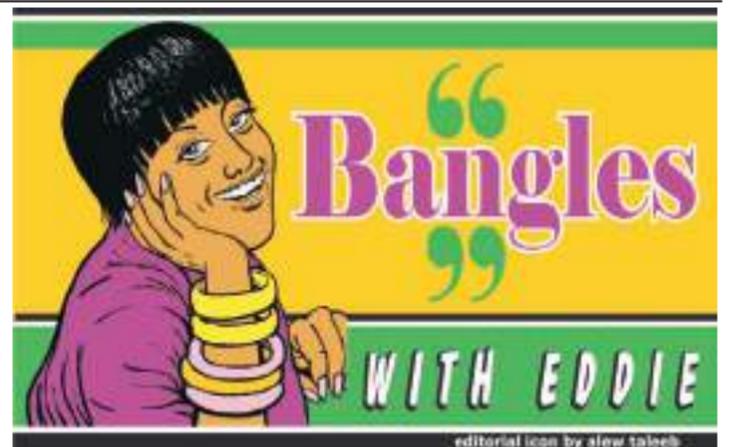
There is economic value in developing our traditional medicine, especially for export. China churns out a lot of foreign exchange from its traditional medicine. From herbal teas to acupuncture. My friend

Shola, leaves in Birmingham in UK. Nigerian by origin and British by birth. He tells me that he makes out time to take good care of himself and the high point for his massage therapy is the acupuncture. He says it takes out all the stress in his body. For someone who works really hard and makes good money, spending some of it on self-care imported from China is worth his hard work. The acupuncture costs about 60 to 100 pounds per session. We have African massage. The ijaw people can massage the body, down to the womb. They can fix bones. Human anatomy is their thing. That is medicine. Who says that we cannot

opportunities that lie ahead.

Traditional Chinese Medicine brings a different approach to overall wellbeing. With a history of 3,000 years, TCM is one of the world's oldest forms of medicine. It also has a radically different approach to disease as compared to its Western counterparts, as it combines medical knowledge with Chinese history and philosophy. Modern medicine focuses on providing disease-specific treatments or treating specific affected organs, while Traditional Chinese Medicine aims at strengthening the overall health of the individual.

TCM comprises of both oral



Nigerian traditional medicine and the economy



Ehanire

have African massage as stress or medical therapy and export it to the west as an exotic therapy? Maybe 120 pounds per session. If that money gets wired back into the economy, that

Imagine investing in the research and development of our traditional medicine to the point of making it our first choice in the treatment of diseases. Imagine exporting our traditional herbal medicine to the point where it become a foreign exchange earner. Just like in the Nigerian movie and music industry. Yes, we can. We do not listen to western music anymore. Nigerian music and movies are now global delicacies and so are our dance and fashion. Many years ago, Hollywood was the go-to for movies but today, Nollywood is going toe to toes with Hollywood. The result is that our local Nigerian music and movies are now foreign exchange earners, and the world is paying hard currency for the two. Many years ago, this was unimaginable.

The following is an excerpt from *alcmimed.com* published in an article titled *Traditional Chinese Medicine: Current Landscape and Opportunities for the Pharma Industry*. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) often raises doubts with its unconventional use of tonics and needles to treat diseases. This ancient form of medicine has since been gaining acceptance outside of China and even being practiced by Western doctors in renowned hospitals. TCM has also grown into a huge industry. In China alone, sales revenue of TCM reached 742.7 billion yuan (an equivalent of about 96.6 billion euro) in 2017. The Alcmimed Healthcare team attempts to challenge the stereotypes surrounding Traditional Chinese Medicine to present the facts and

interventions and externally administered treatments. Oral interventions can be loosely differentiated as herbal therapy and food therapy. It is believed that every individual is different and would require a specific combination of herbs and food to ensure a healthy body. Externally administered treatments mainly revolve around the idea of energy, or Qi. Acupuncture is one such external treatment that will be able to restore the disease-causing energy imbalance by unblocking key acupoints through which the energy flows.

Patients can benefit from TCM as a complementary treatment. One concern about the use of Traditional Chinese Medicine is the lack of rigorous scientific testing in proving safety and efficacy of treatment. Although not scientifically proven and thus not recommended to be a standalone treatment, TCM has been accepted as a complementary treatment in many diseases. In a systematic review by a group of UK-based scientists, herbal therapy has been found to improve quality of life in non-small cell lung cancer patients, where better weight stability and reduction in side effects of chemotherapy such as anemia, has been observed. The result raises the possibility of using TCM as adjuvant in non-small cell lung cancer chemotherapy to improve compliance. Acupuncture has also been proven effective in providing pain relief for conditions such as chronic shoulder pain and migraine.

Even in the current coronavirus pandemic, Traditional Chinese Medicine has played an integral part in China's fight against the virus. In the absence of global treatment guidelines, TCM has been employed as preventive remedy to hopefully boost immunity in the healthy

population. TCM is also prescribed alongside anti-viral drugs mainly in patients with mild and moderate symptoms. The aim is to be both curative (complementing anti-viral drugs in fighting the viral infection) and restorative (reducing side effects of anti-viral drugs and boosting overall immunity). About 85% of COVID-19 patients in China has received TCM treatment. Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has compiled comprehensive national guidelines on the use of TCM in the handling of COVID-19 infection. This has since been translated into English and French and shared with the WHO.

There is an increasing acceptance and use of TCM globally, which leads to investment by pharmaceutical companies. With increasing globalization and more acceptance of traditional healing methods, TCM has been gaining popularity outside of the Chinese community. In fact, many renowned hospitals outside Asia like John Hopkins Hospital (Maryland, USA) and University College London Hospitals (London, UK) have set up specialized department on alternative medicine, with TCM being one of the focus areas. Traditional Chinese Medicine is also included in 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases, which is overseen by WHO. This is an unprecedented milestone for TCM as its way of disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention is finally acknowledged by such renowned global body.

The pharmaceutical industry has also been looking into TCM for possible drug candidates. One notable example is Artemisinin, an essential component of Artemisinin, an essential component of combination drug therapies to treat malaria. Artemisinin was derived from sweet wormwood, a commonly used herbs used in TCM. This discovery led to a Nobel Prize in Medicine for Tu Youyou in 2015. Novartis and Sanofi-Aventis are among the companies which have been producing artemisinin combination therapies drugs, with the support of WHO. Bayer also decided to enter the TCM market in 2014 by acquiring Dihon Pharmaceutical Group Co., Ltd., a privately held Chinese pharmaceutical company specializing primarily in over the counter and herbal TCM products. Through this acquisition, Bayer is looking to boost its research and development pipeline, while entering the highly lucrative TCM market. The following excerpt is from *alcmimed.com*.

From the forgoing, we can see that in diversifying the economy, we can also delve into Nigerian medicine and consider the prospect of becoming the next heavy weight exporter of traditional African traditional medicine to the world. The following is yet another excerpt from an article titled *Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) - Does its contemporary business booming, and globalization really reconfirm its medical efficacy & safety?*:

The driving factors for TCM growth despite many challenges were faced in recent years. The rapid growth of traditional Chinese medicine has been spurred by several factors. The foremost one is that with great interest and belief in TCM, the practitioners strongly support and promote its development. The industry also plays an essential role in its fast growth. With easier access to the market and large investment in promotion, the TCM industry soared dramatically in the past years. It was reported by The World Bank that the trade in medicinal plants, herbal drug products and raw materials is growing at an annual growth rate between 5 and 15%. China's annual herbal drug production is worth US\$48 billion with export of US \$3.6 billion, 70% of which are raw herbs with much less added value. Another key factor is the government's support. To expand the market of TCM so as to promote the economic growth in China, the State Food Drug Administration (SFDA) has continuously deregulated the restrictions on TCM drug sales. The government began to classify prescription and OTC drugs in 1999. To date, 60,000 TCM and ethnic minority medical drugs have been approved, and 2088 pharmaceutical enterprises that have been approved by the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) of Medical Products are manufacturing Chinese patent medicines. The dosage forms of TCM medicines have increased from a traditionally limited number of forms such as pills, powders, ointments and pellets into more than 40, including dropping pills, tablets, pods and capsules, indicating marked improvement in the technological level of Chinese medicinal drug production, and initial establishment of a modern Chinese medicine industry based on the production of medicinal materials and industrial production and tied together by commerce. The third one is an increasingly aging Chinese population and a preference for TCM have also contributed its growth. According to an investigation by the Horizon Research Co. who have polled 300,000 in China's 31 provinces, autonomous regions and cities from 2007 until June 2010, it showed that more than 31% of the 100,000 respondents said they turned to TCM as their first choices when they needed medical advice, while only 6.8% preferred western medicine. Last but not least, TCM has always been regarded as a symbol of Chinese civilization. With a history of 5000 years, TCM has been considered to be superior to the western modern medicine by those supporters.

It is time to consider a University of Nigerian Medicine or a department of medicines in our universities. With some hope we should join China in the creation of traditional healthcare and wealth for the good of our people and our economy.

LAST week, we ended by saying, if you do not take charge of your thinking and allow the word of God to rule your mind, you will never be able to defeat the spirit of fear. Today I want to add that you must learn to deal with wrong thoughts, ideas and suggestions that always paint negative pictures of the future and seek to fill you with terror and strip you of your confidence concerning your ability to enjoy the blessing of God.

The moment you learn to do this, you will shut down the devil's power to operate in your life any further. Secondly, you must substitute negative thoughts with those that increase your confidence in God's word. The truth of God's word must rule over your mind so that you will give God the authority to begin to move by his power in your life.

When we understand how deadly the spirit of fear is and how literarily Satan cannot perform his wicked will in our lives outside of the spirit of fear, we will understand how important it is to stop its operations. When fear is subdued, Satan is powerless.

So the two things that will help you enjoy the blessing of God in any circumstance of your life is first, you must refuse to be afraid of any negative outcome that the devil suggests to your minds concerning any situation you are confronted with. Secondly, you must choose to trust God; which is what will open the door for the power of God and His great blessings to flow in your life.

Now, you must understand that if the word of God tells you not to fear, that means you are empowered not to fear. The Bible tells you to trust God, therefore you have the capability if you are a child of God, if you are in Christ, to trust God. Trusting God is trusting in His word. Trusting God is listening to Him and what He has to say about the circumstance; no matter how life threatening it might be. God's power is more than a match for any circumstance.

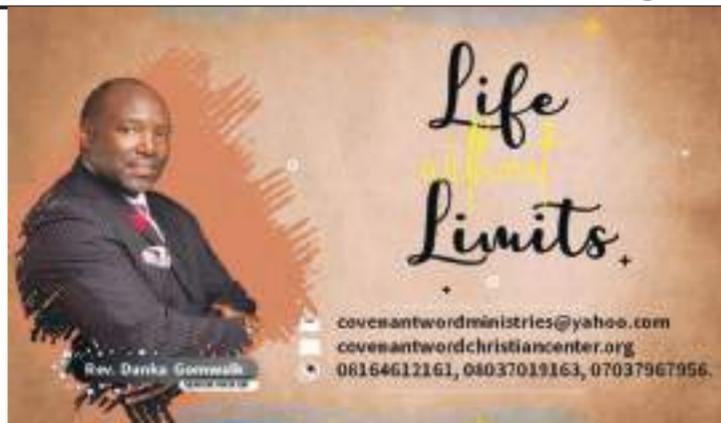
2Cor. 2:14 says; **Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.** God has an answer for every difficulty or question of life. Our response should be to refuse to be afraid and to trust God.

Now we have said that fear manifests itself through thoughts, ideas, imaginations and suggestions and when we learn to confront and to subdue them, we shut down Satan's operations in our lives. This might sounds simple but

it is profound. Once you get the revelation that Satan's power is shutdown the moment the operation of the spirit of fear is shutdown, you rise up in power. When you expose the spirit of fear to the truth of God's word, Satan's power is neutralized and every evil and negative thing you see him manifesting will lose its power, fade away and

what you are saying. Jesus taught us this important principle in Matthew 6:31. He said; **therefore, take no anxious thought by saying, what shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed?** The Bible is telling us that the way we take or embrace a thought is by saying.

What you are saying is what you are holding and that is the



Fear not, trust God (23)



becomes nothing.

How do we checkmate our thoughts? According to the word of God, the way we deal with thoughts is not by thinking other thoughts. We deal with thoughts by speaking words. According to the scripture, words spoken out of your mouth take thoughts captive. It is not possible for you to be thinking one thing and speaking a different thing out of your mouth and the same time. Our thoughts are controlled by our words.

When you open your mouth to speak, your ears listen to the words that come to them and your mind is forced to think in line with what your mouth is saying. Right now you can try this very simple experiment: Start counting from 0 to 10 in your mind and at some point, open your mouth and say another word, you will interrupt your counting. Your mind will go off the counting and go on to what you are trying to say.

When you introduce words that are different from what you are thinking on, you interrupt your pattern of thoughts and force your mind to align or think on

direction your life will take. Remember, Proverbs 23:7 says **for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.** If you want to deal with fear, you must understand that the source of fear is found in your thoughts, ideas, imaginations and suggestions.

When thoughts that produce fear for your future come into your mind and you find you are no longer able to see God's ability to take care of and provide for you and your loved ones, at that point you must open your mouth and speak the word. Speak boldly and interrupt negative thoughts by using the word of God to displace everything that seeks to contradict what is God's will for your life. Open your mouth and introduce a new pattern of thinking; introduce new thoughts.

The Bible says in Proverbs 12:18b that **the tongue of the wise is health.** As you speak words, you force your mind to think on what you are saying. Romans 8:6 say, **for to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

To be spiritually minded is simply to think in line with God's word. Jesus said in John

6:63; **it is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.** In other words, when you think thoughts in line with God's word, they will produce life in you and open the door for God to operate.

Today, start thinking thoughts like 1John 4:4; **ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.** Or thoughts like Isaiah 54:17 which says, **No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against me in judgment I shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.**

Think also on Philippians 4:19, which says, **But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.** When you begin to think these thoughts and allow them the abide in you, you will see yourself preserved in the midst of

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How do we checkmate our thoughts? According to the word of God, the way we deal with thoughts is not by thinking other thoughts. We deal with thoughts by speaking words. According to the scripture, words spoken out of your mouth take thoughts captive. It is not possible for you to be thinking one thing and speaking a different thing out of your mouth and the same time. Our thoughts are controlled by our words.
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disaster. You will see yourself provided for in the midst of scarcity and you will see God able to take care of you.

It is the truth of God's word that displaces the lies of the devil; therefore open your mouth and speak it to your own hearing that you may interrupt those negative thoughts patterns. By so doing, you will disperse the feelings and the fear those thoughts produce. The more you speak God's word, the more you let His words abide in your mind, you will find that the more your faith rises to where you literarily you authorize God to function in your circumstances.

In fact, as you speak God's word, you authorize angels to work on your behalf. You shut down the spirit of fear and effectively shut down Satan's operation in your life. The benefits of speaking God's word out loud are immeasurable and inexhaustible. Just act upon the word of God today. Put to practice these simple words shared to you today. The spirit of God will come upon you and you will start seeing God do the impossible in your life in Jesus name.

INTERNATIONAL

US-Iran's response on nuclear deal 'not constructive'

THE United States has called Iran's latest response in negotiations to revive the 2015 nuclear deal "not constructive".

The response came after Iranian state broadcaster IRIB quoted the country's foreign ministry spokesperson as saying Tehran submitted a text containing "a constructive approach aimed at finalising the negotiations".

Iran's response was sent to European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, who has been coordinating negotiations over returning to the 2015 deal, reached between Iran, the US, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the EU, Russia and China, which saw Tehran agree to curb its nuclear ambitions in exchange for sanctions relief.

Former President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in 2018, instead pursuing a policy of "maximum pressure" sanctions against Iran. Tehran has since expanded its nuclear programme, arguing the restrictions were void following the US withdrawal.

Iran has long denied it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons while saying it has a right to civilian nuclear infrastructure.

The latest back-and-forth between Iran and the administration of US President Joe Biden, which has prioritised returning to the deal since taking office in January 2021, follows a "final" proposal submitted to both sides in early August, breaking months of deadlock.

Details of Iran's latest response were not immediately released, but the US State Department said it received the text via the EU.

"We are studying it and will



Biden

respond through the EU, but unfortunately it is not constructive," a State Department spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said following the response: "Some gaps have closed in recent weeks – but others remain."

Iran has called for stronger guarantees from Washington before a return to the deal, particularly related to sanctions that have crippled the country's economy.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said the United Nations' atomic watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), should drop its probe of Tehran's suspected nuclear work at three undeclared sites.

The US has declined to discuss details but has opposed Iran's insistence on closing the investigation.

In what was viewed as a major turning point in early August, the US said Iran dropped one key stumbling block – that Biden reverse Trump's blacklisting of the

elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a "terrorist" organisation.

Angolan opposition files legal challenge

ANGOLIA'S main opposition party has filed a case with the country's constitutional court to seek the annulment of last month's election in which the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was declared the winner.

The August 24 elections were the most hotly contested in the oil-rich country since its first multi-party vote in 1992.

Taking just more than 51 percent of the votes, the electoral commission declared the MPLA the winner – prolonging the party's nearly five decades of uninterrupted rule and handing President Joao Lourenco a second term.

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) – a former rebel movement that fought a bitter 27-year civil war against the MPLA

government that ended in 2002 – took about 44 percent, its best result ever.

In a late-night video address on Thursday, UNITA leader Adalberto Costa Junior, 60, repeated that the former rebel movement did "not recognise the final results" from the national electoral commission.

"The MPLA did not win the election ... we have been in peace for 20 years, and we now need to embrace a true democratic rule of law," Costa Junior said in an address to the nation streamed on his Facebook page.

The UNITA leader said he expected the constitutional court and the commission to do their jobs by comparing their vote count with the party's vote tally, which has yet to be fully released.

UNITA decided to take the matter to court after its complaints were dismissed

Seven killed in tribal violence in Sudan

tribes left 105 people dead.

The fighting forced thousands of people from their homes, with many telling Al Jazeera that ongoing fighting had complicated aid access to those internally displaced within the state.

The violence followed accusations from the Birta, who have long inhabited Blue Nile state, that the Hausa, who inhabit farming areas across the country, were trying to lay claim to parts of their land.

The Hausa have said the violence began after the Birta rejected their request to create a "civil authority to supervise access to land". Sudan's military leaders, who seized power in October 2021, have said they want to preserve the country's stability and are working to

beef up security.

However, observers say the military takeover has created a security vacuum that has led to a resurgence in tribal violence in several areas that have long seen unrest. Recent violence has also broken out in the country's eastern coastal regions and in Darfur, despite the government reaching a peace deal with rebel groups in the western region in 2020.

Protesters have accused the military rulers of failing to protect civilians and further stoking tribal conflict.

The UN experts did not reach a conclusion on whether Rwanda was supporting the M23, although research for the current report concluded before the rebels stepped up their offensive.



Costa Junior

by the commission on Tuesday.

"We will do everything to ensure that all votes are effectively accounted for and respected," Costa Junior said.

On its official Instagram account, UNITA said it had filed the lawsuit to annul the election, confirming an earlier report, which cited a source close to the party's leadership saying the case listed "several complaints, which amount to illegalities" committed by the commission.

UNITA has repeatedly said that it does not recognise the results of the vote and that various complaints have been filed with the electoral commission. The party has cited discrepancies between the commission's count and the party's own tally.

Though the commission has denied any wrongdoing, and insists the election was fair and transparent, four of the 16 electoral commissioners did not sign off on the final results, expressing doubts about the process.

Earlier on Thursday, Artur Torres, a spokesperson for the Constitutional Court, explained that after the

commission reaches a decision, the complainant can appeal before the court. The court now has 72 hours to inform all interested parties and another 72 hours to rule on the issue.

Analysts say the ruling party controls the court, which is led by a former MPLA member, but the government says it exercises its powers independently.

Prime Minister Lourenco, 68, has pledged to press on with reforms in his second term, including privatising poorly-run state assets and continuing to clean up corruption.

But so far his reforms have failed to create a fairer distribution of Angola's vast oil wealth – Africa's second-largest producer – which remains mostly in the hands of a few well-connected MPLA officials.

The MPLA has been the only party to govern the country since it gained independence from Portugal in 1975. But the ruling party saw its poorest showing this year, down from its victory with 61 percent of the vote in 2017.

Turnout was low, with just about 45 percent of those registered casting their ballots.

Biden-Trump ideology threatens US democracy

SUPPORTERS of Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" (Maga) agenda are a threat to democracy, President Joe Biden has said.

"Maga forces are determined to take this country backwards," he said in a primetime speech in Pennsylvania.

