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## Northern Governors endorse state police

**T**he nineteen Northern Governors under the aegis of the Northern Governors Forum (NGF) unanimously expressed support for the establishment of State Police in a bid to tackle the activities of

insurgents, kidnapers and other criminal activities across the country.

The Northern Governors' stance was contained in a communique issued at the end of the meeting with the Northern Traditional Rulers Council held on

Monday in Abuja, organized to "review the state of security in the North and other matters relating to its progress and the development of the region."

While reading the Communique, NGF Chairman and Governor of

Plateau State, Simon Alalong said the meeting reviewed the security situation in the North and other matters relating to its development and resolved to support further amendments of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) in the bid to accommodate

the establishment of State Police.

Governor Alalong affirmed that the Northern Governors and "Traditional rulers support the review and constitutional amendment to

*Cont'd on Page 2*



**Biu**

**FRSC bans officers from political rallies**

**T**he Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has directed commanding officers nationwide, to ensure that officers under their purview maintain political neutrality and avoid any form of participation in political rallies and campaigns.

Acting Corps Marshal of FRSC, Dauda Ali Biu, issued the directive on Monday, also warned officers against piloting political convoys.

A statement by the Corps Public Education Officer, Assistant Corps Marshal, Bisi Kazeem, said Biu issued the warning ahead of the September 28

*Cont'd on Page 2*



## News

### Northern Governors endorse state police

Cont'd from Page 1

accommodate the establishment of State Police, with a view to effectively and efficiently address the security challenges in the Northern States.

"The Forum reiterated its commitment to the development of solar energy in view of the comparative advantage of sunshine in the region.

"Accordingly, it was unanimously resolved that 2000 megawatts of solar

power be developed across the 19 States and FCT," he noted.

The joint meeting also noted regrettably that the ongoing strike action declared by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike is more punitive in the Northern region as most of the students across the region are attending public universities.

"Accordingly, the Forum appeals to the ASUU to cooperate with the Federal Government in resolving

the strike action."

According to a statement issued by the Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Governor of Plateau State, Dr Makut Simon Macham, the Northern Governors also engaged officials of the World Bank to discuss the level of implementation of the Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) and Nigeria for Women Project which is being implemented in five Northern States.

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commencement of political campaigns for the 2023 general election.

The statement noted that the directive was in line with the FRSC (Establishment) Act, which stipulates the status of the Corps as a public service agency that does not have any political affiliation but is solely established to provide essential services to all citizens, irrespective of their political interests or representation.

The commanding officers were, however,

### FRSC bans officers from political rallies

directed to be sensitive to the plight of road users and prepare to tackle any traceable traffic gridlock that could arise as a result of the aforementioned political activities by ensuring adequate deployment of personnel

for ease of movement in form of traffic controls and traffic calming.

He reassured the public of the Corps' readiness and commitment to making the roads safer at all times and admonished them to always abide by established road traffic regulations.

### INEC discovers more invalid registrations

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has detected more invalid entries in its ongoing clean-up of the recently concluded Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise.

Festus Okoye, INEC's Commissioner for Information and Voter Education Committee, who disclosed this on Monday, said the discovery is different from the 1,126,359 invalid registrations captured by INEC's Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) during the clean-up of enrolments done between June 28, 2021 and January 14, 2022.

The electoral umpire, in April 2022, announced that 45 percent of the 2,523,458 completed registrations were found to be invalid due to double registrations and incomplete data.

The commission had lamented that the development was worrisome due to the time and resources committed to the CVR exercise.

Okoye said the fresh invalid registrations were detected from entries done between January 15 and July 31, 2022.

He promised that the Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) will be available for collection by valid registrants by the end of October.

The statement reads, "As Nigerians are aware, the cleaning up of the register of voters using the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) is ongoing since the suspension of the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) on 31st July 2022.

"Earlier, the Commission informed Nigerians that out of the 2,523,458 (Two million, five hundred and twenty-three thousand, four hundred and fifty eight) fresh registrants that registered between 28th June, 2021 and 14th January, 2022, 1,126,359 (One million, one hundred and twenty-six thousand, three hundred and fifty-nine) records were found to be invalid and consequently delisted.

"The ABIS for the period - 15th January to 31st July, 2022, is almost completed. Several double, multiple and ineligible registrants have also been detected and invalidated. These include entries that fail to meet the Commission's business rules. The Commission takes this responsibility seriously because a credible register is at the heart of electoral integrity.

"As soon as the process is concluded, the Commission will provide the public with full information as usual. Thereafter, valid registrants will be added to the existing national register of voters before publishing same nationwide for scrutiny, claims and objections by citizens as required by section 19 (1) of the Electoral Act 2022.

"We reassure Nigerians that a thorough process is being undertaken to clean up the registration data. Similarly, Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) for all valid registrants will be available for collection by the end of October/early November as promised."

### FG Vs ASUU: Court adjourns proceedings to Friday

The National Industrial Court of Nigeria (NICN), on Monday, adjourned the suit brought before it by the Federal Government challenging the ongoing strike action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) till September 16, 2022 for further mention. When the matter came up Monday, the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), appealed to the court presided over by Justice Polycarp Hamman to be joined in the suit as an interested party.

Counsel to SERAP, Ebn-Olu Adegnoruwa (SAN), told the court that his client had filed a similar suit asking the court to compel the Federal Government to honour its 2009 agreement with the striking University lecturers.

He said, "We filed a similar suit on September 8, 2022 asking the court to compel the Federal Government to honour an agreement it willingly entered into with ASUU" and based SERAP's joinder request on the need to forestall duplicity of outcomes concerning the industrial dispute.

But, the counsel representing the Federal Government in the suit, Tijjani Gazali (SAN) opposed Adegnoruwa's application, on behalf of SERAP to consolidate the suits, saying that, "SERAP's application was premature as the case was billed for mention on Monday."

Reacting to the arguments by counsel to SERAP and the Federal Government, counsel to ASUU, Femi Falana (SAN), said he was aware of efforts by the lawyers to file court papers in the suit on Monday.

Meanwhile, Justice Hamman, in his ruling on the SERAP's joinder application, agreed with the Federal Government that the suit was not ripe for consolidation.

He said, he was only presiding as a vacation judge as the case would be assigned to another judge for adjudication after the annual vacation of the court, ordered parties in the suit to file and exchange court documents and adjourned the case till Friday, September 16, 2022.

Speaking to newsmen after the court proceedings, Falana said the Nigerian government often adopts "dilatatory tactics that have a way of prolonging strikes."



referenced the resident doctors' dispute with the government last year which resulted in a suit at the industrial court.

"This is not the first time the government have adopted this rather dilatory tactics that have a way of prolonging strike. We were here last year when you have the resident doctors strike, it was the same approach."

On his part, Adegnoruwa told journalists that the Federal government had abdicated its responsibility of funding public universities, necessitating the filing of SERAP's suit.

The Federal Government had dragged the union before the Court to look into the legality or otherwise of the ongoing prolonged strike by

ASUU leadership and members and to also, interpret in its entirety the provisions of Section 18 LFN 2004, especially as it applies to the cessation of strike once a trade dispute is apprehended by the Minister of Labour and Employment and conciliation is ongoing.

In the suit dated September 8, FG is praying the court to, among other reliefs, determine whether ASUU members are entitled to emoluments or 'strike pay' during their period of strike, which commenced on February 14, 2022, more so in view of the national law as provided in Section 43 of the TDA and the International Labour Principles on the right to strike as well as the decisions of the ILO

### Election funding remains FG's responsibility -INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on Monday, said funding of elections remains the exclusive preserve of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Chairman of the Commission, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, made the remarks in response to support from international development partners.

He spoke on Monday, at the launch of the €39 million intervention fund, for the EU-Support Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN).

The event was held to mark the closure of Phase I and the launch of Phase II of the EU-SDGN.

The intervention will include support to INEC, the National Assembly, the judiciary; political parties, civil society organisations, and the media, among others.

Mahmood said, "I wish to reiterate here that the core costs of our electoral activities, including the acquisition of sensitive and non-sensitive materials for all elections, remain the sovereign responsibility of the Federal

Government of Nigeria.

"Nevertheless, the Commission appreciates the support of international development partners to enhance training and capacity building of officials; stakeholder engagement for peaceful election; production and dissemination of messages for voter education and sensitisation; enhancing the active and meaningful participation of all segments of society in the electoral process with particular reference to women, youth, Persons with Disability (PWD) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); and, finally, election conflict mitigation, management and resolution.

I wish to reassure you that the Commission will work together with the consortium of partners to implement the support to the INEC component of the EU-SDGN II.

"We will also continue to create the enabling environment to facilitate the work of the partners for the successful implementation of the programme. The choice of the partners signifies a vote of confidence in their capacity to

Committee on Freedom of Association on the subject.

"Determine whether ASUU has the right to embark on strike over disputes as is the case in this instance by compelling the Federal Government to employ its own University Transparency Accountability Solution (UTAS) in the payment of the wages of its members as against the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPPIS) universally used by the Federal Government in the nation for payment of wages of all its employees in the Federal Government Public Service of which university workers, including ASUU members, are part of or even where the government, via NITDA, subjected ASUU and their counterpart, Universities Peculiar Personnel Payroll Systems (UPPPS) software to integrity test (vulnerability and stress test) and they failed."

It would be recalled that ASUU embarked on an initial four weeks strike on February 14, and has continued to extend it as talks with the government fail. On August 29, ASUU announced an indefinite extension of the strike, accusing the government of insincerity.

undertake actions and implement activities that are critical to promoting the institutionalisation of democratic norms in our country. We will work with the implementing partners for free, fair, credible and inclusive elections."

The INEC chairman added that the commission will continue to welcome the deployment of international and domestic election observers in line with INEC guidelines.

"The Commission considers the deployment of such election observation missions as a means of enhancing public confidence and trust in Nigeria's elections. Their recommendations have been especially useful in reviewing our processes and the introduction of some of the progressive reforms in our electoral legal framework in line with global good practices", he said.

He added that INEC had already sent out letters to the United Nations, European Union, Commonwealth, the

African Union and ECOWAS, inviting them to deploy observation missions for the 2023 General Election.

Earlier, the EU's Ambassador to Nigeria, Ms Samuela Isopi, had said the €39 million intervention would be spread over a five-year period.

"The overall objective of the EU-SDGN is to foster a functioning pluralistic, inclusive, participatory and representative democracy in Nigeria. Inclusive, participatory and transparent elections are a pre-requisite for a strong democracy.

"Ahead of the 2023 General Election, Nigeria is at a pivotal moment that allows the country to take important steps to consolidate democracy and strengthen the electoral process.

"The EU continues to partner with Nigeria in the ongoing reform process with a view to strengthening the capacity to conduct well-managed elections and with ample participation of all Nigerians.

"For this to happen, all must contribute, from the key institutions to the political parties and candidates, from media to civil society", she said.



Madmood



# Business & Economy

## NCAC promoting use of Nigerian products with INAC

**Nigerians struggling with consumption and use of locally made products has been a great challenge for the country. Nigerians seem not to understand that patronizing locally made products will boost the nation's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Salisu Sani Idris writes**



This simple act has transformed the economy of great nations of the world like China, Japan, United States of America, France and Germany, just to mention a few.

The National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) has taken the campaign for the need to patronise local products to the next level, which is evident at the just concluded 35th International Arts and Crafts Expo (INAC), in Abuja.

NCAC took advantage of the expo which attracted delegates from over 26 countries and 15 states to sensitise Nigerians on the advantages of embracing local products.

This was done through consumption of local drinks and cuisines by both local and international delegates.

Kunu, Tigernut, Zobo drinks, Ofada rice, and other major delicacies were served to the delegates.

With the theme of the expo, "Networking Nigerian Crafts to the World", NCAC went ahead to exhibit local crafts, arts, fabrics, and also indigenous engine oil manufacturers.

The expo held from Aug. 18 to Aug. 20 at Sheraton Hotel in Abuja.

In a bid to promote reading culture among the Nigerian youth, NCAC also encouraged exhibitors to display books of African authors.

Nigerian musical bands and artistes were not also left out. The delegates were thrilled with

indigenous music peculiar to Nigeria and Africa.

Alhaji Ado Yahuza, Executive Secretary, National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO), urged Nigerians take conscious efforts in patronising local products.

He said Nigeria is well endowed with various nutritious cuisines which can be developed and exported to boost the nation's foreign exchange earnings.

"Nigeria is so blessed with different kinds of delicacies, let us all work on embracing our products, project them for international acceptance and then make money from it," he said.

Chief Olusegun Runsewe, NCAC's Director-General, said the focus on consuming and exhibiting local produce was a deliberate move like the previous years to further drive home the need to patronise the nation's products.

Runsewe said that INAC is organised annually with the aim of showcasing the rich and unique collections of African arts and crafts and as an avenue to promote rural economy.

He said Nigerians must be aware that expos are good avenue for product launch.

He noted that he deliberately wanted to make culture Nigeria's new oil by taking conscious efforts in projecting the country's diverse crafts and arts.

Runsewe urged Nigerians to invest in branding local produce for export,

adding that good packaging will attract the needed audience.

"The expo is meant to promote importation and exportation of arts and crafts to international communities.

"We also aim at sensitising investors on the need to invest in the arts and crafts sector as a way of encouraging enterprise development and export oriented production.

"We are also looking at establishing an international arts and craft market in the African region, we want to attract international investment in line with government's development agenda," he said.

Runsewe said that the creative industry should be seen as Nigeria's new oil, capable of creating huge employment opportunities, tackling the nation's security problem and engaging the youth meaningfully.

"We can address the problem of insecurity and youth restiveness in this sector, if we can get things right by believing in our products and our skills, taking them to the next step," he said.

Runsewe also took opportunity of the platform to woo investors and tourists to Nigeria, adding that Nigeria is a safe country with lots of opportunities.

The expo which also featured a skills acquisition programme empowered no fewer than 137 youths in skills like bead making, body ornaments, gele making, and

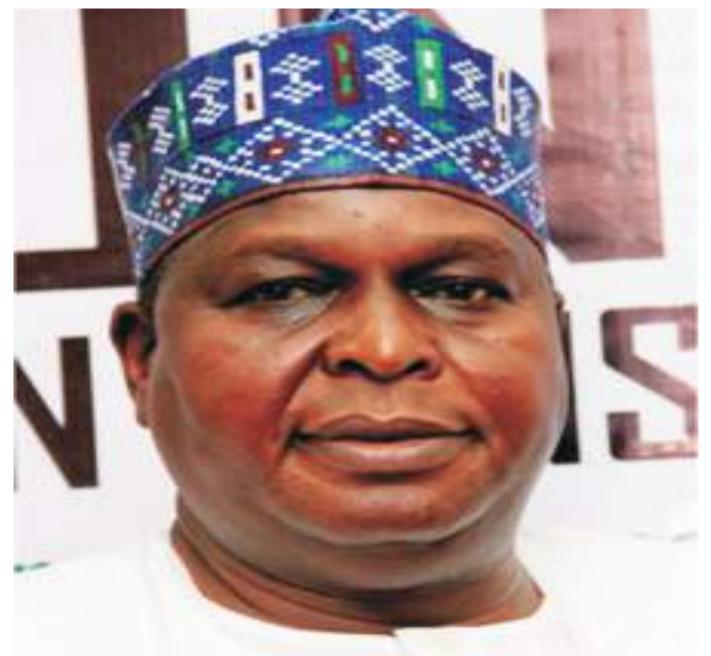
makeup.

12-year-old Munachi Okoronkwo of Federal Government Girls College, Bwari, who was mandated from school to learn a skill during the summer holiday was elated with the skill she acquired.

Also, Mrs Patience Ameh, who learnt bead making and body

ornaments said the three-day skills acquisition programme was quite effective as she could independently produce neck pieces and beaded slippers.

According to Ameh, she sold some of the slippers she made and looks forward to generating revenue from it and converting it to her business. (NANF



Runsewe



## 600m Africans at risk of severe droughts – AfDB, GCA report

THE lives of 600 million people in Africa are at risk because of the growing severity and frequency of droughts, according to a report. This is contained in a report "Africa is Doubling Down on Climate Adaptation. Here's Why it Deserves Support" obtained by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), on Monday. The Report was co-authored by the President of the AfDB Group, Dr Akinwumi Adesina and Patrick Verkooijen, the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA). According to the report, with much of the world struggling with crippling spikes in energy and food prices, it is tempting to set aside longer-term challenges such as climate change.

"Already, the lives of 600 million people who rely on rain-fed agriculture are at risk because of the growing severity and frequency of droughts. "Vast swaths of the continent will become unlivable unless we act now to protect people and livelihoods from the worst impacts of global warming", the report stated. The report also said that Africa only had a tiny window to build resilience against climate change, adding that large parts of Africa would become uninhabitable. It also said that on the current trajectory, global warming would cause an annual loss of up to four per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Africa by 2040. "Some nations are already spending the equivalent of 2.8 per cent of GDP to adapt to increasingly violent and unpredictable weather. "This is an unfair burden. Africa, the continent that has contributed the least to global warming, is paying a steep price for the greenhouse gas emissions of the rich world." The report, however, noted that African governments were doubling down on climate adaptation. "Two years ago, they inaugurated the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme (AAP). "This is with the aim of mobilising 25 billion dollars in adaptation investments by 2025. The African Development Bank has put up half of the funds already. "It said that climate adaptation was Africa's best chance to bring about a safer, greener and a more prosperous continent. The report said that the programme was already investing in projects that made the livelihoods of farming communities more secure. "It is improving the accuracy of weather forecasts and making data available to farmers via mobile apps, and providing drought-resistant crop varieties in regions where water is increasingly scarce or rainfall unreliable. "In some cities, urban infrastructure is being readied to withstand flash floods, extreme heat and other climate impacts. "The AAP also aims to nurture climate entrepreneurs, particularly those who create career opportunities for young people," the report said.



Adesina

It recalled that at COP26 in Glasgow, the global donor community promised to double finance for adaptation from the current rate of up to a quarter of climate financial flows earmarked for the developing world. "But yet again, committed funds have fallen short. With only two months to go to the next climate summit, which will take place in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, it is time for donors to honor their pledges. "Funding climate adaptation is not only the right thing to do. It is also smart." Furthermore, the report also said that the GCA calculated that for every dollar invested in

climate-smart agriculture, as much as five dollars in benefits accrue. According to the GCA, just 15 billion dollars per year invested in climate-smart agriculture can help avert 200 billion dollars in damages from floods, lost production and paying for disaster relief. The centre further suggested that the international community invest in long-term climate resilience. (NAN)

## Crowdfunding to accelerate financial inclusion – SEC

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) says operationalising crowdfunding will accelerate financial inclusion agenda of the country and boost Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This is contained in a statement by the SEC Executive Commissioner, Operations, Mr Dayo Obisan, on Sunday in Abuja. Obisan said that crowdfunding could also increase the quantum of investible funds by unlocking the untapped capital in the economy. According to him, crowdfunding platforms are websites that enable interaction between fundraisers and the crowd. He said that crowdfunding had garnered a lot of attention from regulators across jurisdictions because of its potentials to further financial inclusion efforts. He said that the commission's rules governing crowdfunding became effective on January 2021, with the main objective of "investor safety". The executive commissioner described crowdfunding as a new phenomenon growing popularity in the country. He noted that the platform was an innovative source of finance that provided MSMEs with start-ups. "This is to raise awareness for Nigerians on crowdfunding as a funding

mechanism for start-ups and MSMEs, to enlighten them on experiences and lessons on crowdfunding from other jurisdictions. "This is to also let the people know that it is an alternative way of investment and financing of businesses. "It is strongly believed that the capital market has a leading role to play in this regard by collaborating with relevant stakeholders to map out strategies for deepening the market through financial



Yuguda

THE Cinema Exhibitors Association of Nigeria says it generated N378 million from tickets sold across cinemas in the country in the month August.

CEAN's National President, Mr Ope Ajayi, disclosed this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria.

Ajayi said that the figure represented a 28 per cent increase compared to N294 million realised in August 2021.

He, however, said that there was a 19 per cent decline in tickets sold in August, as N471 million was generated in July.

"The 37 films shown in August realised over NGN378 million at the box office.

"13 Hollywood films accounted for 72.4 per cent while 16 Nollywood films made a little over 22 per cent.

He said the top five highest-grossing films in August were: Thur: Love and Thunder, Bullet Train, Beast, Hey you! and League of Surpets.

"Thor: Love and Thunder remained the highest-grossing, with N80 million in the month, which brings its lifetime revenue at Nigeria's box office to over N350 million, as of 31st August," he said.

Ajayi said the films to be out in September were: Where the Crawdads Sing, Passport, Symphony, Inside Life, Finding Irete, The Woman King, Ticket of Life, Ticket of Paradise, Don't Worry Darling.

## Nigeria's cinema rakes in N378m revenue



Mohammed

Others are: Brotherhood, Smile/Tad He Lost Explorere and The, See How They Run, Choke, The Enforcer, Anikulapo and Osorongo. "September 2022 features two main blockbusters - 'The Woman King' and 'Brotherhood'.

"Both have the potential to make September 2022 the best since the inception of the Nigerian box office, with revenues projected to hit N700 million, despite the high rate of rainfall recorded in several

cities, especially Lagos. "It is set to be a bit merrier in September when the legendary Viola Davies unleashes a brilliant performance in Sony's new high paced epic drama/thriller, 'The Woman King'. "So, if the green screen lovers think they saw action at its finest last month, then, wait for what is coming from the female warriors of ancient Dahomey," he said. (NAN)

## NCC, NSCDC collaborate to combat telecoms crimes

THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) have

teamed up to combat criminal activities bedeviling the telecom industry, such as

telecom equipment vandalism and fraudulent registration of Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards among others.

Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Prof. Umar Danbatta, who addressed a gathering of senior management staff of NSCDC in the South West Zone, at an exclusive workshop organised by the Commission, hailed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sealed between the agency and the Commission, for which the gathering was to explore how the Corps will deploy enabling laws, subsidiary legislations, and extant guidelines to arrest any form of criminality in the sector.

Danbatta, who was represented at the workshop by the Director, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement at the Commission, Ephraim Nwokonnya, said, over the years, the NCC has been working with relevant law enforcement agencies, and in particular the NSCDC, towards protecting telecom sector from all kinds of criminal behaviour.

"Through despicable activities that are criminal and totally at variance with national security concerns of government, the deviant elements in our midst have been acting to undermine efforts put in place to consolidate the gains of the sector," the EVC said.

Danbatta declared that "These criminal activities include theft and vandalism of telecommunication infrastructure, the illegal use of fraudulently-registered Subscriber Identification

Module (SIM) cards, operating without license, illegal call masking, and so on."

He said while the NSCDC officers have been of tremendous assistance, the objective of the workshop was to constantly engage and update them on new trends and existing regulations, requiring concerted efforts for their implementation towards enhancing sanity in the telecom sector.

Danbatta said the NSCDC and other agencies have done very well with the assistance of their personnel in carrying out raid exercises and mopping up fraudulently-registered SIM cards found in circulation, as well as in raising the banner of awareness on the need to protect critical national telecom infrastructure.

the NCC's Head of Enforcement, Salisu Abdu, in his presentation highlighted some of the topical issues discussed at the workshop, which covered activities of the Commission as presented by the relevant departments in the context of laws and other regulations, and in relation to the roles of NSCDC. Commenting on the objectives of the guidelines, the regulator explained that these include setting Digital Financial Literacy standards for Digital Financial Services Providers, aligning product development, promotion, and consumer awareness to DFS amongst services providers, and enhancing transparency and proper disclosure of digital financial services.



## Leveraging investment potential in Federal Government Securities

**As most Nigerians continue to decry the increasing public debt stock of Federal Government, others look at the lucrative investment opportunities in some of the debt instruments. These debt instruments refer to the various Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) Securities, which make up the local component of government debt.**



**Emefiele**

FGN Securities refer to the FGN Bond, FGN Savings Bond, FGN Green Bond, the Sovereign Sukuk, the Eurobond and Treasury Bills.

In recent times, the Debt Management Office (DMO), the government department saddled with the responsibility of coordinating the management of the country's debt, has embarked on awareness drive, to educate retail investors about the benefits of investing in these debt instruments.

The awareness drive, which was inaugurated in Lagos in March, has also been taken to Enugu in the Southeast, Ibadan in the Southwest and Kano in the Northwest.

Patience Oniha, the Director-General of DMO, said the aim was to sell the various existing FGN Securities to the Nigerian public. Oniha said the various FGN Securities, apart from raising funds to finance government projects, also offered attractive investment opportunities for Nigerians.

According to her, the Federal Government, through the DMO, issues the securities and makes periodic interest payments to the investors, while the principal is paid at the end of each tenor.

"The Federal Government has various investment platforms like the FGN Bond, FGN Savings Bond, Treasury Bills, the Green Bond,

the Sovereign Sukuk and Eurobond.

"One function of these FGN Securities is to raise capital to finance deficits in the budget, and also to raise funds to execute critical infrastructural projects. They are backed by full faith and credit of the Federal Government of Nigeria, and are default risk-free," she said in a recent media report.

She said that the FGN Securities also contributed to the development of the domestic capital market, adding that they served as benchmark for other private institutions to issue their own securities.

"They enhance the savings and investment opportunities of the populace, thereby promoting financial inclusion.

"They also attract foreign investors into the domestic financial market, to refinance maturing domestic debt and to diversify sources of funding for the Federal Government. You can use them as collateral to obtain loans from banks and other financial institutions, and they help in diversification of investment portfolio", the report further quoted her as saying.

Because of its potential to offer returns on investment, Mr Monday Usiade, the Director, Market Development Department of the DMO, urged Nigerians to embrace the various FGN Securities.



**Oniha**

According to Usiade, it is more profitable for Nigerians to invest their monies in FGN Securities.

"Saving is a culture we must all imbibe, and the FGN Securities have come to help Nigerians save. The driving force is to encourage us to save in a secure environment. The Federal Government cannot default on a loan in its own currency," he said.

He said that the various FGN Securities were already competing with the Deposit Money Banks (DMBs), adding that there was the need to challenge the DMBs to improve on their service delivery.

According to him, the securities could also serve as means of diversifying investment as it could be too risky for an investor to put all his eggs in one basket.