Top Republican Kevin McCarthy gave his own address, saying Mr Biden had "severely wounded America's soul".

The duelling speeches come two months before midterm elections, which will decide the power balance in Washington.

The Democratic president delivered his

speech on Thursday night from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where the US Declaration of Independence was signed. He picked up his 2020 campaign theme of restoring the "soul of America".

He said he was not condemning all 74 million Americans who voted for Mr Trump two years ago. "Not every Republican, not even a majority of Republicans, are Maga Republicans," he said.

"But there's no question," Mr Biden continued, "that the Republican party today is dominated, driven and

intimidated by Donald Trump and the Maga Republicans, and that is a threat to this country."

Mr Biden said Trump supporters thought of the mob who stormed the US Capitol last year as patriots rather than insurrectionists.

"For a long time," he continued, "we told ourselves that American democracy is guaranteed. But it's not. We have to defend it. Protect it. Stand up for it. Each and every one of us."

In response, Mr Trump posted a defence of his Maga slogan and said his rival had "threatened America".

Throughout Mr Biden's speech someone was heard heckling and sounding a bullhorn, according to a BBC reporter at the scene.

Mr Biden addressed the disruption twice, saying the second time: "They're entitled to be outrageous. This is a democracy."

The president, who came into office pledging to unite the country, has recently sharpened his rhetoric against supporters of Mr Trump.

Last week Mr Biden equated what he called "extreme" Republicans with "semi-fascism".

INTERNATIONAL

Kenya 2022: - Results sheets altered as Odinga claims?

William Ruto was declared the winner of Kenya's presidential election over two weeks ago with 50.5% of the vote, but his opponent Raila Odinga is challenging the result, claiming it was fraudulent. - PETER MWAI and JAKE HORTON writes

MR. Odinga's lawyers have made several allegations, one of which is that voting totals at more than 40 polling locations were tampered with to increase Mr Ruto's tally and tip it over the threshold of 50% required to win.

We've compared images of the original results sheets from these polling stations with those registered on the electoral commission website's the allegation?

In Kenya, once voting has ended and the votes have been tallied, the presiding officer at each polling station publicly announces the results and fills out a declaration, known as Form 34A.

This form is signed by party representatives before being submitted electronically to the national vote tallying centre. All of these forms are then made available online by the electoral commission.

Mr Odinga's lawyers say that at 41 polling locations the uploaded declaration forms were changed to increase Mr Ruto's share before they were formally published online by the electoral commission.

Here is the part of the petition to the Supreme Court where these allegations are made:

Odinga says his votes in the 41 polling stations were reduced to the advantage of his opponent

To unwind the legal jargon, the petition is claiming the totals on the declaration forms were changed in favour of Mr Ruto. Figures were adjusted, it says, while ensuring the overall votes cast remained the same.

The petition goes on to state there was "fraudulent interference with the electronic copies" of these forms after they were sent from the polling stations.

So we set out to view as many of the original copies of the results declarations from local polling stations as we could, to see if they differed in any way from the forms uploaded online.

We realised that every signed form included contact mobile phone numbers for the party agents present at the count.

These agents are people affiliated with different political parties who observe the vote counting to make sure everything is done properly.

We then set about calling them all up individually to ask if they'd taken photographs of the results sheets at the time of the declaration - and if so, would they send them to us.

We had responses from 23 agents, including six from Mr Odinga's coalition, and pictures of the original forms from 21 of



The outcome of the 9 August election has been challenged

the 41 locations identified.

Two agents gave us the tallies they'd written down at the time but not photographed.

In every case the results from the polling stations matched the official tallies published by the electoral commission.

The physical copy of the result declaration form is available at the polling station on election day, and any person legally allowed to access the polling station, including the media and observers, is allowed to take a photo of the results form.

At the bottom of each of these documents there are also the names and numbers of the agents present. We've blacked these out to protect their identities.

They often take a picture of the final vote declaration document, and these are the people we contacted at the 41 locations Mr Odinga's team had highlighted.

We were then able to compare the original document with the one officially uploaded by the electoral commission to see if the vote totals were different. They were all the same.

The photos that were sent to us, apart from one, are in colour with a purple certification stamp clearly visible. So we can be confident they weren't taken from the commission website, where all the images are in black and white.

Our aim in this piece has been to look for evidence to support Mr Odinga's claims of interference and we have been unable to find any.

We have approached Mr Odinga's team to provide documentary evidence of this alleged manipulation, but none has been forthcoming.

The Supreme Court of Kenya is

due to rule on the petition in the coming days.

Despite Washington's pleas and pressures, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt gave no sign that they may stop dealing with Moscow on energy and trade any time soon. This is a far cry from the 1980s, when Saudi Arabia enlisted on Washington's side in the Cold War, helping to dislodge the Soviet forces out of Afghanistan, and pushing down the price of oil under American pressure.

During his first trip to the region as president, Biden, who had only recently railed against the "pariah" regimes that rule in the Middle East, swallowed his tongue and pride at the service of the "national interest". Yet, Riyadh and Cairo rejected US dictates and even questioned its strategic competency and staying power, considering its humiliating withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan and its erratic behaviour over the past two decades.

America's relative decline, amid China's rise and Russia's resurgence, has prompted its allies to pursue hybrid, non-exclusive foreign relations based solely on their national and regime interests. It is as if Israel's chutzpah has finally rubbed off on its neighbours, friends and foes alike. Like Tel Aviv, important Middle Eastern players want American arms and American aid but not America's advice.

Despite being Washington's closest regional ally and the first stop on President Biden's Middle East trip, Israel has also refused to acquiesce to US wishes on not only Russia but also Iran and Palestine. In fact, Israel, which

has taken the tail-wagging-the-dog dynamic to a whole new level, yet again treated America like no more than a dumb puppy.

Like Israel, Saudi Arabia and its regional allies, Turkey, which straddles east and west, geographically and geopolitically, has gone hybrid for some time now.

In this week's trilateral summit in Tehran, this major NATO member has reached new agreements with Washington's strategic foes, Iran and Russia; even proposing arms sales to the ayatollahs.

After NATO allies refused to sell it air defence systems on acceptable terms, Turkey turned to NATO's foe, Russia, to purchase its sophisticated S-400 system, to Washington's utter dismay. Since then, Saudi Arabia has shown similar defiance, initiating talks with Moscow to purchase the Russian system.

And like Turkey, Israel and Saudi Arabia, Iran is also trying to pursue hybrid relationships, allying itself with China and Russia while remaining open to collaboration with Europe and insisting on negotiating a return to the Nuclear Deal with the United States. And since its invasion of Ukraine, Russia has become more dependent on Iran to counterbalance American and Turkish influences in Syria.

Meanwhile, these central Middle Eastern players are pursuing hybrid relations within the region as well as beyond it. Iran and Saudi Arabia may be arch enemies, stuck in a Cold War logic of sort, but they are also involved in direct diplomatic talks aimed at reducing tensions in the Gulf and finding

accommodations on regional hotspots, like Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, etc.

Similar dynamics emerged between UAE and Iran, as the UAE normalised relations with the Assad regime in Syria and sort of pulled out of the Yemen war, while at the same time establishing diplomatic, security and strategic relations with Iran's arch enemy, Israel.

In short, the new hybrid geopolitical dynamics look nothing like the rigid and hyper bi-polarity that divided and dominated the world for decades. Since the world fights wars as it makes business and as it does politics, using similar tools and methods, this shift will likely prove lasting and global. In other words, and at the risk of oversimplification, expect more governments to pursue hybrid policies in an increasingly hybrid environment characterised by hybrid work, hybrid cars and hybrid warfare. This will further complicate the global and regional dynamics, producing a dizzyingly changing reality, making it ever harder to predict what might come next; where a new explosion might occur, or whether certain countries might reach accommodation tomorrow.

All of this begs the question: Will the shift from hyper to hybrid relations bring stability; or even peace to the Middle East? It might indeed reduce inter and intra-national instability for some time, but unless and until regional actors use that window to address the urgent questions of justice and human rights, expect more of the same instability and violence.

Source: BBC News



'Many things inspired me into music'



My Name is John Chukwuemeka Okike also known as John C. I currently reside in Angwan Rukuba, Nassarawa Gwong, Jos North LGA Plateau State Nigeria. I was born on the 27th March to the family of Okike John in Ugwulangwu in Ohaozara East Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. I'm the fourth child of the family.

What inspired you into Music?

Well, many things inspired me into music. My love for rhymes and worship to God is my first inspiration. Nevertheless, my passion for musical instrument at a younger age steered up this zeal to do music and godly music is a calling from God in the church and the society at large. For me, music is a ministry and not a business.

What messages does music convey?

Music conveys different messages depending on

the artist and his/her source of inspiration. Music has been popularly referred to as a means to convey the message of hope, restoration and salvation. Likewise, it conveys the message of intimacy as it draws one nearer and nearer to his maker. But I can boldly speak about God's love, his supremacy over humanity and hope of the church. My music doesn't aim at entertainment but preaching the gospel through rhyme and worship.

What class of music are you into?

Well, the class of my music is gospel. Why I have chosen this genre of music is to worship, magnify and praise my maker as that is the excess of man on earth. Just as I have said early, music to me is a ministry and not business. So, I choose gospel because it is a means; I can use it to win souls for Christ.

What is the central message of your album?

The predominance message of this great work as inspired by God is "the reign of Almighty on the throne" as he is the king of kings and master of the universe. The central message of my album is that God reigns yesterday, today and forever.

When is the album launch and when are you anticipating?

The official date of launching of the album is 11th September at the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Nassarawa Gwong Parish Jos, Plateau State. We anticipate the presence of God during the dedication of this album and after.

It is my hope and believe in God that when any the track on the album is played, it will bring healing, overflowing joy and the presence of God. I anticipate great revival in every region and facet of this country and beyond.

I look forward to massive patronage from the public because in every Kingdom service of today's world; money is important to build and raise souls for Christ. I wish that this album serves as reference for



Continued on page 25

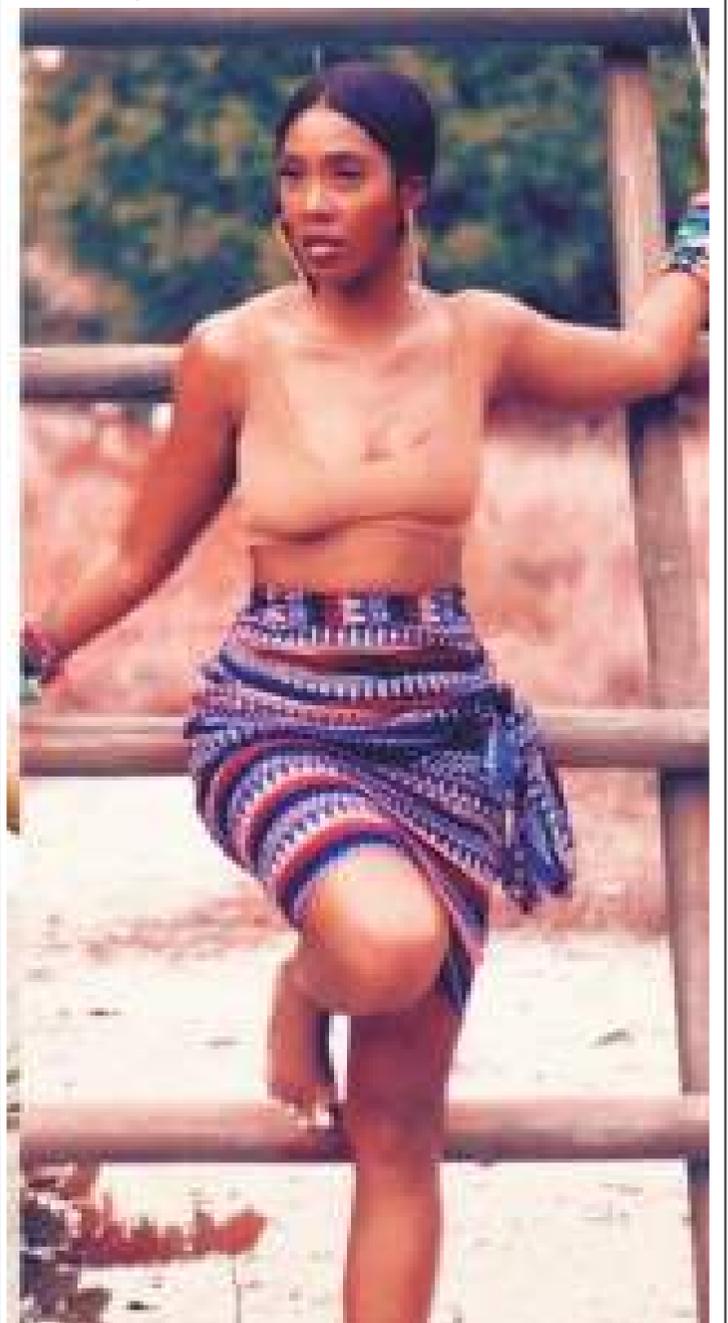
Female celebrities who suffered leaked tape scandal

Paris Hilton



Paris Whitney Hilton is a famous American media personality, actress, model, socialite, and singer. In 2004, the alleged Hilton's tape was released on the media. The incident happened three years after the video was recorded. Fortunately, the celebrity became a famous star overnight.

Tiwa Savage



It is no longer news that Tiwa Savage's tape has been trending all over social media. The popular Nigerian celebrity had openly revealed that she was being blackmailed by an unknown person. She further stated that the blackmailer demanded a huge amount of money. Presently, the celebrity has kept quiet and hasn't said anything about the issue.

Continued on page 25

EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Ways to be smarter and more confident

YOU might not feel confident about your intellectual capacity, but if you put a small value on yourself, the world will surely not raise your price. The best way to build your self-confidence is by broadening your life experiences. Thus, if you want to become smarter and more confident in yourself, increase your knowledge, skills, experiences and understanding.

Confidence and intelligence are something you have to work on it and thinking about the hardest thing to do with it, is probably the reason why only a few engage in it. However, you can always work for it if you have perseverance and determination in life. So if you want to have more wit, intelligence and confidence, here are ten ways to get them.

Read books.

Reading books will help you gain knowledge about everything you want to know in life. If you are not the type of person that reads, well then, practice yourself now. Become a voracious reader and expose yourself to more ideas and information. Books will take you to a different dimension, it will broaden your imagination and it will surely speed up your learning ability.

Improve your mind's ability.

There are actually a lot of things to improve one's mind's ability and one of these is by improving your memory. The ability to remember things is also considered intelligence. Correlate things you want to memorize with the things you already remember. Practice more and soon you will develop new techniques that will help you improve your memory. Aside from improving your memory, one thing you need to consider is to be more curious never be satisfied with what you think you already have in mind, try to look deeper into it. And lastly, exercise your mind in different ways, challenge yourself to learn new skills. You may want to try solving the rubrics cube in order to exercise your thinking ability or puzzles that will keep your mind



working.

Do your research.

Don't be satisfied learning a little about that particular issue. Be more curious and broaden your horizons, it will help you become

more intelligent. Learn to research things, you don't understand. Read books or search for everything you want to know online. Explore the world in depth, create new ideas out of it and

always be curious about things because curiosity will lead you to more knowledge.

Make friends with intelligent people.

This may be difficult for you, most especially if you have low self-esteem, but with clever people, hanging out with you is one of the fastest ways to learn. Being around people that are smart will give you the opportunity to learn from them or you may also get techniques from them on how they keep their intelligence. Instead of being ashamed to hang out with them, feel blessed that you have an amazing resource to draw upon.

Practice your writing skills.

Same as reading a book, writing allows you to put your knowledge in a creative way. Writing also broadens your imagination because you're able to write fantasy or short stories out of your imagination. Try to exercise your brain and write a little every day until you got used to it. You can make a diary where you can write about your daily activities or whether it is describing your emotions. Brainstorming can also

help you create new ideas.

Explore new things.

Get out of your box and explore new things. If you always wanted to travel around the world, go save your money now, this will help you discover yourself. It may be scary at first, but you will surely enjoy the experience. I once read *Harun Yahya* sayings "I always wonder why birds stay in the same place when they can fly anywhere on the earth. Then I ask myself the same question." You wouldn't know unless you try, you wouldn't know that there is a better place out there or you wouldn't know that you can be better not unless you get out of your box and explore the other side.

Know your strength and weaknesses.

Learn to build on your own strengths and work on your weaknesses. Knowing your weakness and strengths will help you control yourself as well over the situation. If you think you are not good at that field, then know how to make yourself good at it. Focus on your weaknesses rather than your strength because it will help you become better in the future.

8. Embrace yourself.

Remember that you need to be comfortable with yourself first before anyone else. Know your true nature, it may be positive or negative, always practice self-love. Before you gain confidence in yourself, learn to love yourself first and the rest will follow.

Speak up for yourself.

The more you can control a conversation or discussion, the more you become smarter. You can't just sit silently there without expressing what you want to say. Expressive speech is also a key to boost your confidence. A little confidence will go along the way if you practice speaking up for yourself. Remember the relief, feeling when you express yourself to people. However, learn to put across yourself without expecting a certain response from it, whether the feedback is positive or negative care more about your ability to say what you really want and feel.

Encourage yourself.

Try to uplift yourself, give yourself a daily affirmation that will help you feel happier like telling yourself "I am beautiful" "I am strong" "I am confident". Self-confidence starts with yourself, so in order to boost it, encourage yourself that you can do it even if you can't. Also, keep a positive outlook in life and disregard all those negative thoughts. Always keep in mind that you are confidently beautiful no matter what. Still, stay humble and keep your feet on the ground, don't be too confident as much as possible.

You might be under the impression that intelligence is a fixed quantity that you need to have and your confidence is what makes you look beautiful. However, those things are already fixed on us – we just need to work on it. On the other hand, your perception of yourself has an enormous impact on you, so better believe in yourself that you can do anything possible.



THE EYE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Health

Health benefits to wearing socks

HAVE you ever asked yourself why you wear socks everyday when going to work or elsewhere?

Well, there are many health benefits associated with wearing a pair of socks.

They help prevent odour

Mostly when we are running, walking or even seated behind our work desks, our feet normally generate a lot of sweat. It is estimated that our feet have a high number of sweat glands which release a huge amount of sweat and if this is not absorbed properly, the results will be smelly shoes and feet. Wearing socks however helps with the absorption of the sweat which in return helps prevent the unpleasant odour.

It provides extra cushioning to the feet

Our shoe insoles do get worn out and this makes the shoes hard and uncomfortable at times. This hard surface can be bad for your health and should be avoided at all cost. While at it, although replacing the insoles will be a great idea, wearing quality socks will also provide an extra and much needed padding to the feet thus protecting from injuries and friction to the feet.

Socks prevents against some diseases

Diseases or infections such as fungal and athlete's foot are very common for many people. These can be very uncomfortable and costly to treat but wearing quality socks will go a long way in preventing against them. You should however wear socks made of material that effectively absorbs the sweat to keep the feet dry thus lowering the risk of getting some of these infections.

It helps keep your feet soft

Wearing socks will help keep your feet smooth as they protect you from elements such as dust. Normally, many people who do not wear socks experience the hardening of the feet which results in eventual cracking. However, wearing socks will help prevent against this thus keeping the feet healthy and pretty.





Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi
peekembo@yahoo.com
08036417305, 08095322786

Things to do to get through hard times

LIVING at a time when the country is facing an unstable economy, high inflation rates, security and social challenges makes life to take a toll on many individuals and families.

This is because people are the worst hit by such economic, security, social challenges as it affects their livelihoods, lifestyle, living costs, mental well being, and other areas of their lives.

I think what should be paramount in surviving the hard times is being resilient. This requires perseverance and creating a positive spirit and way to survive at all odds.

According to Tony Robinson in her article titled "Simple things to do to get through hard times on lifehack.com," "Life is a series of peaks and valleys. Sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down. But it's the difficult times where we need a little more support and guidance".

"I'm a firm believer that it's how you respond in your moments of defeat that really defines the type of person you are. When you can improve your ability to navigate the difficult times, you not only live a happier life, but you also grow as person. Here's how to make getting through hard times less difficult" says Robinson.

Robinson however suggests the following proactive ways to cope with hard times and life challenges:

Stay positive

"Life is not the way it's supposed to be, it's the way it is. The way you cope is what makes the difference." – Virginia Satir

I know this may sound cliché, but the thing about clichés is that they're typically true. Staying positive is only a small part in getting through the difficult times, but it's an important part. When you stay positive, you're putting yourself in the best position possible to not only make it through those bad times, but become a better person in the process.

You can do one of two things when life takes a turn for the worst. You can remain positive and remind yourself that there really is a light at the end of the tunnel and that you'll make it through, or you can curl up in the fetal position and relegate yourself to being nothing more than a victim of circumstance.

I'm not saying that you can never have a bad day, or get a little discouraged, or shed a tear. But I am saying you have to eventually pick up the pieces and start moving forward.

Get creative

There are times when you can't do much to change your situation. You just have to deal with it. But there are other times when you can actively work to make the situation better. The solution won't be in plain sight, because if it was you probably wouldn't have gotten in that situation in the first place. But if



you can take a step back and see the bigger picture, you may discover some things that can help you.

A great example of getting creative during a difficult time is the story behind Wrigley's gum. The founder, William Wrigley Jr. was a soap and baking powder salesman in the 1890's and he always offered free gum to all of his clients. With his career as a salesman taking a turn for the worst, he noticed one thing that forever changed his life; people loved the gum he gave away more than the products he was actually selling. It was that one creative insight that got him through that difficult time and made him a monumental success.

Learn from the difficult times

"Facing difficulties is inevitable, learning from them is optional" – John Maxwell

When I find myself in middle of an ugly situation, I like to pick everything apart and see what went wrong and what I could've done differently. I always end up learning something that helps me and I eventually get a really clear picture of what I need to do to make sure I'm not in the same situation again. Or if I do find myself in a similar situation, I know what to do to minimize the difficulty of the situation.

It's easier getting through a difficult time when you know the chances of it happening again are slim to none.

Change it up

After you identify the key takeaways from your difficult time, you just need to make a change. If it's a change you can implement immediately, do it. You don't want to be in the middle of a difficult situation longer than necessary. If it's something that you can't implement right now, take note of it so you can use it when the situation calls for it.

But it's pointless to learn from the difficult times if what you learned doesn't directly affect your actions. I've really come to embrace the difficulties and struggles that life hands me because I know there's a silver

lining in each one of them. You're a lot more resilient than you give yourself credit for.

Know what you're grateful for
Gratitude means showing appreciation for all the good in your life, instead of focusing on the negative. Get clear about what it is that you're grateful for.

Write out everything in your life you can think of that you're grateful for having or experiencing. An even more powerful exercise is to think of the one person you're most grateful for, and write a note explaining why you're so grateful for having that person. Then give him or her a call and read that note to them. The difficult time you're going through will start to seem less significant when it's compared to everything that's going right in your life.

Focus on what you can control, not what you can't

Some situations are beyond your control and no matter what you do, you can't change a thing. You're setting yourself up for frustration when you focus your time and energy on things you can't control. You're also making the situation seem even more bleak than it actually is because you're focusing on the negatives.

You should instead focus on the things that are within your control because that's the only

way you can make a change that's actually going to help you. Make a list of everything you can control about the situation and divert all of your focus towards those things. Anything that's not on the list, doesn't get any attention.

Realize you've come a long way
Sometimes we get so focused on the road ahead, that we never look back to see what we've already traveled. Give yourself credit for everything you've already done.

You'll give yourself a confidence boost when you realize that you've already made so much progress and the light at the end of the tunnel will get brighter.

Build up your community
Having the right people around you is one of the most important things you can do for yourself when the times get tough. You want to surround yourself with people who are loving, caring, honest, and available.

You need them to be loving because a little love always makes the bad days seem a little brighter. You need them to be caring because it helps to have someone who cares about your well being as much as you do. But you also need them to be honest. You need someone who can look you in the eye tell you truth. Their honesty may be that one piece of

information you need to get through the tough time.

And you need them to be available. When you pick up the phone looking for some compassion or honesty, it helps to have someone who's actually going to answer. Community is also important because it helps to have someone who understands what it is that you're going through and can relate to your situation. If you can find a community who has been through what you're going through, you can find out how they made it and then apply that to your own life.

Be kind to yourself

You need to care for yourself to survive tough times. Take a walk through the park, lift some weights, read an amazing book. It doesn't matter what you do, just do something that gets your mind and body engaged at a higher level than wallowing in self pity.

Forgive

If someone else is at fault for the bad situation you find yourself in, the natural response is to harbor anger or resentment towards that person.

But what if instead, you forgave that person. You accepted what happened, but you no longer held it against them. You would feel better, because now instead of focusing on the negative feelings you have toward that person, you can focus on moving forward. You can't really get through a difficult time when your every thought is about how upset you are with the person who got you into that mess. It just makes things more difficult.

Or maybe the difficult time you're going through is a direct result of something that you did. I've been there before, and I know I continually beat myself up about it. I couldn't forgive myself. I almost felt obligated to be hard on myself. The problem with that is, it only makes things worse. You get caught in this revolving door of self hatred and feeling worse, and there's a swirl of anger and frustration and self doubt. Its ultimately a recipe for disaster.



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Relationship

Know who is truly a friend

NO matter how much you love being alone, there's always a time when you need to confide in someone. But first, can this someone be trusted? Maybe you've found someone to talk to already, and then again, maybe you're still looking and keeping your problems to yourself. Either way, talking to someone about these problems is the right thing to do. But confiding in the wrong person can make your situation even worse than it was before.

Confiding in the wrong person

If you are talking to people about your problems, you may find that your information is spreading around. Someone you've confided in has told other people about your issues. It seems you've confided in the wrong person. But who can it be? Maybe you've told a handful of good friends. They were supposed to be your best friends, but someone may not be as true to you as you first thought. There are ways you can find out who betrayed you. Yes, some signs say you're confiding in the wrong person.

They talk about others

If you're confiding in someone who talks negatively about others, then there's a good chance that what you've said to them will also become the topic of another conversation. Soon, what you've told them will be shared with someone else. Remember this simple statement: "If they talk to you about others, they will talk to others about you." This is one of the biggest red flags to let you know you are confiding in the wrong person.

Steals the topic

You could be talking to the wrong person about your problems if they change the topic. What I mean by changing the topic is not that they talk about other things. They try to revert the attention from your hurts to something that happened to them. While some people don't mean to be rude when they do this, others just aren't good friends.

They're not good listeners

For instance, if you're telling the story about your misfortune, and they say something like, "Yes, that's terrible. It reminds me of this time something similar happened to me." Then they proceed to talk about themselves. Yeah, confiding in this type of person won't make you feel any better. You certainly won't find a solution here.

They are not loyal



Many things happen to us that we don't wish the whole world to know. So, we must have a friend who's loyal and able to keep our secrets. This is especially true when it comes to relationship problems. We usually don't want the whole town knowing about our breakup or divorce. And we know that we're confiding in the wrong person if they're

telling everybody about our heartbreaks. They're just not loyal at all.

Not supportive of how you feel

Good friends support you when you go through hard times. They also support you when you have good news, but not the news you want spreading around to everyone. If you're confiding in the wrong

person, you'll notice that instead of taking your side, they'll want to examine all the reasons you could be wrong. Yes, you could be wrong, it's true. But when you need support, you need someone on your side for a little while, and a true friend and confidant will do this. Beware of those who love to play devil's advocate, they can

also be instigators as well.

They aren't empathetic

When you talk to people about something good or bad that's happened, do they even seem interested in what you're saying? If there isn't a smile or laugh for your good news, or sadness in their face for your bad news, then there is no empathy for you. You cannot confide in someone who lacks empathy. They're probably toxic people, to begin with, and will eventually cause you emotional harm if you keep talking to them. When you confide in someone who really cares, there will be many emotions shared between the two of you.

Body language doesn't match words

Confiding in the wrong person will teach you something interesting. Their body language will convey the opposite of what they're saying to you. They may be saying positive things in response to your hurt, but they may also be having trouble keeping eye contact with you. They may say they support you, but they cannot sit still in their seat as if they're anxious to leave. You will notice these things more and more as you attempt to talk to them. But beware, don't talk to them too much because they're probably the same person who will not keep your secrets either.

Friends with the enemy

If you find yourself confiding in someone who's either related to or friends with the person who has hurt you, then you're obviously confiding in the wrong person. First, 90% of the time, relatives will never side with you against their own family, and friends of the enemy will listen to you sometimes just to get information to hurt you even more. Finding real friends if you must confide in anyone, it's best to talk with a tried-and-true best friend – maybe this is someone from childhood that you've kept in touch with all these years. Or it could be a friend who's proven their loyalty in other ways showing that they can be trusted. But always be careful who you tell your troubles to because some people only listen to start drama. I sincerely hope you have a few friends you can trust when times get hard, and even when you have great news, but news that's a bit private. If you have real friends like this, then you have the support you need.

Source: learningmind

BUSINESS WORLD

How harsh economy is disrupting property developers

For players in Nigeria's real estate sector, it's been half a decade in the winter. Hit hard by the recession of 2016, which caused a 6.86 percent decline in the sector, compared with the growth of 2.11 percent recorded in 2015, the post-recession fragile convalescing period was dealt a further blow by the Covid-19 pandemic. Post Covid-19, the sector is confronting another monster in the free fall of the naira and the accompanying inflation. FELIX ONAJITE writes.

The rapid depreciation in the value of the local currency has continued to have a telling impact on all sectors of Nigeria's economy – from aviation to manufacturing and everything in between – and for real estate, the past few years and months, many say, have been traumatic.

The bulk of input materials in the sector are imported. In the last 12 months, the naira has gone from less than N400 to the dollar to N700 to the dollar at the parallel market. The rapid drop in value of the naira has translated to a spike in prices, which naturally means that the end product is increasingly being priced out of the reach of many potential buyers.

Sources in the industry say the sale of some of the high-end properties has also been put on hold since the naira began its more recent free fall.

For developers, it is double whammy. Assets whose sales are dollar-denominated have remained on the shelf months after the expression of interest. Some projects with timeline delivery have been delayed or stopped mid-way into construction. The bulk of facilities available to developers are short-term, and for those denominated in dollar, losses begin to accumulate long before workers mobilise to the site.

"Assuming you brought in \$1 million and you change to N500 million today," said Dr. Alex Otti, former Diamond Bank CEO, "but tomorrow you have to take it back, and you have to spend N700 million to get the \$1 million, from that point of view, you understand that it's tough."

Historically, some of the biggest challenges in the sector have been high-interest rates and forex volatility. The recent spike in inflation has prompted the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to raise the rate to 14 percent in bid to contain it. But such measures work better when the inflation trigger is excessive demand due to too much money in circulation. In Nigeria's case, however, people are struggling to get by, and inflation has little to do with demand, but everything to do with supply challenges. Thus, despite CBN's efforts inflation surged to 17-year high in July at 19.64 percent, up from the 18.6 percent recorded in the previous month of June 2022.

Real estate has not been spared, and compounded by exchange rate volatility, the sector has continued to battle headwinds.

"Most of the loans available, we get are at double-digit rates and this makes it very difficult to get a



decent return on investment," lamented Uzo Oshogwe, managing director of Afriland Properties plc. "The loan tenure is another challenge faced by developers; short-term loans are not suitable for infrastructural projects which are long term in nature."

Oshogwe, who highlighted the effects of the volatility of the dollar on projects, said, "The private sector, Federal Government and all relevant regulatory agencies need to come together to develop a framework that will hedge against these challenges and agree on key measures that will promote cheaper constructions and drive infrastructural development in the country."

It is not in doubt that the sector in Nigeria has huge potential. A 2020 real estate industry report 2020 by Agosto and Company valued the sector at \$3.96 trillion. But the sector, like Nigeria's itself, has remained a clay foot giant hobbled by lack of access to funding, inflation, forex

volatility, among others.

The devaluation of the naira has affected the cost of building materials as a spike has been recorded over the past few months due to the Nigerian construction industry heavily dependent on the foreign importation of raw materials and equipment for construction. With the naira on a free fall, the cost of purchasing these raw materials and equipment have spiked, and so has property prices while wages have not increased and unemployment is rising.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) GDP report Q1 2022 report showed that quarter-on-quarter, GDP of the real estate services (nominal terms) came at -26.75 percent in the first quarter of 2022, an indication of the struggle it is facing.

Abdullahi Adamu, managing director of HXH Limited, a residential development company in Nigeria, in a recent interview opined that the cost of building materials, especially

imported ones, had increased and this would be passed on to off-takers, leading to delays and higher prices of real estate products.

"The scarcity of skilled labour, price hikes, foreign exchange constraints and supply chain bottlenecks are among the challenges that the sector is facing. Not to mention the complex work of managing the multiple vendors required to complete a single unit. These factors have resulted in not just significant costs overruns and increased project costs but also setbacks in the pace of construction and consequential delays in the delivery of homes.

"Also, existing projects may suffer some setbacks including delays because of the naira depreciation. Similarly, new housing projects will be impacted depending on the source of funds.

"But I tell you, despite the challenges, this is the best time to invest in real estate, buy properties because of the

appreciation value. The cost of property will double by next year," he said.

In his own intervention, Adeniji Adele, an estate surveyor and valuer, blamed the crisis in the foreign exchange market on the bad implementation of various government policies over the years as a result of double standards and inconsistency.

Adele, who is the president of International Real Estate Federation, Nigeria chapter, noted in an interview that, "the market reacts negatively to the continued rise in exchange rate which has affected cost of building materials and labour in the built environment; so real estate pricing will never be the same again.

"The market price has gone up, while cost of borrowing is higher and financial institutions are not willing to lend to grow real estate stock as they prefer to advance facilities on a short-term basis."

Onajite, a real estate stakeholder, writes from Lagos

BUSINESS WORLD

FG generates N799.10bn, missed oil revenue target – CBN

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has revealed that the country generated a sum of N799.10 billion in crude oil sales in the first quarter of the year (Q1 2022).

This was however far less than the N2.38 trillion oil revenue projection for the period, and represented a 28.3 per cent decline from the N1.12 trillion realised in Q4 2021.

This was contained in the CBN Economic Report, First Quarter 2022, stating that the current fiscal outlook for the near term remained less optimistic as government revenue remains impaired by petrol subsidy burden and lower than expected crude oil production.

Amidst the current fiscal constraints, the report also noted that debt service obligations in Q1 gulped N897.17 billion compared to N428.60 billion in Q4, due largely to the principal repayments and redemption of matured debt obligations.

Nonetheless, non-oil revenues increased to N1.73 trillion compared to N1.48 trillion in the preceding quarter but fell short of the N2.22 trillion target for Q1.

According to the apex bank, federally-collected revenues declined to N1.67 trillion in the review period, compared to N1.93 trillion in Q4 and also fell below the N3.55 trillion projection.

However, the government's retained revenue for the period was boosted by the significant increase in receipts from Value-Added Tax (VAT) and FGN Independent Revenue.

The retained revenue valued at N1.14 trillion exceeded receipts in the preceding quarter by 12.6 per cent.

The report however noted that the longstanding revenue challenge was evident as the outcome in the quarter was 57.6 per cent short of projection in the prorated quarterly budget.

The CBN added that "The effect of revenue increase outweighed the decline in aggregate expenditure, inducing a contraction in fiscal deficit, relative to the preceding quarter. At N1,617.84 billion, the provisional fiscal deficit of the FGN was 11.8 per cent below the level in the preceding quarter, but overshot the quarterly target of N1,596.52 billion by 1.3 per cent."

The apex bank further stated that the Russia-Ukraine conflict that disrupted global economic activities led to a surge in international crude oil prices and helped improve Nigeria's trade balance.

The report added that as a result, the current account recorded an impressive surplus of \$2.58 billion, compared to \$0.05 billion in the preceding quarter, attributed largely to improved export earnings.

However, the financial account posted a lower net acquisition of financial assets of \$0.78 billion (0.7 per cent of GDP), compared to \$5.15 billion (4.3 per cent of GDP) in Q1 2021, reflecting higher incurrence of financial liabilities.

The central bank also stressed that in all, the Nigerian financial sector



Emiefiele

remained stable, as the key financial soundness indicators were within regulatory thresholds, while activities on the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) sustained a bullish run, on the back of portfolio switching from fixed-income investments to equities and eased financial conditions.

The CBN further pointed out that the federal government's share of total public debt remained within sustainable thresholds at N35.10 trillion, representing 19.9 per cent of GDP as at end of March 2022.

The report added, "On the outlook, the performance of the global economy is expected to slow significantly in 2022, a consequence of shocks induced by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, amidst elevated global inflation.

"On the domestic front, the economy is expected to sustain its positive growth trajectory in the near term, while inflation aligns with the global trend. The fiscal outlook for the near term is less optimistic, as government revenue remains impaired by PMS subsidy burden and lower-than-expected crude oil production."

It, however, added that the outlook of the external sector remained moderately optimistic due to the prospect of higher external reserves, arising from favourable crude oil prices.

Treasury Bills: CBN auctions N446.15bn in August

In the month of August 2022, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) sold a total of N446.15bn in Treasury bill auctions. This was 9.47% higher than the N407.55bn allotted in June.

Specifically, for the 91-day tenor, the CBN sold a total of N3.43bn in August 2022 compared to N5.97bn sold in July 2022, a decline of 43%.

For the 182-day tenor, the amount sold increased by 319% to N11.52bn in August 2022 from N2.75bn in July 2022 while for the 364-day tenor, the amount sold increased by 8% to N431.19bn from N398.83bn in the previous month.

The 364-day bills made up 94.21% of total sales as investors continued to seek higher yield investment opportunities.

Year-to-date, the CBN has sold a total of N3.34trn in Treasury

Also, the report stated, "Though public borrowing was in tandem with the Medium-Term Debt Strategy (2020-2023) of the FGN, debt levels remained elevated in the review period. At N41,604.06 billion at end-March 2022, the total public debt outstanding rose by 5.2 per cent relative to the level at end-December 2021.

N6.7trn subsidy: Customs faults NNPC

THE Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) has faulted claims by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Limited that Nigerians consume about 60 million litres of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), commonly known as petrol, daily.

Hamid Ali, Comptroller General of Customs, refuted the claims when he appeared before the House of Representatives Committee on Finance for interaction on Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper, MTEF/FSP 2023-2025, on Thursday.

Responding to a question on what efforts the Customs is making to address reported smuggling of PMS, a development the NNPC blamed as being responsible for the huge amount paid for subsidy, Ali, on Thursday, described the subsidy regime as non-existing. Ali, who stressed that such a

THE Federal Government, on Thursday, presented certificates of registration and sales permit to authorised fertiliser dealers in Nigeria.

This is contained in a statement issued by Mrs Modupe Olatunji, Information officer I, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Abuja.

The Permanent Secretary, Dr Ernest Umakhihe, during the presentation of certificates said the Ministry trained and deployed to the 36 States and FCT, Fertiliser and Agricultural Pesticides Quality Control Inspectors.

He said the inspectors are currently working with relevant security agencies to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act and Regulations, in order to protect the farmers and the industries.

Umakhihe, represented by Mrs Fausat Lawal, Director of Special Duties in the ministry, said the non-licensed operators are not allowed to produce, blend, import, market or distribute fertilisers in the country.

He urged the suppliers to ensure that only licensed agro-dealers were allowed to buy their products, and to abide strictly and operate within the provisions of the

FG issues certificates, sales permit to fertiliser dealers

fertiliser Act and the implementing regulations.

Umakhihe said that a grace period of two months has been granted for those who have not obtained their permit as failure to do so would have their facilities sealed off with resultant prosecution.

He said that the Act required that upon fulfilment of all required conditions, fertiliser suppliers, manufacturers/producers, blenders and importers would be issued with the Certificate of Registration.

The permanent secretary said while agro-dealers (distributors) that fulfilled the same will be issued with the sales permit.

Umakhihe said it should also be displayed in a strategic area of their facilities, adding that the National Fertiliser Quality Control (NFQC) Act was in the process of repealing to accommodate agricultural pesticides in the Act.

He explained that the essence was to consolidate and expand the Act, curtail the effect of

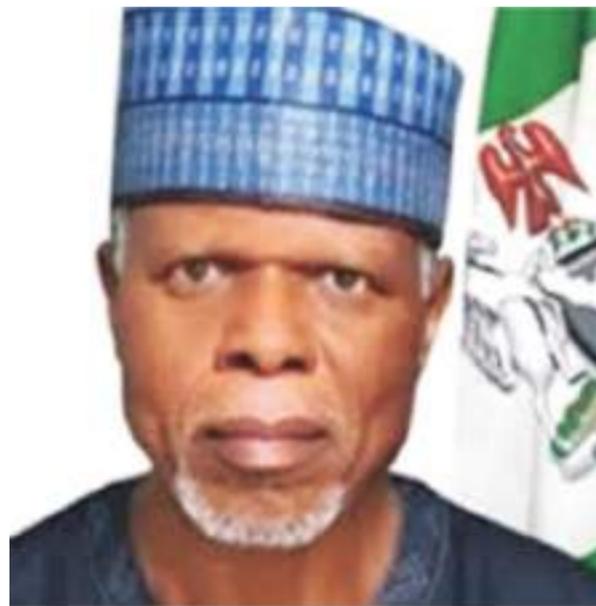
contaminated foods and address the blending of adulterated fertilisers for the interest of farmers, genuine operators and the protection of environment.