"We can encourage Nigerians to invest in the various Federal Government Securities to diversify their investment portfolios and improve their earnings. But we cannot undermine the integral role of the DMBs in the financial system and in delivering our mandate. We also need the banks to execute our mandate," he said.

Financial experts caution that investors should be properly educated on the risks associated in investing in securities such as bonds which includes the influence of inflation on returns; what becomes of the investment in face of failure of corporate bond issuers inability to repay the debt.

However, some members of the stockbroking community say they are

confident that the Federal

Government's securities are worth giving a try.

According to a stockbroker, Mr Abiodun Fagbohun, with the FGN savings bond, you can earn between nine per cent and 10 per cent interest per annum, adding that it is a good opportunity which was not there for the retail investors before now.

According to Fagbohun, in the past, institutions like banks and pension funds administrators were the ones who took advantage of FGN

Securities. He said that the DMO, along with the stockbroking community, was trying to ensure that the general public can participate in the bond market.

"We created this window through the FGN Savings Bond, whereby retail investors with as low as N5,000 can also participate in the market. For example, if you put about N10,000 in your savings account, you will earn like two per cent interest per annum", he said.

Another stockbroker, Mr Kayode Olayemi, said that it had become increasingly imperative to create awareness about government securities among retail investors and how they can benefit from them. Olayemi said posted that government securities also enhances the saving and investment opportunities of the populace, thereby, promoting financial inclusion.

Mr Adeyinka Sonekan, Divisional Head, Sales and Business Development of a stockbroking firm urged Nigerians to take advantage of the investment opportunities to key into the financial system and also improve their finances

According to Mr Fortune Ibe of CSL Stockbrokers Limited, the investment in FGN Securities is an additional way for Nigerians to make money. "The Federal Government is telling Nigerians that they can borrow their money for infrastructure and they will get interest on it. The interest rates on FGN securities is higher than what the banks will give you", Ibe said.

As the expenditure needs of government continue to grow in the midst of scarce resources and imperative to borrow, stakeholders are encouraging Nigerians to lend to government by investing in its various security instruments, which constitute the local component of government borrowings.

They say such investment will also help to promote and encourage financial inclusion, while growing the local capital market.

Experts say that FGN Securities can be sold for cash at the Nigeria Stock Exchange, and they are acceptable as collateral for loans by banks.

They are also good for savings towards retirement, marriages, payment of school fees and for housing projects.

**Financial experts caution that investors should be properly educated on the risks associated in investing in securities such as bonds which includes the influence of inflation on returns; what becomes of the investment in face of failure of corporate bond issuers inability to repay the debt. However, some members of the stockbroking community say they are confident that the Federal Government's securities are worth**

## Politics

# We will compensate Jakawa's sacrifice

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

He gave the assurance while speaking at the one day awareness and the unveiling of APC candidates for 2023 general elections organized by Hon. Cecilia Lyop Jakawa, at Vo-Pye Resort Barkin-Ladi after stepping down from constituency primary elections which saw Hon. Dickson Chollom victorious.

The APC State Chairman said, "what we have achieved here today is a remarkable fit. Let me encourage Mrs. Jakawa that the APC you knew in 2015 and 2019 today is the APC that is metamorphosing and is going to change. What you have done today will be remembered and will be rewarded accordingly as long as I remain the Chairman of the party.

"You went for a contest and you were asked to withdraw and you easy withdrew and that notwithstanding, you still organized an occasion like this for us to all come together. We appreciate you, we thank you and we want to reiterate that you will be rewarded accordingly with what you have done.

"With what you have done, we will encourage you to do more and this is part of the sensitization. We must get it right this time around and do the right thing always at the right time. If you work hard, you will be rewarded. We have a task ahead of us and we must all go out and work hard because it is not going to be an easy task. Let no one deceive you that is going to be easy", he

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

-Bature



Bature

enthused.

On his part, the APC flag bearer of Barkin-Ladi Constituency to the State House of Assembly, Hon. Dickson Y. Chollom, commended the convener, Cecilia Lyop Jakawa, for taking a bold step to bring them together saying, "her dropping down from the primary election was a good omen to whoever win and I am calling on the people of Barkin-Ladi to mobilize their votes together and ensure that APC wins all the positions from top down"

Also, the APC Candidate for the House of Representatives representing Riyom/Barkin-Ladi Federal Constituency, Hon. Emmanuel Lohman, described the step taken by the convener as apt and coming at the right time saying, "we are very proud of the Convener because she respected the advice of the elders on the zoning formula".

The Council Chairman of Barkin-Ladi Local Government, Hon. Jok Alamba, congratulated Mrs. Cecilia Lyop Jakawa, for the

sacrifice and for reuniting them. "Politics is about people and the more people you involve in politics especially the vibrant youths and our well behaved women, the better politics will become. You cannot play politics in isolation and get it right".

Meanwhile, the Convener of awareness and unveiling of APC candidates, Hon. Cecilia Lyop Jakawa, welcomed all who graced the occasion saying, "as the convener of this programme, I strongly believe in the ideologies of our party, the APC, the party that is all inclusive, irrespective of one's gender, tribe, religion or political status.

"As we all know the 2023 general elections is fast approaching, hence the need to sensitize our people on the need to return the APC back to power is sacrosanct. Since the conclusion of primaries, I have accepted the wishes and will of our party and willing to make greater sacrifices for the success of the party in Barkin-Ladi and beyond", she assured.

From  
ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

ELDERS in the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Bauchi State have said that they have resolved to distance themselves from the Office of Secretary to the State Government, Barrister Ibrahim Mohammed Kashim for what they described as 'Saving their prestige and dignity' in the scheme of things.

According to the Bauchi PDP Elders, their continued desire with the office of state SSG would erode their self-esteem in the eyes of the public, hence they have collectively decided to henceforth call a spade a spade.

Former Speaker in the State House of Assembly and reputable politician, Rt. Hon. Bappa Haruna Disina told the press in Bauchi weekend that most of the PDP stakeholders in the state have unpleasant relationship with the SSG for what they termed as his pomposity and disregard to party henchmen.

Hon. Bappa Disina also a former political advisor to Governor Bala Mohammed described SSG Kashim as an amateur in the political arena, hence he could not know the value of PDP elders especially in the game of partisan politics.

"Politics in Nigeria today is entirely different with that of the yester-years such as was practiced in the second republic where adherence to the implementation of party manifestoes is the key word, unlike now that money is the influencing factor. So, if you have a stingy political appointee, the story would entirely be different".

Disina therefore reminded

## Bauchi PDP elders describe SSG as amateur politician



Mohammed

those holding appointive political offices to take into cognizance that the country is now heading towards general elections, and unless they pave way for the political actors to sail through the rigors of electioneering, both sides of the coin would have to miss the game.

The former political advisor however expressed confidence that looking critically at the unprecedented achievements the Kauran Bauchi-led administration recorded within the past three years of its stewardship, PDP as a party doesn't need to embark on any electioneering campaign for its victory in 2023 polls.

Hon. Disina, a versatile politician whose political acumen and agility dates back to the second republic, stressed the need for the political gladiators,

and their supporters in the likes Ibrahim Kashim to strictly abide by the rules of the political game, else the train would be in jeopardy.

Disina lamented, "There is no cause to complain to the state governor about anything going on within the ambit of his administration. He knows the in and out of the government as it relates to his stewardship. He is fully aware of all those gimmicks, machinations, clandestineness and all what not about the political class, so why should one grumble".

It was similarly gathered that the Bauchi State government SSG has hostile relationship with many public and private organizations and individuals in the society, including the journalists whom, it was alleged, he usually shortchange.

## All PVCs ready by November - INEC

AHEAD of the 2023 general election, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has reassured that Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs) for all valid registrants would be available for collection by the end of October/early November.

Festus Okoye, INEC national commissioner and chairman,



Okoye

information and voter education committee, disclosed this in a statement on Monday, saying a thorough process was being undertaken to clean up the registration data.

Okoye said the cleaning up of the register of voters, using the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) commenced since the suspension of the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) on July 13, 2022.

"Earlier, the commission informed Nigerians that out of the 2, 523,458 fresh registrants that registered between June 28, 2021 and January 14, 2022, about 1,126,359 records were found to be invalid and consequently delisted.

"The ABIS for the period - January 15 to July 31, 2022 is

almost completed. Several double, multiple and ineligible registrants have also been detected and invalidated. These include entries that fail to meet the commission's business rules. The commission takes this responsibility seriously because a credible register is at the heart of electoral integrity.

"As soon as the process is concluded, the commission will provide the public with full information as usual. Thereafter, valid registrants will be added to the existing national register of voters before publishing the same nationwide for scrutiny, claims and objections by citizens as required by section 19 (1) of the Electoral Act 2022," he added.

## Ayu commends writers, pledges support for indigenous literature

THE National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dr Iyorchia Ayu, has commended the efforts of Nigerian authors, especially Northern Nigerian Writers for their foresight in organising a befitting summit of all indigenous writers across the 19 Northern states.

Ayu stated this during Northern Nigerian

From  
SHEHU DANJUMA, Katsina

Indigenous Literatures and Languages, Arewa Writers' Summit, Awards and Annual Congress held in Katsina.

Represented by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Communication, Malam Yusuf Dingyadi, Ayu commended the writers for organising the programme

to discuss how to use indigenous literature in addressing current security challenges in the country.

He described writing as an art and skill through which positive issues can be discussed and be developed in order to offer ways out of challenges affecting the society.

"PDP as a party, has tremendous respect and recognition of literature and always adore talents for effective way of providing good governance, research and information dissemination for unity."

"The party is making all efforts for the takeoff of its Peoples Democratic Institute, (PDI), set up to offer research, analytical discussions, data storage and knowledge sharing for good governance and political cohesion among Nigerians," Ayu said.

As one time member of the academics, he also pledged his support and cooperation to Northern writers towards building a formidable

Indigenous Literature in the country and the African sub region.

According to him, PDP will continue to work together with relevant professional writers and groups in upholding the core values of literature to promote national cohesion, confidence, trust, peace and unity among Nigerian ethnic nationalities.

Speaking earlier, the National Chairman of the Nigeria Northern Writers, Dr Abu Sabe said members will continue to support government policies and programme symbolically through literatures.

Sabe said that literature through languages apart from promoting peace and unity in society, it also promotes culture, history, geography and socio-economic well-being of the people.

Over 150 participants from 19 northern states and representatives from the neighbouring Niger Republic, attended the conference.



Ayu

Politics

# 'Core cost of election is FG's responsibility'

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on Monday said the core cost of Nigeria's electoral activities, including the acquisition of sensitive and non-sensitive materials for all elections, remains the sovereign responsibility of the Federal Government.

However, the commission said it appreciated the support of international development partners to enhance training and capacity building of officials, stakeholder engagement for a peaceful election, and production and dissemination of messages for voter education and sensitisation.

INEC said it also accepted such support in the areas of enhancing the active and meaningful participation of all segments of society in the electoral process with particular reference to women, youth, Persons with Disability (PWD), Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and, finally, election conflict mitigation, management and resolution.

Mahmood Yakubu, the INEC chairman, stated these in his remarks at the closure of Phase I and launch of Phase II of the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (the EU-SDGN) programme.

Yakubu said the closure of the Phase I and simultaneous launch of Phase II of the EU-SDGN programme was a further affirmation of the enduring commitment and support of the European Union towards strengthening democratic institutions and the consolidation of democracy in Nigeria.

"The commission will continue to welcome the deployment of international and domestic election observers in line with INEC guidelines. The commission considers the deployment of such election observation missions as a means of enhancing public confidence and trust in Nigeria's elections.

"Their recommendations have been especially useful in reviewing our processes and the introduction of some of the progressive reforms in our electoral legal framework in line with global good practices," Yakubu said.

To this end, the commission has already sent out letters to international organisations such as the United Nations, European Union, Commonwealth, the African Union and ECOWAS inviting them to deploy observation missions for the 2023 general election, he added.

"Once again, I wish to express the commission's appreciation to the European Union and its member states and the EU delegation for introducing, implementing and sustaining the support to democratic governance programmes in Nigeria.

"The commission will continue to work with the EU, our development partners and

all electoral stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of our electoral reforms in order to protect the integrity and guarantee the credibility of election outcomes based on the rule of law and the will of the electorate," he said.

Yakubu acknowledged that INEC was a key beneficiary of the first phase of the EU-SDGN programme conceived under the National Indicative Programme 2014-2020.

He said, "Under the programme implemented by the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), the commission received various support in the areas of training and capacity building for our staff, engagement with stakeholders, voter education and public enlightenment and the promotion of inclusivity.

"The support went a long way to complement the

commission's efforts at strengthening our organisational and planning capacity, improvement of our internal and external communication, more frequent consultation with stakeholders and advocacy for increased participation in the electoral process.

"The combination of these actions and activities not only enhanced public confidence in the commission, but also provided valuable assistance in strengthening the integrity and credibility of the electoral process."

Yakubu said major achievement in that regard was the progressive provisions of the Electoral Act 2022, especially the deployment of technology for voter accreditation and result management at polling unit level.

PETER Obi, the presidential candidate of the Labour Party, on Monday, assured Nigerians that he would not make excuses for failures if elected president in 2023.

This is also as the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) rallied support for the Obi/Datti presidency in Abuja on Monday, at a retreat organised by the LP for its national officers, candidates, and trade unions, in Abuja.

The event attracted participants from the labour hierarchy, led by Ayuba Wabba, president of the NLC president, as well as top officers of the labour party,

Speaking on day one of the two-day leadership retreat, Obi stated that the job of a leader was to solve problems and not to give excuses. He described it as disappointing for a candidate supported by organised labour to fail the people.

"I am in this retreat to listen. Even if we don't achieve 100 percent, we must have made sacrifices," he said.

The LP presidential hopeful decried the recurrent industrial

# I won't give excuses if elected president - Obi



Obi

action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), 12 years after the Federal Government signed agreement with the union.

"How much is ASUU asking for that the Nigerian government cannot pay since the last 12

years? N1.2 trillion," Obi said, noting that the revenue which accrued to the country for the month of July alone was enough to settle the union's demand.

According to him, next year's election would not be based on ethnicity or religion, but on character, competence and capacity, just as he decried the lingering Nigeria's economic challenges.

Speaking on his experience as governor of Anambra State, he declared that "I solved these challenges at the small level; I want to solve them now at the larger level.

"The major problem facing Nigeria today is food inflation. We have enough land. The Sambissa forest is three times the size of Israel.

"The more you pull people out of poverty, the more you reduce criminality. I have said it before and I will say it again that the vast land in the North is the next crude oil of Nigeria and I am ready to use the land to make Nigeria self-sufficient in food production"

Wabba, president of the NLC, said that Nigerian workers would actively participate in selecting the next leaders of the country.

Wabba stated that protests and strikes would not fix Nigeria, stressing that the NLC and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) will activate their structures in Nigeria's 774 local government areas for the LP.

The NLC president noted that politics has become business in Nigeria, adding, "people are selling properties to contest elections only to recover them again after winning. This is not the type of politics labour is preaching.

"Presidential candidates must meet the criteria before they can earn labour's support."

Festus Osifo, president of the TUC, assured that the union will support LP 100 percent.

Julius Abure, the LP national chairman, in his welcome address, urged Nigerians to embrace the party, as it is "in the best position to proffer valid and effective solutions to the ills that plague our nation"

Abure lamented that Nigeria had in the past seven years, witnessed retrogressions in all the indices of economic development, adding that "global terrorism research/analysis, from organisations that specialises in collation of data on terrorist activities worldwide, recently, ranked Nigeria as the second most terrorised country, second only to Iraq."

# INEC cancels 1m voter registrations

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

INEC's National Commissioner/ Chairman, Information and Voter Education Committee, Mr. Festus Okoye, who made the disclosure in a statement yesterday in Abuja, said the irregularities were discovered during the cleaning up of the voter register with the Automated Biometric Identification System



Yakubu (ABIS).

Okoye said: "The ABIS for the period Jan. 15 to July 31, 2022 is almost completed. Several double, multiple and ineligible registrants have also been

detected and invalidated.

"These include entries that failed to meet the Commission's business rules.

The Commission takes

# Vote of confidence on Ayu will strengthen PDP chances

From SHEHU DANJUMA Katsina

THE Senior Special Assistant, SSA, on Media and Communication to the Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dr. Iorchia Ayu has said the vote of confidence passed on his boss will strengthen

the chances of the party to win the elections in 2023.

The SSA, Malam Yusuf Dingyadi, said this in an interview with newsmen in Katsina on Sunday.

He said that the party is well grounded in all the 36 states of the federation and only waiting to take over

from the ruling party All Progressives Congress (APC).

"As I am speaking to you, PDP has already captured most of the strongholds of APC and those of the minor parties.

"The reason for this is that the PDP that will take the country to the promised land and would also ensure peace and unity among the citizens.

On the PDP crisis, the Media Aide said that the party had implored its internal mechanism to resolve the problems amicably.

"I am happy to say that the Board of Trustees (BoT), National Executive Committee (NEC), Central Working Committee (CWC) were part of the people that unanimously passed a vote of confidence for Ayu to continue as the chairman in view of his track record and



Ayu

**Covid-19 is still real, please do well to observe the laid down protocols**

# IMAGES

## NAWOJ VISITS PPC

*The leadership of Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), recently paid a courtesy visit to the General Manager of Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), Dr. Boniface Gwotbit in his office*



*Dr. Boniface Gwotbit, General Manager (GM) listening keenly to the visitors in his office*



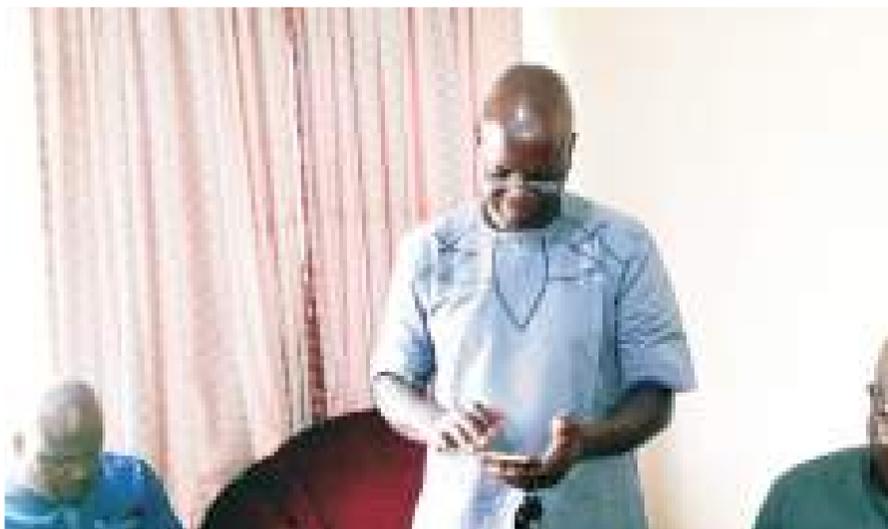
*L - R: Mr. Francis Jatau, Director of Properties Development, Mr. Michael B. Dalohom, Director Internal Auditor (DIA) and Mrs. Rachael Garos, Ag. Director, Commercial Printing and Paper Production*



*Dr. Boniface Gwotbit, GM PPC (right) welcoming the NAWOJ Chairman, Mrs. Nene Dung in his office*



*Mrs. Nene Dung, NAWOJ Chairperson delivering her speech during the visit*



*Mr. Paul Jatau, Daily Editor, Nigeria Standard Newspaper and NUJ Chairman, making his contribution*



*L - R: Mrs. Elizabeth J. Gimba, Director Finance and Supply (DFS), left Mrs. Yvonne Ishola and Mrs. Janet Godiya*



*A cross section of PPC Management staff*



*A group photograph of PPC Management Staff and Executive members of NAWOJ after the meeting*

Photos: JOHN LAR

## Politics

# A look at INEC's preparedness for 2023 polls

**The 2023 election will be conducted under the leadership of Prof Mahmud Yakubu, the first head of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to be appointed for a second term in the country's history, with an increasingly professional commission at his disposal even if there are concerns that this could be undermined by the presidential appointees to replace 19 resident electoral commissioners – responsible for overseeing state elections – whose terms expire before the 2023 polls, writes IDAYAT HASSAN.**

The 2022 Electoral Act introduces a number of changes that experts believe will continue to improve the credibility of elections. These include: the early appropriation and release of election funds. INEC is to get its funding at least one year to the general election. INEC is now required to issue the notice of polls 360 days before a general election. This entails an early release of the timetable and schedule of activities to be undertaken by the Commission.

The campaign period of 150 days provides candidates with the chance to engage voters extensively across the country. Debates over the legality of Smart Card Readers, the device previously used for accreditation of voters, is settled by Section 47 of the Act which empowers INEC to use the Smart Card Reader or any other device for accreditation. Political parties must now complete their primaries and submit the names of candidates 180 days to the general election. This gives the commission sufficient time to produce the materials required for the general election, such as ballot papers. The Act empowers INEC to determine the form of transmission or transfer of election results, opening up the possibility of electronic transmission. INEC is now mandated to ensure that persons with disabilities and other vulnerabilities are properly assisted to participate in the process.

New limits have been set for amounts of money that political parties and candidates can spend in elections, as well as the amounts that can be donated to them. However, instead of diminishing the role of money in politics, the Act increased the campaign financing limit from N1 to N5 billion for presidential candidates, with ceilings raised across contested positions. Furthermore, tax compliance



**Yakubu**

with, and enforcement of, campaign finance regulations has not been addressed. Unlike the 2010 Electoral Act which defined over voting in terms of registered voters, the new Act defines it in terms of accredited voters. This will greatly reduce the challenge encountered by the commission whereby elections are easily declared inconclusive because of tying it to registered voters, even where turnout is very low.

The Act empowers the commission to review the result of elections to ensure that declarations are made voluntarily and that results emerge in accordance with the law, regulations, guidelines and manuals for elections. This

allows INEC to review results made under duress or financial inducements. In previous years, parties and candidates were able to hold returning officers at gunpoint or gave financial gratification to falsify results.

Related to the Electoral Act are the Regulations, Guidelines and Manuals introduced and revised by the commission for election management. Together with the Constitution and the Electoral Act, they constitute the legal framework on which the election will be conducted. These strengthen several areas of administering the election, such as the grounds for declaring an election inconclusive, which has been a major contentious issue in past elections, as well as the



**Okoye**

procedure for electronic transmission of votes. The technological components being proposed by INEC under the law, include the use of Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), a result viewing platform and the electronic transmission of results which many pundits believe will cure the chaotic, vulnerable to manipulation and unnecessarily opaque result processing and aggregating systems.

At the behest of the public, INEC continues to gradually introduce technology innovations in the electoral process. This has increased the efficiency and integrity in several areas of the electoral process, including registration and identification of voters, accreditation of voters, results management, management of candidates, election observers, media and party agents, security and safety, public information and education, electoral knowledge production, election logistics and election staff recruitment. The introduction of the result viewing platform (IREV), for example, aims to ensure that results can be tabulated, and projections made about winners. But INEC must continue to strengthen its capacity to deploy technology and invest in cybersecurity. While technology is positive, it is not a silver bullet to cure Nigeria's zero-sum political game with desperate and disparate actors out to win at all costs. Nonetheless, the effective deployment, or otherwise, of technology will be a strong factor in determining the legitimacy

and outcome of the elections.

Administration of the 2023 general election is a significant logistical operation. The commission is set to deploy in 176,846 polling units, a 56,872 increase on 2019. This will require the recruitment and training of close to 1.5 million poll and security officials, about four times the size of the Nigerian military. Road vehicles are the predominant mode of transportation and account for 80% of goods traffic in Nigeria, but only 20% of the road network in the country is paved. Improvements have been made regarding internet access, but electricity is still largely absent for the majority of Nigerians. If roads are impassable, electricity epileptic and communication infrastructure rudimentary, this will affect the quality of election administration. For example, INEC uses secondary schools across the country as registration area camps, the last staging posts for election-day deployment. Most of these schools are in a terrible state and INEC will have to provide electricity, toilet facilities and water for its staff to be able to use those schools. These are obstacles that INEC must overcome as it conducts elections across the country.

Barrister Hassan is director at the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD); this article is an abridge part of the SWOT Analysis conducted by the centre on key aspects of the elections next year.

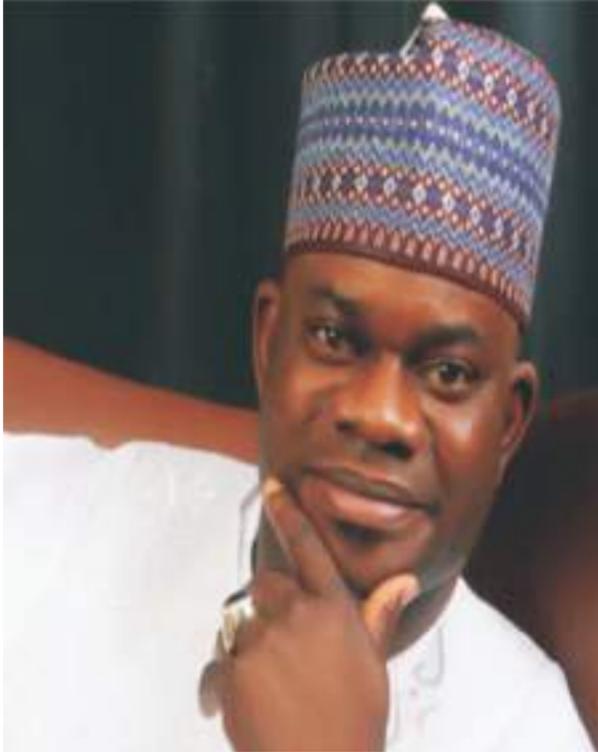
**“Related to the Electoral Act are the Regulations, Guidelines and Manuals introduced and revised by the commission for election management. Together with the Constitution and the Electoral Act, they constitute the legal framework on which the election will be conducted. These strengthen several areas of administering the election, such as the grounds for declaring an election inconclusive, which has been a major contentious issue in past elections, as well as the procedure for electronic transmission of votes. The technological components being proposed by INEC under the law, include the use of Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), a result viewing platform and the electronic transmission of results which many pundits believe will cure the chaotic, vulnerable to manipulation and unnecessarily opaque result processing and aggregating systems.”**

## News

### Monarch warns against Egbe -Egume Forest encroachment

From AMEDU JOSEPH,  
Lokoja

THE Onu- Egume and Okura District Head, HRH, Alhaji Etila Ajeka has warned against encroachment and trespass into Egbe forest in Egume community in Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State. The traditional ruler hinted that any form of trespass into the forest will attract the arrest of perpetrators and their subsequent prosecution. The warning was contained in a communique issued at the end of the the traditional rulers' meeting with stakeholders, security operatives, and the national body of Egume Ome Descendants' Union (EODU), over the drastic encroachment on the Egbe-Egume forest held at Onu-Egume's palace at the weekend. The forum also frowned at the disgusting encroachment into Egbe forest, the royal cemetery hosting late royal fathers and condemned the action in its entirety. His Royal Highness, Alhaji Etila Ajeka disclosed in the communique adding that hunting, farming, fetching of firewood and other activities within the forest is hereby prohibited. The forum which mandated the stakeholders to mobilise for the fencing and afforestation of the forest, stressed that the forest should be free from viruses of reproach, ridicule and insults.