Umakhihe commended the Federal Government for the National Fertiliser Quality Control Act signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhar in 2019.

He said that the act requires that all companies that would operate in Nigeria must be registered and get the certificate of registration and sales permit from the implementing authority.

The Director, Farm Inputs Support Services Department, Mr Kwaido Sanni, said the Act and Regulations were not intended to create a stumbling block to the operators business but to protect the genuine entrepreneurs, the farmers, the environment and the entire citizenry from both economic and human losses.

Sanni was represented by the Deputy Director, Farm inputs, Mr Ishaku Buba. (NAN) (www.



Ali

moved out of the country on daily basis.

"I have always argued this with NNPC. If we are consuming 60 million litres of petrol per day by their own computation, why in the world would you allow the lifting of 98 million litres per day?"

"That computation, to me, is not believable, because scientifically you cannot tell me that if I fill my tank today, tomorrow I will fill my tank with the same quantity of fuel. And if I'm running a petrol station today, if I go to Minna depot and lift, and I'm taking to Kaduna, I may reach Kaduna in the evening and offload that product; there's no way I could have sold that petrol for you to account that that has been expended.

"So how do we get to 60 million everyday? If you say this petrol is smuggled, if you release 98 million litres, and then we use 60 million litres, the balance will be 38 million litres. How many trucks will carry 38 million litres? Everyday. That's almost 500.

Which road are they following? Where are they carrying this thing to?"

"The issue is not the smuggling of petroleum. Payment of fuel subsidy is not sustainable, we have to find a lasting solution to that," he said.

Agreeing with the CG's assertions, deputy chairman of the committee, Saidu Musa Abdullahi, who anchored the session said, "I think as a government, we're not doing well."

Ali further told the lawmakers that the Service has generated the sum of N1.167 trillion as of July this year and that it has projected to generate the sum of N2.872 trillion in 2023 fiscal year.

According to Ali, Customs has also projected to generate the sum of N3.54 trillion and N3.752 trillion in 2024 and 2025 respectively, adding that all the monies it generated this year have been paid into the Federation Accounts.

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR



Despite the significance of SMEs to the economy and national development, Africa has a high rate of business failures and short-lived businesses. In Nigeria, SMEs account for 48 percent of the national GDP, 96 percent of businesses, and 84 percent of employment in the country, according to a PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) report. TIMI OLUBIYI writes.

IN contrast, due to the country's dire economic circumstances, at least 1.9 million SMEs have been lost since 2017, according to the report, yet business closures persist at an alarming rate.

Why do so many businesses fail so quickly, whether structured or unstructured? It can be attributed to many challenges, and this is the focus of this piece.

In the context of this article, the word "failure" refers to any kind of closure, including bankruptcy, liquidation, stopping further losses, giving up and starting a new business, and/or closing by choice (like retiring early or shutting down).

According to the author's observations, small businesses, especially those with one to nine staff, are prevalent, mostly unstructured, and largely operating informally throughout the country.

Convenience shops and grocery stores, dry cleaning and laundromat services, taxi services, trucking and transportation businesses, beauty salons, local restaurants, and several other small businesses operate with no data sets or registration databases.

For instance, in Lagos state, most of these small businesses are overwhelmingly dominated by people moving in from other states of the country, largely due to the fact that barriers to entry into the business ecosystem are low, there is no compulsion for registrations or certifications, and the start-up capital is usually low.

The worry is that many of these business operators are inexperienced and pay no attention to business structure, technology, skill sets, accountability, or the importance of business continuity.

Therefore, business failures keep getting worse without any known help. In fact, it is hard to see how the sector can make a big difference or

impact in creating jobs, growing the economy, and reducing poverty. Business failure is the last stage of the business life cycle.

However, it is so prevalent that it happens within the first five years of a significant number of SMEs in Nigeria and the rate is alarming. Even though the environment is a key part of how easy it is to do business, it is still harsh and hard in the country, with or without post-Covid-19 consequences.

Truly, there are many problems with the economy's supply chain and infrastructure, such as the price of diesel, problems with the foreign exchange market, and regulations that hurt businesses.

Many of the business failure factors are frequently categorised as "poor management or lack of access," though the failure predictors are in two broad categories: internal factors (controllable) and external factors (uncontrollable).

Without a systematic outline and identification of the many challenges faced by small businesses, here are the most common business failure factors in the country that operators need to pay attention to: low quality or low level of education and qualification of operators and workforce; lack of manpower, loss of seasoned personnel and management due to social mobility and relocation ("Japa"), resulting in skill shortages within the business and inability to attract and retain new highly qualified personnel; lack of an appropriate corporate governance structure and organogram in the case of the few structured SMEs; Customer dissatisfaction due to low product or service quality; poor customer experience and declining patronage.

A variety of funding issues are also relevant to business failures, including no or low business capital or profitability, revenue erosion (in some cases referred to as undercapitalisation), insufficient

cashflow or cash reserve, and an excessive reliance on borrowed funds (high leverage).

Poor accounting practice, teeming, and lading can also result in business failures. The absence of adequate marketing channels, poor market knowledge, outdated services and products, and not being in touch with customer needs (for illustration, dealing in Nokia 3310 related accessories or phone sales when the market demand is for Android phones).

Poor and negative customer relations; poor pricing techniques; lack of innovative drive, ignoring product or service innovations and new ideas; ignoring competitors' pressure and offerings; resource mismanagement; undue family influence and control in the business operations can kill businesses.

Further to this, poor internal communication, lack of free flow of business information, and fraudulent acts by employees, including legal tussles, can also be contributory to the failures.

Others are ineffective and reckless leadership tendencies, a high cost of running the business, huge overhead, and an inability to control expenses. Inappropriate response to new external and/or internal challenges, lack of strategic and business planning (competitor analysis, marketing analysis, risk analysis, opportunity and threat analysis), underestimating or overestimating risks in the marketplace, among others.

Failure to recognise and capitalise on new market opportunities, intense competition, and adherence to ineffective competitive formulas or strategies. Another is being outwitted by competitors or even former employees; and relying too heavily on one or a few clients' patronage are also attributable.

Leadership tussles and conflicts ge. Poor inventory management, failure to

differentiate products and services in a highly competitive environment, and the strong bargaining power of buyers can cause business failure. Within management, business owners, and/or power struggles cannot be ignored. Failure to provide value for money can make customers disgruntled and avoid patronage. Poor inventory management, failure to differentiate products and services in a highly competitive environment, and the strong bargaining power of buyers can cause business failure.

In the era of globalisation, e-commerce, and high adoption of technology, any old equipment, machinery, or technology issues can make a business fail. Low or no online visibility, inadequate technological adoption, or failure to take advantage of new technological advances can also adversely affect businesses.

Largely unforeseen mishaps can happen, failing to learn from this or one's errors, and the repetition of such errors and poor decision making can have huge consequences. Overlapping responsibilities in the case of one-man businesses where the owner claims to be an expert in all departments and business functions can make the business fail. Where there is no distinction between ownership and management and there is an excessive concentration of authority, including excessive administrative rule imposition on subordinates and employees, it can ruin a business.

From the government side, unanswered macroeconomic challenges, economic instability, multiple taxation, no ease of doing business, regulatory hurdles and multiple permits, and a harsh economic climate are just some of the negative factors. Poor infrastructure, bad roads, erratic power supply, limited access to government grants and support, and much more, particularly power and the cost of generating alternative power.

Further to this, the rising costs of doing business, inflation, irregular iness failure. policies, the judicial system where disputes linger for several years, and political influence and interest, including corruption, are all part of the factors attributable to business failure.

Even common macroeconomic factors like recessions, insecurity, government debt, exchange rates, high-interest rates, are just a few. The power(electricity) situation in Nigeria has been a great cause for concern for businesses, investors, and citizens at large and is equally significant in the overall performance of the economy. These infrastructure gaps and weak macroeconomic factors can be blamed on the depressed economy and prevalence of business failure in Nigeria.

The turn-around time at the ports, congestion on the roads, are all imperative causes of business failures in the country and cannot be controlled by entrepreneurs and SME operators. Consequently, it poses a big risk to businesses unless the government intervenes decisively and gives the needed policy responses. This is the big prayer of all SMEs and entrepreneurs in the country.

Above all, the culture of not seeking expert opinion, advice, and consultation for problem solving is the overall bane of SME operators or owner-managers.

One or more of the above-mentioned factors are warning indications of business failure. SMEs must pay close attention to these indicators as soon as they appear, in order to avoid a crisis.

Maintaining an appropriate structure, adequate capital, and having contingency plans are some of the best strategies to control and reduce business failure that these factors can cause. Further prerequisites for small business success may just be the next article from the author. Good luck!

Source: Businessday.

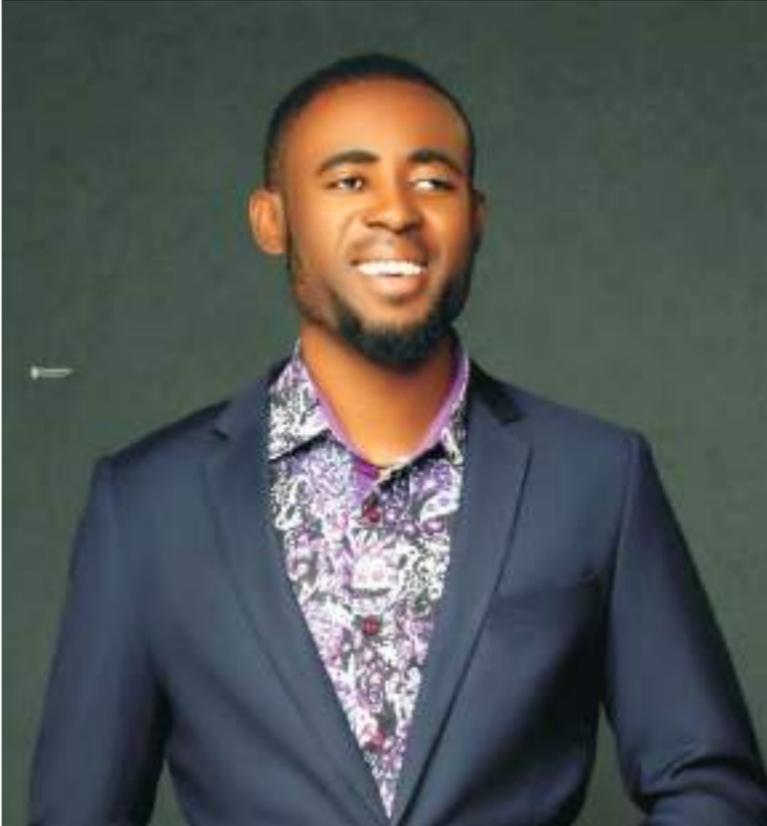


Web **BULUS GAMBO**



'Many things inspired me into music'

Continued from page 16



other artists. All I anticipate is the greatness of this album.

What are some of the difficulties that artists face in the music industry?

Finance is one of major difficulty that artists face; it takes a lot of money to make a track let alone an album. So, money can be a problem when there is no much income from pervious works. Networking with bigger artists in the industry can be challenging. Another challenge is having a producer and crew that can give you what you need in a song or track project. I could remember how I struggled at first to arrive at my finished project, it was not easy actually.

What is your perspective of today's church considering the time we are now?

My perspective about the church is that the Holy Spirit should be the anchor of the church whether Pentecostal or the main stream churches; the Holy Spirit should be at the center of the church.

Today, church is full of competition and coldness as well as indiscipline and too much emphasis on material gains.

However, I believe that there will be great revival in the church soon that is why we are working hard to spread the gospel to as many as we can.

What is your advice for young people who are daily consumed by drugs and other forms of vices these days?

Drug abuse is a scourge affecting most of the young people out there. As some are presently in rehab receiving medical attention. My advice to young people out there is



for them to resist and desist from drug usage and embrace God in totality.

My advice to those who do drugs is that there is no pleasure in it than morality and righteousness. I urge all involved in drugs to stop and seek help to avoid future pains for yourself and your loved ones. God loves you.

What is the hope of tomorrow's church and the society at large?

The Bible tells us that Christ in us is the hope glory, (Col. 1:27) the hope of the church is Christ and the society at large. Good governance and knowledge of the word of God can transform the society.

When there are these two, nothing can stop the church or the society from growing. The Holy Spirit is the hope of the church.

Final word?

My final word goes to everyone in the society. I

urge everyone to study and practice the word of God. Trust in God no matter what you are going through and always remember that there is a bright day ahead. Ensure to support whoever that is just starting in any way you can.

On a final note, let the church brace up, preach the gospel more, let the world know more about the Lordship of Jesus Christ as his coming is nearer.

Looking forward to see you at the official dedication of the album "You Reign" at the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Nassarawa Gwong Parish on the 11th of September 2022. God bless you as you honour our invitation.

Female celebrities who suffered leaked tape scandal

Continued from page 16

Kim Kardashian



Kim Kardashian became more popular after the recorded tape was revealed in 2007. It was said that the tape was recorded in 2002. Kim Kardashian is a renowned American media personality, businesswoman, model, actress, and socialite. At first, it was not easy for the American celebrity, however, she was able to scale through.

Jane Mena

Jane Mena is a well-known Nigerian dancer. The alleged tape of Jane Mena circulated online and became the talk-about of many social media users.

Maryam Booth



Maryam Booth is a famous Nigerian actress who acts in both Kannywood and Nollywood movies. In 2020, the news of this actress trended online. She suffered a leaked tape saga. Maryam accused her former lover, Ibrahim Rufai, popularly known as Deezell, of leaking the video. Fortunately, the actress was also able to scale through.

Paige

Paige, a female wrestler also suffered from depression after her tape was leaked and she struggled with injury. It was said that an unknown person stole the tape from her tape.

Source: premiumtimesng.com

SUNDAY FEATURE

Rising concerns over fake alcoholic herbal drinks

Fresh concerns are mounting over the number of strange illnesses in recent times, developments that NAFDAC has attributed to harmful alcoholic drinks being produced illegally and sold in many parts of the country. ELEJO IDACHABA writes.

Some call them energy drinks; others call them super power houses. There are some of the many appellations ascribed to these numerous brands of alcoholic herbal drinks that are currently on sale all over the country.

Of more concern is the fact that these drinks are laced with poisonous substances that can affect the health of the consumers. This reporter's investigation has revealed that among those that largely consume these substances are young men between the ages of 16 and 30, many of whom have been diagnosed with various degrees of mental malfunction and alert disorders.

It is as a result of this that recently, the National Agency for Foods and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) posted a warning on its website to intimate Nigerians about an adulterated/fake drink currently in circulation across the country.

The alcoholic bitter herb known as Japata Alcoholic Bitters, according to NAFDAC, is more harmful than the one the company that produces it originally submitted for testing and registration with the agency. NAFDAC, therefore, advised Nigerians to be watchful of the herbal alcoholic drink they consume.

This is a great concern to many people because this is the second time within a space of four months that this concern over Japata is being raised.

NAFDAC had stated, "An alcoholic bitters product that is of grave concern is Japata Alcoholic Bitters which was duly registered by NAFDAC, but laced with marijuana or cannabis compared to the registered product that had only ethanol. Through intelligence, NAFDAC was able to shut down the company. This product, when tested in the laboratory, caused the death of the mice within five minutes.

"The alcoholic content was doubled compared with the registered product. The retained samples, kept at the point of registration, did not cause any injury to the animals.

"The product laced with cannabis was said to cause altered state of mind and psychological problems to the user. The owner of the company is on the run and the matter has been shared with NDLEA."

Other harmful drinks also listed by NAFDAC after their investigation were Five Minutes Power, Gamzaki Tradomedical, Barakallahu, Sabon Karfi and Haonu Laha herbal mixtures which are also currently on sale in many stores and motor parks across Nigeria.

Haonu Laha Herbal Mixture, it noted, is registered with NAFDAC, but laced with unapproved substances that are injurious to the human body. Report has it that a large number



of male populations consume alcoholic bitters as regular drinks.

While some consumers claim that the drinks have health benefits when taken, investigation shows that there is really no proof to back up such claims.

Also, this reporter's findings showed that in many communities across the country, the effects of adulterated alcoholic drinks, such as these, are obvious, especially on the young adult population. While many of the young people have died as a consequence of ailments such as kidney failure, a large number of the men have liver-related diseases and other life-threatening illnesses traceable to those drinks.

In a chat with this reporter, Mr. Obed Nakajuru, a native of Southern Kaduna, but based in Abuja, said in his community, there has been a serious depletion of young adults due to strange deaths, a development no one could explain until it was discovered recently that what they termed strange illnesses were as a result of kidney, heart and liver-related illnesses all traceable to alcoholic drinks that were prohibited by NAFDAC.

"These drinks contain higher amounts of ethanol that is harmful to human health.

Suddenly, many of the healthy looking young men began to shrink in size with some developing pot bellies. From 2019 to date, we have buried not less than 30 corpses because of this strange disease until it was discovered that a certain herbal alcoholic drink is responsible. Apart from insurgency and banditry, fake alcoholic herbal drinks cause the death of young people in Nakajuru and nearby communities," he said.

The same applies to many

communities in Benue and Kogi states; in a rural community called A'Idogodo near Okpoga in Benue State, it's the same story. According to Peter Enogela, a resident of the area who spoke to Blueprint Weekend.

"That is the common drink in my place right now. To make it worse, they combine it with local gin in an empty stomach. I was shocked when I travelled home early 2022 for a burial only to discover that many of the young men of my age, whom I grew up with, were down with illnesses. When I inquired further, I realised that there is a cartel of fake herbal alcoholic drinks from Enugu state that supplies the drinks for them.

"A close look at those drinks reveals that they are fake, expired and laced with substances like marijuana. Almost all the young men are already addicted to these drinks. It can only take God to change their taste," he said.

In many motor parks across the country, especially in major cities, these drugs are sold on a large scale. A transporter at the Jabu Motor Park in Abuja who gave his name as Taofeek Araga

told Blueprint Weekend that the sale of alcoholic herbal drinks in the park has been a major challenge for them.

"Herbal sellers are the major problems we have in the parks. When you hear of drugs in the parks, the majority of them are from what those women are selling as energy drinks. There is no corner you go to in this park that you will not find these sellers. The amazing thing is that they are mostly women. Few men sell them here.

"We have realised that some of the accidents that occur on the roads are caused by the influence of these alcoholic drinks. The union is aware of what I am saying because we have raised this concern before them. Since they are not doing anything about it, the government should intervene to save travellers," he said.

To buttress this argument while speaking at another forum recently, the director-general of NAFDAC, Prof. Mojisola Adeyeye, said, "We have commenced a nationwide crackdown of all illegal manufacturers and distributors of these herbal preparations with a view to

bringing perpetrators to book and minimise the usage of the substance.

"Findings from various operations carried out revealed a dangerous trend in the use of such substances laced with high concentration of tobacco and sometimes cannabis by our populace cutting across all genders and age groups particularly artisans, drivers, Okada riders.

"These substances, when abused, can be harmful to the body organs such as the brain, kidney and liver. The damage to the kidney and liver cannot be overemphasized. This substance can cause irrational thinking, altered state of mind, which if taken by a driver can lead to road traffic accident with the attendant fatality consequences or can lead to criminal behaviours such as rape, kidnapping and murder."

There is no way of knowing for certain the ingredients contained in fake or illegally produced alcohol which means that drinking it can lead to anything from nausea to blindness and death. Hence, drinking fake alcohol is risky to health and could have dangerous consequences.



News

Minister calls for humanitarian actualization

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq has called for improved actualization of the Humanitarian Ministry's mandate.

The Minister made the call while declaring open a two-day management retreat for staff and agencies of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

In her keynote address made at the NAF Conference Centre, Abuja,

Minister Umar Farouq noted that natural disasters and man-made crises across the country have adversely impacted the lives and the well-being of many Nigerians, hence the need for the ministry to look inward towards strengthening the organizational structure of the ministry for improved service delivery.

"This exercise is the assembly of the managementsStaff of the humanitarian sector designed to brainstorm on ways of improving the actualization of the mandate of the ministry. It is also a period of stock taking and winding down to under-study the level of implementation and impact of the various programmes of the ministry including the National Social Investment Programmes (NSIPs).

"I commend the leadership of our various agencies, departments and units which have worked tirelessly to ensure that the poor and vulnerable members of the society are given sustainable sense of belonging in the country.

"As you gather to discuss ways of improving the productivity of the ministry, I am convinced that this will not be an effort in futility. I therefore encourage you to demonstrate serious commitment to this retreat and come up with a standard communiqué that will recommend ways of strengthening the organizational structure and service delivery



Farouq

compact of the ministry".

In his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary of the ministry Dr Nasir Sani-Gwarzo, mni. NPOM noted that the in-house event is designed to assess the achievements, shortfalls and challenges of the ministry since its inception.

"This auspicious gathering of the management staff of the entire humanitarian sector is designed as a veritable platform for brainstorming and stock taking on the journey so far.

"We have therefore gathered here to critically examine our modus operandi, identify existing gaps and proffer enduring solutions to them.

We shall also examine the Ministry's organizational structure as approved by the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation with a view to strengthening it for efficient and effective service delivery".

The Director of Planning, Research and Statistics of the Ministry Mr Ralph Oraeluno said while setting the context for the retreat said that the objective was to enable participants to assess the

strides taken so far by the ministry.

"We are here as critical stakeholders in the humanitarian sector for two days to x-ray and assess our journey so far. How we have fared, possible gaps and proffer solutions to them so as to continue achieving.

"We are expected to find solutions to the problems that may be presented here by Departments, Agencies and Units that tend to militate against their productivity.

"It is also a period of winding down so as to gather more strength for the great task ahead of the Ministry in managing humanitarian issues in Nigeria".

There were goodwill messages from representatives of the National Emergency Management Agency, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, the Commission for Persons With Disabilities and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs).

The retreat themed 'Strengthening Social Inclusion For Improved Living Standard of Nigerians' ends on Friday.

THE people of Rimi Ward, Pengana Chiefdom of Bassa LGA came out in their number to rehabilitate the dilapidated road that links the village with other neighboring villages.

The member representing Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency, Hon. Musa AgahAvia joined the people during the work to encourage them and equally identified areas that need his attention as their representative. Agah said this in a press statement issued by his Director of Press, Media and Publicity Alh. Sadiq Muhammad Doro in Abuja.

The statement said Hon. Agah was represented by his campaign DG, Hon. Hwelleng Y.D Nyam, Hon. Peter Apanto, Senior Legislative Aide (SLA), Hon. Yusuf Babuga (LA2), Hon. Amos Imut Chief of Staff,

HYPPADEC commissions headquarters, distributes vehicles

From MATHEW JWANTU, Minna

Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission HYPPADEC, has renovated and commissioned its headquarters in Minna, Niger State to the tune of 303 million naira.

The commission also distributed 12 numbers of Hilux as operational vehicles for the functional area offices for smooth runnings.

The Managing Director of HYPPADEC, Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa made the disclosure while commissioning the project in Minna, saying, the commission receives 50% monthly ecological funds from the six states expected to be receiving 10% from the generating companies IGR.

Sadiq Yelwa who said the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission will soon be expanded to nine benefiting States from the present six, explained that the renovation of the edifice and building of new structure behind the main structure cost a sum of N303 million while the vehicles were assembled in Nigeria to ensure local content as bided for.

The additional states that will soon come onboard as a result of the devastated effect of environmental and

Pengana Chiefdom, Agah embarks on community project

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

Deputy DG, Hon. Kiku, Hon. Anthony Bisinti and Hon. Simon Saminaka, Bassa LGA Liaison Officer.

Hon Hwelleng speaking on behalf of the member applauded the people of Rimi for working in unison to ameliorate their plight and stressed the importance of the road in the livelihood of the people. He admired their spirit of patriotism and implored them to sustain the momentum.

Hon. Hwelleng informed them that Hon. Agah is passionate about ameliorating the plights of his

constituents and he will not relent in ensuring he brings dividends of democracy to their doorsteps.

The team inspected the road and promised to inform Hon. Agah about the deplorable nature of the road for further action. However, the member assisted with cash to facilitate the community work.

Responding on behalf of the community, the Mai-AngwanRimi appreciated the team for coming and stated that they are strengthened by the visit and hopeful that the member will meet their plight. They vowed to continue to support his course.

ecological impact of flooding according to him, is as a result of the activities of hydro dams.

He explained that, Kaduna State will be included in the Commission because it contributes from River Kaduna to the yet to be completed Zungeru Hydro dam in Niger State.

Similarly, the Managing director said Taraba is already on its way to hosting the biggest hydro dam in Nigeria while Gombe is also at the receiving end of the impact of flooding and other ecological problems.

On his part, the Chairman of the Commission Governing Council, Hon

Joseph Terfa Ityav commended President Muhammad Buhari and NASS for ensuring that the Commission was not only established on paper, but became operational within its mandate.

Speaking earlier, the Niger State Governor, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello said that the HYPPADEC has brought succour to communities suffering from perennial ecological impact of flooding due to the dam creation.

Bello challenged the commission to do more in order to stimulate economic growth and imbedded the culture of maintenance, reburst monitoring and judicious use of resources provided.



Agba

Gunmen kill five people in Barkin Ladi

FOUR fresh attack on some residents of a community in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State has left five people dead.

The victims were shot by the gunmen in Barkin Ladi Local Government according to the police.

Ten people were also injured and currently receiving treatment at the General Hospital in Barkin Ladi.

On 30th August 2022 at about 8 p.m. the Plateau State Police Command Jos

received a distress call to the effect that unknown gunmen shot some people in Barkin Ladi.

Residents of Barkin Ladi have lamented the spate of violence that is claiming the lives of youths in their prime.

Mrs. Aliyu has called on Plateau State Government to beef up security and to ensure perpetrators are brought to book to serve as a deterrent to other criminally minded people nursing the same ambition.

Kogi Police command confirms killing of Kehinde

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Police Command has confirmed the killing of Kehinde Ajayi by his friend who buried the corpse at his house around

Felele area, in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital. The Command's spokesman,

William Aya who confirmed the incident, told our correspondent that the body of late Ajayi has been recovered and investigation is on to arrest the perpetrators of the dastardly act. Aya said that men of the Kogi State Police Command have arrested a yet-to-be-identified man for the alleged killing while efforts are still on to apprehend others. Our correspondent gathered that the middle-aged suspect allegedly killed Ajayi on Sunday, July 24, 2022, and secretly buried his corpse at his residence. A source who spoke to our correspondent said the victim bought a Toyota Sienna vehicle with number plate LSD 228 HJ, and the suspect reportedly lured him to a location in the community to celebrate the achievement. The source said that after

Ajayi, alongside the suspect and some other persons, left for the location, the victim was never seen again. Ajayi's family, while lamenting over his whereabouts, were said to have reported a case of a missing person at the nearest police station. However, investigations into Ajayi's disappearance in the community reportedly led to the arrest of one of his friends who gave useful information as to what happened to him. The source revealed that after the suspect allegedly killed Ajayi, he went away with his car, adding that on Monday, he took policemen to his house, and showed them the location where he buried Ajayi's corpse. However, some youths who were angered by the development, started vandalising the suspect's house after the police exhumed Ajayi's corpse.



Alkali

NEWS

NAF moves to curb child terrorism, exploitation

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

IN a bid to curb child terrorism and exploitation in Nigeria, the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Oladayo Amao has pledged the support of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) to the Nigerian Children's Parliament in its quest to minimize the vulnerability of children and protecting them against all forms of terrorism.

This was said in a statement issued to journalists recently in Abuja by Edward Gabkwet, Air Commodore Director of Public Relations and Information Nigerian Air Force.

Air Marshal Amao stated this while playing host to the Federal Capital Territory representative of the Nigerian Children's Parliament, Miss Splendour Joe-King and members of her entourage at the NAF Headquarters, Abuja.

While appreciating Miss Joe-King for her efforts, Air Marshal Amao stated that the timing of her project, which seeks to transform the lives of vulnerable children could not have come at a better time considering the myriads of security challenges and other sensitive issues confronting Nigeria as a nation.

According to him, 'It is commendable that as a young lady, you have focused your attention on helpless children bearing in mind that sustenance of peace is key to nation building.' He went on to advise Miss Joe-King to look beyond her current focus on assisting school-attending children but to also focus on out-of-school children and women who according to him, bear the brunt of conflicts and are more vulnerable to being recruited as terrorists.

Air Marshal Amao further urged that the awareness campaign initiated should be intensified especially in rural communities to educate school children on the implications



Amao

and effects of child terrorism and other social vices. He also promised to inculcate the peace club initiative in all NAF Schools nationwide, stating, "I will also lend my voice to yours on the best way possible in the fight against child terrorism."

Earlier, Ambassador Joe-King, who also doubles as a National Peace Ambassador and the representative of the Federal Capital Territory Nigerian Children's Parliament, stated that her ongoing campaign, "Nigerian Children Call for Peace Project" aims at propagating the doctrine of peace, unity and sustainable development in Nigeria, as well as the establishment of Peace Clubs in schools across the country.

The initiative, according to her, intends to mainstream children into peace development and peace building to achieve a zero violent society. Miss Joe-King added that the urgent need to integrate terrorism education into the curriculum of primary

and secondary schools was her inspiration for writing a book titled, 'Effects of Terrorism on Children'.

She noted that the book was an opportunity to educate and carry all children along on matters concerning terrorism. According to her, the book will inculcate positive ideas in children and youths because they are an integral part in the fight against terrorism.

She then solicited for NAF support and encouragement for the campaign to succeed and make remarkable impact towards national development.

Ambassador Splendour Joe-King, who is 16 years old, is a human rights advocate for the National Human Rights Commission and an award holder of the Duke of Edinburgh International Award for Young People.

She is also an author having published a book titled, 'Effects of Terrorism on Children', at the age of 9 years. Currently, she is the lead convener of the Nigerian Children Call for Peace Project.

started from the council's secretariat was agog with women trying to register their support for Governor Abdullahi Sule administrations in Nasarawa and endorse his second term bid in office come 2023, general election.

Adalci Women Empowerment Foundation is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) specialized in training women on different skills acquisition across Nasarawa State.

The founder and CEO of Adalci Women Empowerment Foundation, Hajiya Hauwa Abdullahi Ardo stated that the solidarity match was in support of Governor Sule's continuity in office to enable him consolidate on the recent achievements recorded in the last three years in office,

On his part the Executive Chairman Karu LGA, Hon James Thomas assured them

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

TWO persons simply identified as, Amodu and Attah were killed at Ika-ogboyaga in Ankpa Local Government of Kogi State as a result of mining site collapse that occurred in the area. Following the incident, the Kogi State government has ordered a probe of the mining

Two die as mining site collapses

site that collapsed. Reacting to the development, the state Commissioner for Solid Minerals and Natural Resources, Bashiru Gegu, in a statement, said the ministry had directed the total stoppage of illegal mining in the state following the death of the victims on Saturday. Gegu said government was

worried by the activities of some unknown operators at various mining sites in the state, adding that miners should register with the government as failure to do so would attract sanctions. He also said the deceased victims had been buried in accordance with Islamic rites.

75th Birthday: Senator donates foodstuff to Orphanage

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SENATOR Tunde Ogbeha and Chief Mrs Esther Ogbeha has donated food stuff worth millions of naira to the Ministry of Mercy, (MOM) Orphanage, along Okene-Lokoja road in Kogi State. The distinguished senator who represents Kogi West in the National Assembly made the donation as part of activities lined up for his 75th birthday. Presenting the foodstuff to the orphanage, Senator Ogbeha said, he would forever be grateful to God Almighty for life and good health. The former lawmaker and his wife who were represented by the Managing Director, Confluence Cable Network, Mr Simbabi Ogbena, promised to always put smiles in the faces of the less privileged in the

leave everything behind on earth. "The wealth is supposed to be administered to the people, and it is our responsibility to help the less privileged. My message is not just to the well to do alone. Everybody can show kindness. You don't really need money to come to this orphanage. "In fact, what is priceless is just coming here to show love to the children, that you care and make them understand that they are not abandoned. Why God has blessed us is not for us to hoard it, but to be

generous" he stressed. Monday Alidu, who represented the management of the orphanage in receiving the food items thanked Senator Tunde Ogbeha and his wife for always reaching out to the orphanage when they are in need. The elated children in the orphanage all prayed for Senator Tunde Ogbeha, wishing him long life, prosperity and good health. Items distributed to the orphanage include bags of garri, vegetable oils, rice, noodles, tubers of yam, toiletries, fruit juice and many more.



Ogbeha

Boko Haram could be regrouping

From GYANG PAM, Yola

ADAMAWA State Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri has expressed fears that the Boko Haram sect could be regrouping in the state.

that his government and that of Engr Abdullahi Sule would continue to support women through skills acquisition and empowerment to enable them become supporting pillars to their families. He congratulated the recent graduands on the skills acquired urging them to be good ambassadors of the Karu LGA and the state.

Police Commission raises eyebrows over recruitment exercise

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Police Service Commission has raised eyebrows over a report in a publication of the Nigeria Police Force with regard to the 2022 Constable Recruitment exercise.

According to a statement signed by the Head, Press and Public Relations, Ikechukwu Ani recently, the Commission wishes to state that all contending issues around the exercise will be resolved between the two

He made this known recently when the new Brigade Commander of the 23rd Armoured Brigade, Brigadier General Mohammed Jibrin visited his office.

According to the Governor, security Agencies are monitoring the development adding that the group was alleged to be planning cells in Gombi and Maiha Local Government Areas of the State.

He urged the new Brigade Commander to be ready to deal with the situation by helping the State in

-Fintiri

addressing the situation. Fintiri said, he was confident the new Commander would use his wealth of experience in handling the situation.

In his response, the new Commander said he was already familiar with the state since this is his second coming.

Brigadier Mohammed is taking over from Brigadier General A.M. Garba.



Fintiri

Chairman, AWEF embark on Sule endorsement walk

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

Executive Chairman Karu LGA, Hon James Thomas, has joined Adalci Women Empowerment Foundation in a solidarity match in support of H.E Engr

Abdullahi Sule second term bid in office come 2023.

The solidarity match which



Thomas

NEWS

Unknown persons murders youth corper

From GYANG PAM, Yola

ADAMAWA State Police Command says it is still investigating the mysterious murder of a Youth Corper Samaila Awudu 28 who was recently brutally murdered by unknown persons. According to Police spokesman Superintendent of Police Suleiman Nguroje, no stone will be left unturned to fish out the perpetrators of the dastardly act that took place at the Yolde Pate Corpers, Lodge in Yola, the Adamawa State Capital.

The deceased was said to have been locked up by his assailants and making it difficult for his colleagues to break in.

Samuel Awudu who hails from Takum in Taraba State was already looking forward to completing his service so as to join his parents for a re-union.

The spokesman of the Police disclosed that when his body was discovered, he was still alive and was therefore rushed to a hospital accompanied by the State Commissioner of



Fintiri

Police C.P. Akande but unfortunately, he gave up the ghost before any help could reach him.

Dennis Jingi the NYSC Director in-charge of Adamawa expressed shock at the development and disclosed that something would be done to protect Corpers. According to the NYSC

boss, this is the first time this was happening and assures it would never happen again and urged the family of the deceased to have the fortitude to bear the loss.

Some of his friends told our correspondent they were saddened by the development.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SHERIA in Bassa Local Government Area of Kogi State came under heavy attack in the early hours of Tuesday as men disguised in military fatigues attacked the community, setting houses and shops ablaze.

Following the development, the Kogi State Police Commissioner, CP Edward Egbuka, told Our Correspondent that the command had deployed men of the command to the area to restore normalcy. Our Correspondent reports that young men disguised in military camouflage entered Sheria through Biroko axis and started shooting sporadically and burning houses as residents scammed for safety. The report further indicated that most of the shops by the road side in Sheria town were burnt down.

The number of human casualties is yet to be ascertained as of the time of filing this report. It was noted that in the last one week, there has been reports of renewed hostilities between the Igburra Mozum and Bassa ethnic tribes in Bassa Local Government Area.

Houses, shops set ablaze at Sheria community



Akali

The Police Public Relations officer, SP William Aya, confirmed the recent attack, saying that calm had returned to the troubled community.

He added that policemen from Lokoja and the DPO Anyigba, including

operatives of sister security agencies had been drafted to the embattled community to restore peace, stressing that normal business activities had since returned to the area.

Rotary club applauded for humanitarian services

By DUMAH RANDONG

ROTARY Club, District 9125 has been applauded for their humanitarian services especially to the less

privileged in the society. Governor Simon Lalong stated this when the Governor, Rotary club

District 9125, Dr. Goddy Nnadi who led other members on a courtesy visit to the Governor at Government House, Rayfield, Jos, recently.

Governor Simon Lalong explained that Rotary as an organization has made its mark globally by adding value to the less privileged in the society.

Represented by the Deputy Governor, Professor Sonni Tyoden, the Governor noted that the organization which brought people from different background irrespective of their religion or ethnic group, charged them to always spread the message of peaceful coexistence amongst the people.

The Governor assured them that his administration would supplement their efforts to extend their humanitarian services to other local Government areas in the State.

Earlier, the Governor Rotary Club, District 9125, covering 23 states including Abuja, Dr Goddy said their organization's core

mandate was to address challenges and improve the wellbeing of the people. Rotarian Nnadi also said their organization planted over 3,000 trees in the state to cushion the effect of climate change.

He enumerated some areas of their intervention to include building of toilets, provision of boreholes, and maternal health care among others.

The District 9125 governor however sought government cooperation to provide more assistance to people of the country Acting Comptroller and Coordination of zone C Bauchi, Ibrahim Baburu explained that they were in the state for their Zonal Conference and appreciated the plateau state Government for providing the state command with three Hilux and KVA Generator which has assisted them immensely in carrying out their duties. Mr. Baburu noted that carrying out their duties at the border with other sisters agency and requested for more logistics for surveillance and access road leading to the command in Jos.

Security Trust Fund assures residents of safety of lives

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Executive Chairman, Hon. Samari Teina Abdulmalik, Kogi State Security Trust Fund (KSSTF) has assured residents of the state of adequate security of lives and properties as it celebrates its 10th anniversary. Abdulmalik gave the assurance in a statement made available to journalists on Thursday in Lokoja, to mark the Agency's 10th Anniversary.

According to him, the agency was established by the KSSTF Act of 2012, which strives to acquire and deploy security equipments materials and financial resources for the

effective functioning of all Federal, State, Local Government and other security agencies operating in the state.

He stressed that KSSTF was created to response to the operational deficiency of the various security agencies within the state, particularly with respect to equipping and provision of modern equipment.

Abdulmalik said that the agency's success had been fuelled in the last decade by collaboration with security agencies to enforce its mandate of securing the environment. He highlighted the key role of individuals, groups, communities, organisations and other units that constitute the state to

public security. He noted that through the impact of government and other relevant stakeholders, the crime rate in the state had progressively declined in the recent years.

The executive chairman emphasised that Kogi of today had become safer for residents to carry out their lawful daily activities without any fear.

He described the public security as fundamental for enhancing good governance, socio-economic growth and development in every society. He called on every segment of the society to support the state government and all security agencies so as to enhance public safety in Kogi.

He urged individuals, corporate bodies, religious bodies among others to donate to the fund so as to achieve its set goal of ensuring quality service delivery and improved security in the state.

While assuring citizens of Kogi of maximum security of lives and properties in the coming years, he stressed that the trust fund had contributed its quota towards protecting residents and their

investments. He noted since assumed office, the security agency in the state had been passionate about serving the people in its area of mandate.

He highlighted the agency's achievements under his watch to include the procurement of vehicles for security agencies as well as motorcycles to enhance the operation of local hunters in the state.

He added his administration was also instrumental in the proposed ICT driven intelligence gathering of the state by Hytera and partners.

"In addition, the trust fund under my leadership has been able to refurbish operational vehicles for security agencies as well as commenced plans for the establishment of a central logistics base as mandated by the Enabling Law," he said.

He said that the present fight against crime cannot be obtained without the active involvement, participation and support of every section of the society.

He, therefore enjoined individuals, groups, communities, organisations and other units that constitute the state to report unusual activities to the relevant authorities.



Bello



Lalong

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Crude oil theft as economic sabotage

Continued from Page 10

and escaped the eagle eyes of the security agencies on the Nigerian waters. That national embarrassment did not escape the scrutiny of the National Assembly.

In a reaction, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon Ndudi Elumelu, said: "The Minority Caucus is disturbed by reports of alleged complicity by certain corrupt government officials as evinced in the clandestine entrance and berthing of a 3-million-barrel capacity super tanker, MV. Heroic Idun in Nigerian waters to criminally load millions of barrels of stolen crude oil from our country."

"Such reported complicity is also evidenced in the failure of the Nigerian authorities to effectively intercept and arrest the criminal tanker and its crew, which successfully left the Nigerian waters only to be apprehended by the Equatorial Guinea Navy.