Bello

stating "That the efforts towards reclaiming the areas encroached upon should be treated as expedient and imperative." The communique further stressed the need for proper demarcation of the Egbe forest, revived and developed to meet international forest standard. "That the state security, community vigilante Service, the hunters, Nigeria Civil Defence Corps and the Nigeria Police Force should be duly informed for necessary steps to secure the royal Forest from further encroachment." The communique was signed by the Onu Egume and District Head of Okura, HRH, Alhaji Etila Ajeka, The National President of Egume Ome

Descendants' Union, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal Ibrahim, the Chairman security committee, Hon. Gwon Omale, the home branch chairman, Mr. Samuel Idachaba, other

THE Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU) has commended the Federal Government for showing commitment towards addressing challenges bedeviling colleges of education in the country.

It could be recalled that COEASU had earlier embarked on a strike over what it's described as lackadaisical attitude of the government in handling problems concerning the Nigerian Colleges of Education.

The Vice President and Northeast zonal coordinator of the union, Mohammed Bello Umar told the press in Bauchi Friday that it was not the intention of the union to embark on the seven-week strike, but after failed visits, lobbying and efforts made to draw the attention of the Federal Government in addressing the lingering issues, the union had no choice than to embark on the strike to revive education at the basic level.

Umar recalled that the union gave the Federal Government a window of two months to do the needful and implement all grey areas raised by the union. Adding that the government so far has shown some level of

### COEASU commend's FG's commitment in addressing challenges

From ABBAS GUNGURA,  
Bauchi

commitment which he described as very encouraging.

"There were a lot of reasons that necessitated COEASU to embark on strike. First is the issue of the conditional scheme of service. These documents are usually reviewed after every five years in order to meet up with the contemporary challenges. But unfortunately, the document we are using was produced in 2010, which is over a decade. We insisted that the federal government should champion the review of the document, but the Government remained adamant."

"In 2010, the Federal Government formed a presidential committee to go round colleges of education, universities and polytechnics to know their challenges. The committee after going round discovered that colleges of education require not less than N400 billion for their revitalization. Unfortunately, not a single Kobo has been released. The Federal Government later promised to release

N15 billion out of the money which have been approved, sooner or later, the government will disburse it into the institutions."

"As per the issue of renegotiation, already, the Federal Government has formed a committee under former executive Secretary of the National Commission of Education (NCEE), Professor Kabir Ishaque with three other professors drawn from the University system and a representation from the Federal Government".

"The renegotiation went on smoothly and we have reached a position at that level, including new allowances for teachers and new salary packages that will meet up with the contemporary challenges" he said.

On issue of condition scheme of service, the Vice-president of the union stated that the federal government has formed a committee that will meet with the union in Nasarawa State with the aim of coming up with a new conditional scheme of service that will address all the needs in the colleges of education system.

### BASEPA to train 200 corps members

From ABBAS GUNGURA,  
Bauchi

NO fewer than 200 National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members will be trained by Bauchi State Environmental Protection Agency, (BASEPA) on green businesses.

The Director General of the Agency, Mr Ibrahim Kabir, disclosed this in Bauchi on Friday, when the Director, NYSC, North-East Area Office, Bauchi, Mr Omotade Folorunso paid him a courtesy visit.

He explained that a green business is one that uses sustainable materials to make

its products.

Ibrahim Kabir, said the businesses aimed to use as little water, energy and raw materials as possible while cutting carbon emissions and utilising these materials in renewable and eco-friendly manners.

He listed some of the businesses as; Eco-friendly Landscaping and Gardening, Nursery Development, Waste Regulation, Environmental Impact Assessment, Fumigation and Eco-friendly Cleaning, among others.

Kabir further revealed that in the year 2021, the agency



Bala

trained 100 corps members on the same businesses and most of them had settled down, established themselves in the state by practicing the businesses.

Speaking, Mr Omotade Folorunso, said the visit was to familiarise and strengthen the cordial relationship between the two agencies, NYSC and BASEPA.

He said that NYSC had observed that there was a lot it could do together with BASEPA by adding value to what the agency is doing in the state, most especially, in Bauchi metropolis.

Folorunso stated that the NYSC had been involved in all manners of interventions across the 774 local councils in the country.

He, however, proposed that the corps members should be used as vanguard for sensitisation of the citizens toward ensuring active and effective participation of the people of the state in the monthly environmental exercises.

"We can partner BASEPA in Bauchi State to add value to the activities and functions of the agency towards ridding our environment, especially Bauchi metropolis of heaps of refuse."

"The actual participation by citizens in environmental science, we can look at it and add value in that respect."

"The corps members can also be used as vanguard for sensitisation of our citizens towards improving personal hygiene and the way we dispose our refuse," he said.

Some members of NYSC officials on the courtesy visit were the state Coordinator, Alhaji Namadi Abubakar, the Public Relations Office and Mr Suleiman Aliyu.

Others were; Mal. Ibrahim Tukur, Deputy Director, Human Resources and Training North East Area Office, and Alh. Abdullahi Manga, Deputy Director, Finance and Accounts, North East Area Office, Bauchi, among others.

### Nigerians commiserate with King Charles III, UK

From JIDAUNA YANUNG,  
Abuja

PROMINENT Nigerians have continued to commiserate with King Charles III, The United Kingdom and the Common Wealth Nations over the

passing away of the Queen of England, Queen Elizabeth II.

The Chairman, Senate committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa, Senator Chimaroke Nnamani in his condolence

message described her as one of the revered Monarchs that ever live on earth.

She was an uncommon Monarch who diligently promoted excellent work ethics paid attention to duty, unwavering commitment to the welfare and security of her people, and above all, exhibited uncommon humility.

He added that Queen Elizabeth was royalty personified pointing out that she gave dignity and meaning to Monarchy to the admiration of the world.

"Her passage is arguably the end of an era. She left an incredible footprint in the sands of time. Queen Elizabeth II was the quintessential Monarch who spread good will to all

nooks and crannies of the world, promoting world peace and cooperation especially through the Commonwealth games.

On his own part, the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Bishop Mathew Hassan Kukah said, the late Queen Elizabeth II would be remembered as "moral force" in the world.

Ukah in his condolence message described the late Queen Elizabeth II as "a committed royal leader well-loved for her sincerity and essence of purpose"

He said "as a leader, Queen Elizabeth was well respected because of the enormous goodwill she brought into governance" the beautiful of Queen Elizabeth had long become etched in public memory across generations" he stressed.



Bala

News

# Military committed to training personnel - COAS

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

THE Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Farouk Yahaya has said that the military will continue to be focused, resilient and committed to training its personnel to effectively and efficiently operate in line with best practices towards tackling security challenges.

General Yahaya spoke while declaring open, 2nd Commanding Officers Workshop at the Headquarters, 8 Division Nigerian Army, Sokoto.

The workshop has the theme: "Equipment Maintenance and Operational Efficiency: The Role of Operational and Tactical Level Commanders in the Nigeria Army as well as Sister Services through Inter Agency Cooperation"

He noted that adequate and efficient training of officers was necessary for enhancing operational capacity and performance of the military.

According to the army Chief, "the operational environment is dynamic and complex and training is imperative at tactical and command levels to be able to achieve the desired results."

"It is indeed the highest point of professionalism needed to strengthen as well enhance our commitment to operational competence at confronting the spate of security challenges in Nigeria."

While noting that the theme of the workshop was apt, General Yahaya said it would also serve as basis for both senior and junior officers to refocus their perspective on how to operate in a joint environment.

He urged participants to take advantage of the event to develop and exchange constructive ideas and discussions in order to fast track practical solutions to contemporary security challenges.

He commended President Muhammadu Buhari's support and confidence in the military by making the institution more robust towards discharging its constitutional role of defending the nation's



Farouk

sovereign integrity.

Speaking, Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal observed that inter agency collaboration was key and very fundamental in addressing current security challenges in the country.

According to Tambuwal "it is the most critical aspect of the theme of this workshop."

The governor while noting that Nigeria needed more equipment with commensurate maintenance and training activities for the army and other security agencies, appealed to the President for continued support to further drive a responsive course towards tackling security challenges.

Also, in his goodwill message, Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar said the workshop would provide opportunity for Commanding officers to learn and exchange ideas on operational issues and security challenges.

"I am particularly excited to see you come together under one roof in the interest of the country's security."

"There is no end to learning and the best equipments are the soldiers behind the equipment. You should continue to do your best", the monarch urged.

Earlier, the GOC 8 Division Army Headquarters, Sokoto, Major General Uwem Bassey

said the Nigeria Army was ready to accomplish its assigned mission in a joint environment, noting the choice of the theme was in tune with the operational mission statement of the COAS.

According to Bassey who is also the Commander Northwest Operation 'Hadarin Daji' Task Force, "the workshop will also smoothen and enhance the drive for Tactical and Commanding Officers to adequately operate effectively and efficiently going by their primary role of equipment maintenance in a joint operational environment."

"I urge all participants to avail themselves with the best of this workshop towards building their capacities for high operational performance", Bassey stressed as he acknowledged Governor Tambuwal's passionate support to the Army 8 Division.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**EZEKIEL**

I, formerly known as **PAM LINDA EZEKIEL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PAM DIVINE EZEKIEL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note

**KUMTAL**

I, formerly known as **KWARAI ELIJAH KUMTAL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **KUMTAL ELIJAH PIELBOK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note

**AGNES**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**JOONI PEARLS HEALTH CARE FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part 'F' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

**TRUSTEES:**

- 1. ONIGBENGADE TUNBI - Chairman
- 2. ONIBUKOLA OMOLABAKE - Secretary
- 3. OJEBILE ADEOLA BENEDICTA - Trustee

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- 1. To carry out medical outreaches in rural areas and urban slums for the benefit of vulnerable people in such communities;
- 2. To enhance economic emancipation for vulnerable children, men and women in rural communities by educating them and providing relevant assistance to them;
- 3. To give free medical assistance to vulnerable people in rural communities;
- 4. To create awareness on healthy living by carrying out routine education on preventive measures for better living to people in rural communities;

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent off, Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication  
**Signed: Secretary.**



## A season to be cautious

VERY soon, the floodgate for politicking will be flung open when according to INEC timetable politicians can engage in open canvassing for votes. That of the presidential and national assembly, we are made to understand will open by September 28 while that of the governorship and states houses of assembly will open from October 12. Prior to these dates, politicians had engaged in what they called consultations. Where they were not allowed to gather people in open spaces and ask for their votes.

As this season approaches, it is incumbent on us to call on the political players to tread with caution. It is already on record that some of them have started making reckless statements which are likely to put the political process in jeopardy. The case of Kogi that has trended for sometime now on the social media suffices here. There is a video making the rounds of the governor of the state, Yahaya Bello making statements in his native Ebira language threatening to deal with anyone who attempts to stand in his way to return his political party 100% in the forthcoming elections in the state.

The said video has been interpreted variously by his supporters and the opposition. But if it is true that the threats were made as it is being claimed by some, then it is sad, unfortunate and or condemnable. It is sad that in our country, our leaders talk and act before they think. What they fail to appreciate is the fact that whatever authority they hold is transient and in trust for the people. They must therefore, always be wary of statements that would portray them in negative light.

It is interesting to note that there are several options for the people to choose from. It is getting to the point where political parties do not matter anymore. It is the individuals who run on the various political platforms who should be looked and to prevent the charade that has come to define us as a

people. Because good people have stayed away from politics because it was perceived to be tainted. Rogues and miscreants have been allowed to take over the political space. Supplanting them has become an issue that the society has had to contend with.

That the political stage has been seized by misfits and rogues is responsible for the parlous state in which our country is. Nothing, since 1999 when democracy was emplaced seem to be working. Few states have been able to distinguish themselves. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of most parts of the country. We need to,

**We forget that we have to distinguish ourselves in our various fields before dabbling into politics to provide service to our communities, states and country. It is high time we start reversing this trend and begin to hand power to serious people who can create wealth for the benefit of the generality of the people not the presently idea less crop we presently possess masquerading as leaders.**

as a people look at and restructure our politics and the way we think. INEC must lead from the front if the country is to succeed in sanitizing its politics. It must insist on doing the right thing by making sure rules are followed. It is heartwarming that some of the reforms it had embarked upon have shown some promise. It therefore, behooves on INEC to continue to pursue and follow this path of honour.

On the other hand, politics has become the most lucrative industry in our clime. It is only politics that opens doors of opportunity to all manner of people.

This should not be the case. Politics should be an opportunity to serve not enrich one's self. It must therefore, be made unattractive by reducing the bogus pay which the various offices attract. A situation where our institutions of higher education go on strike for several months and nothing is creatively done by the government to resolve the issue, smacks of not only insensitivity but the glorification of politics over the common good. It only confirms that our politicians do not know the essence of holding political offices other than oiling their political machines and clinging to power at all cost.

It is only in Nigeria that you will hear somebody giving his job description as a politician. We forget that we have to distinguish ourselves in our various fields before dabbling into politics to provide service to our communities, states and country. It is high time we start reversing this trend and begin to hand power to serious people who can create wealth for the benefit of the generality of the people not the present idea less crop we presently possess masquerading as leaders.

Twenty three years after the return to democracy we cannot continue to harbour miscreants whose only job is creating poverty and want. We must evolve a system that will provide opportunities for all not only a few.

We must build institutions that would outlast us and begin to obey simple rules and stop cutting corners. We must make deliberate decisions and efforts to make and grow our society. The country is so endowed that if we can get 60% of our acts together, we would not be where we are.

Politicians must be conscious of whatever they do therefrom. All these thievery that is going on must jolt the people out of their present reverie and make them act in the interest of the majority. And to have a country that we can call our own, we must watch what we say and do.

## News

### Lokoja is 3rd fastest growing African city –Onyekehi

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

Hon. Suleiman Abdulkareem Onyekehi, the Special Adviser to Gov. Yahaya Bello on Special Projects, has described the official projection of Lokoja as the third fastest growing city in African continent by the Google Wikipedia, as the affirmation of the transformational achievements under GYB's Administration in Kogi State.

Wikipedia in its recent report, projected Lokoja to be the third fastest growing African city between 2020 and 2025, with a 5.9% growth.

Speaking to journalists in Lokoja, Onyekehi said the feat was possible under GYB's administration due to the Governor's undying passion and commitment to the infrastructural development in the confluence city and the state at large.

Onyekehi, who also posted the Wikipedia report on his Facebook page, urged the governor's distractors to acquaint themselves with such positive news about Kogi under GYB administration rather than promotion of fabricated falsehoods to score cheap political goals.

According to him, the governor has performed tremendously well in infrastructural developments in rural and urban modernization, roads, bridges, hospitals, water projects, rural electrifications, among others.

He stressed that Kogi under the previous administration was economically lifeless, backwardness, suffered infrastructural decay, in security and dilapidated State inherited by GYB in 2016.

He also eulogised the



Bello

governor for his achievements in ensuring equity, fairness, justice to all citizens irrespective of tribe and religion which he said had resulted to the unity of the people of the state.

He noted that before the coming of GYB in 2016, Kogi was a den of criminals of all kinds and crimes was a daily routine.

He said that the fight against insecurity despite being at the center of the country bordering 9 states including FCT, had yielded great results which had made Kogi to be one of the safest States in Nigeria.

Onyekehi, who doubles as the state focal person of National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), said the Governor has empowered women and youths in skills acquisitions, agriculture, businesses and social development.

He stressed that the Governor has involved more youths and women in governance through the appointment of vibrant youths in his cabinet and at

all levels, stressing that over 80% of his appointees are of youthful age brackets including himself.

He, therefore urged Nigerians to ignore the distractors of the Governor and discard the fake news and falsehoods being orchestrated by peddlers about the performing Governor.

"Those peddling lies are rather the enemies of the state who don't like progress, peace, unity and transformation agenda of New Direction APC-led administration of GYB.

"Yahaya Bello is rather sacrificing all he could to developing the state, unite and empowering women and youths, as well as protecting the future of younger generations with a good foundation," he said.

He restated that the Governor has warned promoters of political violence and sent a strong riot act to the criminals and reiterated the readiness of government to ensure violence promoters face the full wrath of the law.

member who contributed to the growth of the Association.

Engineer Damang Fwangchi, the Coordinator of their set said late Dapel would be greatly missed and urged the immediate family to take solace in God as all humans will go back to their creator.

The late Gabriel Dapel Kutok was born 13th March, 1947 in Panyam and started his Primary education at the Sudan United Mission (SUM) from 1960. After completion he gained admission at Government Science School Kuru where he completed in 1971.

Powered by a drive to excel in life and career between 1973 and 1978, the deceased pursued higher education at Ahmadu Bello University, Umudike now Micheal Okpara University of Agriculture.

He expressed gratitude to the government and the security operatives for working to ensure she regain her freedom.

### Foundation offers scholarship to 100 vulnerable children

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

to sustain the initiative geared towards giving quality education to vulnerable children in the society.

The Programme's Project Manager, Mr Shuaibu Adinoyi, said about 100 children participated in the summer lesson in both primary and secondary categories.

Adinoyi stressed that the programmes had made great positive impact in the lives of the children, and called for government and other stakeholders' support to join in the partnership.

He commended the Corps members who were the facilitators of the programme for putting in all their best in impacting knowledge into the children.

In his remarks, Mr Idris Muraina, KONGONET Chairman

in Kogi; commended the foundation for impacting the lives of the vulnerable children positively and for building their capacity for the future.

Muraina promised the Foundation of KONGONET's support, assuring that they would continue to put the governments on their toes to do the needful for the citizens especially the vulnerable.

Mr Titus Alonge, Executive Director, Teens Educational Development and Information Initiative (TEDiiN); and Mrs Hellen Henry, State Coordinator, Association for Orphans and Vulnerable Children NGO in Nigeria (AONN), all commended the foundation for the initiative.

The overall best student in the Secondary category, Miss Susan Nicholas, thanked the Foundation for the scholarship and prayed God to bless and replenish them.



Adamu

### FG eyes \$4bn annually from cashew exports

The federal government Monday said it was working to improve the country's earnings from cashew exports to about \$4 billion annually.

Nigeria currently generates about \$450 million from the export of the commodity which had been described as too low for the country.

Speaking at a media briefing on the 16th Annual Conference of the African Cashew Alliance holding in Abuja, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Mr. Niyi Adebayo, also said the country currently produces about 260,000 metric tonnes of cashew nuts annually, adding that plans were ongoing to raise the annual production capacity to over 500,000 metric tonnes.

He added that out of the

current production figure of 260, 000 metric tonnes, 180, 000 metric tonnes are traded as raw cashew nuts.

Represented at the event by the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr. Evelyn Ngige, the minister said the conference would sensitise Nigerians on the investment opportunities that abound in the cashew value chain as well as the benefits accruable from the hosting of the event in the country.

Adebayo said there was a myriad of investment opportunities in the cashew sub-sector which could generate immense wealth and employment for Nigerians, stressing that investment in the sector cuts across the cashew value chain from cultivation, harvesting, processing, storage, and marketing to exporting of

either the raw cashew nuts or partially processed products.

He said presently, Nigeria has 15 active processing plants with estimated capacity of 55,750 metric tonnes and eight inactive plants with an estimated capacity of 8,500 metric tonnes.

According to him, new investments are being planned for the development of six new plants, with an estimated capacity of 23, 910 metric tonnes, adding that the effort was expected to provide over a million direct and indirect employment for the teeming youths.

The minister also said that cashew production is currently limited to only about 10 states out of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He said since the inception of the present administration, the government has continued to pursue deliberate policies to diversify the economy away from its over-dependence on the oil and gas sector.

The minister said the government had sustained its commitment to the provision of enabling environment and incentives for the development of the cashew value chain, adding that these efforts have enhanced activities in the sub-sector, resulting in an increase in the commodity's production in the country.



Adebayo

### Kutok, laid to rest

From **PETER TITLE, Panyam**

THE remains of late Gabriel Dapel Kutok has been buried in Ndai village, Panyam District of Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State last Saturday with a charge on Christians to live a righteous and exemplary lives while on earth.

Reverend John Dashe of the Church Of Christ In Nations (COCIN), Local Church Council (LCC), Panyam gave the charge during the funeral rites of the deceased held at their family compound in Ndai, Panyam District, Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State.

According to the clergy, all humans are on a journey and urged people to live holy lives so that they gained salvation at the end of their sojourn on earth.

Rev. Dashe who took his text from 1Corinthians 4 verse 7 said everything acquired on earth is temporal and vanity and encouraged Christians not to be weary of serving God

because he is the only refuge for believers.

He described the deceased as humble, adding that he left a vacuum that must be filled by those he left behind.

The District Head of Panyam, Engineer Aminu Derwam while eulogizing the deceased described late Gabriel Dapel not only as community leader, politician, great mobiliser but an all-rounder in all ramifications.

The Royal Father said the deceased would be greatly missed for his frankness and called on his children to follow his footsteps.

The Chairman of Mangu Local Government Council, Hon Minister Daput described the deceased as a reliable politician who played politics without hatred.

Represented by the Council's Secretary, Hon Anderson Keswet said he left a vacuum that can hardly be filled.

The Kuru Old Students Association (KOSA) set 1971 described the deceased as humble and an active

## Foreign Commentary

# King Charles's ascension ignites debate across Commonwealth

**King Charles receiving the Order of Freedom of Barbados when he was Prince of Wales in 2021. Head of state role in doubt in realms from Jamaica to New Zealand after death of Queen Elizabeth II - Patrick Wintour and Oliver Holmes write**

King Charles's ascension to the throne has reignited a debate over whether the royal family deserves a global role in the 21st century, no more so than in the 14 Commonwealth realms where the British monarch remains the head of state.

A legacy of empire and slavery that was entwined with British royalty for centuries has raised tough questions about the place of a foreign king, and republican movements from the Pacific to North America to the Caribbean will be assessing whether they should seize the moment.

Recent developments, notably Barbados becoming a republic in 2021 and removing Queen Elizabeth as its head of state, have also led to a crescendo that could now reach a climax.

While there are strong republican voices in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, Jamaica appears to be most likely to face the issue immediately, not least because appointing the new king might require a constitutional referendum.

The main story on the front page of one of Jamaica's leading newspapers, the Gleaner, said the Queen's death would "make Jamaica's break with monarchy easier".

Elizabeth II had a "personal kind of lingering among some sections of the population", the paper quoted cultural expert Jahlan Niaah, senior lecturer at the University of the West Indies, as saying. But he added: "There is another section that is clear that we have come too far with those millstones around our necks, and the fact that she has passed will mean there is less affection for the symbolism that she represents as a powerful woman in the world."

In 2020, Mikael Phillips, an opposition member of Jamaica's parliament, filed a motion backing the removal of the monarch and on Thursday said he hoped the prime minister "would move faster when there is a new monarch in place".

Jamaica's government last year announced plans to ask London for compensation for an estimated 600,000 Africans who were shipped to the island to the financial benefit of British slaveholders. And a poll this summer found that more than half of Jamaicans said they wanted the Queen to be removed as head of state.

The royal family has sought to address Britain's bloody imperial past for decades. As prince, Charles attended the Barbados ceremony last year and gave a conciliatory speech referring to the "appalling atrocity of slavery" that "forever stains British history".

More than 10 million Africans were forced into the Atlantic slave trade by European nations, and



King Charles III

those who survived the trip were shackled in the Caribbean and the Americas.

Belize has already announced a constitutional review, and political leadership in some overseas British territories such as the British Virgin Islands was also heading in a similar direction.

The wider Commonwealth of Nations, a group of 56 countries including 2.5 billion people, will also face a reckoning. The organisation has attempted to democratise, for example, by declaring that its head is not a hereditary role. However, Charles was still chosen to lead by leaders of the bloc in 2018, which has made some countries uncomfortable.

In Australia, Canada and New Zealand, the transition has brought grief but also raised resentment around the damaging effects of Britain's colonisation on Indigenous peoples.

In Canberra parliament has been suspended for 15 days, while the Sydney Opera House was illuminated in the Queen's honour. Still, within hours of her death being announced the long-running republican debate was revived.

Archie Bland and Nimo Omer take you through the top stories and what they mean, free every weekday morning

A Green party senator, Mehreen Faruqi, said: "I cannot mourn the leader of a racist empire built on stolen lives, land and wealth of colonised peoples."

This June, Australia's new government headed by the prime minister, Anthony Albanese, appointed Matt Thistlethwaite as the country's first minister tasked with

overseeing a transition to a republic.

In New Zealand, the republican prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, remembered Queen Elizabeth II as "extraordinary", saying she came "to define notions of service, charity and consistency". And Marama Davidson, the co-leader of New Zealand's Green party, said the relationship between the British crown and New Zealand was "a question for another day".

A 96-gun salute for Queen Elizabeth at Parliament House forecourt in Canberra, Australia. Photograph: Reuters

Regardless, a fresh break from British royalty seemed an

inevitable question. Sir Don McKinnon, a former deputy prime minister of Aotearoa and former secretary-general of the Commonwealth, told Radio New Zealand that the possibility of New Zealand becoming a republic would "build up quite a head of steam now".