"This shocking development underscores the massive sleaze in our nation's oil and gas sector under the APC administration, with consequential crippling effect on our overall national economy and social well-being.

"It is indeed disturbing that under the APC administration, according to official reports, oil thieves are having a field day stealing up to 400,000 barrels of crude oil every day. This amounts to a daily siphoning of about \$40m (given the current average global oil price of around \$100 a barrel) accrued revenue meant for the well-being of Nigerians.

"The Minority Caucus, standing with Nigerians, demands for an immediate, independent and open investigation into the issue of oil theft in the country with particular reference to the circumstances that facilitated the reported illegal operation by MV Heroic Idun as well as its escape from our waters.

"Who granted the vessel entrance into the Nigerians water? Who granted it facilities to illegally berth and pump stolen crude oil? What circumstances facilitated its escape from the Nigerian waters? Who is the vessel working for and who are those behind the illegal operation? Were the queries put forward?

The sophisticated process of oil theft

The **Wikipedia** did capture the definition, process and methods of oil theft. It says: Oil theft in Nigeria is considered to be the illegal appropriation of crude or refined oil products from the pipelines of multinational oil companies. Oil theft in Nigeria is facilitated by the pragmatic co-operation between security forces, militia organizations, the local population, and oil company employees who use a variety of methods to steal oil from the multinational oil corporations that are stationed within the



Nigeria refinery

country.

Currently, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Statoil, Shell, and Agip are the five largest multinational oil companies present in Nigeria. Due to the lack of federal oversight and a large network of corruption, oil theft is primarily cellular rather than hierarchical and requires frequent collaboration between a varieties of random players depending on the level of oil theft being committed. Each group maintains a specific role in the oil theft trade in Nigeria.

The methods of oil theft include hot-tapping and cold-tapping. They are extremely sophisticated methods of oil theft and are primarily used in large-scale operations during the crude oil stage. Terminal and vehicle transportation theft involves the re-appropriation of both crude and refined oil products from storage facilities during the process of export transportation.

During the process of hot-tapping, an illegal secondary pipeline belonging to oil theft criminals is attached to a high-pressure primary pipeline belonging to a multinational corporation. After this breach is successful, oil is diverted from the primary pipeline into mobile oil bunkering facilities that are attached to the secondary pipeline. By gradually withdrawing small amounts of oil, the primary pipeline is able to function at an almost normal pressure and can remain undetected by oil corporation officials. Although a gradual amount must be withdrawn, the pressure within a pipeline is substantial enough for a transport barge to be filled with thousands of metric tons of oil within a few hours. Hot-tapping is considered to be extremely dangerous and complex.

In the process of cold-tapping, a portion of a pipeline is blown up

and a secondary pipeline is attached to the shut-down primary pipeline. After the primary pipeline is repaired, the existence of the secondary pipeline's access to the oil flow is unknown since the overall pipeline pressure will not fluctuate. Cold-tapping is considered to be less dangerous.

There is also the terminal and vehicle transportation theft. Although oil theft is common during the initial stages of the oil production process, theft is rampant at the port terminals where crude and refined oil products await shipment to international locations and during the transportation of oil products from corporate facilities. In export terminal theft, administrative collusion and security force corruption facilitate the siphoning of oil shipment reserves into criminal fuel trucks. In turn, these fuel trucks are used to transport illegal oil products for sale in neighboring African countries where the price for oil is substantially higher than the subsidized rates in Nigeria. Since oil corporations do not have oil meters at the source of production and since they are only present at export facilities, there is a lack of oversight into managing the initial value of oil that was produced by the multinational oil corporations.

Oil theft in Nigeria requires the effective collaboration between a variety of participants and the maintenance of their individual functions which are essential to committing theft. According to **Wikipedia**, the participants include: Military and security forces, militant organisations, resident oil company authorities and the local population.

A last ditch effort by government to salvage the situation

Considering the dare consequence of oil theft on the

economy which is quite ailing now, the federal government had to revert back to the policy of securing oil pipelines using ex militant leaders of the Niger Delta. That was what gave rise to the now controversial award of contract to Government Ekpemupolo, also known as Tompolo.

The irony of the whole thing is that it was the same government that revoked the contract of Tompolo in 2016 that has now found it necessary to award him contract to guard our oil assets. What must have gone wrong and why this time? These are the questions in the lips of Nigerians.

The **Sunday Standard** investigation shows that the likes of Minister of State for Petroleum, Timipre Silva, Group Managing Director, NNPC, Mele Kyari and Chief of Defence Staff, Lucky Irabor were instrumental to Tompolo getting the contract to guard the country's oil assets. They were able to convince Mr. President that because of Tompolo's mastery of the Niger Delta terrain, he was the most qualified for the contract.

But in order to understand why we are where we are now as far as oil theft is concerned, we would need to go back to recent history.

The President of a Niger-Delta group, Voice of Burutu People, VoBP, Felix Okpe, while speaking with Vanguard, hinted why government decided to use Tompolo against oil thieves. He said: "High chief Government Owezide Ekpemupolo Alia Tompolo is a trust worthy son in the Niger Delta, the people in the region have great respect for him because of his stand for the truth and his desire to liberate the people from marginalization."

"Former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan awarded the oil pipeline surveillance job in Delta state to Tompolo in 2014, and he immediately swung into action to stop all oil thieves in the state. Oil

companies operating in the state regained total stability in their oil production.

"Unfortunately, when President Mohammed Buhari took over from Jonathan in 2015, he misunderstood the good intention of Tompolo for the region, terminated the contract and declared him wanted and thereafter, Niger Delta Avengers emerged to disrupt oil production in the region by vandalizing oil pipeline and gas facilities.

"The problem lingered for about two years and the government directed the military personnel to safeguard oil pipelines. Today, those who promised to safeguard oil pipelines and very distinguished personalities in the country are directly involved in oil bunkering.

"Consequent upon this, the oil and gas production rate fell drastically, and the federal government has no other option than to borrow money to survive because crude oil is the main source of income in Nigeria.

"The federal government has made many attempts to beg High Chief Government Owezide Ekpemupolo, alias Tompolo to come to their aid because oil production is falling every day due to oil thieves and bunkering.

"Tompolo, because of what he went through in this present administration refused to listen to the federal government but being a patriotic citizen, he, recently accepted the offer and federal government awarded the pipeline surveillance contract job to him again.

"The reason is that only Tompolo has the capability to curtail oil thieves in the Niger Delta because he is tested and trusted," he said.

Meanwhile, according to the report, NNPC Limited had entered into collaboration with the Nigerian Navy, the European Union and other security agencies to tackle issue of crude oil theft, which according to findings have started yielding results, saving the country the theft of N25bn worth of crude oil.

The collaboration was launched on April 1 through 'Operation Dakatar Da Bararrwo.' Figures released showed that 23,110,102.59 litres of diesel had been seized while crude oil was put at 39,664,420.16 litres or 230,882.73 barrels.

For kerosene, about 649,775.38 litres were confiscated; while PMS had recovery of 345,000.49 litres, Sludge 380,000 litres, and LPFO 66,000 litres.

However, despite the modest successes recorded and the current strategies put in place, it remains to be seen how this stubborn cartel would be broken and sanity returned to the "treasure base of the nation".

METRO-FOCUS

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

Extra lesson or extra burden

It is fundamental to human and national development that basic education learning brings growth and development, as well ensure intellectual capacity development. Education is an embodiment of moral and attitudinal change which also affects how one relates with others around one.

Every child is entitled to have a qualitative and sound education for a more promising prospect. The basic education initiative was designed to ensure that adequate and qualitative education is directed towards achieving child development in formal education learning.

Education plays a vital part in the life of everyone. In receiving proper education, it affects the physical, mental and social well-being by offering a better life and a sense of humor.

Education is not just a means for personal development. It is also hugely important for global society and has so many far-reaching benefits

Today, many parents are seemingly desperate to turn their children into geniuses. And to them, the best way to achieve this is to engage the kids in full-time learning. Most of them do that by over burdening their children with extra classes which gobble up their leisure time.

METRO FOCUS observes that it has become a tradition that most parents engage their children in extra lessons, while schools are in session and on holidays.

Vacation classes tend to steal more from the proper brain development of a child. Many schools now organise extra lessons for their pupils in the name of meeting up with the school curriculum.

Most parents these days, due to the nature of their job, would want to have their children engage in after school lessons. This is usually for selfish reasons because they are mostly not at home and would want them to be engaged.

However, there is nothing wrong with engaging the kids with extra lessons. But when it becomes too much, it is wrong. When it gets to be too much for the kids.

On this note, METRO FOCUS sought out opinions of parents as regards extra lessons for their children.

An education consultant in Jos, Mr Frank Balogun, frowned at the way parents are over burdening their children with too many lessons programmes, all in the name to educate and train up their minds. He said that any school which engages pupils, students in extra classes after normal school hours is condemning itself for not doing enough. They have done nothing, rather than collecting money and doing nothing during the school hours. The question is that, what have the teachers been doing since in the morning to school closing time?

Balogun observed that the number of days, and duration,



of home lessons should be drastically reduced to enable the children have time to play and rest.

"If you want a child to have lessons at home, it should not be more than two, three times a month. And it should not exceed more than one hour. The home lesson is just to check what the child has done in school and to also assess the performance of that child in subjects that the child needs to be improved upon," he said.

The education consultant added that there are many ways you can help, encourage and support your child's brain development through learning other vocational skills during the holidays. Vocations like soap making, baking of cake, sewing etc, he said.

Mrs Rhoda Zamani, a parent, observed that many parents engage their kids in marathon extra lessons just because they are away at work and want their children to be occupied in their absence. They don't care to know which kind of knowledge is being impacted to their children.

She stressed that most parents of nowadays, because of the nature of their job, want to have their children engaged in after-school lessons because they will not be at home and therefore, want them to be engaged, pending when they would be back for the day

"It is wrong when it gets to be too much, for the children brain to bear in terms of their growth and development capacity. Children are not allowed to grow according to their age, ability and are not being well-grounded in the moral way of their upbringing in the society".

Needless to say that extra lessons are fast becoming a



norm in the Nigerian school system, as many parents and schools are incorporating such method as part of the education system.

Extra-lesson is teaching and learning beyond the conventional classroom arrangement. It involves a more deliberate and in-depth focus on a subject matter already discussed in the classroom.

Mrs Martha Gora advised that extra-lessons, classes should be only for the students in exit classes while preparing to write their common entrance examinations into secondary schools or writing the West Africa Examination Council (WAEC).

She pointed out that this will enable the students to cover topics that were not treated during the school session. But today most of the extra lessons

being done are only after raising money not impacting the required knowledge to the students or kids.

Despite extra lessons, students are involved in exams malpractice every day, while the education system in the country is dwindling and little effort is being put to salvage the situation.

Some parents pointed out that extra lessons can be exhausting and sometimes boring because the children would have been tired from the routine classes and need to rest. Adding that most students pay little attention because they are already tired having stayed through school hours.

To this end, researches have shown that the brain of a child could be improved in areas of their interest in vocation skills training that can be acquired

during holidays or leisure time.

Adding value to your children's education is very important, but it should be done in the right proportion that would balance their intellectual capacity.

Keeping your child productive during holiday translates to parents allowing their children to learn some skills during the holiday that would add value to their learning process

Children should be allowed to play and enjoy themselves and learn new things during the holiday. Parents should also seize the opportunity to help their children achieve their potentials in life by allowing them learn step by step as they grow.

Extra lessons should not be a burden to the children, rather it should be an avenue to learn more new things of interest.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

PLATEAU NUJ INTERFACE WITH POLITICIANS

The Nigeria Union of Journalists, Plateau State Council on Thursday held a discourse with candidates of the different political parties in the state at the Tamarald Event Centre with the theme: Beyond Politicking: Harnessing Plateau Potentials



Prof. Nanven Gambo, Chairman of the occasion and Vice Chancellor, Karl Kumm University (left) with Prof. Pam Dung Sha, Director of Research, NIPSS and Dr. Mrs. Dung Sha



General Manager, PRTVC, Mr. Jeftha Jackden (middle) with Associate Prof. Lazarus Maigoro, ASUU, Unijos (left) and Barr. Mrs. Beatrice Dakas



L - R: Lucy Chindaba, Theresa Gofwen, Henrientta Gonzuk and Francisca Adidi



Cultural dancers entertaining dignitaries at the occasion



Representative of the Ujah Anaguta of Jos North, Chief Sunday Bulus Rogo (left) with the Director General, PLASHEMA, Dr. Fabong Jemchang



L - R: Representative of Governor Lalong, Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner of Information, representative of NUJ President, Chief Chris Isiguzo, Comrade Chris Atsaka and State Chairman, Mr. Paul Jatau



L -R: Mr. Fwenji Goar, Comrade Fwengak Yilbissa of NUPPPROW and PPC NUJ Vice Chair, Mr. Celestine Attzar



Guest speaker, Prof. Pam Dung Sha delivering power point presentation

Photos: DANLADI DUK



Road Runner
 Michael Agada
 SAFER TOGETHER
 magada122@gmail.com
 +234 803 333 5313

RRW7: SPEED

STATISTICS show that more than a quarter of motorists ignore speed limits on a consistent basis. Speed is the most common contributory factor to road traffic crashes on Nigeria's road and occurs in whopping 82% of cases. The faster you go, the less time you have to react to emergencies. The harder you hit, the greater your chances of death or serious injury. Slow down and keep a constant eye on your speedometer. It's not worth being injured or killed for the sake of five minutes haste.

WHAT'S THE HASTE?

Everyone seems to be in a hurry these days. On the average, traffic scenario on Nigeria's highways is a re-enactment of typical Lagos life. One will be forgiven for thinking that our highways were formula 1 tracks seven days a week. All for a couple of seconds and, if you are unlucky, a speed violation ticket. Lucky violators are arrested by the traffic law enforcers, the unlucky ones are arrested by crashes and may not leave to tell the story.

Vision is affected by speed, when a pedestrian wishes to move quickly through a crowded pavement, s/he concentrates mainly on picking an opening ahead, usually forgetting the immediate foreground. The result is often that they collide with other pedestrians. Likewise, the driver of a car travelling at speed. S/he is inclined to focus observation too far ahead and to overlook conditions in their immediate foreground. Consequently, drivers will not be on the alert for dangers that may suddenly confront them. When road speed has to be kept low owing to traffic conditions, focal point naturally shortens and the driver observes greater details rather than at faster speed.

SKILL

Every driver has his or her limit when it comes to speed. This is the highest speed at which they feel safe and comfortable in a given situation. Drivers should know their limits and not exceed it. Speed should always be related to the amount of road that can be seen to be clear. Also, when in a built-up area with speed limit of either 40 to 50km/h one must observe that these limits are the maximum

permissible by law, taking into account the time of the day- they may not be the safest and reduce speed accordingly. Always drive at a safe distance from the vehicle in front. As a guide for normal driving condition, one yard per kilometer per hour is recommended. In built-up areas at speed below 40km/h, such distances are impracticable if traffic flows are to be maintained. In such circumstances below 40km/h a minimum distance of a foot per kilometer per hour is apt.

CHARACTERISTICS

Every driver should know the braking characteristics of the vehicle they are driving, they should be conversant with the table of stopping distances and be able to relate them to the vehicle and the road they are driving on. Always remember that when speed is doubled, stopping distance is quadrupled. When it comes to wet or greasy conditions, braking distance greatly increases. Braking distance is the distance that a vehicle travels while slowing to a complete stop. Incorporate braking distances plus reaction to give overall stopping distance. In other words, thinking distance plus braking distance equals to stopping distance. As a guide to visualizing distance, it is worth remembering that length of an average car is about 15 feet. Therefore, 75 feet will be roughly five car lengths. Speed thrills but kills. The most important measure is to reduce present speed.

Other measures which seem to be very cost effective include:

Road re-engineering by widening narrow roads, adding more lanes, erecting speed bumps in built-up areas etc.

Providing dedicated/special lanes to articulated vehicles or heavy-duty trucks and tankers, tricycles, overhead bridges to clear traffic gridlocks, pedestrian bridges to safeguard vulnerable road users.

Relocation of troublesome roundabouts like Polo roundabouts in Jos or constructing fly-overs across such black spots.

Constant clearing of obstructions and stiffer penalties for road obstructions.



NEWS

Constituents pour eoniums on representative

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

SENATOR I. D. Gyang recently played host to the people of Vwang District, Jos South Local Government who came on a thank you visit to express their gratitude for the commendable impact of his representation on their community. In a statement by Precious K Nyako it said the high-powered delegation comprised the Traditional Council, community leaders and illustrious sons and daughters of the district.

Chairman of Vwang Development Association, Da. Jonah Choji Goru, poured out the heart of the delegation to the Senator, thanking him immensely for positively impacting the community.

He said, "we are proud and commend you for being a voice in the National Assembly. We also thank you for identifying and standing with Vwang and ensuring real democracy dividend in our community among which are; of 90 shops rural market, Vwang, Installation of street lights at Farin Lamba, Turu, Co-sponsoring Vwang new year festival for two consecutive years, active involvement in facilitating the coronation of Gwom Chugwi, Vwang. Facilitating employment opportunities for some of our youths. Direct intervention in resolving the impasse on Karl Khum University. Providing empowerment for youth, women and widows and scholarships for students.

In his remarks, Da Davou Y. Nyango, an elder from Vwang said, "You distinguished yourself so well that you became Plateau's voice in the Senate. We are deeply pained that the primaries were not favorable but only accept it as the will of God. We commend the maturity with which you responded and handled the outcome."

Ngo Elizabeth Lowang-BEWDA President Vwang, in her remarks said the Women



of Vwang are boasting over the market because they now have a conducive environment for their trading activities.

Mr. Emmanuel John Mangu, the BYM President of Vwang, described the Senator as a father, mentor and role model to the youths. He described him as a reputable and high-performing Senator.

Da Gyang Dudu, BECO President Worldwide, who was present in his capacity as a Vwang stakeholder said of the Senator; "You delivered well on your assignment in the Senate and have become a notable politician with national profile. Anybody requiring something more than what you have remarkably accomplished is simply being mischievous."

His royal highness Da Gyang Balak - the Dagwom Rwei Vwang, showered encomiums on the Senator for impacting the entire constituency of Plateau North, Vwang in particular with credible representation and indelible projects. He expressed the view that development politics which Senator Gyang epitomizes should be celebrated and emulated.

Responding, Senator Gyang thanked the royal father and

the Vwang community for their kind words and encouraging remarks. He said that he was overwhelmed by their show of love.

He commended the unity of purpose, enterprising spirit and resilience of the people of Vwang which was worthy of emulation.

He further stated that the rural markets he built across Plateau North among many other projects, were a deliberate strategy at stimulating the local economy and enhancing household income in addition to instilling the culture of trading and enterprise.

He assured the delegation of his hope in God for a better and brighter future even as he appreciated the avalanche expression of goodwill messages and solidarity visits towards him across the state and beyond.

On the entourage were Gwom Chugwi, Gwom Turu, Gwom Fwil. Others are Ngo Esther Dauda Dung - BEWDA National Secretary, Arc. Gabriel Sunday- immediate past BYM President, Da Davou Y. Nyango - Chairman, Vwang Patriotic Minds, Barr. Weng Emmanuel, among many others.

Presidential candidate booted by aggrieved members

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THE New Nigerian Peoples Party Presidential Candidate, Engineer Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso was recently booted and pelted with sachet water and pebbles by aggrieved members, supporters of the party in Lokoja during his visit to Kogi state.

Members and supporters of the party have also vowed to resist Kwankwaso's move to hand over the party to the late Prince Abubakar Audu's faction of the All Progressives Congress (APC). "The Party Excocs and members have vowed to resist his sinister motives to hand over the party structure to the elements of APC faction loyal to late Prince Abubakar Audu"

It took his security details hectic time to sandwich him into Edge Drive Hotel in

Lokoja, to save him from angry youths who were determined to deal ruthlessly with him.

The NNPP Presidential Candidate who had visited Ogbonicha, the country home of late Prince Abubakar Audu, returned to Lokoja to meet a hostile reception by another faction of the NNPP, who felt the Presidential Candidate was giving prominence to the late Prince Audu's faction of the NNPP over and above members of the new NNPP in the state.

The members who spoke to newsmen, lamented that having waited since the early hours of the morning in lokoja, the Presidential

Candidate abandoned them for the NNPP faction in the former late Governor's country home whom they claimed are still members of the APC.

The NNPP Presidential Candidate who arrived in a motorcade with few supporters was shouted down by the supporters. Efforts to pacify them didn't go down well, following the throwing of sachet water and stones at the Presidential Candidate.

It took the efforts of security men who whisked him to a popular hotel in the city capital for safety.