In Fiji, which was a British colony from 1874 until 1970, the Queen was being mourned but British imperialism had complicated their feelings, said Inise Kuruwale, a librarian. "I believe most people feel sad today, but not all, because a lot of people are still a bit angry about the fact of colonialism."

In Vanuatu, which was run as a joint colonial post by the French

and British after the second world war until gaining independence 42 years ago, residents of the capital of Port Vila expressed sadness for her passing, but said the relevance of the monarchy has dimmed over the years.

"She was a very good role model. She came to Vanuatu, but it was before I was born," said Lopez Adams, who owns a cafe in Port Vila. "We are sad for her family, but for us, we have been forgotten. Colonisers came and they took. We are independent now and we have seen nothing from them."

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Source B B C News



Queen Elizabeth

## Foreign News

### Ruto sworn in as Kenyan president

Mr Ruto hailed it as "a moment like no other", adding that a "village boy" had become president.

Defeated candidate Raila Odinga did not attend. He said he had "serious concerns" about his opponent's victory.

Mr Ruto won the election with 50.5% of the vote, to Mr Odinga's 48.8%.

Odinga has alleged that the result was rigged, but the Supreme Court has ruled the election was free and fair.

Ruto - the former deputy president - was handed a copy of Kenya's constitution and a sword to represent the transfer of power from President Uhuru Kenyatta.

With his hand on a Bible, the 55-year-old swore to preserve and protect the constitution.

"Standing here today is testimony that there is God in heaven. I want to thank God because a village boy has become the president of Kenya," Ruto said, referring to the fact that he grew up in rural Kenya.

He also had conciliatory words for Mr Odinga, and all his opponents.

"Their supporters will be my constituents. I will work with all Kenyans irrespective of who they voted for," Mr Ruto said.

New Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua also took the oath of office.

He said the Ruto administration marked "freedom" for Kenya, and the days when people were targeted because of their association with him "are over."

Earlier, at least eight people were reported to have been injured in a crush as they jostled to enter the stadium to witness the ceremony.

But inside the crowd was in high-spirits, with frequent cheering, waving of the Kenyan flag, and groups of people proudly wearing yellow - the colour synonymous with Ruto's campaign.

There was also a handshake between the outgoing Mr Kenyatta and Mr Ruto, his former deputy with whom he fell out during their second term in office.

Religion was a persistent theme throughout the swearing in ceremony, with leaders from the Christian and Islamic faiths offering prayers for the new president.

Bishop Mark Kariuki said God had showcased his might by elevating Mr Ruto, who was once a road-side chicken seller, to the presidency.

Kenyatta has stepped down at the end of his two terms. He backed Mr Odinga in the election, saying Mr Ruto was unworthy to serve as president.

Mr Kenyatta congratulated Mr Ruto on his win only a day before his inauguration. Kenyatta said he was committed to a peaceful transition and urged the new president to serve all Kenyans.

Several people were injured in a crush as they tried to enter the stadium.

In a statement, Mr Odinga said he had received a call



Ruto

from Ruto inviting him to the inauguration, but that he would not attend as he was abroad and he did not believe the election was free and fair.

This is despite the fact that the Supreme Court handed down a unanimous judgment, confirming Ruto's victory and dismissing Mr Odinga's concerns that the election was marred by widespread irregularities.

Mr Ruto won after portraying himself as a "hustler" who was challenging an attempt by two dynasties - the Odingas and Kenyattas - to hang on to power.

He promised a "bottoms-up" approach to the economy to tackle the high unemployment rate among young people, and to improve the lives of those less well off.

### UN rapporteur calls for end to sanctions against Iran

TEHRAN, Iran - A special United Nations rapporteur has called for the removal of unilateral sanctions on Iran in a report that details the effect of decades of embargos on the country.

In the report, published on Monday, Alena Douhan, whose role is focused on the negative result of the sanctions, said that they had affected nearly every aspect of life in the country, and called for them to be lifted.

According to Douhan, even as medicines and food are supposed to be exempt from sanctions, general licenses issued by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) aimed at ensuring exemptions "appeared to be ineffective and nearly non-existent".

She said delivery of medicines and medical equipment to Iran was "severely undermined" by the effects of sanctions on finance, trade, shipping, insurance and over-compliance on the part of foreign businesses and suppliers.

"These constitute serious impediments to the enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health by all Iranians."

Sanctions have been imposed on Iran since 1979, when the country's Islamic revolution took place.

The overwhelming majority of the many layers of sanctions have been imposed by the United States, but others including the European Union, Australia and Canada also have a history of blacklisting Iran and are mentioned in the report.

Since 2018, when former US President Donald Trump unilaterally reneged on Iran's



Sanctions have negatively affected Iran's economy

UN-backed 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, Washington has enforced a "maximum pressure" campaign of harsh sanctions that have been expanded by President Joe Biden, even as efforts continue to restore the accord.

The US has said that its sanctions are a response to alleged Iranian efforts to build a nuclear weapon, its actions in the wider Middle East, and repressive behaviour against its citizens.

Iran's nuclear programme continues to be at the centre of its dispute with the US, with the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) saying on September 7 that it was "not in a position to provide assurance that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively peaceful".

Tehran has maintained that it is not the case, and that its nuclear programme is focused on nuclear energy, and not

VOLODYMYR Zelensky said troops have now retaken more than 6,000 sq km (2,317 sq miles) from Russian control in September, in the east and the south.

Russia has admitted losing key cities in the north-eastern Kharkiv region, in what is seen by some military experts as a potential breakthrough in the war.

Moscow describes its troop withdrawal from the region in recent days as a "regrouping" with the aim of focusing on the Luhansk and Donetsk regions in Ukraine's east.

That claim has been ridiculed even in Russia, with many social media users there describing the stated pull-out as "shameful".

Speaking later on Monday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Ukrainian forces had made "significant progress" in their counter-offensive, but added that it was too early to predict the outcome.

"The Russians maintain very significant forces in Ukraine as well as equipment and arms and munitions. They continue to use it indiscriminately against not just the Ukrainian armed forces but civilians and civilian infrastructure as we've seen," Mr Blinken said.

In his late video address on Monday, President Zelensky said: "From the beginning of September until today, our warriors have already liberated more than 6,000 sq km of the territory of Ukraine - in the east and south".

"The movement of our troops continues," he said.

### Zelensky: We've retaken 6,000 sq km



Zelensky

The counter-offensive appears to have been rapid. Last Thursday, President Zelensky said Ukrainian forces had retaken 1,000 sq km, but by Sunday that stated figure had tripled to 3,000 sq km.

Mr Zelensky thanked several of Ukraine's brigades involved in the counter-offensive, describing their fighters as "true heroes".

He did not reveal which Ukrainian cities and villages had

been liberated.

Ukrainian troops pose with flags in a village retaken from Russian control in the north-eastern Kharkiv region.

Significant - albeit slower - advances by Ukrainian troops have also been reported in the southern Kherson region, which borders with Crimea - a Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014.

UK defence officials say the Ukrainian army's recent successes will have "significant implications" for Russia's overall operational design.

However, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has insisted that military operations in Ukraine will continue "until all the tasks that were initially set" have been fulfilled.

Russia says its forces have been carrying out strikes in those areas retaken by Ukraine in recent days.

The military is now engaged in cleaning up the war-torn city and Ukrainian forces are searching for Russian soldiers potentially hiding in people's houses.

Mr Marchenko said that after "about 10 days", residents who had to flee the city would be able to return "safely".

Russia has been accused of targeting civilian infrastructure in revenge for setbacks on the battlefield.

A wave of missile strikes on Sunday caused massive power cuts across north-eastern Ukraine, leaving tens of thousands of people without electricity and running water for several hours.

The Ukrainians believe they've answered important questions. Can they break the stalemate and recapture territory? Yes. Can they use Western weapons effectively? Yes. The result is their most important victory since winning the battle for Kyiv back in March.

This matters because without proof they can win, they fear that the economic costs of supporting Ukraine and opposing Russia might be too much for some of their NATO allies, especially over a long, hard winter.

As for the Russians, this was a rout. Not a fighting retreat or a redeployment. Military intelligence failed and soldiers with catastrophically poor morale abandoned large amounts of equipment.

The Ukrainians know what they're fighting for - it is not clear that the Russians do.

sanctions since 2018 jeopardised the country's food security by disrupting the supply of at least 10 million tonnes of agricultural imports, constituting a "clear violation of the right to food in terms of access and adequacy".

The report also focused on the effect of sanctions on the ability of Iranians to buy food.

Rampant inflation - currently at about 40 percent - and currency devaluation have meant that food prices are contributing to huge increases in household costs.

"Food insecurity rates among the population have soared, reaching 60 percent in certain regions," it said, pointing out that the cost of the average food basket has increased more than 3.4 times between 2018 and 2022.

The report also said that annual gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by an average of 1.7 percent between 2011 and 2015, as sanctions intensified. It grew by a record 13.6 percent in 2016 after the nuclear deal was implemented and registered 3.7 percent growth in the next year, but shrank by 6 percent and 6.8 percent respectively in the two years after, when new US sanctions were imposed.

Significantly, the report points out that Iran is home to more than five million immigrants and refugees, many of them Afghans in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

It argues that the sanctions have "adversely impacted the government's capacity to protect and humanitarian actors' ability to implement projects, including the provision of basic goods, and construction of schools and health centres".

Source: Al Jazeera

## Feature

# The delicate ethno-religious road to 2023

**As we eagerly await the flag off of the electioneering campaigns preparatory to the all important general elections of 2023, I have been following the unfolding events in the country's political terrain with keen interest and observed that some happenings are gradually sliding us back to the days of old. Shortly after the elections and selections of presidential and vice presidential candidates respectively across all the parties; the political permutations and manipulations have assumed extremely tricky and fragile dimensions that are so delicate and capable of causing serious problems for our democracy, if not properly handled, RAYMOND OISE-OGHAEDE writes.**

IN the emerging dispensation, religion and ethnic considerations have once again taken the centre stage of politicking; and, people are treating it with levity as if it is a normal phenomenon. If the ignorance of the ordinary man on the street or the retinue of political jobbers to the dangers posed by this trend is overlooked and forgiven; the same cannot be the case for our experienced/well groomed politicians and the elites who ought to know better. In as much as this review is not in any way casting aspersions on anyone or group for not giving it a serious thought or shouting out; it would not hold back anything or fail to draw the attention of all well meaning and patriotic citizens to the dangers lurking in the corner.

Whether it is good to hear or not, the fact remains that our politicians are gradually dragging us back to the era where religion and ethnicity tore us apart and greatly contributed to political instability in governance. At the early stages of the country's democracy, political activities were largely bedeviled by parochial sentiments based on ethno-religious considerations. Thus, it is not an exaggeration to state that one of the major achievements of President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida's (IBB) administration was the elimination of the multi-party system of ethnicized politics by the adoption of a two party system with national spread and outlook. At that period, the creation of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC) was the elusive and much sought solution to the fragility of our then prevailing political hullabaloo. It was this "sophisticated masterpiece" by IBB that led to the freest and fairest election on 12<sup>th</sup> of June, 1993. Nigerians from all works of life "jettisoned" the old practice and embraced the politics of national interest geared towards forging a "united" and "progressive" political order. Although, the outcome of that election was not eventually actualized; the basics became the foundation upon which the present FOURTH REPUBLIC was laid in 1999. To buttress this fact; the present administration declared June 12<sup>th</sup> of every year as DEMOCRACY DAY and PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

Today, it is utterly sad, disappointing, unfortunate and worrisome that the dangerous and calamitous tendencies of religion and ethnic politicking is gradually being reinvigorated. Though, the proponents of the current moves are hinging their actions on the necessity for ethno-religious balancing; the way and manner in which some of them are propagating it leaves much to be desired. Rather than creating awareness and conducive atmosphere for the electorates on the activities lined up for the marketability or salability of their respective candidates when the electioneering campaigns eventually kick off in earnest; they are busy confusing the masses the more and creating atmosphere of mutual suspicion across the nook and cranny of the country. Gradually, their acclaimed actions for national interest have started planting seeds of discord and cancerous wounds in the hearts of the citizenry.

As much as there is nothing bad for political and religious leaders, associations, institutions and other individuals to amicably agitate for inclusiveness or equity and fairness of representation in governance; doing so in way(s) that could send wrong signals to people of other ethno-religious affiliations is the most fretful aspects of the whole matter. Nigeria is a secular state where no particular religion is seen as the official religion. In furtherance to this, the subsisting 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides in **Section 38(1)** that **"Every person shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion"**. In the same vein, there is no provision in the constitution or any known law where one ethnic nationality is seen as superior or inferior to the others. However, our people have so made the situation very complicated that we now see imaginary dichotomy based on ethnicity and religion. It is so worrisome that the country is presently engulfed in fiercely political wrangling on issues bordering on the geo-political region to produce the next president. There are also agitations for a



Christian president and a total rejection of a Muslim-Muslim ticket that is generally believed and seen as having the coloration of an "Islamic Agenda". As already stated earlier, there would not have been any problem with this agitations and objections if they were backed by any law; but, there is none.

The Constitution and the newly passed Electoral Act 2022 did not in anyway make provisions for religion and ethnic considerations in the election of political parties' presidential candidates or selections of their running mates. The same is also applicable in the election processes of the chairmanship position of the parties. If the above is the "position of the law"; then, why do people always criminalize it whenever the process does not agree or favour their ethnic or religious affiliations? If what is presently in practice is flawed and undesirable; the best way to go about it is by constitutional means through the National Assembly. Alternatively, result could be achieved by stopgap approach through discussions and negotiations to arriving at a Win-Win compromise; and, that is the beauty of modern politics. The use of threats, propaganda, force or other processes not known to the law can only compound and not resolve the problem(s). Ironically, the same people that are very quick to acknowledging and making references to our lofty achievements of June 12, 1993 (including those that were not born or have not attained the voting age then) are also the same people that are championing the crusades condemning and crying foul against the principles upon which that achievement became possible. This review will be neutral as much as possible; but, references will be made to some individuals and their political affiliations without prejudice to anyone or group.

One of the very delicate and trending issues of concern is the opinion held in some quarters about the purported ploy by the North to remain in power. This people are hinging their misgiving on the participation and eventual victory of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar in the presidential primaries of the PDP as a way of denying the South from producing the next president. Though, no one has been able to show us the section(s) of the Constitution or the Electoral Act that provides for "turn by turn" or zoning amongst the regions; they are of the firm belief that the presidential position should have been reserved/zoned for the south in 2023, in accordance to an "unknown and unwritten gentleman's agreement" within the party. However, the fact that the said Atiku was able to garner the majority of the delegates' votes (which cut across all the regions) at the presidential primaries which was also contested by candidates from the South, is an indication that he was the most preferred amongst the lot in spite of his northern origin. If that be the case, the issue of his ethnic background should not be held against him; unless, it could be proven that he forced the delegates to vote for him involuntarily or illegally to deny the south or other aspirants their right to be voted for or elected. Funny enough, it was this same Atiku that "stepped down" (from the second ballot

during the SDP presidential primaries held at the Jos Township Stadium) to pave way for M.K.O. Abiola (a Southerner from the West) to emerge as the presidential candidate of the party and the eventual winner of the June 12, 1993 elections. Perhaps, the electoral achievement of June 12, 1993, that has come to be the cornerstone of our present democracy might not have been possible without that "strategic sacrifice" of stepping down by Atiku (I was not told; I was a live witness of what transpired at the venue). The question we should be asking is, "does he possess the experience and capacity to unify us and moving the country forward"? So, the issue of his ethnic background should not be a major factor.

In another development, the Muslim-Muslim ticket of Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the APC has also been generating widespread furore. Those condemning it have not also been able to refer us to any section of our subsisting laws that frowned against same-faith pairing of candidates. The same people have suddenly forgotten that the electoral victory of June 12 1993 was also based on Muslim-Muslim pairing of Chief M.K.O Abiola and Ambassador Babagana Kingibe. So, why are they celebrating June 12 and seeing the present combination as an abomination? As we have mentioned earlier, Nigeria is a secular state with no singular official religion; and, if there would be anything like adoption of an official religion, the constitution must be amended to give legal backing to it; and, this can only be achieved through the National Assembly. Interestingly, the law makers are representatives of all the states from different religious background. Even in the present political dispensation, there are some states with Muslim-Muslim and Christian-Christian Governors and Deputy-Governors respectively; and, heaven has not come down. So, why are we bothering ourselves with nothingness? At this age and time, what we should be concern about is the people that can move the country forward and not the religion they profess; and, that should also be the case if the pairing was a Christian-Christian or Others-Others.

Another delicate situation is the imbroglio surrounding the chairmanship position of Senator Iyorchia Ayu of the PDP as a result of the emergence of Alhaji Atiku (another Notherner) as the party's presidential candidate. Though, the proponents of his sacking or resignation to give way for a southerner to take his place have not also been able to back their demands with any provisions of the law. They have suddenly forgotten that Ayu was constitutionally and lawfully elected into office before the presidential primaries was conducted. The two positions are products of separate processes backed by the law; and, if there is anything that must be done to undo the present status or position; that process must also be recognized and backed by the law. If anything is done arbitrary to undo what the law has put in place; such would become illegal and that would not stand in the face of the law. It does not matter whether Ayu had earlier "promised to resign" or not; or whether Atiku gave his

words that "Ayu must go" or not; those words/statements cannot be made sacrosanct when they come pari passu with the law. Ayu definitely knows his right on the matter: and, may want to defend it to the later; because, it is backed by the law. Therefore, all the name-calling and exchange of hot words will not lead to amicable resolution of the issue. If there is going to be any headway; such must be through moral suasion which must be guided by mutual understanding and co-operation. Nothing is impossible in politics; because, it is a field where you disagree to agree. Presently in the ruling party, the sitting president and the chairman are also from the North; and, they are still forging ahead as a national party. Interestingly, the chairmanship positions of both the APC and PDP were hitherto held by Southerners (Adams Oshiomhole and Uche Secondus respectively) before their kinsmen and party members orchestrated their removal.

Another very delicate issue is the rumours going round that the Northern politicians in APC strategically opted for Shittima as the vice presidential candidate to Tinubu for ulterior motives. By now, one would have expected the leadership of the party and the candidates to have dispelled such damaging and dangerous rumours; but, their long silence on the issue is also a problem in itself.

In another but related development, the supporters of the emerging third force(s) from the other political parties such as that of the Labour Party (Peter Obi) should also be cautious in the way and manner they carry out their activities so that they will not give people the impression that their movement is all about the talks in some quarters that it is the turn of the South-East or Christian to produce the next president. All the rancorous media buzzing, showman-visitations to worship venues, declarations by some highly placed individuals and religious leaders should be tactfully guided in order not to be seen as tacitly drawing battle line along ethno-religious divides. Some actions could be misinterpreted or misplaced to the extent that such would inadvertently result to loss of genuine love and support of those who would invariably see their religion or ethnic affiliations as the targets of abuse. Winning presidential election under the present democratic set up is a function of majority votes and obtaining 25% of the valid votes in at least 24 states. The spread is key; and, no one ethnic or religion can do it in isolation.

At this junction, it is very important to state it equivocally, that this review is without prejudice to the individuals and parties mentioned and not mentioned therein. The instances shared above are the delicate and crucial areas that need to be addressed urgently to forestalling imminent dangers for our democracy in the road to 2023. The ongoing political maneuverings and movements are gradually giving the impression of "gang up" of the South against the North and vice versa; and, if the situation continues unabated; it is capable of leading us back to the era of the North/South dichotomy. If that be the case, the ethno-religious affiliations of the vice presidential candidates of the major parties will count for less or nothing; because, there will be mass decamping and antiparty activities across the political platforms based on the ethno-religious affiliations of the presidential candidates; and, this will be detrimental to our democracy as the electorates will have no other option than to vote along the lines of the three major geopolitical divides of North, West and the East as it were in the days of old. At the end of the day, the desperately sought equity and justice will further be flushed down the drain; because, you cannot build something on nothing. Everything must have to be done in accordance to the law.

From the foregoing, the earlier those concerned see the dangers ahead and put things in place to averting same; the better it will be for all and sundry.

A word is enough for the wise.

**Raymond Oise-Oghaede is from Surulere, Lagos; and can be reached via raymondoise@yahoo.com.**

# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

### 7 handy tips to maintain peace of mind

MAINTAINING your peace of mind is the most important thing right now. Image courtesy: Shutterstock

The inability to sleep can be caused by the lack of productivity. No one can be a happy soul; if they do not do things that utilise their energy. That's why to [stay at peace](#), limit mindless scrolling.

**Move your body**

It is a proven fact that exercising helps in boosting the happy hormones in your body. So, take some time out. If that's not possible, try to take breaks between work, and move around rather than just lying down or sitting all day.

**Start focusing on things that are in your control**

There are a lot of things that are not in your control, therefore, there is no point in wasting your time on those. But more than that, there are things that are totally in your control, so you must focus all your energy towards those things. This will make you more productive, and who knows, you might achieve your peace of mind?

**Be very conscious while doing that self-talk**

Self-talk can have both a positive and negative impact on you. That's why be very conscious to keep negative comments aside, and attune your brain to talk optimistically. In case you are unable to do that, the best thing is to keep yourself occupied.

Be kind to yourself because negative self-talk is not good for your mental health. Image courtesy: Shutterstock

**Maintain some personal boundaries**

The biggest problem with some



of us is that we forget that every relation has a boundary. The moment that's crossed, your [peace of mind](#) goes for a toss. That's because at times, these boundaries limit you to do what you actually want to, and that can impact you emotionally.

**Don't choke your to-do list**



Only your boss can like a long to-do list. But in doing so, you forget that you only have four to five productive hours to accomplish that. If your to-do list is not prepared properly, basically, without prioritising, then it will exhaust you both mentally and physically. And in

the end, you will be left all stressed out. So, segregate your tasks on the basis of priority, and divide them accordingly.

Make realistic goals. Image courtesy: Shutterstock

**Live in the present**

We are all hell bent on thinking

about the future that we forget to think about our present. If you are organized and happy in your present, only then will you be able to plan for a beautiful future.

Well, these tips are not as daunting as you might have imagined them to be. Isn't it? So, how about trying them out?

# EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Parenting

# Discipline children the right way

By **BETH ROYBAL**

HOW can you provide discipline to your child so that they can function well at home and in public? Every parent wants their children to be happy, respectful, respected by others, and able to find their place in the world as well-behaved adults. Nobody wants to be accused of raising a spoiled brat.

Discipline is the process of teaching your child what type of behavior is acceptable and what type is not acceptable. In other words, discipline teaches a child to follow rules. Effective discipline uses many different tools, like positive reinforcement, modeling, and a loving and supportive family. Sometimes, punishments are also an effective tool—but that doesn't mean that good discipline is mostly about punishments.

Parents run up against barriers when trying to teach good behavior. Your responsibility as a parent is to help your child become self-reliant, respectful, and self-controlled. Relatives, schools, churches, therapists, health care professionals, and others can help. But the primary responsibility for discipline rests with parents.

An authoritative parent has clear expectations and consequences and is affectionate toward their child. The authoritative parent allows for flexibility and collaborative problem solving with the child when dealing with behavioral challenges. This is the most effective form of parenting.

### Discipline techniques

What you choose may depend on the type of inappropriate behavior your child displays, your child's age, temperament, and your parenting style.

### Reward good behavior

Acknowledging good behavior is the best way to encourage your child to continue it. In other words, "Catch him being good."



Compliment your child when they show the behavior you've been seeking.

**Natural consequences:** Your child does something wrong, and you let the child experience the result of that behavior. There's no need for you to "lecture." The child can't blame you for what happened.

**Logical consequences:** This technique is similar to natural consequences but involves describing to your child what the consequences will be for unacceptable behavior. The

consequence is directly linked to the behavior.

### Taking away privileges:

Sometimes there isn't a logical or natural consequence for a bad behavior -- or you don't have time to think it through. In this case, the consequence for unacceptable behavior may be taking away a privilege. For example, if a middle schooler doesn't complete their homework on time, you may choose to take away television privileges for the evening. This discipline technique works best if the privilege is related in some way to the behavior

- Something the child values
- taken away as soon as possible after the inappropriate behavior (especially for young children)

**Time outs:** Time outs work if you know exactly what the child did wrong or if you need a break from the child's behavior. Be sure you have a time-out location established ahead of time.

Time outs often work best with younger kids for whom the separation from the parent is truly seen as a deprivation.

Corporal (physical) punishment, such as spanking, isn't recommended.

### Tips for Maintaining discipline

Guide your discipline techniques to fit well with your child's temperament. The key to effective discipline is to understand who your child is, especially their temperamental style, and use your discipline to help them achieve their potential given those talents

and tendencies. But your goal should not be to turn them into someone they are not.

### Communicate your discipline plan:

Discipline techniques shouldn't come "out of the blue," especially if you're trying something new. To children who are old enough to understand, during a planned discussion (not in the heat of the moment) explain the technique, why you are using it, and what you hope it will accomplish. Older children may be included in choosing which rewards and consequences would be appropriate.

**Be respectful of your child:** If you show your child respect even when disciplining your child your child is more likely to respect you, other family members, and other people in their life. If you "lose it" or overreact with disrespect, apologize. Behave the way you want your child to behave.

**Be consistent:** Any technique will fail if you don't follow through or enforce consequences consistently. If you say, for example, that toys will be off limits for a week, then take them away if the offending behavior continues.

Don't break your discipline rules by giving in during public exhibitions of bad behavior, such as a child throwing a tantrum while shopping. If you give in to the child's demands, the tantrums will continue.

Try to keep your goals and your techniques consistent over time. If more than one adult is

responsible for the child's discipline, be sure you agree about the approaches you will use.

When it's done, it's done. After the consequence is over or the time has been served, don't ask for apologies or continue to lecture about the behavior. Help your child return to an appropriate activity.

### Look for the "why" behind behaviors:

If you notice a pattern of inappropriate behavior, part of the solution is to look for "whys." For example, perhaps your child is upset about something else, such as a friend moving away. Maybe your child had a bad day at school. Perhaps your child feels stressed about family problems. Maybe they are tired or hungry.

These explanations don't excuse the behavior, but trying to understand why it happens can help you and your child find ways to prevent it from happening again and again.