A media aide of the Presidential Candidate who identified himself as Musa Yunusa, described the action of the supporters as normal in politics. He described Kogi as home to the Presidential Candidate.

NEWS

Police arrests thug for attacking vigilante

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

Bauchi State Police Command has arrested 22 thugs who attacked and wounded some members of vigilante within the metropolis.

Police Public Relations Officer of the Command, SP Mohammed Wakil who made this known in a press release Thursday said, the incident occurred on 30th August, 2022.

Wakil said that the Police got intelligence report on 30/08/2022 at about 1300hrs that on the same date at about 1235hrs that some group of notorious thugs attacked members of Peace and Security Committee Bakin Kura office.

According to him, the thugs who were armed with cutlasses, knives, sticks and other dangerous weapons, mercilessly inflicted serious injuries on some vigilante members.

Those injured according to the PPRO are; Danladi Suleiman, 32yrs-old and Yakubu Ibrahim, 42yrs-old.

He said, on receiving the information, a team of detectives led by the Commander Rapid Response Squad (RRS) responded swiftly and succeeded in arresting 22 male suspects.

SP Wakil said the suspects are; Aliyu Adamu 'm' alias (U'U) aged 15yrs of Bakaro, Ukasha Abubakar 'm' alias (Ukasha Yaro) aged 20yrs-old of Kofar Mukaddas and Abdulmalik Abdullahi 'm' alias (Abba Juga) 18yrs of Kandahar,

Nura Inuwa 'm' alias (yellow) aged 17yrs of Bakaro,

Umar Abdullahi 'm' alias Faruq aged 18yrs of Malan Goje, Mohammed Mohammed Koli alias (Uncle) aged 18yrs, Umar Sulaiman



Alkali

alias (Babaji) aged 23yrs, Ibrahim Idris alias (Iri) aged 15yrs and Kabiru Shehu 'm' aged 14yrs.

The rest, the PPRO said include; Musa Usman alias (Maidawa) aged 14yrs, Buhari Sani alias (Di Maria) aged 18yrs, Aliyu Yakubu alias (Ali Luta), Isah Nuhu alias (Halacci), Abdulsamat Aliyu alias (Maikaji) Muhammad Umar alias (Dan wasa), Aliyu Adamu Aliyu alias (Remo), Abubakar Adamu alias (Habule), Mujahid Abdullahi alias (James), Ibrahim Yunusa alias (Dan-mama), Mubarak Ismail alias (Dangongo), Abdullahi Garba 'm' alias (Dan Alhaji) and Khalid Kabiru 'm' alias (Abba) aged 21yrs.

Exhibits recovered from the suspects, the PPRO said are; three knives, two cutlasses and two sticks.

He said one of the suspects, Ibrahim Inusa 'm' (Dan Mama) was during investigation found to have been in possession of one sharp animal horn, one knife, one block of green leaves

suspected to be cannabis, 83 pieces of suspected diazepam (D5 tablet) and 138 yellow tablets suspected to be diazepam (D5).

Wakil who said all suspects have confessed to the crime, noted that the Commissioner of Police in the state, Umar Mamman Sanda has directed that the suspects be charged to court.

He added that the CP also directed that a special operation be mounted to protect citizens, especially in this period.

The PPRO said, in line with the CP's directive, coordinated patrols and surveillance would be carried out at a strategic locations across the State to ensure that any criminal element is apprehended and de-mobilized without collateral damage on the citizens.

CP Sanda appealed to the law-abiding citizens to be more vigilant and promptly report any suspicious movement or attitude within their locations to the nearest Police Station.

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ACJMC makes case for children, juveniles, others

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

ADMINISTRATION of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC) has made a case for the speedy trial of cases involving juveniles, illiterates, Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and children in conflict with the law and Persons Living with Disability (PLWD).

The Executive Secretary of the ACJMC, Mr Sulayman Dawodu, who made the call on also decried the poor state of juvenile holding centres in the country, which according to him, is far below international best practices.

Dawodu spoke at a one-day stakeholders' workshop on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in the Criminal Justice System, which held in Abuja.

According to him these vulnerable groups have their own unique peculiarities that must be taken into consideration while implementing the law and policies on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of their interest within the criminal justice system.

He further explained that the aim of the workshop was to raise stakeholders' awareness on the issue and set out feasible plans and practices that would bring an improvement of these vulnerable groups.

Dawodu stated that the issue of juvenile holding centres is one issue which

plagues the juvenile system in Nigeria due to the absence of adequate facilities, Dawodu called for the provision of dedicated "Youth Courts", amongst others.

"Sadly, not only cases involving adults linger for considerable period of time. Cases involving juveniles, persons living with disabilities and sexual gender-based violence offences, also linger for long periods without the cases being dispensed with," he said.

He however urged

stakeholders to ensure that the Nigerian criminal justice system is rid of all practices that make such cases linger in courts for long periods.

He added that resolutions reached and decisions taken at the workshop "would be the catalyst for an improved juvenile system in Nigeria".

Meanwhile, the executive secretary also called for the implementation of the law on the rights of persons living with disability, as well as empowerment of the Disability Commission to enable it carry out its mandate effectively.



Ehanire

Bauchi Governor presents cars to Perm. Secs

Gov. Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State recently presented 32 new Suzuki Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) to 22 Permanent

Secretaries in the state.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that other beneficiaries of the cars were the judicial officers with six cars as well as the Bauchi State Chapter of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) which received four of the vehicles.

Speaking during the presentation, the Governor said that the vehicles were meant to assist the beneficiaries in the discharge of their official responsibilities and also to serve as a catalyst for improved productivity for the benefits of the citizens of the state.

Mohammed, who lauded the judiciary for effective service delivery, also applauded the organised labour for its cordial relationship with the state government as well as making sure that neither the government nor the labour force was shortchanged.

He added that the civil service had come to a level where the state government was including it in whatever it was doing.

"A strong civil service is required for the implementation of the policies and programmes of

government for the social economic development of the state.

"It is for this reason that government used merit in the appointment of permanent secretaries.

"This initiative has brought about remarkable improvement in the service delivery in the state," he said.

Mohammed urged the permanent secretaries to continue to do their best in the discharge of their responsibilities by being upright and dedicated to duties.

"So far, I want to confess that I have seen improved productivity in the service because of the calibre of the permanent secretaries we have," Mohammed said.

In his vote of thanks, Alhaji Yahuza Haruna, the state Head of Civil Service, appreciated the state governor for the 'kind gesture' and bringing the much-needed intervention into the civil service.

He assured that the civil service would put in its best to help the administration achieve more in the state.

He however, reminded all the beneficiaries of the vehicles that to whom much is given, much is expected.

Pantami challenges Galaxy Backbone on publicity

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

Minister for Communication and Digital Economy, Prof Ali Isa Ibrahim Pantami has challenged Nigeria's broadband service provider, Galaxy Backbone on the need to intensify the publicity of its activities to Nigerians.

Galaxy Backbone, a Federal Government owned company, was set up to provide accessibility to broadband, particularly to Nigerians in both public and private sectors.

The major activity of Galaxy is to provide ICT activities, provide Internet services whether it's fibre optic or sometimes wireless services, data centre services among many others.

The Minister threw the challenge shortly after inspecting the North-East Zonal Office of the company in Gombe which is set to commence services soon.

According to him, its services had been commercialised and expanded to cover the six geopolitical zones of the country, so as to generate



Pantami

more revenue for the government.

He said, "I want to agree with you that we have to do a lot when it comes to publicity, each and every house will know what galaxy provides and this is very important.

"This is a challenge to Galaxy to increase, particularly, not only to make the publicity, but to reach out to private and public institutions to even individuals so that they will be able to patronise the service.

"I agree with you, government has been doing that in areas of publicity but its insufficient there is need for improvement in that regard", he stated while responding to questions from Journalists.

Prof Pantami then commended on what he saw in the Gombe Zonal Office saying, "the Zonal officer in charge zone, I think is very okay, its very modest but highly sufficient and that is how business is supposed to

SUNDAY SPORTS

Arsenal's transfer gamble exposed

ARSENAL fans woke up on transfer deadline day expecting to see a new midfielder arrive following Mikel Arteta's comments immediately after the 2-1 win against Aston Villa on Wednesday night.

The Gunners failed to get their deadline day target despite making multiple offers for the Aston Villa midfielder.

But instead the main action on the final day of the transfer window in north London was a midfielder moving on from the Gunners, with Ansley Maitland-Niles joining Southampton on loan for the remainder of the season.

Arsenal did try to make a late signing, with the Gunners making multiple attempts to prize Douglas Luiz away from Aston Villa - but they were left frustrated, with every offer rejected by their Premier League rivals.

There is no doubt the failure to land the Brazil international will have frustrated Arteta, who has consistently stated in recent weeks that he felt his squad was a bit short of what he believed was required.

And that was before he lost both Thomas Partey and Mohamed Elneny to injury.

"We are a bit short in that position," Arteta said after Wednesday night's game, when asked about his options in midfield.

"We have Sambu [Lokonga] and Granit [Xhaka] who can play there but we are looking at options in the market.

"The club has been super supportive to keep improving the squad and the team as much as we can, and if the right player is available and we can do it, we will try."

And they did try for Luiz, several times. But on each occasion the reply was the same - no deal!

"Villa wouldn't budge," one source told **GOAL**.

Arsenal's final bid for the 24-year-old went in about 90 minutes before Thursday night's deadline, it was believed to be around the £25 million mark.

When that was rejected, they pulled the plug for good.



Arteta

They weren't going to go any higher for a player who had less than a year left on his deal and who wasn't even under serious consideration prior to the injuries to Partey and Elneny.

Arsenal also believe Partey will be back relatively quickly from his thigh problem, with club doctors believing his spell on the sidelines will be "weeks, not months."

But despite that, there is still a feeling that the club have taken a risk once again in the transfer window.

They have made some excellent additions and the trio of new faces this season, Gabriel Jesus, Oleksandr Zinchenko and William Saliba, have improved the starting XI immensely.

But with the Europa League

starting soon, it does look like the squad has been left a little short to be able to compete on all fronts.

Jesus and Eddie Nketiah are the only real central striking options, while Bukayo Saka has no natural senior cover on the right hand side of attack following the decision to let Nicolas Pepe join Nice on loan.

They do have summer signing Marquinhos, but Arteta has yet to hand the 19-year-old his debut. Fabio Vieira, another summer signing, is also an option - but the £30m man is more suited to a central role.

That means that huge demand will once again be put on the shoulders of Bukayo Saka.

The England international has now played in each of Arsenal's last 47 Premier League games - no

Gunners player has clocked up more minutes than the winger since the start of the 2019/20 season.

So far his body has held up to those demands, but you feel that run can only go on for so long.

And if Saka were to pick up an injury, Arteta's options would be limited.

That's why the failure to bring in a winger - as well as another central midfielder - feels like a bit of a gamble.

Arsenal rolled the dice in January when they opted not to replace Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang following his move to Barcelona and it was a decision that played a big part in them missing out on the top four.

So it is a bit of a surprise to see

them end the summer window looking a little bit light again, especially as they have a European competition to contend with this season.

But club sources insist they are happy with the business they have done this summer and with the squad they have assembled.

There is an acceptance that at least one more addition would have been preferable, but they were adamant they wouldn't panic and bring someone in just for the sake of it.

Arsenal have spent the past couple of years righting the wrongs of previous transfer mistakes and are determined not to undo any of that work now, just as things are beginning to settle down after a period of such dramatic change.

In all, they signed five players this summer with goalkeeper Matt Turner joining Jesus, Zinchenko, Vieira and Marquinhos. Saliba also returned from his loan spell with Marseille to bolster the squad.

There were plenty of departures, with Hector Bellerin the final one out the door just before Thursday night's deadline when he completed his free transfer to Barcelona.

Pepe, Maitland-Niles, Bernd Leno, Lucas Torreira and Pablo Mari were all allowed to go, while Alexandre Lacazette left at the end of his contract.

Arteta has assembled a talented, young and vibrant squad that has started the new season in scintillating style - winning each of their first five Premier League games to race to the top of the table.

But with injuries already beginning to have an impact, it feels like the true test is just about to come.

What happens over the next couple of months will go a long way to determining exactly how the summer transfer window will be viewed.



Arsenal

SUNDAY SPORTS

Sociedad sign Super Eagles striker

SPANISH La Liga side Real Sociedad have confirmed the signing of Super Eagles striker Sadiq Umar from Almeria.

Newsnow said that, Umar was one of the best performers in the Laliga Smartbank last season, scoring 18 goals in 36 appearances in the run-up to Rojiblancos' Smartbank triumph.

The Super Eagles star has been one of the most consistent strikers in Spain, and he has attracted a lot of interest from some of Europe's big boys.

Villarreal, Sevilla, Borussia Dortmund, and Newcastle have all been linked to the 25-year-old hitman.

However, Real Sociedad have confirmed that they have swooped in for the Nigerian striker.

CarBall Ep.2: "Okocha's passes were underrated"

Nigerian radio presenter and entertainment broadcaster, Do2tun was on the second episode of Carball with Babajide Guerrero, where he showed his



The Super Eagles star's future has been in the balance in recent months, but now he can focus on the job ahead

knowledge of football and discussed issues around Arsenal, how he started watching football, the World Cup and what he thinks about some footballers.

The lanky forward signed for Real Sociedad on Thursday as he replaces Alexander Isak.

Newsnow said that, Sadiq has become one of La Liga's most looked-at forwards this season as he has scored two goals already.

The former Almeria man completed a €26m plus add-ons deal to Real Sociedad and impressed his countryman who was a cult hero at the club.

"Dear Sadiq, congratulations on your move to Real Sociedad. This is where legends are made, so feel at home and keep the goals coming," Mutiu Adepoju tweeted.

Adepoju played for Real Sociedad between 1996 and 2000 and scored eight league goals for them in more than eighty appearances.

Nicknamed the "headmaster" during his playing days for his unique heading ability, Adepoju also played for Real Madrid Castilla and Racing Santander.

He had his best years in Spanish football and is one of the Nigerians who impressed the most in the La Liga during their playing days.

Sadiq is expected to be slotted straight into Sociedad after waiting all season for a possible switch to Villarreal.

The former Partizan Belgrade star has made one of the highest moves of any Nigerian this season.

Fenerbahce, Cremonese join race for Super Eagles star

TURKISH giants Fenerbahce and Serie A newcomers Cremonese have joined the race to sign Watford and Super Eagles defender William Troost-Ekong.

Newsnow said that, according to Fotomac, Fenerbahce have already had an official bid rejected by Watford for Troost-Ekong.

The Canary could still return with an improved offer for the Super Eagles vice-captain as the Yellow-and-dark-blue side are in serious need of defensive reinforcement.

Title hopefuls Fenerbahce have garnered only seven points from four league games this term.

The Turkish giants are, however, not the only team interested in Troost-Ekong.

Nigerian radio presenter and entertainment broadcaster, Do2tun was on the second episode of Carball with Babajide Guerrero, where he showed his knowledge of football and discussed issues around Arsenal, how he started watching football, the World Cup and what he thinks about some footballers.

Newly-promoted Serie A campaigners Cremonese also have their eyes trained on William Troost-Ekong.

The Grey and Reds have struggled to cope with the demands of the Italian top flight. Cremonese have conceded in each of their

league matches and boast a solitary point from four matches.

And as per Il Giorno, Cremonese have contacted Watford to snap up Troost-Ekong on transfer deadline day.

Aside from Fenerbahce and Cremonese, Troost-Ekong is also reportedly attracting interest from Bologna.

Troost-Ekong is no

stranger to the Turkish Super Lig and the Italian Serie A.

The 28-year-old centre-back spent a year at Bursaspor, having joined from KAA Gent for €1.05m in 2017.

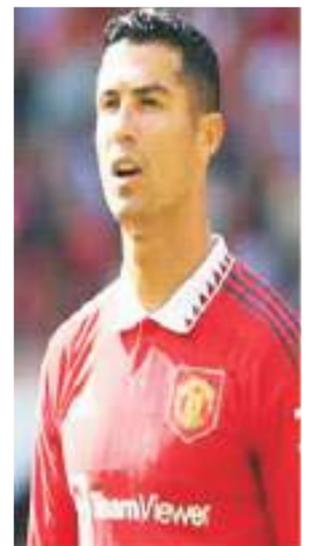
He also featured 66 times for Udinese between 2018 and 2020 before moving to England to team up with Watford.

Munich spoke with Ronaldo's agent during transfer saga

BAYERN Munich held talks with Cristiano Ronaldo's agent over a possible summer transfer but decided against signing him from Manchester United.

Goal said that, the Portuguese forward wanted to leave the Red Devils during the summer transfer window to join a club competing in the Champions League this season. Bayern were one of many options touted as a possible destination for the 37-year-old, but no move materialised and he has ended up staying at Old Trafford.

Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic confirmed to *Sky Sport* in Germany that the club held talks with Ronaldo's agent, Jorge Mendes, saying: "He's an incredibly big personality. A big player who has made his mark on the world of football in recent years. It wasn't an option for us because we were doing other things. But you don't have to feel sorry for him. He's a great footballer who has achieved great things in recent years."



Ronaldo



Troost-Ekong

Drogba reacts as Aubameyang seals Barcelona to Chelsea transfer

CHELSEA legend Didier Drogba has expressed his delight after former Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang joined the club from Barcelona.

Goal said that, the Ivory Coast legend has happy the 33-year-old agreed to join the Blues who have struggled for consistency in the Premier League.

The Blues paid the Spanish outfit £10 million (\$12m) for the services of the 33-year-old Gabonese forward. The move ended the striker's brief spell in La Liga where he featured in 18 top-tier matches, scoring 11 goals and providing an assist in the process.

Drogba has taken to his Twitter account to

congratulate the ex-Borussia Dortmund striker on the move.

"Finally! Remember the time we spoke about it years ago? Happy for you brother," the 44-year-old former Ivory Coast captain posted.

Aubameyang rejoins the Premier League where he made 128 appearances for Arsenal between 2017 and 2022 January before falling out with manager Mike Arteta and leaving for the Blaugrana. He scored 68 league goals for the North London side.

At Chelsea, the striker is expected to fill the void left by Romelu Lukaku, who made a return to Inter Milan after a disappointing season with Thomas Tuchel's team.

Aubameyang will wear jersey No. 9 at Chelsea, also worn by the bulky Belgian. In a reply to Drogba's tweet, Samak Laban Tamr Hindi said



Aubameyang

the new attacker would have inherited the legend's jersey number as opposed to the one he has been given.

"[You] should have told him

to take number 11, Didier, now we are all worried," he expressed his concern.

However, Nate had a different opinion, "I will say it now; Aubameyang will break the no.9 curse."

Baffor is already worried about the physique of the veteran forward, casting his doubt on how long he will last.

"Auba should have joined Chelsea when he was leaving Arsenal, we pray to get 2 seasons out of him," he replied.

Chelsea have started the season inconsistently and are currently 10th on the table with seven points after five matches. Aubameyang might make his debut on Saturday against West Ham United at Stamford Bridge.

Ronaldo has made just one Premier League start for United so far this season, having come off the bench in four matches. The ex-Real Madrid star was brought on after 68 minutes in both of their recent wins against Southampton and Leicester. The attacker will not be satisfied with his role as a substitute for a side not competing in the Champions League this term, so will be disappointed that his desire to leave was not fulfilled.

SUNDAY SPORTS

Lalong, Dare call for increased boost for golf

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU Governor, Simon Bako Lalong and Nigeria's Minister for youths and sports, Sunday Dare have called on stakeholders to participate in boosting the game of golf for economic gains.

They threw the challenge to over 70 Golf Captains, stakeholders and sports enthusiasts Thursday, during the first Nigeria Golf Federation Summit for Captains at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers Abuja.

Lalong told the Captains at the 3-day forum to use the opportunity to brainstorm on ways to bring the game of golf to the front burner, like other sports, to make it become a major money making spinner, just as it is done in foreign countries.

He commended the organisers for conceiving the idea to create such a forum that brings golf and sports enthusiasts together to brainstorm the future of golf in the country.

He said golf plays a key role in the state and country because of its economic, and tourism potentials. He stated that his state Plateau has now become a major hub for golf game in the country and at the international level.

He challenged the captains to use the forum and their technical sessions to brainstorm, network on how to synergize ideas by challenging each other to improve strategies for hosting tournaments to attract national and foreign investors.

He also told the captains to use the gathering to harness the physical, social and technical, and economic aspects of golf and change the notion that it is an elitist game.

He used the forum to invite golf lovers to the yearly governors in his State Plateau, urging sports enthusiasts to come to enjoy the weather, hospitality, and tourism potentials.

He advised organisers to include a tee off for the Ladies golf tournament during the Governors cup tournament adding "We need to encourage grassroots sports. Plateau State houses the first Golf course in Nigeria, Those of you have been used to hot harsh weather should come to Jos and play golf in a cool weather that is comparable to that of foreign countries like UK".

In his remarks, Nigerian Minister for Youths and Sports, Sunday Dare said though golf is a unique game that attracts fame, global players and recognition, the game of golf had been under-funded compared to other nationally recognised games.

The Minister promised that his ministry will include more funding for golf infrastructure, tournaments, talent discovery in future sports budget stressing that there is need for golf to be an economic making venture like other sports.

The Minister of sports, who said he also a lover of golf, disclosed to the forum that he has used his office to spur and encourage young talents and young golfers, at home abroad to excell in the game.

"There are about 38 sporting federations and limited ones getting attention, but the Golf



Lalong,

Federation has not received the needed support from the sports ministry".

"I therefore promise to ensure golf gets special consideration and budgetary consideration, and we will decide the tournaments that my ministry will sponsor in the country", said Dare.

He challenged the body of golf captains to find young golfers and bring them to the sports ministry for sponsorship because according to him, "It is better to catch them young".

President Nigeria Golf Federation (NGF), Otumba Segun Runsewe lauded Governor Lalong for his love and commitment for sports.

He said such commitment to sports development has led

the governor to develop a standard golf course in his state Plateau, that attracts golf enthusiasts from within and outside the country creating job opportunities and attracting tourism.

Runsewe assured that outcomes from the summit will be a road map that will be used to boost sports and golf development in the country.

THE Nigeria Basketball Federation has condolled the family and friends of former Nigerian international, Amaka Adibeli who passed on last week.

In a statement by the NBBF President, Engr. Musa Kida, the federation described the demise of the member of the D'Tigress 2003 Afrobasket Championship as tragic which has left the basketball team in deep shock and state of mourning.

"The former First Bank captain will forever remain in our heart because we have lost an irreplaceable gem. Her career trajectory and achievements indicated that she was a true professional".

Kida described her as one of the best point guards that ever came out of Nigeria as she strode the domestic and international stage like a colossus.

"Generations to come will read about her and be inspired. She was a good example of what every girl child should be".

The late Amaka won series of gold and silver medal for the Lagos State Women Basketball team at the 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2006 National Sports Festival

NBF condolences family friends of late player

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja



Kida

At the club level, she was part of the invincible First Bank Women's team that dominated and won the Zenith Women National Basketball league from 2002 to 2009.

The former Nigerian international was part of the D'Tigress team that clinched the 2003 and 2005 Afrobasket championship titles and the 2003 All African Games gold

medal. Apart from her string of successes, she was part of the First Bank team to win the 2003 and 2009 Afrobasket Club Championships. She was appointed as First Bank's assistant coach between 2007 and 2010.

"We pray that her gentle soul finds a perfect peace in the bosom of her maker as those of us left behind deal with the vacuum left in our hearts".

Sports Ministry visits families of deceased athletes

THE Nasarawa State Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Amb. Lucky Isaac Yargwa, recently, led the

ministry, Aliyu Mohammed (Para Powerlifting) and Maria Raphael (Taekwondo) who died recently in motor accidents in Lafia.

The Commissioner also handed monetary support from the Ministry to the affected families, assuring that Government would lend more assistance to them to ease their plights.

Yargwa who said the Ministry and sports world are yet to recover from the rude shock from the devastating incidents, described the late athletes as major stakeholders as their success stories helped to validate the Governor Abdullahi Sule-led administration's unwavering commitments to youth and sports development, placing Nasarawa State on the sports map.

"Those athletes were among the best in all ramifications the state has ever produced.

"We are devastated and bewildered by the sad commentaries of their passage.

"But, who are we to question God? He owns our lives and he can take it whichever way and any day He so wishes.

"We return all glory and

honour to Him.

"However, our prayer is that we should meet God at the right time whenever he calls."

While praying for the repose of their souls in heaven, the Commissioner equally prayed God to grant the deceased families the fortitude to overcome the loss of their loved ones.

Para Power-lifting athlete, Aliyu Mohammed, died after he was knocked down by a vehicle which swerved off its path on 18th August, 2022, along Shabu-Lafia express road. Eight days later, Taekwondo medalist, Maria Raphael, after returning from a Championship in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State where she won Silver medal for Team Nasarawa, was crushed to death when the motorcycle she boarded on her way to purchase some items from a grocery store rammed into a moving truck along UAC road, Lafia.

The late Aliyu Mohammed has since been buried according to Islamic rites in Lafia but the final interment for the remains of Maria Raphael would be performed on 8th September, 2022, at Neke town, Isi-Uzo Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Abuja International Marathon sign more elite runners

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

DETERMINED to achieve its objective of becoming the first full Marathon in Nigeria to have an elite field that will run a sub 2hrs: 10 mins, the Abuja International Marathon has signed more elite runners for its inaugural race slated for December 17, 2022.

In a statement signed by Race Director Olukayode Thomas, the Abuja International Marathon Managing Director Zsuzsanna Ogunmiloye disclosed that the December 17 race will also include a 10 km fun race apart from the full marathon which will start at the City Gate and take runners through the most beautiful parts of Abuja and the 5km race for youths and children in their early teens.

According to Ogunmiloye, the newly signed elite runners are Emmanuel Naibe with a personal best of 2:08:27, Josphat Kiprop Kiptis with a personal best of 2:13:47, and Benard Sang with a personal best of 2:10:59.

They also include two women-Beatrice Cherop with a personal best of 2:31:07 and Esther Macharia with a personal best of 2:27:15.

Earlier, Ogunmiloye confirmed the signing of four gold labelled runners: two men and two women. They are Andrew Kimtai, who boasts a personal best of 2:08



32. Gilbert Masai, with a personal best of 2:09:49, and two female runners, Caroline Jephchirchir with a personal best of 2:26 and Naomi Maiyo with a personal best of 2:30.

Ogunmiloye who was in Birmingham, England for the 2022 Commonwealth to support the Team Nigeria contingent said discussions are ongoing with some elite Nigerian athletes who won medals and posted globally acclaimed records at the Commonwealth Games to be part of the Abuja International Marathon.

"The weeks leading to the Abuja International Marathon will be a celebration of the best of Nigeria sports. Apart from the Marathon Expo which starts December 1 and ends December 16, we have so many other activities which include elite athletes from

Nigeria and other parts of the world organizing clinics for pupils from schools in different parts of FCT. We are going to celebrate the best of FCT and a lot of positives about Nigeria," she said.

About 200 elite runners will participate in the Abuja International Marathon, 80 from different parts of the world and 120 from Nigeria.

"We are working closely with the High Altitude Club of Jos and other elite running clubs in Nigeria. Our aim is to see Nigerians excel in middle distance races, long distance, road races, marathons, and other aspects of athletics not only in Nigeria but worldwide. We have the potential to achieve this and the dream of Unicentral Resources Generation Limited, the licensee of Abuja International Marathon, is ensuring we achieved that potential soon," said Ogunmiloye.

Sule



SUNDAY SPORTS

Brentford condemn Leeds in style win



Ivan Toney made it 52 goals and 18 out of 18 from the penalty spot for Brentford in an absorbing win over Leeds

Ivan Toney passed the 50-goal mark for Brentford in style with a superb hat-trick to condemn Leeds to a second successive Premier League away defeat.

Toney opened the scoring with a penalty, awarded after a foul by Luis Sinisterra and a long VAR intervention, then doubled the hosts' lead with a superb free-kick, and chipped in his third after the break.

Sinisterra had made it 2-1 just before half-time, but then came Toney's hat-trick goal, and a red card for Leeds boss Jesse Marsch, sent off after urging referee Robert Jones to use the monitor to review a challenge by Aaron Hickey on Crisencio Summerville.

Marc Roca gave the visitors hope again, but Bryan Mbeumo put Brentford 4-2 up before Yoane Wissa added a late fifth.

The win lifted Brentford to seventh in the table, while Leeds slipped to ninth and are still seeking their first victory on the road this season.

Toney's landmark goal to open the scoring might not have had too many home fans anticipating a record-breaking afternoon for Brentford.

Despite the absence of in-form Rodrigo - the victim of a painful shoulder injury against Everton on Tuesday that is expected to keep him out for weeks - Leeds had been a threat in an entertaining first half until then.

Brentford summer signing Keane Lewis-Potter twice had sight of goal, producing a beautiful piece of control to set himself up inside the box and hesitating fractionally too long when the skilful Mbeumo located the 21-year-old in a promising position.

Toney brought up his half-century for the club in the 30th minute with a powerful spot-kick placed beyond Illan Meslier, with Sinisterra judged to have fouled the striker following a pitchside monitor check by referee Jones.

As with his penalty, Toney's

free-kick flew into the left-hand corner of Meslier's net after the 26-year-old had scarcely taken a run-up to his strike, demonstrating his expert technique in a performance that will amplify calls for an England call-up.

Summer signing Sinisterra atoned for his costly foul on Toney with third goal in three starts for his new club shortly before the break, skipping past Rico Henry after collecting a Ben Mee flick and drilling a composed low finish beyond the advancing David Raya.

Patrick Bamford, who was introduced at half-time as Leeds boss Marsch looked to build momentum, troubled Brentford with his direct running and sent a shot wide within minutes of coming on.

Toney punished Leeds to make it three before the hour mark, seizing on a defensive mix-up when Diego Llorente failed to clear with a perfectly weighted chip from outside the

penalty area to beat the stranded Meslier and desperately backtracking captain Robin Koch.

American Marsch was then dismissed, and had to watch from afar as Bamford misfired from point-blank range and Marc Roca shot straight at Raya from close quarters, but the Spanish midfielder gave Leeds hope by making it 3-2.

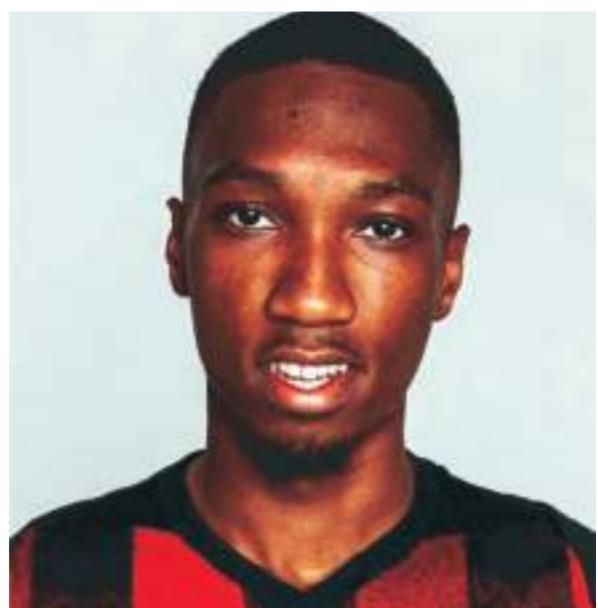
There were 63 seconds between Roca hitting back for spirited Leeds and Mbeumo making it four for Brentford, with Wissa ensuring Brentford scored five goals in a top-flight game for the first time since 1938.

Thomas Frank's side deserved the club's largest-ever haul in a Premier League match - and with a striker of Toney's talent and brimming confidence leading the line, their status as the only team in the division so far to have scored in six opening games this season is little surprise.

Bournemouth recover to claim victory

Bournemouth brilliantly recovered from 2-0 behind at half-time to claim a stunning Premier League victory against free-spending

Nottingham Forest. Jaidon Anthony was the match-winner for the visitors in the 87th minute, stroking in from Dominic Solanke's pass



Anthony

Tottenham maintained their unbeaten start to the season as they beat Fulham with goals from Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and Harry Kane.

A late strike from Fulham's star man Alexander Mitrovic made for a nervy final 10 minutes as Marco Silva's side suffered a second loss of the season.

Spurs threatened to score virtually every time they came forward and had ample opportunity to extend their lead further, firing off 23 shots, 10 of which were on target.

However, it was thanks to former Arsenal keeper Bernd Leno and a resolute Fulham defence that they were held to just two goals.

Hojbjerg's slotted finish into the bottom corner after some nifty passing in Fulham's box opened the scoring, before Kane headed home to double their lead after 75 minutes.

Fulham had been completely unable to get in

Tottenham maintain unbeaten start

the game for the majority of the 90 minutes with Mitrovic's threat nullified until his 83rd minute goal - his sixth of the season.

Richarlison, making his first start for Spurs since joining from Everton in the summer, looked lively and had a goal chalked off for offside in the final minutes of the match.

Tottenham lacked cutting edge in their 1-1 draw against West Ham on Wednesday and, with so many chances missed against Fulham, it was feasible that the same scenario could play out again.

They piled on the pressure in the first half with shots coming from all over the park, Son Heung-min smacked a shot off the bar, Richarlison had multiple chances to score his first Spurs goal.

Son saw an early goal

chalked off when Kane was deemed to be interfering with play after going for a header from an offside position, despite the South Korea international's looped cross finding the back of the net without his team-mate's efforts.

But the form of last season's joint-Golden Boot winner Son will undoubtedly be becoming a concern for manager Antonio Conte - he has not scored with any of his 17 shots this season, four of which came against Fulham.

That said, Spurs' defence were not really threatened until Mitrovic's late goal and Leno was called into action seven times, the most saves he has made in a Premier League game.

Tottenham are undefeated in their last 12 Premier League games and their 100% home record this season remains in tact.



Tottenham have lost only once in their last 16 Premier League games

after the striker had dispossessed Scott McKenna deep in his own half.

Having looked out of the contest at the break, the managerless Cherries, led by caretaker Gary O'Neil, have now claimed a draw and a win since the 9-0 thrashing by Liverpool and the subsequent sacking of Scott Parker.

Their afternoon did not start well when the home side took the lead through Cheikhou Kouyate, who rose highest to power in a header from Morgan Gibbs-White's cross.

Brennan Johnson doubled the lead on the stroke of half-time from the penalty spot after a long VAR check, with Lloyd Kelly penalised for handball.

But Bournemouth showed their powers of recovery in the second period through Philip Billing's thumping long-range strike and Solanke's acrobatic effort, before Anthony sealed victory late on.

This meeting between two of

last season's promoted sides was a slow burner for half an hour, but ignited into a memorable contest, particularly for the travelling Bournemouth players and supporters.

The south coast side might have already been written off by some, and they looked to be heading for their fifth consecutive league game without victory.

But they turned the afternoon around in dramatic fashion to partly erase some painful memories from last weekend's humiliation at Anfield by securing their second win of the campaign.

Parker was dismissed after he took aim at the owners for not backing him in the transfer window, but those comments may look misguided as the same crop of players are now performing under O'Neil.

The former Portsmouth midfielder has overseen a turnaround in form and may be eyeing up the job on a full-

time basis after backing up the midweek goalless draw against Wolves with this comeback.

A tactical change at the break against Forest, from a 4-2-3-1 formation to 5-2-3, did the trick as Billing's thunderous 30-yard effort set them on the road to recovery, and Solanke's overhead kick was his 50th goal for the club in all competitions.

The ex-Liverpool man played a huge part in the winner too, nicking the ball off McKenna before feeding Anthony to coolly convert.

Forest, meanwhile, suffered back-to-back defeats under Steve Cooper for the first time, having been thrashed 6-0 by champions Manchester City on Wednesday.

Kouyate's first goal for the club and Johnson's penalty - given after a five-minute check by VAR and referee Michael Oliver on the pitchside monitor - gave them the perfect platform, but they crumbled thereafter.

Club record signing Taiwo Awoniyi, one of 21 players signed by Forest in the



Blues come from behind to win



Kai Havertz combined with fellow substitute Ben Chilwell to win it for Chelsea

Substitute Kai Havertz scored a late winner as Chelsea came from behind to record a dramatic victory over West Ham, who had a 90th-minute Maxwell Cornet equaliser ruled out.

The Hammers frustrated Chelsea in a first half that saw plenty of home possession but no shots on target for either side, and looked to have executed their gameplan to perfection when Michail Antonio scored from a rare attack after 62 minutes.

The forward bundled in from close range after Blues goalkeeper Edouard Mendy failed to deal with a corner, but the visitors' lead was wiped out 14 minutes later.

Chelsea, on the back of a record summer of spending and with £70m arrival Wesley Fofana making his debut, had struggled to break down David Moyes' side before Ben Chilwell snuck in to level from a tight angle shortly after coming off the bench.

It sparked a frantic finish, with Cornet almost winning it late on for the visitors, only to see his header come back off the post and the Blues immediately score themselves through a clinical Havertz header from Chilwell's cross.

There was still time for

more drama as Cornet pounced, but only after a foul on Mendy that was awarded once referee Andrew Madley consulted the pitchside monitor.

It gives Chelsea their third win of the season and lifts the Blues to fifth, while West Ham sit 18th.

The most expensive transfer window from any British club in history is over and now the real business begins for Thomas Tuchel and his side, with the expectation on £255m-worth of new additions to deliver results.

Fofana was handed his debut after arriving from Leicester City for £70m in a side that also included statement signings Kalidou Koulibaly, Marc Cucurella and Raheem Sterling.

However, it needed two players bought in the previous two summers to spark Chelsea into life at Stamford Bridge after falling behind to a scrappy Antonio opener.

First Chilwell - jostling for that left-sided spot with Cucurella - showed his class with a smart touch and neat finish from a narrow angle to pull the hosts level with 14 minutes remaining, and it was the England international who then provided the cross for Havertz to put Tuchel's side in front in the 88th minute.

That good work was almost wiped out when

Cornet found the roof of the net after another mix-up in the Chelsea defence, and there were relieved faces in the Blues side when the verdict was a foul on goalkeeper Mendy in the build-up.

It was a dramatic ending to what, for an hour, had been a dull affair.

Christian Pulisic has been

used sparingly this season, though his USA boss Gregg Berhalter has tipped the winger to "prove everyone wrong", and he had the game's first shot in the 27th minute that deflected wide for a Chelsea corner, though neither side managed to hit the target until almost the hour mark.

That was a delightful volley from Jarrod Bowen that forced Mendy into a save, and from the resulting corner came the goal - Mendy failed to deal with a flick-on, Declan Rice knocked it back across goal and Antonio nudged in from close range.

Tuchel was aggrieved, feeling there was a foul on

his goalkeeper, but he was happy with the resilience his side showed, and the quality Chelsea could bring off the bench to turn the encounter in their favour is a sign of the strength in depth the lavishly assembled Blues now possess.

It has taken a while for West Ham to get going this season but a win at Aston Villa and a well-earned point against Tottenham have given Moyes' side some belief, and the visitors will feel they should also have taken something from Stamford Bridge.

A disciplined display kept Chelsea at bay for the most part and the Hammers were clinical from their own rare attacks, though had Cornet turned his late header inside the post rather than against it they would likely be leaving with three points.

It was a Cornet strike that did find the net that left Moyes furious, though, with Bowen adjudged to have caught goalkeeper Mendy before the ball fell to his team-mate.

"It is a scandalous decision," said Moyes. "The referee gave it and I don't know who sent him from VAR, but I always thought he would say it is a goal once he went to the screen."

"I have seen it from all angles and find it incredibly difficult to see how that is chalked off. I don't know who in VAR sent him there."

Merseyside derby ends in stalemate

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp was unable to hide his disbelief after his side played out a goalless draw against Everton in an exciting Merseyside derby.

The Reds went close to scoring on multiple occasions, only to be denied by an outstanding Jordan Pickford in the Everton goal and the woodwork.

The Toffees themselves also went close as Tom Davies hit the post, Alisson denied Neal Maupay for debut goal and Conor Coady had a goal ruled out for offside by VAR.

After the game, Klopp told BT Sport: 'Wow! What can you do? In this game, easy, free flowing is not possible. You have to dig in really deep, which we did. 0-0 sounds strange, but that's it.'

'It's the derby, super intense, with a lot of really

spectacular moments. They scored the goal, I didn't watch it back. Ally didn't see that back, but I don't know how that didn't go in. But I'm not sure how many chances we had.'

Man of the match Jordan Pickford was in exceptional form at Goodison Park as he was able to deny Liverpool more than once in the game.

The England international is confident that the club can push on now and start to win in the Premier League, a feat they have yet to manage this season.

He said: 'You've got to be in the moment. I thought I had a good game today, I was right in the moment, helping the lads.'

'You need leaders on the

pitch. You saw the team spirit around us. We didn't get the three points, but we can keep building now.'

'Allison made some wonderful saves as well. That's our job, to help the team when needed. It's my first clean sheet of the

season, and it's another building block for us as a team to get better and get better.'

'It's hard work, it's commitment, we'll keep building, we'll get stronger, we'll get the wins.'



Klopp