### Know When and Where to Go for Help

Give yourself a break. Even if you have the best discipline techniques and parenting style, there are some days when nothing seems to work. Or perhaps you've had a bad day, too. Developing skills for positive discipline takes a lot of practice and a lot of time. If you feel you have made a mistake, be honest. Apologize to your child and explain how you plan to change your response the next time.





**Editorial**

**Name and shame sponsors of terrorism**

THE Insecurity in Nigeria at the moment is one of the worst the country has faced over time. In line with this, therefore, the security agencies have had to come up with one strategy after the other to help find a lasting solution to the hydra headed problem. And according to reports, the strategies have started to yield results. One of the success stories is the arrest of the conflict entrepreneur, a result of foreign collaboration. On September 6, 2022 the Department of State Services (DSS) through its Public Relations Officer (PRO), Dr Peter Afunanya had confirmed the arrest of Mr Tukur Manu, the Abuja-Kaduna train kidnap negotiator, media aide to Sheikh Gumi and publisher of Desert Herald.

MANU, a person of interest according to the DSS was intercepted by Nigeria's foreign partners at Cairo, Egypt while on his way to Saudi Arabia for lesser Hajj. Information gathered revealed that the arrested Manu has since been returned to Nigeria after being detained for 24 hours as the extradition followed a request by Nigeria's military, law enforcement and intelligence community to their foreign partners.

HE was arrested in Egypt and detained by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) at the Cairo International Airport while awaiting a connecting flight to Saudi Arabia. The request was for Manu to be brought back to answer some critical questions on ongoing investigations relating to some security matters in parts of the country.

THOUGH reactions have trailed the arrest of Manu, popular amongst which is that of the Kaduna-based Islamic scholar, Sheikh Gumi, who claimed detaining Manu is an act of terrorism. Gumi emphatically stated that the DSS should either charge him to court or release him. The DSS has, however, on its part cautioned the public against what it termed skewed utterances and advised the public to wait for the commencement of court proceedings. It has also been revealed that so far, findings from the investigations have been mind boggling but no details of the findings have been revealed. They urged the public to allow the service to concentrate and complete its investigations.

REPORTS from unconfirmed sources have, however, claimed that Manu has made shocking revelations of a syndicate responsible for terrorism in Northern and other parts of Nigeria. According to the said report, General Aliyu Mohammed Gusau, a former National Security Adviser and an international SPY expert, a former Sokoto State Governor, Alh. Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa, as well as some clerics whose names were withheld in the meantime were among the revelations by Manu.

QUITE worrisome is the fact that the Nigerian government had earlier at the beginning of the year through the Information Minister, Lai Mohammed said it had uncovered 96 sponsors of terror groups of Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP). According to him, the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) had in the 2021-2022 revealed 96 financiers of terrorism in Nigeria. He stated that 123 companies, 33 Bureau de Change were linked to terrorists in addition to 26 suspected bandits/kidnappers and seven co-conspirators who have now been identified.

FOLLOWING these revelations, Nigerians have demanded that the federal government names and prosecutes suspects to serve as deterrent to others. It is heartrending that this has not happened months after the said revelation. Some of the insinuations by Nigerians is that the federal government was being deceitful by the claims, and in some quarters, it was alleged that the revelation was just a diversionary tactic. With the latest revelation by Manu, therefore, it is expected that the federal government will take the bull by the horn and do the needful by making the list of the said sponsors public.

I want to use this medium to call on the Plateau state government through the Ministry of Works to kindly do something about the road near the Police headquarters Jos, along JD Gomwalk road.

The road has been badly damaged living a big pot hole that slows down the movement of motorists plying the road. It has lately created a lot of unpleasant hold up along that axis leaving some vehicles over heated.

When it rains, the pot hold retains a lot of water which makes it very inconvenient for movement. This itself damages the road further and widens the pot hole.

If the government fails to do something about it, the depth will keep increasing and it will worsen the viability of the road which might be a death trap because of frequent accident that might occur.

I am therefore appealing to the state government to as a matter of urgent concern fix the road in good shape to avoid further deterioration. If it is attended to it would reduce the



**JD Gomwalk road needs urgent attention**

congestion that is constantly being witnessed and vehicles will move

swiftly without hitches.

*Abigail Maina, is IT student of Federal University Bauchi*

**Illegal processing of meat and its health effects**

Sir, I want to use this medium of Nigeria Standard Newspaper to appeal to the Federal Government to renovate Abattoir market and also create an agency that will be responsible for monitoring activities carried out in Abattoir market during meat processing.

As someone residing at Abattoir and keenly watching the unfolding of activities in the market, individuals that are processing meat for commercial purposes do not maintain good hygiene.

The indiscriminate dumping of refuse within the market square calls for great concern. Cleanliness of the place and the processing method needs to be given due attention to avoid any outbreak of diseases that will put the lives of consumers at risk.

The use of tyres to burn hairs from animals' skin is another disturbing phenomenon that must be discouraged because the tyres contain harmful chemicals that if consumed would be detrimental to human health.

I wish to use this opportunity to draw the attention of the government to make efforts towards renovating the abattoir to make the environment suitable for such transactions. Essentially, the drainage system within the market and available water should be provided to improve the sanitary condition of the place. Waste dumps are very essential in such a place for proper collection of waste for safe disposal to designated places to prevent the presence of swamps of flies on products that people will buy for consumption.

I am of the opinion that government should assign particular agency to

oversee the activities of Nigerian markets through close supervision that will attract sanctions on erring members. The bottom line is that human health should be prioritized and never taken for granted. Everyone has a right to healthy living and not to endanger the lives of people by buying contaminated food items in such shabby places.

I therefore call on Nigerians to be

disciplined to do the needful to maintain integrity. Let's ensure proper disposal of waste not just at the market environment but at residential areas too where we carry out our daily activities. It is important to note that health is wealth.

*Ngot Bwehmas Caleb is an IT student from the Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, Department of Mass Communication.*

**Parents should be role models in the society**

SOCIETY nowadays is fast losing grounds in respect to the decline in moral values either to indiscipline or negligence on the part of some parents towards ensure how they have relinquished their roles of impacting positive values within their families.

The negative tendencies being witnessed across the society demonstrates the fact that young people are growing without the necessary guidance and certain behaviours that are not desirable in a progressive society despite the rich cultural and traditional values including the ones inherent in our teachings either in the Christian or Islamic faiths.

It is on record that crimes such as armed robbery, banditry, kidnapping, terrorism and even

prostitution have been associated with young Nigerians who ought to be in schools or should be seen to be involved in doing something worthwhile or learning how to make decent living and not allowed to stray way into evil acts.

Young people should therefore by now inculcate the spirit of using their God given skills to add value to themselves and the society rather than becoming liabilities to the society. Parents have the greater responsibilities of being role models to their children by demonstrating those attributes of hard work, self discipline and the fear of God so that their own children can follow their footsteps in life.

*By Mu'azu Adam Hudu is IT student from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.*

**Standard Cartoon**

**FED. GOVT. PLAN TO INCREASE SALARY**



## Opinion

**ABDUSSAMAD  
UMAR JIBIA**

# Submission to bandits' authority

ON September 6, 2022 when I switched on my mobile data the first Whatsapp message that caught my attention was one from a long term friend. The professor of Business administration from a sister university forwarded a video clip seeking to know the veracity of its contents. Like others who have known me for a long time, he believes I would not deliberately say what is untrue just to vilify a person even if I have a personal problem with them. They have said it in my presence and in my absence. May be it is true. That is not the subject here anyway.

In the four minutes video, the popular Mallam Mahadi Shehu can be seen with two ladies and a man lamenting the security situation and poverty level in Katsina state. Luckily for me Mallam Mahadi did not talk about stolen money, at least he did not mention any figure. I do not have access to the account books of Katsina state; so I wouldn't have been in a position to verify any income or expenditure. Again, Mahadi did not talk about a particular individual. I avoid talking about individuals unless it is absolutely necessary.

Most of what Mallam Mahadi mentioned about poverty and insecurity in our dear state are true. However, when he spoke of some LGAs, including mine, being under bandits' control I wish he had explained. His Excellency, the Executive Governor also once spoke about

nine LGAs being under bandits' control. But what is the nature of this control?

In terms of bandits' control, villages in the frontline LGAs are of two types. We have villages that have submitted to the authority of the bandits and others that are yet to submit. Villages and towns yet to submit to bandits' authority are under constant threats of attacks by bandits. The criminals can attack at any time of the day or night. They can also do anything when they attack. Killing, kidnapping and raping are some of the major atrocities known to be daily committed by bandits in our rural areas. Villages in this category are under bandits' control in the sense that the bandits decide when and where to attack and the victims are left to defend themselves, when they try to, with poorly made local weapons.

The uncertainty and frustrations attached to expecting Government protection has forced many villages to submit to the authority of bandits. To submit to bandits, a particular village would usually collect some money and send it via a delegation to the bandits' commander in charge of the area. When the commander accepts, the community gets certain benefits in return and of course a number of obligations.

The immediate benefit a community gets is that it will no longer be attacked by the gang to which it is paying allegiance. In the event of an attack by another

gang, the friendly gang will protect it. Another benefit is access to their farmlands without let or hindrance.

In return to protection, such villagers must allow unfettered access to their village by bandits. The villagers must not make phone calls to regular security operatives or vigilantes when they learn of an impending attack on another community by the gang. In fact, the attack may be planned in their midst and they have no right to report. Making a report can result in dire consequences for the villagers. A community that has submitted to bandits' authority will still have the village head appointed by the Emir or district head. However, such a head must recognize the supremacy of the bandits' commander's authority. This means that the commander who has no knowledge of Islamic or common law can wade into disputes between neighbours and between husband and wife and his decision is final.

Another condition for such communities is that they must not harbour any member of a vigilante group and none of them should belong to such groups. The punishment of harbouring a member of a vigilante group is death.

When the need arises, villagers under bandits' authority would go to commander's farm and work. Each household would send at least one person for such an undertaking. Some of such farms belong to people who

migrated from the area due to violence.

Of course, any villager under bandits' authority who wishes to participate in banditry has no restriction if he is interested and is accepted by the gang. It is also understood that an abductee kidnapped from another community can be kept in the village either temporarily or until negotiation has ended. Reporting such cases to regular authority by the villagers has dire consequences and no one would normally attempt it.

It is not so rosy. Even though they allow you to farm, bandits can send their cattle anytime to eat your crops. But this usually happens towards the end of the rainy season. Farmers who do not harvest their crops early are victims. Again, if you are a big farmer you have to donate part of your farm produce to the commander.

But are these commanders inaccessible? No. Major bandits' commanders and their locations are known to the people and to Government. However, ordinary people like me believe that there

is something we don't know about the unwillingness of our security forces to take the fight to their doorsteps. Are those bandits Nigerians? Yes. As far as I know, none of the bandits' ring leaders known to everyone in the North West came from another country. In all cases, their parents, grandparents and communities of origin are known.

As for his comments about what the ruling party would tell the people during campaign, Mallam Mahadi missed one thing. The ordinary Katsina man and indeed Northern Nigerian has lost faith in any politician. His last hope has been Buhari, a person he has believed and supported for the past two decades the General has been in politics. With his current condition under his choice president, it doesn't matter who wins the next election. APC, PDP, NNPP..... I don't think these make much difference to our people. Our people have since resorted to prayers. With poverty, they will collect money and vote anyone including bandits.

**"The uncertainty and frustrations attached to expecting Government protection has forced many villages to submit to the authority of bandits. To submit to bandits, a particular village would usually collect some money and send it via a delegation to the bandits' commander in charge of the area. When the commander accepts, the community gets certain benefits in return and of course a number of obligations."**

## Nigerian graduates at the fate of age discrimination

**By TIMOTHY OYEGOKE**

DESPITE the deep-rooted academic inefficiencies and irregularities that have consequently led to the delay in the graduation of many students, many of these students deemed it fit to graduate from these institutions hoping to get jobs that will compensate for their struggles.

Unfortunately, many employers are denying them of this recompense by inconsiderately seeking job applications from applicants within a particular age range.

Students in public tertiary institutions have been subjected to different national maladies, the incessant strike is a sombre situation that has left many undergraduates hopeless and disadvantaged. However, the age discrimination faced by many young people after graduation from tertiary

institutions seems to be more unfavourable.

Many employers now make age discrimination so open that no one is ready to challenge this fast growing anomaly. Employers clearly state their preferred age range in job adverts hereby forcing some relatively young graduates out of the employment race.

Some employers fix their preferred age range as low as twenty-three, this is not just ridiculous it is insensitive on the part of employers to the problems many young Nigerians are facing.

With the current situation of things in public institutions where a four-year course turns out to be completed in six years, where a 22-year-old final year student is not sure of when he or she is graduating, it is quite irrational for any employer to put out requirements that clearly deprive individuals of employment

opportunities because of their age.

Basically, the major requirement that is to be considered by many employers include skills, knowledge and abilities of the applicants.

Sadly, many graduates who have met these basic requirements are still not considered for employment all because they do not fit into a particular age range.

According to a report by the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the youth unemployment rate is 53.40 percent with people between the age of 25 to 34 having the unemployment rate of 37.2 percent.

With this lousy report, it is a clear sense of unpatriotism for any employer to further reject graduates who are between the ages of 25 to 34, especially when they are qualified for the job.

Such unjustifiable decision is inimical to the productivity and economic growth of the nation, it is a waste of human talents.

Sad to say, there has been no form of clear regulation on the part of Nigerian government as regards to this discrimination in the recruitment process of employees.

Government institutions that have been saddled with employment regulations are doing next to nothing to stop this differential treatment towards Nigerian graduates and many other employable Nigerians.

The Nigerian Labour Act that happens to be the major extant legislative authority with respect to labour matters in the country does not make provision

against age discrimination, hence, many employers believe their decisions are not illegal.

However, in order to solve this problem the Nigerian government should enact laws that make provision against age discrimination with respect to recruitment of employees.

Many developed countries have been able to curtail some of the employers' excesses by making laws that prohibit such discrimination.

For example, the United States has the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) which forbids age discrimination against anyone who is at least 40 years of age. Also, there is the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations in the United Kingdom that states that anyone under the age of 65 cannot be denied an employment offer.

Also, as much as employment relations are willingly agreed upon by parties and it is the right of an employer to employ any candidate of his choice, it is also expedient that employers consider the dynamics of our educational system. They should consider the ability, skills and knowledge of job applicants rather than their age, this will inevitably restore the hope of many young Nigerians and also create a sense of fairness and equity.

In conclusion, age requirement as a precondition for employment is unjustifiable and should be nullified.

**Oyegboke is an undergraduate of Federal University Oye-Ekiti, writes from Abeokuta, Ogun State.**

**"The Nigerian Labour Act that happens to be the major extant legislative authority with respect to labour matters in the country does not make provision against age discrimination, hence, many employers believe their decisions are not illegal. However, in order to solve this problem the Nigerian government should enact laws that make provision against age discrimination with respect to recruitment of employees."**

News

# Flood kill 3, damages property, farm produce

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THREE people were reported dead as a result of heavy and uncontrollable flooding in Zaki and Gamawa LGAs of Bauchi State, which also affected houses, farms and other valuables.

Our reporter who visited the affected scenes reported that, roads and culverts as well as bridges were cut off thereby forcing residents of the areas affected to use canoes to be able to move from one geographical location to another.

The flood disaster washed away six portions of the road linking Zaki and Gamawa Local governments of the State.

Governor Bala Mohammed on Saturday after distribution of empowerment Materials as dividends of democracy to the people of Katagum LGA, in Azare, proceeded to on the spot assessment visit in Sakuwa and other villages all in Zaki LGA, where he lamented over the extent of the devastation.

Speaking after inspecting the level of damages, Bala Mohammed who sympathized with the victims lamented that the communities are exposed to the danger of flooding year in year out. He disclosed that they have recorded losses of lives and



**Bala**

properties.

Governor appealed to the Federal Government under the leadership of President Muhamadu Buhari to as a matter of urgency assist the state in providing a permanent solution to the problem, and also provide palliative measures to the victims.

While presenting relief materials of two trucks of maize and medical consumables, the Governor also directed the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to take inventory of the damages to enable government to take further actions.

The Director General of the State Environmental Protection Agency

(BASEPA), Dr Ibrahim Kabir warned the communities to relocate to safer areas to guarantee their safety.

According to Bauchi State Environmental Protection Agency (BASEPA), three people were killed, over 1,400 houses destroyed while farm produce and properties worth Millions of Naira gone.

# COCIN Nyanya celebrates cultural day

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

BELIEVERS were encouraged to live in unity despite the diversity of their tribes, regions and origins.

This charges was given at the Church of Christ in

TO address Nigeria's insecurity, Governors of the 19 Northern States and traditional rulers have called for the creation of State Police.

They made the call Monday, 12th September 2022 after a meeting at Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja.

Parts of their resolutions after the meeting was a call for the establishment of State police to tackle security challenges in the region and the nation at large said Governor Simon Bako Lalong while reading a communique.

Lalong told newsmen that the meeting reviewed the security situation in the North and other matters relating to its development and resolved to support the amendment of the Constitution to accommodate the establishment of State police.

"This will effectively and efficiently address the security challenges of the region", he said.

"The Forum also reiterated its commitment to the development of solar energy in view of the comparative advantage of abundant sunshine in the region".

# Insecurity: NGF, traditional rulers call for state police



**Lalong**

"Accordingly, it was ASUU to cooperate with the Federal Government in resolving the dispute", said Lalong.

The Communiqué further indicated that the Northern Governors also engaged officials of the World Bank to discuss the level of implementation of the Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) and Nigeria for Women Project which is being implemented in five Northern States.

"The joint meeting also noted with regret the ongoing ASUU strike which it believes was more punitive in the region as most of the students in the North are attending public universities".

It therefore called on

# Chairman inaugurates committee to check hospital, others

From **DORCAS PANKYES**

THE Executive Chairman of Karu Local Government Council, Hon. James Thomas (Jarumin Kodape) has inaugurated eight (8) man committee who are to checkmate illegal Hospitals, Clinics, non-

licence Doctors, contraband drugs, abortion, illegal treatments, bad drugs and tax payment compliances in Karu LGA.

Hon. Thomas said the committee is to monitor the activities of private

Hospitals and clinics in the area and fetch out quack doctors and other non - license health practitioners who are operating illegally and killing patients for lack of professionalism.

He added that " the Committee will invite the leadership of private Hospitals and Clinic for proper Conduct to meet up with the Standard operation in Karu Local Government Council."

The committee members are Hon. Hamza Sani , Supervisory Councillor for, Health Karu LGA - Chairman, Haruna E. Kuje, Director of Primary Health Care Karu LGA - Secretary, Hon. Egbe W. Moses - member, Hon. Yerima Musa, Health Department - member, Danladi H. Damulak , health department - member, Bawa Maikeffi, Senior Magistrate mararaba - member, Ishaya Bahago Jezhi , NDLEA - member, Ogbole Joseph , NDLEA - member.



**Tang'an**

Nations (COCIN) LCC Nyanya Gwandara, RCC Karu, Abuja on Sunday, 11th September, 2022 during the celebration of their Cultural day in a grand style.

The leading Pastor of the church is Rev. Luka Tang'an of COCIN LCC Kodape. Auta Balefi, Nasarawa State, who was the preacher at the event said that the Cultural Day is aimed at helping people to understand the richness that God has deposited in their culture. To look at it as a platform and an



**Thomas**

He further called on the church to embrace those diversities to bring about unity in the church. It is unity in diversity.

In an interview with our correspondent, the Welfare Secretary of the church, Pankyes Titus Chiya could not hide his joy as the long awaited day finally came.

He appreciated God Almighty for making the day a successful one. He also used the opportunity to thank those who came from other churches within Nyanya Gwandara to celebrate the Cultural day with them. He prayed that God will take each person back to their respective destinations. On the cultural day, he said it is an annual event organised by the Local Church Council led by the Welfare Committee of the church. It is to bring about the display of our various cultures. To give God the glory for making us come from different cultures. To praise God Almighty in our different languages and tribes. And to display what God has given us to eat and wear in our various cultures. The major aim of the event is to unite us as one in Christ.

Highpoint of the event was dance presentation by the various cultural groups in the church, cultural dishes, freewill support for the church projects and lots more.

Highpoint of the event was dance presentation by the various cultural groups in the church, cultural dishes, freewill support for the church projects and lots more.

# News

## SCIAN appeals for establishment of rehabilitation center

**From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi**

THE Spinal cord Injuries Association of Nigeria (SCIAN) has appealed to Governments at all levels, organizations and well to do individuals to support the people living with spinal cord injuries to enable them overcome numerous challenges of life, most especially during disaster and conflict situations.

The Association made the appeal recently during a one-day awareness campaign and stakeholder engagement activity that took place at the conference hall of the medical and health workers union, Bauchi.

Speaking during the event, the Bauchi state Chairman of the association, Mallam Iliya Ismail explained that the one-day programme was organized to commemorate World Spinal Cord Injury Day, that is being marked globally every 5th of September.

Themed: "SCI in Conflicts and Disasters: Prepare and Prevent", Ismail noted that this year's Programme was aimed at raising awareness on the difficulties being faced by SCI individuals in conflict zones in Bauchi State and globally.

The association appealed for attention to the plight of spinal cord injury (SCI) victims and all persons with disabilities (PWD).

According to Ismail, there is the need for efforts towards the establishment of rehabilitation centres for members of the association.

He said experience has shown that persons with disabilities, especially wheel chair users, are often left behind or abandoned during evacuation exercises in disasters and conflicts situations due to lack of preparation, as well as inaccessible facilities, services and transportation systems.

The Chairman of the association in Bauchi further said that emergency plans should consider the fact that most spinal cord injured persons uses wheelchairs and



**Bala**

as such, their locations and emergency needs should be known and assessed before disaster strikes.

Ismail called for the provision of rehabilitation facilities to cater for SCI individuals and PWDs, adding that such effort is key to the functionality of most of his members.

The Chairman of the association regretted that there is no dedicated rehabilitation facility to provide such much needed support in Bauchi State.

He said, "we are therefore, calling on Government, Corporate Organizations and Public spirited individuals to support SCIAN Bauchi State Chapter to construct its rehabilitation centre".

Also speaking at the occasion, the Bauchi state Secretary of the association, Safiya Gimba called on the government to enroll her members in the ongoing health insurance program of the state.

She further reiterated the position of the association on the establishment of rehabilitation centres.

According to her, the centers when created, will create opportunity for skills acquisition program for the members of the association.

Malama Safiya said such initiative will provide a life saving skills that can improve the economic status of SCI members.

"Such empowerment will mitigate the menace of street begging and other vices among members", she suggested.

It is interesting to note that during the engagement, medical experts offered health tips to both SCI victims and their caregivers on how to manage their conditions within and outside their homes.

The activity, according to the association, was organised with support from Bauchi State Agency for Persons with Disability.

KOGI State Government has sealed off all First Bank Nigeria PLC branches operating in the state on the order of a Kogi High Court sitting in Lokoja.

The seal was effected on Monday by Kogi State Internal Revenue Service (KGIRS) following the inability of the bank to liquidate its outstanding tax liabilities of over N411.12 million to Kogi State Government.

Barr Saidu Okino, Director, Legal Services at the KGIRS, while speaking with newsmen on the seal off said the amount represented outstanding withholding tax from the bank's mobile banking agents from 2015 to 2022.

He said that the action of the board was as a result of the refusal of the bank to liquidate the liability despite several demand notices to that effect.

Okino said that approaching the court was as a last resort as all other measures to make the bank pay up proved abortive.

"Before we went to court, there was a Demand Notice to that effect dated 12th day of October 2021 and signed by the then acting chairman, Abubakar Yusuf.

"We made several attempts we sent them a notice of the intention of the service to take warrant of distrain so that we can do whatever is needful on 25th day of February, 2022 but was ignored.

"On the 25th of August, 2022 Notice of Refusal to amend their liability was served on them. We did not on our own roll out our machineries to go and seal.

He said that the service (claimant) had to approach the court through a Motion Ex-parte number HC/457M/202,

## Kogi Govt. seals off First Bank branches

**From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

dated August 29 and filed August 30th, 2022.

The Service, he said, prayed for an Order of the Court to execute Warrant of Distrain against the defendant by her goods, chattels, bonds, security or any other property.

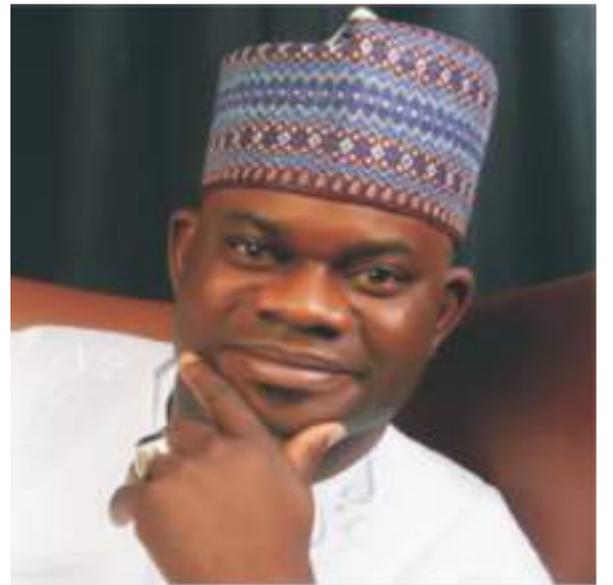
It also sought distrain upon the land, office, business premises or place of management of the defendant (First Bank Nigeria Limited)'s offices in Lokoja, Okene, Kabba, Ajaokuta and any other movable property of the defendant found Within the jurisdiction of Kogi State.

The Board also sought an order that "the defendant bears the cost of executing

the distrain in pursuance of section 104(5) of PITA and section 51(5) of the Kogi State Harmonized Tax Law, 2017, as accessed in the sum of N250,000 per site each day.

The presiding judge, Justice Rukkayat Ayoola in her ruling granted all the reliefs sought in the Motion Ex-parte supported by an eight-paragraph affidavit and deposed by Mohammed Ibrahim, a civil servant.

"The Order for the defendant's failure and refusal to liquidate her debt to Kogi State Government in the sum of N411,120,966.77 being the outstanding tax liabilities owed the Kogi State Government for the years 2015 to 2020 is hereby granted", Ayoola said



**Bello**

## PPC to collaborate with NAWOJ

**BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

THE Management of Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), publishers of THE NIGERIA STANDARD and SUNDAY STANDARD Newspapers, has promised to collaborate with State Chapter of Nigerian Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) in

carrying out their activities in the state.

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

While welcoming them, the officials in Yarkasuwa, Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Mr. Sauri who is Bugwam Kurmi [||] reiterated the need for the various ethnic nationalities domiciled in Lere Local to peacefully coexist.

The FKA President, Mr. Dauda Barau who was in attendance during the sworn-in ceremony charged the new officials to serve with diligence and commit themselves to selfless service.

Dauda motivated them that service to Humanity is service to God and they should consider themselves privileged to be chosen by people to serve them.

General Manager, commended NAWOJ members for the wonderful work they have been doing in fighting the course of justice for women and girl child and promised to support them to continue to expose the activities of criminal elements who are bend at molesting and raping young girls.

He expressed concern that, some people were taking the path of evil and have been going about doing unspeakable and diabolical things to innocent young girls and promised to publish all news about the activities of these criminal elements and also support them both morally and financially to help them carry out their assignments effectively.

Earlier, the brand new Plateau State Chairperson of Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, Mrs. Nene Dung, said, it was home coming to them because the immediate past Chairperson of NAWOJ, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima, has been a pillar that has brought NAWOJ on the Plateau to limelight because of her dogged fight against women molestation and girl child rape.

She disclosed that PPC was the first organisation the new wanted to pay courtesy visit to on assumption of office due to the important role its members play and their support. She also revealed that they so that by the cluck of a baton, their qualification, ability and track records can be seen for opportunities that will come their way. And one can only access it through their admin.

Dung, added that the NAWOJ in the state was planning to embark on voter's education for market women now that the elections are near for them to know their rights to vote and be voted for. This is because voting is their rights and should not be seen as just a game for the men so that, women participation in politics would be better.

While introducing the leadership of State NAWOJ to the management of PPC, the News Editor of THE NIGERIA STANDARD and SUNDAY STANDARD, Yvonne Ishola, who is also the State Assistant Secretary of NAWOJ, described the PPC General Manager as a women friendly GM and as supportive to NAWOJ in no small measure.

## 'No tribe is an island'

**From JOHN FWAH Kaduna**

THE Paramount ruler of Kurama Chiefdom, His Royal Highness Yakubu Sauri said there is nothing to be compared with Peace in our socioeconomic way of life.

According to him, no tribe is an Island, and the coming together of different tribes living in peace will bring about economic vibrancy that will attract development.

He praised the administration of Mallam Nasir elrufai as the Executive Governor of Kaduna over his urban renewal project despite security challenges. He said Mallam Nasir

remains a leader to reckon with in the annals of Kaduna history whose glaring passion to serve humanity is undoubtedly evident.

Sauri enjoined the people of the state to pray for the administration of Nasir and called for support from all well-meaning Sons and Daughters of the state that can give moral backups to give much more in his efforts to serve humanity.

While calling on the newly elected Youth leaders of FKA to give a selfless service that will bring about unity of purpose among the Kurama nation and the various tribes in the Local Government, he said the leadership of what purpose is God design and the

leader should consider that as His work in which He called them to do.

While administering an oath of office to swear in the new officials, Barr Yusuf Yakubu charged them to be cautious of violating the oath of office as it's against the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He said oath-taking is a serious matter in the Nigerian constitution and the expectation is that all sworn-in officials are to give their best by adhering to the by-laws of FKA.

Sauri harped on peace while playing a special guest during the sworn-in ceremony of the Youth wing of the Federated Kurama Association (FKA)

## Feature

# Fighting ASUU for soul of public universities

**After giving the Federal Government of Nigeria 14-month strike notice (December 2020 – February 14, 2021), the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) asked its members to stop teaching to force government to fund public universities and sign a renegotiated agreement.**

The six months roll-over strike changed to total and indefinite strike on August 29, 2022, when President Muhammadu Buhari jettisoned collective bargaining and handed over autocratic awards, all of which the promisee is to await its (un)likely inclusion in the 2023 budget by the promiser.

Lecturers and public varsities are expected to wait till the end of first quarter of 2023 for the first item to get implemented. This is coming from a government with proven capacity to fail agreements. PMB failed to meet set timelines in the Memorandum of Action (MOA) signed with the Union on December 22, 2020.

After the failure, then ASUU president, Professor Biodun Ogunyemi, wrote the Chief of Staff to President Buhari on March, 3, 2021, to complain of how the office of Accountant General of the Federation was frustrating the Union. The Union warned that not meeting the MOA may stoke tension and threaten industrial harmony.

How did we get here and do Nigerians care where and how their children are taught? After the Goodluck Jonathan administration conducted the 2012 Needs Assessment, which showed the rot in Nigeria's public universities, Federal Government resolved to provide funds for the revitalisation of the university system for six years totalling N1.3 trillion.

The amount is for revamping the universities and it is managed by university administration, not ASUU as government has been misinforming the public to believe. It was designed to be paid for six years: 2013 (N200bn), 2014 (N220bn), 2015 (N220bn), 2016 (N220bn), 2017 (N220bn), and 2018 (N220bn).

After the strike, the Jonathan administration released the first tranche of N200 billion in 2013. Politics consumed 2014 and universities got no revitalisation funds. Since PMB came in 2015 (seven years), the administration has only released N50 billion out of N220 billion meant for 2014!

PMB government claimed it cannot release N220 billion once, and agreed with the Union that it should pay N55 billion quarterly and end it in a year but this government failed again! The N50 billion that was paid was not even released once and it took strike threats for them to pay.

The same government is now saying the balance of N170 billion will be included in 2023 budget and implemented around May 2023.

ASUU gave government ample time to act but power intoxication would not let those in the corridors of power behave responsibly. The government, which owes lecturers over eight years verified arrears of earned academic allowances, is now saying the amount will be put in 2023 budget and will be paid after PMB leaves office in 2023.

On this item alone, this government and the current National Assembly promised to



put the earned academic allowances in the 2022 budget. They failed to do so.

With regards to the renegotiated agreements, government left democracy and came to the table with autocracy and expected the Union of intellectuals to be bullied into jettisoning collective bargaining.

Government awarded salaries that will make a professor who has spent 10 years and above have additional N60,000 to the current miserable salary of a Nigerian professor of 10 years and above (N416,000) which is not up to \$1,000.

In 2009, when the agreement being renegotiated was signed, the value of what a professor earned was around \$3,000. The 2009 agreement detailed how ASUU sacrificed a better African average salary for a lower salary scale (Table II) based on the plea by government that the economy cannot support that competitive salary.

The report says, "The Renegotiation Committee noted that Nigerian University Academics represent the critical mass of scholars in the society, with the potential for transforming it. They, therefore, deserve unique condition of service that would motivate them, like the intellectuals in other parts of the world, to attain greater efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery with regard to teaching, research and community service, and thereby stem the brain drain. In line with this philosophy, the Renegotiation Committee obtained information relating to the movement of Nigerian Academics to other African countries such as South Africa, Ghana, Botswana as well as developed countries. The figure in Table 1 relevant African

average that is, the average remuneration of Academics in selected African Countries with which Nigeria potential or effectively competes for the recruitment of Academic Staff."

It was said that future negotiations of salaries would begin from Table 1. But now, government is saying no to negotiations. You either take N60,000 or forget it.

Even as bad as this autocratic imposition is, its implementation too will be next year after elections. Peace eludes a nation that elevates injustice as norm, it deprives them of development and breeds violence and corruption as a way of life.

We complain that South African universities are doing better and want our universities to compete with them but we 'support' our politicians to fund their children's education abroad with collective resources but blame ASUU who is fighting for the children of the masses to have access to publicly funded quality education. In Ugandan public varsities (as at 2021), Assistant Lecturer earned \$1,631; Senior lecturer (\$2,432), Associate Professor (\$3,891) and Professor (\$4,054) per month respectively. In University of South Africa, Junior lecturer earns (N10,453,326 – N17,427,663), Lecturer (N12,547,744–N20,910,248), Senior Lecturer (N16,272,983 – N27,891,819), Associate Professor (N20,224,232 – N32,564,902) and Professor (N22,325,844 – N37,209,741) per annum.

This is reviewed periodically with other incentives. If you see a south African scholar in Nigeria universities, the fellow must be on externally funded fellowship. We cannot attract people from Africa with poverty wages we pay

let alone those in global north.

I think Nigerians are happy that lecturers in polytechnic and colleges of education earn more than public university lecturers. Despite being poorly remunerated, public university lecturers teach more because not less than 80percent of those writing JAMB yearly prefer university education.

Universities (and not polytechnic and colleges of education) are rated and ranked globally. Nigerians who think ASUU is fighting a wrong cause should no longer complain that Nigerian universities rank poorly globally.

They should not blame the quality of graduates being churned out because they do not think there is need for revitalization of public universities.

They are only interested in their wards passing through universities without the universe in the university passing through them. They should not think students trained in zoo-like conditions will behave like normal humans when they graduate.

In fact, when such becomes political office holders, they will see no reason to invest in public education and the consequences will be further erosion of the universe in our universities using the words of renowned poet, Professor Niyi Osundare. Our best will leave as they have been doing and we will infest the ivory towers will politicians!

Professor Niyi Osundare's valedictory lecture entitled "the Universe in the University: A Scholar-poet's Look from Inside Out" provides response to those asking for commodification of public universities.

According to him, "A University

cannot be run like a money-spinning business or corporation and be expected to still retain the soul and sense of Academe.

Harassed by budget cuts by a Nigerian government that pays little more than a lip service to education, our university is being forced to look for funds in every which way.

While it must be admitted that some departments are in a better position to generate outside funds than others, any attempt to commodify education and commercialize the disciplines can only lead to further undermining of the universe in our university.

Time, we realize that a university can never be run as a cost-effective corporation. There are simply certain forms of knowledge that cannot be judged on their market value. (Niyi Osundare, July 26, 2005)".

I have taken time to provide insight into the 'futuristic awards' of the PMB government in relation to ASUU demands and from this, it is apparent that this government has met nothing.

The government salvaged Aviation industry with millions of dollars without saying it will be put in 2023 budget.

Education is our future. We cannot afford further decay beyond what it is.

We cannot joke with the welfare of our lecturers. We won't advance if we keep electing 'Londoners' who don't believe in the country but poised to milk it.

I will end this piece with the words of then opposition spokesman and now Minister of Information and culture, Lai Muhammed whose speeches then have now become 'talk is cheap'.

In 2013 (Daily Post, August 21, 2013), while reacting to ASUU strike, Lai said: "What we are saying is that if the Federal Government would reduce its profligacy and cut waste, there will be enough money to pay teachers in public universities, as well as fund research and upgrade infrastructure in such institutions.

Hungry teachers can neither teach well nor carry out research. And poorly-taught students can neither excel nor propel their nation to great heights."

Now in government, has his government reduced waste and cut profligacy? Has this government upgraded infrastructure and funded cutting edge researches?

Is the government not asking lecturers to receive poverty wage and return to teach? Can poorly taught students excel and propel Nigeria development as being championed by this government? Ladies and gentlemen, let us support government to fight ASUU.

**Tade, a sociologist, writes from Lagos**

# Developing media support for mental healthcare in Nigeria



BY KENNETH DARENG

NIGERIA is currently going through a lot of public health challenges and one critical and neglected area is that of mental health where there is increasing number of people suffering from mental disorders across the country.

Recent reports have shown that many Nigerians are having mental issues as a result of depression, suicidal behaviours, drug abuse as well as psychotic disorders which are now common features among the populace.

According to the World Health Organization [WHO], report which indicates that, one in every four persons risk having mental disorder at some point in their

lifetime. And by implication therefore, means 50million Nigerians are at the risk of having mental disorder. Imagine such a population twice that of more than 5 African countries, and if one is to do the cost analysis of having citizens with such a challenge, it can be awful isn't it?

And that is the enormous challenge before the Nigerian Authorities to tackle considering the risks involved but unfortunately people in and outside government are taking the issue with a pinch of salt as if it does not matter while society is silently being ravaged while barriers are blocking the provision of urgent attention.

On the other hand, societal shame, stigma and discrimination are the usual norms where people suffering from mental health are often associated with African societal myths such as; "it must be a curse or one paying for an evil deed of the past" and so on.

Sadly, the media has been unconsciously used to depict such perceptions. Otherwise the Nigerian Film Industry and many other media platforms would not have been guilty of promoting such negative narratives if they

had told certain stories without necessarily creating a situation that tends to qualify these myths.

Fortunately, I was opportuned to attend a seminar on Strengthening Access to Disability Inclusion and Mental Health Services [StrADIM] Project organized by CHARIS Foundation Jos which provided me the insight on how strategic the media is positioned to be at the forefront of finding a lasting solution to the challenges.

Key among these challenges are common mental disorders such as; Depression- characterized by feeling of sadness, loss of pleasure, feeling of low self-esteem, difficulty in sleeping and lacking appetite and anxiety disorders like fear apprehension, uncertainty, panic and nervousness.

Other forms of mental issues such as Bipolar Disorder which is the state of oscillating between periods a recurring decimal as a result of hopeless periods. Dementia which has now assumed a position of a common ailment these days, is ascribed by health experts as; a progressive deterioration in cognitive functioning such as thoughts processing, memory, comprehension and learning which can also be triggered by trauma. Development disorder



may be as a result of impairment or delay in functions related to the development of the Central Nervous System [CNS].

Furthermore, mental challenges are also being witnessed across the country which may be attributed to Post- Traumatic Stress disorders associated with uncontrollable thoughts due to bad experience mostly associated with persons that went through the horror of being kidnapped by bandits or terrorists and kept under inhuman conditions particularly in areas being controlled by criminals and where human life can be so cheap to eliminate.

Therefore, it is now apt and auspicious for the Nigerian mass media whether old or new, broadcast, print or social media influencers to close ranks and begin to highlight on the causes of mental health in order to help in removing those barriers of stigmatization and discrimination as well as creating the basic public enlightenment geared

towards helping persons with such challenges to access support for treatment.

The media can do a lot more in projecting successful management of mental illness and issues of recovery of patients and also report on evidence treatment centers as well as lay emphasis on importance of early treatment.

As professionals, media practitioners must begin to lay more emphasis on developmental and health issues as mirrors and conscience of the society just like in the words of Jim Morrison; "Whoever controls the media, controls the mind."

Therefore, it is time to speak the facts, by letting the society know that mental illness is real but treatable and those in leadership positions as well as families and friends should also be reminded of the fact that, any individual can find him or herself in such challenging situation. My take is,... there is no health without mental health.

# Zero fossil emissions: Nigeria's quest to go green



By FWENJI GO'AR

A lot has been said about the need for Nigeria to step up in so many different areas to witness improvements and development in key areas which have a direct bearing on the lives of the people. One such area is the transport sector of the economy. Particularly the aspect of vehicle manufacturing. However, it is not just about manufacturing vehicles, but it is also about doing it right and in line with international best practices.

We have been told that Nigeria will begin assembling and manufacturing environmentally friendly, green, electric, and smart automobiles next year 2023. It is understood that an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed to that effect. And barring all odds, this time around, the likelihood of the plan coming to fruition is high. An advantage Nigeria has is the size

of its market. Almost every manufacturer of world-class mass-produced goods puts into account the need to include the Nigerian market. Industries around the world are somewhat fascinated by the size of the market here, whether or not we have taken advantage of that is a story for another day.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni) with Israeli and Japanese companies for the commencement of the project. The partnership would see a combination of Israeli, Japanese, and Nigerian technologies aimed at addressing the challenges affecting the transport and environmental sectors in Nigeria.

The collaboration is to be domesticated in the country and would in the nearest future bring about the manufacturing of Nigerian-made electrical vehicles. This development is believed to be able to go far beyond production, but is a move in supporting Nigeria in particular to build a sustainable nation with clean and safe technologies. The project is believed to seek to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, Goal 7 which seeks to enhance international cooperation, facilitate access to clean energy research and technology

It is interesting to note that not many Nigerians have ever seen an Electric Vehicle (EV) even

though Nigeria is not new to electric cars. In 2020, the Stallion Group launched the first-ever electric car assembled in Nigeria called the Hyundai Kona. A lot of us were delighted with this feat. However, there remains a major issue that has not been resolved. Things like the price of the car and where to drive it are not issues for the potential car owner, but where to charge the car.

The number one country on the planet that has recorded great success in the use of EVs is Norway. And that is because they were able to enjoy years of highly lucrative government incentives to promote EV sales.

In Europe, lawmakers in the European Parliament plenary have voted to authorize that new vehicles and vans should attain zero emissions from 2035 as part of efforts to clean up road transport. As it is this can be achieved barring all odds.

In Africa, South Africa, which is the most advanced e-mobility market had about 1,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in January 2022 out of a total fleet of 12 million automobiles. The number is an estimated 350 out of some 2.2 million registered vehicles in

Kenya. These figures are according to Statista.

Even at that, most experts agree that South Africa is not ready for electric cars, and will not be ready until it undergoes an energy generation reform, because it currently does not have the necessary access to electricity to support a large adoption of electric vehicles.

In Nigeria, it is on record that the National Automotive Design and Development Council initiated an electric vehicle pilot program. The NADDC collaborated with the Stallion Group, European Union, and other stakeholders to roll out 100 solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations across the country, with Sokoto being the first state in Nigeria to launch a solar-powered electric car charging station. Three other charging stations have been built at Lagos State University, Usman Dan Fodio University, and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

The First Nigeria-made electric minibus which can carry 7 passengers was made by one Mr. Abubakar Mustapha from Borno State. This electric minibus can travel up to 150 kilometres when

fully charged.

Most people agree that the future of the automobile industry is electric. Improvements in quality and cheaper prices have made it more attractive as every year more and more consumers are purchasing electric cars.

Seeing electric vehicles on our roads here in Nigeria is a very rare occurrence, and may be so for a while.

The question remains, when will the state of electricity supply improve to the level where we can comfortably and conveniently have a steady and sufficient supply?

Until that happens, the poor state of electricity and roads in the country would make maintenance of electric vehicles too expensive for the average Nigerian who is grappling with the unbearable high cost of living.

The fact is that electric vehicles are environmentally friendly. And that in itself makes sense and validates the push for zero emissions of fossil. The use of more renewable energy sources makes all this worthwhile and makes it cost-effective in the long run.

**Seeing electric vehicles on our roads here in Nigeria is a very rare occurrence, and may be so for a while. The question remains, when will the state of electricity supply improve to the level where we can comfortably and conveniently have a steady and sufficient supply? Until that happens, the poor state of electricity and roads in the country would make maintenance of electric vehicles too expensive for the average Nigerian who is grappling with the unbearable high cost of living.**

**BY ANIETIE USEN**

As a struggling but brilliant journalist, he had choked up his itinerary to the brim on Monday, in his quest to make ends meet. But today, I was too determined to let him off the hook, until he escorted me to the unusual river that he first reported a week ago.

As we meandered through the serene, sandy slope that leads to the river at Ikot Akpa, Ibesikpo, the weather was gloomy and somber. It was clear that sooner or later the windows of heaven would open and showers from above would descend. I was equipped like a pilgrim with tools of an explorer. Temperature was 28 degrees centigrade. Humidity was 89 per cent. Wind gust was approximately 15 kilometers per hour.

But I was not quite prepared for what my eyes would soon encounter. As I savoured the serenity and utter quietude of the village focusing on the right side of the bush path, Thomas tapped suddenly on my shoulder. "Sir, see the green river there."

Anietie Usen climbs a hill to have a better view of the green river. What I saw transfixed me. My jaw dropped. I was motionless with horror, wonder and astonishment. Awe-struck, I covered my face with both palms so that the enigmatic river would not stare at me and I would not see it either. "Park, park, park", I told Abednego, my driver.

There was a mild confusion as the driver himself was visibly scared of what he saw. Like me, he had never seen a green river before. It took some moments for me to recover from the overwhelming amazement. My driver took a longer time to regain his composure. He refused to come down the slope with the 'Mungo Park' and I.

It took a bit of persuasion for him to drive the car down to the riverside. I doubt whether I would have dared to approach that river, if I were alone. It was simply too mystifying for my driver to comprehend. "Sir, I have never seen something like this before," he said.

The green wonder was flowing peacefully from left to right, or was it from east to west, as far as my eyes could see.

The green river in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria's South-south and reverentially, we approached the river. In no time I had mustered sufficient confidence to pose by the river for photographs. Three villagers were at hand by the river, but some 100 meters away. Initially we ignored them and chose to trek in the opposite direction, I guess for two kilometers.

"Here we are! The sand is white. The river is green. And the wind feels like dew drops," I said aloud with a poetic flair. At least, that's what I thought.

We couldn't get to the end of the river as the thicket of green shrubs and bamboo plants had formed a blockade. I wished aloud there were canoe boys to

paddle us down the end of the river and back. Thomas concurred and said money is waiting to be made by the boys when visitors begin to frequent the river.

The only canoe seen had no paddler nor paddles. Maybe the three natives we sighted earlier would canoe us up and down the river, we reasoned. No, they said, when we caught up with them 15 minutes or so later. But they told us some stories about the green river of Ikot Akpa. "I

to go down the slope to fetch and see the water in a bottle himself. He was warned by natives to beware of the depth of the river. "It's very deep. If you put this tall palm tree inside, the river will swallow it completely" another native said.

Gingerly, Thomas went down to the etch to fetch the water with a plastic bottle. "It is white," he shouted, before he climbed back up to where we stood. For a while, we sat at



the bamboo bench constructed by natives under a bamboo tree, to snack and

take pictures.

So why is the river green in the eyes and white in the bottle?

# The secret of Akwa Ibom Green River

*"Awe-struck, I covered my face with both palms so that the enigmatic river would not stare at me and I would not see it either. We had planned to visit the strange river, but Thomas Thomas, the 'Mungo Park' of the Green River and my tour guide, was hard to track down on D-day."*



was born to see the green river this way", Edidiong Archibong, a native, said.

We wanted him to take us upstream, towards the source of the river. He turned down the request. According to him the green river originates and oozes out from a rocky little hill, overgrown now by thickets of clumping and perennially evergreen bamboo plants. "These days nobody bothers to go there anymore," another native added.

Archibong said the river is usually greener in dry sunny seasons than what we saw. Rainy season like now, he added, "has tampered" with the crystal green and adorable colour of the river, because rain water usually washed the soil down the hills into the river, as in the last three days.

I was curious to know what the colour of the water would be in a cup or bottle. Green or white? The natives said white. But Thomas, true to his name, was doubtful. He volunteered



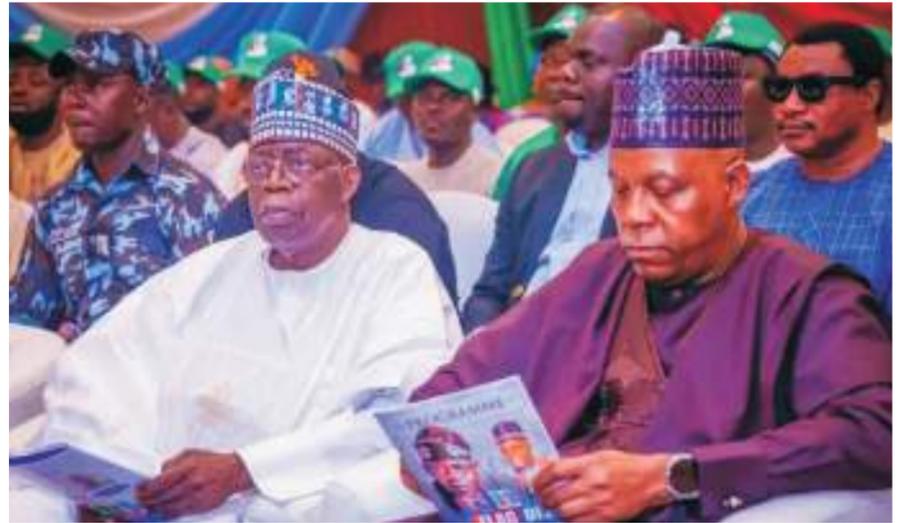
# IMAGES

## APC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE UNVEILS DOOR TO DOOR FOR 2023

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Candidate recently unveiled APC Northern Speakers Door-to-Door for Tinubu/Shettima 2023 in Abuja



DG of the Campaign Council and Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (middle) and Deputy, Governor Abubakar Badaru of Jigawa State welcoming the Vice Presidential Candidate, Sen. Kashim Shettima



APC Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (left) with his running mate, Sen. Kashim Shettima at the ceremony



Director General of Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Council, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (right) flanked by Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Sen. Kashim Shettima and others unveiling the Door-to-Door for 2023 APC presidential



Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda (middle) with other speakers of the Northern States at the unveiling ceremony



Some units of vehicles unveiled at the occasion



A cross section of members of the state assembly



Deputy Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong and other legislators from the Northern States at the unveiling



Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Sen. Kashim Shettima, Governor Lalong, Governor Badaru and others in a group photograph after the unveiling ceremony

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

## Odd World

# Mum puzzled as husband spells son's name wrong

A mum has shared her frustration after her husband repeatedly misspelt their son's name for the last five months since his birth - and all of his friends get it wrong as well.

Mum holding baby boy, looking at husband getting it wrong (stock photo) (Image: Getty Images/iStockphoto)

When it comes to children's names, people will often butcher them and make spelling blunders, but if there's anyone you'd expect to get it right, it's their parents. However, one mum has been left bewildered after realising her husband has been misspelling their son's name for the last five months.

The unnamed parent took to Reddit's Name Nerds forum to share her bafflement over her partner's error, explaining that he's not the only one doing this, all of his friends have also been guilty of making the same mistake. The woman shared how she'd been wondering why pals kept spelling their son's name as Issac instead of Isaac, but it turned out it was all due to her husband.

Mum kissing boy on forehead

The blunder was due to autocorrect (stock photo)

(Image: Getty Images/TetraimagesRF) Get the news you want straight to your inbox. Sign up for a Mirror newsletter here.

She wrote: "My son's name is Isaac. He is 5 months old. I've been wondering why all of my husband's friends spell it 'Issac'. Today I realised that they spell it that way because HE spells it that way.

"He announced it that way, that is how he refers to him in all his messages. He sends his grandma photo postcards and that is how he spells his name on those.

They added in the comments: "I did not expect these issues with such a common name!

"It has really p\*\*\*ed me off! As a one-off it's fine, autocorrect is silly, haha etc. But it's every time and he's never noticed?! He hasn't even noticed that everyone else now does the same thing. Mind blown. If someone spells my baby's name wrong to me then I definitely notice... because he's my flipping baby!"

What is happening where you live? Find out by adding your postcode.

Hundreds of people have since responded to the post, with many joking

they hoped her husband hadn't filled out the birth certificate. Others shared their own stories of names being spelt wrong.

One said: "My cousin realised he'd been spelling his name 'wrong' when he was 16. His parents spelt it Zachery on his birth certificate but he was taught to spell it Zachary.

"They also spelt his sister's name as Haylee because they didn't know there was any other way to spell it (it's commonly spelt Hayley in Australia)."

Another replied: "My FIL spelt my husband's name wrong on the birth certificate. Best part? He's named after his dad. So, I have to ask him every time I fill something out bc I can't remember how it's spelt."

Someone else added: "My dad can't spell my name. And to make matters worse, he made my mom change the spelling she liked (which would have made the pronunciation of my name more intuitive). So, I have a name that is constantly mispronounced thanks to my dad who can't even spell my name."

Do you have a baby name story to share? We want to hear all about it.

**Email us at [yourmirror@mirror.co.uk](mailto:yourmirror@mirror.co.uk)**



## Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani...

DEAR God, I am pained to the extent that I cannot stop tears following freely down my cheek each night my family is about going to bed. The glaring scenario of socio-economic retardation and political uncertainty have both cobwebbed my thoughts of hoping for a better tomorrow for our nation. These past weeks have not been easy for me even as the wicked and their cohorts have risen to consume me, us and the Christendom. I cannot have a sound sleep because of the obvious fact that the gates of hell has risen and is prevailing against us.

As it is, the Nigerian nation state has almost lost its fundamental bearing even as many erudite scholars have submitted far-reaching evidences including pragmatic indicators that this time around; the hand writings on the wall are clear, the center can no longer hold. Many unspeakable and unimaginable things are happening in our communities which are almost puncturing our salvation in the Lord. A few days ago, football enthusiasts gathered at the Abuja National Stadium to witness the second crucial leg of the world cup qualifiers match between the Black Stars of Ghana and the Super Eagles of Nigeria. Many had gathered in full confidence that no Jupiter would stop Nigeria from going to the 2022 World Cup extravaganza in Qatar.

After securing a draw in Ghana during the first leg of the encounter in Kumasi, soccer pundits had given the ticket without any doubt to our Nigerian representatives. As it unfortunately turned out to be however, the Super Eagles failed to fly the nation's flag thus generating great concern amongst soccer faithful in the country. For yours sincerely however, I had concluded even before the match commenced that securing the world cup ticket was not that which Nigeria needed considering the battalions of problems before us. I thought that going to the World Cup tournament would make a further mockery of us as a struggling nation in most recent times.

Some of us are presently convinced beyond reasonable doubt that almost nothing tangible is working in the country. Just this past Sunday, another unprovoked attack took place in Rosu and Arri all in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State where an unconfirmed number of innocent lives were killed. We cannot afford to also forget the unabated killings of innocent lives in Kaduna which is another unpleasant tale all together.

It looks as if these unabated security circumstances in both local government areas have defiled possible pragmatic solutions. But again, in the past few months, all tertiary institutions in this country have been under lock and key. Sad enough, all attempts aimed at settling the problems between the Federal Government and striking lecturers are still but a tremendous hallucination.

Many social commentators and experts are of the opinion that what we need at this particular crucial moment is for our students to get back to their classrooms to avoid spending more delayed excruciating years at their institutions of learning across the nation. Before now, the citizens of this country had the ample opportunity to select any means of

transportation to travel and see their loved ones or spend holidays in this country. Today, it is seemingly a different narrative as the citizens cannot move from point A to point B without any fear of molestation, kidnaping with ransom or instantly killed by hoodlums with impunity in the country.

From my humble assessment of unfolding developments in the country, I am in deep thoughts as to whether the unpalatable experiences of the war in Ukraine is but easier to comprehend and adapt too than the excruciating ugly developments in Nigeria. Just take a look at the most recent Kaduna-Abuja train attack and you will be ashamed as a Nigerian. Most annoying is the fact that despite the intelligence reports earlier issued by some security agencies, no one deemed it fit to investigate and or put in place any concrete preventive mechanism to this effect.

As if this was not enough, in broad daylight, terrorists invaded the Kaduna International Airport where planes were halted from embarking on their anticipated journeys to all parts of the country. As the situation is; these terrorists have proven that no journey either by air, rail, car and or our waterways is secured. This equally means that the citizens of this country are in serious trouble for no fault of theirs.

At this very moment, we all need a Nigeria where there is enough food for all, a nation where the laws of the land should be respected by both the rich and the poor. We certainly don't need a nation where its citizens would be living from hand to mouth. Regrettably today, more than half of the people of this nation cannot comfortably afford three square meals a day.

Even in the middle of this inflation heat, our leaders are still play tricks on us, painting a fallacious picture of economic stability which never is. Our leaders are no longer perturbed about the increasing number of killings which has overwhelmed this country. Lord, I just pray that our leaders with all sincerity of purpose and responsibility wake up from their slumber to comprehend the fact that our nation has crossed the red lines.

In more definitive terms, our leaders must begin to find lasting solutions to the issue of these unabated killings, kidnaping, insurgency, banditry or acts of sabotage including consistent cases of corruption and acts of personnel aggrandizement enveloping the country.

We as a nation must end this unpalatable dehumanizing inflation rate where the cost of living is already beyond the reach of the common man. Let's not pretend, we cannot continue to deceive ourselves that everything is on the right track in Nigeria when we equally know that things are in complete shambles.

Almighty God, this is not the kind of Nigeria we all anticipated for, this is not the kind of country we prayed for, a nation where we cannot sleep with our eyes closed due to the administrative ingenuity of our leaders aimed at tacking the security challenges bedeviling this country amongst others. I am wondering my Lord, Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani...

## Interview

# 'Dakum is Plateau Labour Party's gubernatorial imposter'

**Amb. Yohanna Margif, Labour Party gubernatorial candidate in Plateau State is presently fighting the battle of his life following attempts to allegedly substitute his name on the portal of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). In this interview with our correspondent, BULUS GAMBO, Margif says his ticket is an anointed one and not to be relinquished to anyone.**

**QUITE a lot has happened after you were given a ticket to contest for the gubernatorial elections under the auspices of the Labour Party, (LP) in Plateau State. In the first instance, how was the primaries which led to your emergence as the ticket holder conducted?**

Thank you very much, the primaries that led to my winning the Labour Party gubernatorial ticket was a huge success. I paid for my nomination form and also met up with all other available conditions. I was also given a letter of commendation because of the positive contributions I made to the party.

I left the APC because of the obvious fact that I saw the hand writing on the wall and I was prayerfully directed by God to join the Labour Party even though at that time, the party was empty. But after I came to the party, they offered me conditions including the need to pay nomination forms which I did. There was a time I was able to transport my delegates from Plateau State through Abuja to Asaba by plane and not by road which I sponsored for a meeting. This was all done by me to help foster democracy on the Plateau. Everything went on smoothly and successfully there. There was also another aspirant when I was vying for the ticket in the same Labour Party primaries at that time but he subsequently relinquished his aspiration for me. However, we were able to conduct the primaries here in Jos and after the screening, I emerged victorious and was eventually given the gubernatorial ticket of the party.

**But I think you were given a certificate in Abuja after this very party primaries conducted on the Plateau or can you explain what really happened please?**

After my emergence as the party's flag-bearer, I was given a certificate of return quite alright, I started my campaign then suddenly; some people began to come to see me for negotiations. When I left the APC, we were about eighteen and I tried to convince them to come and join me in the Labour Party. Some of them started responding positively and began to come. During that time, I kept telling them that I was contesting to win the gubernatorial election and will not negotiate and or relinquish my ticket to and for anybody since I have the capacity to win the elections come 2023.

However, one of them in the person of Dr. Patrick Dakum began to send his men to court me even though I kept telling them the same thing. They openly told me that Dakum send them to ask me whether I can relinquish my ticket but I categorically told them that I was not relinquishing the ticket as I was not in the race for any financial benefit or any other thing as such. I only want to serve my people.

**Was it at this point that the gubernatorial primaries was conducted for you all here on the Plateau?**

Not really, at this very moment, the primaries had been conducted and the certificate of return had been issued me as the gubernatorial candidate. So, these people began to come; that is to say that they were coming for substitution asking me if I can provide any window of opportunity for them for substitution and if I needed money to be given me



Margif

to be substituted. They thought I will relinquish the ticket for any monetary compensation.

**But there is this rumor that you bargained for monetary compensation of the ticket for a price tag of 500 million naira which you insisted against the 200 million an aspirant wanted to give you?**

This is a pure political propaganda and a pure lie. I can categorically tell you that I have never opened up any window of negotiation and never negotiated with anyone asking for one naira. I have been telling them that this ticket is an "anointed ticket" and I joined this race to serve my people and if because of money I relinquish this ticket, I will not live to enjoy this money.

I had prayed to God to give me this ticket for the sake of the people of Plateau State and this ticket is for Plateau people. It is a ticket which if it gets into a wrong hand, certainly, God will not be happy with me. So, this has been my stand all this while.

**So, can you enlighten us as to what happened which led to the emergence of a letter purportedly written to the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) indicating that you have relinquished your ticket which justified the primaries which led to the emergence of Dr. Patrick Dakum as the gubernatorial hopeful of the Labour Party in the state?**

I am presently sympathizing with Dakum because of the fact that he is an imposter.

An affidavit was submitted to INEC and the LP which is my party stating that I am not relinquishing any ticket and that they should not entertain any issue concerning this alleged substitution of my nomination. I am not in negotiation with anybody and I am not relinquishing my ticket. I am still the candidate of the LP and have not conceded to anybody.

If you care to know, Dakum met me at Shoprite in a public place after I asked him to meet me there. I asked him that my brother when did you come back from America, and he mentioned that he came into the

country just yesterday of that fateful day of our meeting. I then responded by asking why he did not tell me he was coming so that I can welcome him at the airport. I did this because of the fact that I really wanted to work with him. I remembered that I told him that my ticket is for every one of us, and I had been going round making contacts more so because of the obvious reason that my ticket is an inclusive one.

I still told him that my ticket was not for sale and I don't need any money. I remembered that I also asked him, all of you are coming for negotiations with me; am I not an indigene of Plateau State? Am I not eligible to be voted for? What are your reasons for this unending negotiations? Dakum now told me that he wanted me to be John the Baptist; while he becomes the Messiah. I then responded by saying but my brother, I am presently seated here and the ticket is with my name so if you can support me, I will be very happy.

At the end of our meeting, he took his phone and ask me of my account number. But I told him; my brother, that is what I cannot do for you; I cannot afford to take even one naira from you. I then urged him to go and have a rethink and then come back to support me so that we can move Plateau forward together.

**But the political calculation is that Bokkos Local Government Area has had its time when Chief Joshua Dariye served for two tenures and in the spirit of patriotism and fair play, it is anticipated that any other person who would come from the central zone to contest for this distinguished position should not be from this same area. Is this basically one of the reasons why some people are urging you to relinquish this ticket?**

But that condition is unconstitutional and not partisan at all. All political parties in Nigeria have their different political ideology and God can also use anybody to achieve His purpose not minding this geographical

argument.

**Sir, but as it stands, are some of these aspirants not more popular than you; how confident are you that you are prepared and can win this elections come 2023?**

You must understand that the issue of popularity varies, for instance, one can be popular as a stingy man and another one also can be popular as a preacher. Dakum himself asked me this same question and I had to asked him what was making him have the guts to think that he is better than me in this regard. And his response was that since he is one of the script writers of COCIN Devotional, he will have the full support of COCIN members. After he said this; I told him that when one is trying to change any system for the better, such a person must face some of these challenges in life.

**But there are also reports on the social media that because of the several allegations of financial misappropriation levelled against you, you are not competent to vie for any of such an office, what do you have to say about this?**

The question I am presently asking is; how did I bring the LP to limelight if I had this questionable character and I am this poor? Where were they when I woke them up from sleep? How can they easily forget the past that amongst all the aspirants, I am an independent candidate and I have not collected money from anybody.

**But as it is now; who can we say is the authentic Labour Party candidate for Plateau State even as the court during its last sitting gave you both about 96 hours to go to Abuja and resolve this tussle once and for all?**

As far as I am concern, I was the one who took the matter to court and I can confidently tell you that I am the authentic LP gubernatorial candidate for Plateau State. Above all and basically as it is now, my name is there on the INEC portal. Therefore; all I am asking the court to do for me within the confines of the law is to stop Dakum from parading himself as the LP gubernatorial candidate for Plateau State. And they have just filed their responses I think. I told the court that all they have presented to INEC is fake. I want this imposter to take his mind off this ticket. If I must tell you this; I am fully prepared and readily prepared to win elections.

**You may be obviously aware that there are perhaps many political gladiators behind Dr. Dakum on this issue or move, will you be able to defend this matter to the end?**

I am one hundred percent ready for all these and I have all the might and power to protect the interest of Plateau State and ensure that justice is done. My backbone is God on this matter.

**Do you see all these drama as a test preparing you for your leadership journey?**

Everything happens for good to those who trust in God. So, I am very happy because of the fact that whatever they are doing is out of desperation and God always hands off Himself in such cases. Therefore, I am hundred percent sure that they will be put to shame very soon.

**What has been the take of the**

**Plateau State LP all this while on this matter?**

I don't think that I have a problem with the state LP executives. They screened me and have taken my documents to INEC so any propaganda by anyone is just beating around the bush.

**Some people are also feeling that perhaps you are being instigated by the ruling APC in the state to create confusion in your party, is this true?**

How would I be sponsored by another party against the interest of my own party? Why are these people not mentioning other rival political parties in the state? Why must they cook up this story when in the real sense of it, APC has own gubernatorial candidate in the state?

**You paid for the APC nomination forms and that of Labour Party, how much did you pay in all?**

I paid 50 million naira for the APC nomination forms and also paid 15 million for that of the Labour Party. Though the money matters a lot to me and that was not the only contribution I made to the APC. You see, I am a businessman and highly blessed so I saw all these as my contribution for the growth of democracy in the country.

**If you were given a certificate and this same certificate was also given to Dr. Dakum, are you not concern that something fishy may be happening somewhere within your party hierarchy or from the national level against your interest?**

It may interest you to know that nobody has written or intimated me on anything from the national level of our party. That was why I joined them in my suit in court for them to come and explain their positional standing. I am a peace maker that is why I am tolerating this act of forgery coming from here and there.

**There was a time that you were said to have been arrested by the Police for providing a bounced check during one of your business transactions, can you respond on this development?**

I am a businessman who have over 12 registered companies, I am into mining, I am an estate developer and sometimes as a businessman, it is logical that I owe somebody. However, we are in a political period and you can hear a lot of things. In all these, I know that the truth will reveal itself. As it is however, I am fighting for Plateau citizens and want to be a voice for the voiceless. Therefore, I want to urge the people of Plateau to know that power is in their hands and the era of god-fatherism is over.

**After coming this far; is there anything that can make you change your mind and be substituted as far as this ticket is concern?**

My message to Dakum is; if he is the candidate who has the capacity to lead Plateau State and he is popular, let him leave my ticket and carry his supporters to another party particularly any of these virgin political parties and if the star is shining on him, it will continue to shine there. My ticket is an anointed one and it shall remain so with me.



## Lalong's 2 days consultative visit

OVER the weekend, Shendam the hometown of Governor Simon Bako Lalong and headquarters of the Plateau South Senatorial District was a beehive of activities as he led key stakeholders to a consultative meeting.

The stakeholders brain stormed with their constituents on the way forward for their party the APC and how to get ready for the campaigns that will be flagged off in September.

Apart from the general meeting, a series of consultation meetings were held with different groups from the zone comprising local government chairmen and their deputies, local government party leaders, elders, women leaders, youth leaders, and political appointees. The two day process lasted from 9-10 September 2022.

Those who spearheaded the meeting were zonal party leaders, the Governor who is also the Director General of the APC Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Idris Wase, ITF Director General, Sir Joseph Ari who also stood at the podium to speak and encourage the party stakeholders to be committed to the party's success in 2023.

All the speakers, however, made it clear that they are not breaching the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) rules nor embarking on a campaign until the stipulated date. They said they were rather only on a consultation and 'thank you' visit to appreciate constituents and party stakeholders for giving them the mandate to



contest.

Candidates contesting various positions of the state and National Assembly seats of the party were also present at the meeting.

On arrival at Shendam, the first point of call was the Palace of HRH, the Long Gamai of Gamailand, Miskoom Martin Shaldas III where they were warmly received according to traditional rites of Gamailand.

The royal father recounted the sad experience he witnessed a few weeks back when hoodlums who looted shops, vandalised his palace, tried to create ethno religious crisis in his Local Government as a result of rumours that he is planning to install an Emir in Nshar Yelwa, but said he was glad for the prompt response of security personnel and the Local Government Chairman Miskoom Alex Naantwam, who came in and restored normalcy to the area. The Royal father however wished the APC team luck and prayed for peace to reign in the state to pave way for a successful 2023 elections.

On the second day of consultations, the team continued with meetings and also visited the Catholic Diocese of Shendam to seek spiritual blessings and appreciate the church for their prayers and support.

The key point from the governor's visit was that the ruling party, the APC must secure a win. His reasons simply was if the APC wins the Presidency seat, and does not have his state, after working hard as head of the Presidential Campaign, then it will become a huge loss to Plateau.

He, however, advised the forum to play politics of peace and work together irrespective of religious divides to gain success.

The move for mobilisation of a door to door campaign at the zone and grassroots by the party was unveiled as they await INEC's official date of September to flag off campaigns.

INEC has fixed political parties campaigns for the Presidential and National Assembly elections to commence on Wednesday September 28, 2022 while campaigns for governorship and state Assembly elections will commence Wednesday October 12, 2022.



## News

### Teachers recruitment: Govt. conducts aptitude test

The Kogi State Government on Tuesday, commenced the conduct of aptitude test for shortlisted candidates for the ongoing teachers' recruitment in the state.

Addressing the candidates at the CBT Centre, Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja, the Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Wemi Jones, FCIB, assured the candidates of a level playing ground. He stressed that the exam would be a computer based test, and there would be no room for manipulation. It is strictly for people that applied online", he said. He urged the candidates to be patient, behave maturely and not unruly but to cooperate with the officials, assuring that every invited candidate would write the

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

The commissioner commended His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello for making education a priority in the state. He further expressed gratitude to the governor for making efforts to fill the existing vacancies in Kogi schools, stressing that the vacuum had limited the quality of teaching.

He noted that the state government would in the first batch, employ 2000 successful teachers to resume work in the new session. The commissioner describing the gesture by the Governor as "unprecedented".

He said previous administration had abandoned such responsibility, stressing

that the governor's love for education, necessitated his directive to engage teachers. He reaffirmed the commitment of the state government to employ qualified teachers which he said remained the bedrock for sustainable education as envisioned by the present administration.

He urged the candidates to put in their best, giving the assurance that merit principle would determine the successful candidates. Also speaking, the Executive Chairman, Kogi State Science Technical Education and Teaching Service Commission (STETSCOM), Mrs. Cecilia Cook, said the commission has resolved to employ only qualified teachers.

She eulogised the Governor for the opportunity to fill existing vacancies in Kogi schools.

She said the aptitude test would be conducted in batches, and would hold from Sept. 13 to 15.

Cook said about 6000 candidates out of the 15000 applicants would sit for the test.

One of the candidates, Mr Ayo Thomas, commended Kogi Government for its decision to recruit more teachers in the state.

"I applied as Mathematics teacher, and I believe I will perform well in the aptitude test. We thank the government for the gesture," Thomas said.

THE Executive Chairman of Karu Local Government Council, Hon James Thomas, has said Mada people are unique and have potentials.

He stated this when he received in audience the leadership of Mada Development Association, Karshi Development Area led by its chairman, Benjamin Gaiya, under the guidance of Karu LGA APC Chairman, Mr. Samson Mutari and Supervisory Councillor for Social Service, Karu LGA, Hon Emmanuel Cheto recently in his office.

The Chairman said "Mada are unique people. They have a

### Chairman eulogises Mada people

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

rich, and robust cultural identity in the state and Karu LGA".

He said "Mada are people of identity. We are very proud of them as part of us. We have so many Mada that excel in this country due to their intellectual capacity. We have one of them here with us."

Earlier, MDA Chairman said they came to appreciate the Executive Chairman for the appointment of their son as the Supervisory Councillor of Social Service in Karu LGA and also thank God for making it possible for them to come. "We really thank God for making it possible to see this day together as one family. We pray for God Almighty to make us unite together as one," he said.

### National Troupe stages 'Echoes of the drums'

By **FWENGJI GOAR**

NIGERIA's apex performing arts agency, the National Troupe of Nigeria has concluded plans for the staging of "Echoes of The Drums," a play that explores themes of unity, love, and diversity.

Speaking on the production, The Artistic Director and Chief Executive Officer, National Troupe of Nigeria (NTN), Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed, reiterated that by staging 'Echoes of the Drum', "the National Troupe of Nigeria will be lending a voice of contribution to peace, brotherliness and love within the diverse cultures and ethnicity in Nigeria."

In a press statement issued in Abuja and made available to our correspondent, the Artistic Director/CEO also stated that the play will provide over 500 job opportunities by engaging our teeming youths within the

theatre and by extension the creative industry.

It will be recalled that this is coming on the heels of the successful staging of the unity play titled 'Strings' which was a huge success.

"Echoes of the Drums" is a stage play written by Ola Awakan and directed by Mike Anyanwu. The play which aims at promoting unity, love, and diversity, utilizes drums instrumentation in storytelling to drive home relevant and timely messages at this dire moment in our political, cultural, and ethnocentric landscapes.

The play, which is open to the general public for a fee, would be staged at the MUSON Centre, Onikan, Lagos on Thursday, 29th of September 2022.

The National Troupe of Nigeria was established in 1991 to promote and project Nigeria's

diverse rich cultural heritage in music, dance, and drama, and in any other performative expression, and is Nigeria's apex performing arts agency of the Federal Government.



Bello



Ahmed

## Sports

# Can Iheanacho drag Leicester out of danger?

KING Kelz remained with the Foxes beyond the transfer window, can he now fire them out of danger?

The pause in Premier League action this weekend perhaps gives Leicester City the chance to pause, reflect and take stock after a disastrous start to the new season.

Brendan Rodgers hasn't won the sack race, but he's won nothing at all so far this term, with the Foxes rooted to the bottom of the table after six matches having failed to take single victory in 22-23.

Goal said that in fact, they have just one point—thanks to a draw with Brentford—and last Sunday's 5-2 defeat by Brighton & Hove Albion was another humbling setback.

In a contest that proved to be Graham Potter's last in charge of the Seagulls, they taught the 2016 Prem champions a lesson with a convincing triumph, even though Leicester took a first-minute lead and then equalised—following a Brighton rally—in the 33<sup>rd</sup> minute.

The Foxes ultimately lost, but this shouldn't mean doom and gloom for the East Midlands as they prepare for next weekend's trip to Tottenham Hotspur.

Could Kelechi Iheanacho—opening goalscorer against Brighton—prove to be the Foxes' saviour and the man to drag them out of the mire?

For the trip to Brighton, Rodgers opted to cut Leicester's leading man Jamie Vardy, dropping the veteran to the bench in order to attack the Seagulls with



**Iheanacho**

fresh blood in the form of Iheanacho and Patson Daka.

At 35, Vardy is still considered among the Prem's leading goal-getters, even though his impact appears to be sliding.

He managed just 20 starts last term as age and injuries took their toll, and while he bagged a respectable 15 goals, he's failed to net in any of his first six outings—five of which have been from the start—this term.

While he registered assists against Brentford and Chelsea, outings against Arsenal and Southampton have been anonymous, while he was isolated entirely as the East Midlands were defeated at home by

Manchester United.

Nonetheless, it was a major show of faith in Iheanacho and Daka for Rodgers to pull the trigger on the ex-England man.

For this match, Rodgers opted for something closer to a 4-4-2, with James Maddison pushed out to the right flank and Iheanacho and Daka starting in tandem up top.

"We got two strikers up against it and just had more attacking players on the field," Rodgers explained to Leicester's official website after the match. "That's an area that we've probably been short on in terms of creation of opportunities.

"Both the boys scored, so

that was really good, but I didn't think we kept the ball well enough," he added. "In the Premier League, you have to look after the ball and we gave it up too easy."

It was a decision that bore fruit during the opening seconds of the match, as Daka fed through the Nigeria striker, who finished decisively from close range.

He's now had a hand in 20 goals in his past 25 starts for the club, scoring 15 and laying on a further five with assists. It's an enviable record, and clearly demonstrates how Iheanacho can be, particularly when he's played from the start.

What is clear, however, is that he's much more successful when paired with another striker.

Iheanacho excels when he can drop into space, have a little bit more time to operate, and capitalise on the opportunities that are created by a forward partner's pace and movement.

Daka certainly has pace in abundance, and his off-the-ball work is also improving as he grows into life in the Premier League.

The Zambian equalised in the 33<sup>rd</sup> minute when he brought down a long ball forward by Yuri Tielemans, killed Lewis Dunk with a deft touch, and then paused before slamming the ball home to—for a time at least—give Leicester hope

that they might take something from this match.

A few more goals like this and Daka might be ready to take the mantle from Vardy in the process forging an effective striking partnership with Iheanacho.

The Super Eagle largely remains popular in these parts, even if his career hasn't quite taken off as people expected when he left Manchester City.

He's arguably never truly had the faith—at least as a starter—from a succession of managers, and hasn't done enough, consistently, to unseat Vardy, let alone prove he could be his long-term replacement.

However, Iheanacho's strong record when starting matches, coupled with his early goalscoring display against Brighton ought to convince Rodgers to start the striker this weekend and give him the chance of enjoying an established run in the side.

Still only three points from safety, albeit with a tricky fixture coming up, Leicester have ample time and opportunity to drag themselves way clear of the dangerzone.

However, it's evident that a change of approach is needed to ensure the Foxes have vibrancy and innovation in the final third.

Having made the most of his last opportunity, could Iheanacho be the man to drag Leicester from trouble and save the Foxes' season?



# Sports

## CAF Confederation Cup:

### Remo Stars draw in Morocco

CAF Confederation Cup debutants, Remo Stars on Sunday night, gave an excellent account of themselves as they battled to a 1-1 draw away to Moroccan side, AS FAR Rabat.

**Newsnow** said that, Adams Olamilekan's second half header salvaged the commendable draw for Remo Stars at the Stade Prince Moulay Abdellah, Rabat.

After their blistering run in the Nigeria Professional Football League last season where they finished in the third position, Remo Stars showed they were ready to take the continent by storm on their first try.

Right from the blast of the whistle, the visitors put up a good shift against the more experienced Moroccan team.

Remo Stars' goalkeeper Bankole Kayode was in fantastic form; as he made several vital saves in the game.

Daniel Ogunmodede's boys took the game to AS FAR; carving out their first real



Remo Stars

chance of the game barely six minutes after kickoff.

Unfortunately, Edidiong Ezekiel failed to capitalise on this opening.

Remo Stars came close to breaking the deadlock moments later, but Seun Ogunrinde's effort from a corner kick hit the crossbar.

After surviving the initial onslaught from Remo Stars, AS FAR took the lead in the 27th minute and they held on to the solitary goal till the end of the first half.

However, the tables turned just four minutes into the second half when Olamilekan headed home the equaliser

off a corner.

The Sky Blues held on for the draw despite pressure from the home team. The reverse fixture will take place on Sunday, 18 September 2022, in Ikenne.

The result from this preliminary first leg tie meant all four teams representing Nigeria on the continent this season all avoided defeats in their first leg games.

While Plateau United were held to a 2-2 draw away in Gabon, Rivers United and Kwara United both secured comfortable 3-0 wins in their respective home games in Port Harcourt and Lagos.

**NIGERIA** is the back-to-back champions of the U19 Boys African Nations Volleyball Championship.

**Newsnow** said that, Nigeria beat Egypt 3-0 (25-20, 25-18, 31-29) at the just concluded 2022 U19 Boys African Nations Volleyball Championship in Morocco on Sunday.

Nigeria dictated the pace at the beginning of the first set as they led Egypt by 8-3 points before the Egyptians closed the gap. The Nigerian team finally got the first set in the bag, winning 25-20. Nigeria resumed the second set on a high note, which they also won 25-18.

The Egyptians began the third set more determined, by keeping step with their Nigerian opp. Both teams took points from 25 to 25 before Nigeria eventually won by 31 to 29 points.

The head coach of the Nigeria U19 team Adekalu Adeniyi praised the relentless efforts of the players against Egypt.

Adeniyi said the players

## Volleyball

### Nigeria wins U19 African title again

played according to instructions from the first to the third set, dedicating the trophy to God and the Nigeria Volleyball community.

An elated Adeniyi said: "Today is the happiest day of my life in 2022 because Nigeria retained the trophy won in 2020. The players played according to the game plan from the blast of the whistle and never complained whenever they lost points.

"The players have shown greatness from the first day of the championship and exhibited a high level of discipline during the course of play.

"I want to thank God Almighty for the opportunity given to me as the head coach to win the U19 African Nations Volleyball

Championship again. For record purposes, I and Coach Sani Mohammed won the 2018 African Youth Games title, and emerged Champions of the 2020 U19 Boys African Nations Volleyball Championship held in Nigeria (as assistant coach); now I am lifting the trophy as the head coach.

"I want to also appreciate the Nigeria Volleyball Federation led by Engineer Musa Nimrod for their tremendous support to the success of the team as well as every Nigerian".

Adeniyi said the players still have a long way to go despite their superb performance.

"All the players have special qualities in them and I strongly believe that they will become national assets in the future," he said.



Nigerian Volleyball team

### Rivers, Kwara in flying starts to continental campaigns

**NIGERIA'S** representatives in CAF's Champions League and the Confederation Cup, Rivers United and Kwara United kicked off their campaigns in brilliant forms last night with massive wins.

**Newsnow** said that, in Port Harcourt, three goals inside the first 45 minutes gave the Pride of Rivers people victory over Watanga FC of Liberia at the Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium.

Kenechukwu Agu scored on his debut for United.

Stanley Eguma's men came into Sunday's CAF Champions League preliminary round 1st leg encounter on the back of what many judged to be a not too impressive pre-season build up.

However, Rivers United tore Watanga FC apart with two early goals in the space of 10 minutes, a bullet from Kenechukwu Agu and a cool finish by dependable left back Ebube Duru, with Paul Acquah heading home a superb third to put the game to bed in the first 45 minutes.

Watanga FC improved in the second half, but it was

too little too late.

The impressive victory gives Rivers United a first leg advantage and will now seek to seal qualification to the next round in Monrovia, Liberia on Sunday September 18.

Elsewhere in Lagos, Kwara United were also one leg into the next round of the CAF Confederations Cup preliminaries after their first leg resounding 3-0 triumph against Nigerien clubside, Douanes Niamey at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena at Onikan.

The Afonja Warriors got their three goals in the first half as Paul Samson score the opener in the fifth minute before Wasiu Jimoh extended the lead for the Harmony Boys from the penalty spot in the 17th minute.

Kwara who chose Lagos as their home ground began the match on the front foot, dominating the early proceedings with crisp passes and purposeful play.

Their dominance soon paid off when a shot from the right spilled off the hands of the Nigerien goalkeeper and Samson Paul had a simple tap in for the host's opener

in the 5th minute.

Jimoh then scored from the spot in the 16th minute to double United's tally. His third was a blistering shot after a beautiful combination with his team mates in the 41st minute.

Kwara United will take a three-goal lead to the return leg.

The reversed leg is slated to take place in Niger Republic on September 17,

2022 with the winner facing holders, RS Berkane of Morocco in the next round.

Remo Stars of Ikenne also fought back gallantly to earn a decent 1-1 away draw against AS FAR in Morocco. Olamilekan equalized for Remo in the 50th after earlier conceding in the 28th minutes to the hosts.

### Sadiq injury blow for Nigeria

**NIGERIA** striker Umar Sadiq is a major doubt for the Super Eagles friendly match with Algeria this month following an injury in Sunday's La Liga clash between Real Sociedad and Getafe.

Sadiq was handed his first La Liga start for Sociedad but he could only last 38 minutes as he limped off injured after sustaining a knock. The striker was assisted off the pitch with Sociedad later confirming that the player could not continue due to a twisted knee.

Article continues below  
New Season, New Goals: Victor Osimhen begins new Serie A season  
The Nigeria striker is expected to lead the line for Napoli when they take on Verona in matchday 1.

"Sadiq has withdrawn due to a twisted right knee," the club said via a social media post after the match.

It is still not known how



Sadiq

long the striker will be out but his absence will be a blow to the Spanish side who paid a club record €20 million with another potential €5 million in add-ons, to bring him to the club following the departure of Swedish forward Alexander Isak.

His absence could also scuttle Jose Peseiro's plans for the September 27 friendly match against Algeria in Oran, especially given Napoli striker Victor Osimhen

will not be available after sustaining a thigh injury that will keep him out for a number of weeks.

Sadiq had not made an impact in the 38 minutes he was on the pitch as Sociedad saw their three-match unbeaten streak come to an end at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez Stadium following a 2-1 loss.

The Super Eagles striker had not managed a shot but had

a 100 percent passing accuracy after all his five passes found its targets while he had only 12 touches of the ball.

Sadiq had announced himself to the Sociedad fans in emphatic style last week when he came off the bench to score the equaliser just 10 minutes after his introduction as they held Atletico Madrid 1-1.

He created problems for the Atletico defence with his movement, physicality and height while his ability to drop deeper allowed his teammates to get more space in the box, traits his new side were hoping to reap from on Sunday before the setback.

The 25-year-old former Almeria striker, who has seven caps and one goal for the Super Eagles, made his European debut in Thursday's 1-0 win over Manchester United in the Europa League.



Rivers United

## Sports

## Plateau United forces host ASO Mandji to a draw

PLATEAU United Football Club of Jos has begun their quest for honours in the 2022/2023 CAF Champions League on a positive note after playing out a two-two draw against host, ASO Mandji of Gabon in a first leg preliminary round encounter decided at Franceville, the second largest city of the oil rich country.

After wasting two clear chances to take the lead early in the first ten minutes of the first half, debutant, Ifeanyi Onyebuchi benefitted from a Daniel Itodo trademark long throw which caused serious problems for the Gabonese backline to give Plateau United an eleventh minute lead.

However a momentary loss of concentration in the Plateau United defence, allowed the host who are good on the flanks capitalized on poor marking in the Peace boys defence to equalised from a tight angle after goalkeeper Suraj Ayeleso was caught napping.

The equalizer brought the best out of Plateau United who increased the intensity of the match by dominating possession and deservedly got the second goal from Mohamed Zulkifilu who slotted in with a simple tap in from a fine Jesse Akila fine pull out in the thirty fifth minute to put the Coach Fidelis Ilechukwu tutored on the drives seat.

The lead lasted for ten minutes as the host drew level off a beautiful fast pace counter attacking move that was not properly dealt with by the Plateau United backline on the dot of forty five minute shortly before the Cameroonian centre referee signalled the end of first half proceedings to tie the match at two-all.

Despite the introduction of Ibrahim Mustapha, Izuchukwu Chimezie and Adams Yakubu in the second half, Plateau United failed to get the much need goals to win the match as the wasted several scoring chances to wrap up the game.

Peter Eneji and Akila Jesse were the biggest culprit after coming one-on-one with the Mandji goalkeeper, but indecision saw them missing their final touches while a minute winner scored by Chimezie was unfairly ruled out for infringement.

The change of match venue from Librville to Franceville negatively affected the performance of the team which was forced to reduced its contingent by three persons due to lack of enough space in the military plane that conveyed the team and other CAF officials from the Gabonese Capital barely twenty four hours to kick off.

The Confederation of African Football CAF organizers of the competition only communicated Plateau United of the new development when the team was already on its way to Gabon three days to the match.

The return leg comes up



Henwan

Sunday next week, as Plateau United welcomes the Gabonese champions to the MKO Abiola Stadium, Abuja with the winner over two legs going through to face North African powerhouse, Esperence Sportive of Tunisia who have been drawn bye in the first leg, preliminary round.

Plateau United Line-Up:  
21. Suraj Ayeleso, 24. Opara Chukuma, 3. Daniel Itodo, 4.

Jimmy Ambrose, 23. Adikwu Moses, 34. Ifeanyi Onyebuchi, 8. Sunday Anthony, 16. Nenrot Silas, 4. Mohamed Zulkifilu, 13. Peter Eneji, 29. Akila Jesse. Subs: 12. Chinedu Anozie, 17. Abubakar Ibrahim, 5. Nwaeze Christopher, 6. Golbe Elisha, 7. Albert Hilary, 18. Izuchukwu Chimezie, 30. Adam Yakubu, 25. Mustapha Ibrahim 19. Haggai Katoh.

## "Dismantle cabals that hold Nigeria football hostage"

FOLLOWING recent events in Nigeria's football scene and the state of the game, ace football commentator and a lawyer, Barrister Godwin Dudu-Orumen, has charged the Minister of Sports, Sunday Dare, to destroy the 'cabals' holding football hostage in the country.

The sports administrator noted that the running of football has been in the hands of a few people in almost a decade, adding it was time to destroy the 'cabals'.

Dudu-Orumen, who also commended the recent Supreme Court judgement on the defunct League Management Company, noted that there were so many issues affecting the growth of football in the country just as many talk about FIFA/NFF Statutes and the role of the government.

"It is now time to put to test who a Third party is in the NFF Statutes. Sunday Dare (Sports Minister) may not be pleasing many persons and interest groups by some of his actions but I believe he has reasons to dare and cause unpleasant sensations here and there." Orumen told TheNation

"I want the minister to dismantle the cabal that has held Nigeria's football hostage since the Makurdi coup which took out the Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima's NFA Board and installed Sani Lulu and his cohorts

"We do not have a viable league, developmental football is comatose, and Super Eagles is roulette wheel for a few and some the group holding our football hostage by virtue of the undomesticated NFF Statutes wants to continue in office. No. Enough is enough. The

## NFF Election - 11 cleared for presidency race

THE Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) election committee has disqualified two of the aspirants seeking to contest for the post of president on the next NFF board.

The two disqualified candidates are Marcellinus Anyanwu (South-east, Imo) and Paul Yusuf (North. central, Plateau).

According to the document of screened candidates obtained by PREMIUM TIMES on Monday, the two were disqualified because of 'Invalid Nomination.'

As contained in the electoral guidelines, respective state FAs must duly endorse all intending candidates before they can be allowed to contest.

Despite the disqualification of the two candidates, there are still a few others in the running to succeed Amaju Pinnick.

Three of the 11 cleared contestants are members of the current board, which is led by Pinnick.

They are the current NFF 1st Vice President Seyi Akinwunmi; the current 2nd Vice

\* Nasarawa State Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Amb. Lucky Isaac Yargwa, has called on youth, especially girls and young women, to think beyond their sex so as to fulfill their God-given potentials and change the world.

The Commissioner made the call when he played host to the State leadership of The Girls' Brigade on Friday at his office in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

Represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Isah Mohammed Eya, the Commissioner also called on women to work in bond to overcome the challenges facing them and as well contribute their quota to the overall development of the State and nation as a whole.

He stressed that the roles of women in the development of the society can not be undermined, and that until they are conscious of this fact, they will not be able to tackle their own problems effectively.

Yargwa added that at various fora, women had been tested and trusted with leadership positions and lived far above board, emphasizing that The Girls' Brigade is a well-coordinated organisation known for nurturing and grooming girls and young women to become beacons of hope, excellence and worthy ambassadors in the society and for the Kingdom.

While thanking the Group for the visit, the Commissioner assured that the Ministry would partner with them, both in their forthcoming

## Yargwa discourages girls on discrimination

programme, and subsequent activities to enable them attain their goals of raising worthy agents of positive change.

In her earlier remarks, Commissioner, Girls' Brigade Nigeria, 17th Division, Nasarawa State, Mrs. Ewuga Everister Sunday, stated that they were at the Ministry to familiarise with the Commissioner and notify him about their forthcoming programme which is in commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child slated for 11th October, 2022.

She disclosed that in line with the theme for this year's celebration, which is "Our Time Is Now, Our Right, Our Future", her organisation is organising a sensitisation and awareness campaign

andecture in selected public schools in the State, and needed the support of the Commissioner and Ministry to host a successful event scheduled for the Ibrahim Abacha Youth Centre, Lafia.

The Girls' Brigade is an international, interdenominational christian youth organization which focuses on working among girls and women.

It empowers girls, children and young women in local communities around the world to be themselves, to develop and use their gifts and skills, and to discover what it means to have life to the full in their generation.

Directors of the Ministry joined the Permanent Secretary in receiving the august visitors.

\*Eche Amos\*,  
PRO,



Sule

President/and defunct LMC Chairman, Shehu Dikko, and the current Chairman of Chairmen, Ibrahim Musa Gusau.

Others also seeking to be elected as the new NFF President are former international player Idah Peterside, CAF's Head of Safety and Security, Christian Emeruwa, and former Chairman of Kano Pillars, Abba Abdullahi Yola.

Amanze Uchebulam, David Buhari Doherty and Adam Moukthar Mohammed, Suleiman Kwande, and Musa Amadu complete the list of presidential aspirants.

Apart from those that have their eyes on the number one position, 35 others declared their intention to seek other elective positions on the NFF board but, a few did not get the needed green light,

While the trio of Felix Anyansi-Agwu, Obinna Ogba, and Chinedu Okoye are in a three-horse race for the post of 1st Vice President, only Yusuf

(Akwa Ibom State) also vying for seats from that zone.

Current member of the board, Ganiyu Majekodunmi leads the list of contestants for seats from the South-west, with Sunday Dele-Ajayi (Ondo State); Olawale Gafar Liameed (Lagos State); Ayodeji Adegbenro (Ondo State) and Pelumi Jacob Olajengbesi are also in the race.

Ayodeji Ogunjobi (Osun State) was disqualified for not providing satisfactory evidence of tax payment.

North-east has a current board member Babagana Kalli (Borno State), Sajo Mohammed (Adamawa State), and Timothy Henman Magaji (Taraba State).

A member of the current board, Sharif Rabi Inuwa (Kano State) is the only candidate from the North-west.

The NFF has fixed the Elective Congress for 30 September in Benin City, Edo State.



**Quest**



writer

ELLEN W. GORSEVSKI

FRAGMENT

"To date communication research on peacebuilding environmental rhetoric by and about Africans appears to have advanced comparatively less than studies of other world zones. Among international studies of environmental communication, Worthington (2003) lamented "few studies have examined ... politically active women" in Africa (p. 144). Add the category of women peacebuilders to that and we find even less attention has been paid to the rhetorical opus of the likes of important African women leaders such as Wangari Maathai (Stamp, 1995; Steady, 2006). Having thus summarized extant research on environmental communication in postcolonial contexts and the comparative dearth of studies relating to Africa among them, the following section defines ER."

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# Wangari Maathai: Greening Global Peace building

Continued from last week

INTERNATIONAL environmental communication studies have tended to focus on non-African areas. Cotton and Motta linked environmental justice to international social justice, connecting divergent studies in the USA, Mexico, in Asian nations such as Vietnam, or Pacific islands like Tonga. Africa as a subject only appears in one essay in Sandler and Pezzullo's volume on environmental and social justice; in that lone essay it is only in reference to African Americans, but not to Africans a continent away. Such studies insufficiently illuminate rhetoric of activism in and from Africa. Also, postcolonial peacebuilding is a culturally and historically specific process, one which must simultaneously address the ways that ecosystems were long damaged as a colonial means to controlling indigenous populations. Hence, while the study of cases in Western or Asian contexts abounds, research on the African continent lags.

To date communication research on peacebuilding environmental rhetoric by and about Africans appears to have advanced comparatively less than studies of other world zones. Among international studies of environmental communication, Worthington (2003) lamented "few studies have examined ... politically active women" in Africa (p. 144). Add the category of women peacebuilders to that and we find even less attention has been paid to the rhetorical opus of the likes of important African women leaders such as Wangari Maathai (Stamp, 1995; Steady, 2006). Having thus summarized extant research on environmental communication in postcolonial contexts and the comparative dearth of studies relating to Africa among them, the following section defines ER.

Emplaced rhetoric is discursive and symbolic communication purveyed through public statements, visual imagery, and embodied forms of activism that emphasize the physical, lived world of earthly existence, and the numinous experience many persons gain from substantive connections to nature. ER's hallmarks often indicate fixed, physical places, such as national parks, that are widely valued in the sociocultural sense as environmental spaces worthy of reverence and maintenance for posterity. Suasory messages of ER connect longstanding relationships between people and other sentient beings within the natural environment. A physical space that is symbolically inserted, via public communication, into a newly created political space encapsulates ER. ER functions as an environmental communication equivalent of a feminist standpoint, wherein out of crisis, conflict, and struggle, a person's or a group's consciousness is raised. ER broadcasts the value of interconnection among living persons, creatures, and their natural environment. That value consists of



many dimensions, including cultural, social, political, economic, and historic.

In revered environmental places, resilient socio-cultural meanings propel values for sustaining, politically, and financially, the life and wildlife within that given physical space. For instance, Glacier National Park in the USA may be just as aesthetically beautiful as its counterpart, Yellowstone. Yet it is the infusion of greater public consciousness and continued relevance to public discourses that is more associated with Yellowstone, which renders Yellowstone more influential as a trope for environmental rhetoric and politics. Yellowstone serves as both a physical place and an icon of environmental preservation; its rhetorical function is to bind the ideal of natural preservation and environmentalism to American identity and national pride. Yellowstone also symbolizes postcolonial challenges. When it comes to grappling with symbols of domination of American Indians, the documentary film, *The Buffalo War* (Testa, 2001), revealed ways the last herd of buffalo in Yellowstone summons into public consciousness histories of white domination over Native Americans across the North American continent, renewing or recreating public meanings about what constitutes environmental justice. Yellowstone is a central trope and exemplar of ER in the American context; Yellowstone points to a possible means for peacebuilding to address past and unfolding sociocultural injustices caused by anti-environmental practices.

To ascertain when ER is being used, critics may assess to what extent discursive, symbolic, or other forms of communication unite geo-

situated places metaphorically with political spaces. Rhetorically significant places exist physically and are valued culturally, mustering multifaceted identities from the individual, community, or tribal level, to national and international levels of identity. Although nationality, for instance, is comprised of many variables beyond place, nonetheless the "placeness" of a nation is a core rhetorical element contributing to a given national identity.

Emplaced rhetoric can function in and between macro and micro scales. For example, at a macro scale, consider the popular impact of NASA's famous images of earth photographed from space. One photo, called "Earthrise," photographed in 1968 by Apollo 8's astronaut, William Anders, shows the bright blue top half of the Earth floating out in the blackness of space, with the gray cratered surface of the Moon in the foreground. A counterpart image, dubbed "The Blue Marble," was photographed in 1972 during the last human visit to the Moon of Apollo 17; this photograph shows the whole orb of the Earth floating like a weightless blue marble in the pitch blackness of outer space. Anders describes how these striking images were perceived by fellow astronauts and the public to evoke environmental consciousness: "We came all this way to explore the moon, and the most important thing is that we discovered the Earth" (as cited in NASA, 2012, p. 1). NASA's photographs indicate that place-based rhetoric can summon transcontinental, transnational, and transcultural consciousness about environmental interconnectedness on planet Earth. Goodell (2012) recalls that for the nascent "environmental movement, it [The

Blue Marble] suggested how fragile and precious our planet really is". The earth from space photographs, then, functioned as ER in two ways: first, the images reiterated that despite the expansive size or range of locales there are on earth, audiences may feel connected to one another; and second, the photographs invited diverse audiences to experience a shared, unified perspective of planet Earth as not only a place, but also a shared home.

Diverse macro level exemplars of ER exist. Considering ER transnationally, Wright Performed ecocriticism on contemporary texts, honoring the role of place in environmental conservation. At a regional scale, Giblett, Jordan, Stallins, Stokes, Johnson, and Gragg, and Sheppard (2010) noted the rhetorical and sociological import of aerial photographs of large scale environmental devastation caused by mining, factory pollution, and other large scale earth altering activities. Similarly, Robinson et al. (2001) showed ways satellite imagery augmented environmental conservation campaigns. Thus large or macro scale ER is a fixture in environmental communication about environmental conservation.

At the smaller end of the scale spectrum, Greenberg (2008), Hoefel, and Palmer examined texts in American environmental studies that could be characterized as ER. As examples of ER at a small scale level, analyses of Henry D. Thoreau's famous naturalist treatise, *Walden*, were explored from literary (Greenberg, 2008) and ecological (Palmer, 2005) perspectives. These studies convey ways *Walden* was portrayed via ER, valuing the life system of a diminutive geographic place. ER appears in public communication over crises where historic preservation and environmental conservation meet, such as in ongoing debates over venerated sites succumbing to suburban sprawl (Capelouto, 2007; Zenzen, 1998). Thus political, cultural, and economic interests converge on a given place.

Further, conjoining an environmental standpoint to ethnic and cultural consciousness, Hoefel studied Zitkala-Sa's American Indian activist essay, "Why I Am a Pagan." Hoefel (1999) noted Zitkala-Sa's strong voice allied her culture's reverence for nature's beauty and processes to ethnic pride, which enabled subsequent Native Americans to write in new ways, thereby regaining lost autonomy and agency.

Hoefel (1999) portrays Zitkala-Sa's environmentally grounded and politically progressive writing in ways that are consistent with ER. By raising awareness about ecological valuations of the interconnections between respecting sentient life and ecosystems, ER can be seen as a unifying means not only to resist

environmental and cultural destruction, but also to actively create opportunities to foster political and social justice. Having defined ER, discussed its hallmarks, and given examples of ER from large, regional, and global macro scales to small, micro scales, the following section turns to examples of Maathai's ER as the heart of this study.

Wangari Maathai's Emplaced Rhetoric: Local Message, Global Reach Wangari Maathai employed ER as a means to encourage people to reforest spaces in her native Kenya. She propelled into public consciousness the value of trees to national and international audiences (Davis & Selvidge, 2006; Hayanga, 2006; Stiehm, 2006). Chief among Maathai's strengths was her ability to garner "extensive publicity," which was heightened by her "charismatic leadership" and networking skills (Michaelson, 1994, p. 558). Maathai's suasory discourses evinced a culturally bound sense of place by offering audiences a vivid sense of home and belonging using traditional African narratives that play equally well to Western audiences (Kirksey, 2007).

Using images matching a given audience to a narrative grounded in a sense of place, Maathai reminded her audiences of the riches in their own backyards, which may be lost in conditions of environmental imbalance. For instance, Maathai (2007) recalled, when she was a child, that "*Managu*, a green vegetable, flourished in maize fields after the harvest," and that its "small, yellow, juicy berries sprouted amid the *managu* leaves. Whenever I was sent with my siblings to look after our sheep and goats as they grazed in the freshly cut fields, I would feast myself silly on those berries!" (p. 16). These vivid images of a rich, local, naturally occurring source of food show the connection between a healthy, thriving environment, and the sustenance of people living there. Maathai (2007) then contrasted this positive image from the past environmental status of thriving *managu* with the present day, lamenting, "Unfortunately, one does not see the *managu* plants a lot these days—one of the negative consequences of overcultivation and the use of agrochemicals" (p. 16). Statements such as these about the *managu* resound with a community-centric geography that contrasts sustainable indigenous practices with unsustainable methods. Maathai's imagery reconnected physical bodies to (re)inhabit spaces such as fields abundant with *managu*. Her images conveyed meanings, both publically to show the outside impact of "agrochemicals," and privately, in the personal moment of sharing a childhood joy like a "feast" of wild berries.

To be continued