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Religious leaders urge politicians to be cautious

As the electioneering campaign kicks off this today, traditional and religious leaders have urged politicians to avoid unpatriotic activities capable of plunging the country

Also, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) advised candidates and their supporters to play by the rule.

The umpire said issue-based campaigns are

essential for safe elections.

To INEC, Nigerians expect the commission and the media to maintain neutrality during the electioneering.

The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Mohammed

Abubakar, and President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev. Daniel Okoh, urged Nigerians, especially religious leaders, to desist from making unguarded utterances that can cause confusion in the polity.

Sultan Abubakar and Rev. Okoh spoke at the 2022 third quarter meeting of the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island. The event, with the theme: 'Working together for Justice and Peace', was

also attended by Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha, and Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Abubakar, who is also head of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA)

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Chairman and Co-Chairman, NIREC and other members of the Council in a group photograph after their meeting on Monday at the Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos State, hosted by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State. PHOTO: DANLADI DUK

Forensic technology to be deployed for 2023 elections -IG



Alkali

By BULUS GAMBO, Abuja

Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba has disclosed the significance of forensic intelligence and the role of forensic experts at ensuring credible elections come 2023.

Speaking during the occasion of the International Summit for Peace Practitioners General Assembly and induction/award ceremony held at the National Merit and Award

House, Aguiyi Ironsi Maitama, Abuja, the IG explained that during past elections which resulted in disputes, forensic experts' testaments before law courts led to several milestones being recorded which led to the

consolidation of our democratic journey as a nation.

Represented by the Commissioner of Police in charge of Forensic and Data Department of the Nigeria Police, Shehu Gwarzo, Alkali Baba re-

emphasized that as the nation faces the forthcoming elections, the police is mandated with the huge responsibility of ensuring a free, fair and credible polls.

According to the police boss, "our problems even

as we approach this elections include multiple registrations, ballot snatching, inducement where by desperate politicians would use such intrigues to frustrate our collective efforts. However, it is also hopeful that some of these modern technologies

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and co-Chair of NIREC, noted that the role of religious leaders 'is to be just and fair to earn the people's trust'.

He urged Muslims and Christians to pursue peace and justice.

Abubakar also pleaded with the Academic Staff union of Universities (ASUU) to obey court's order by calling off the ongoing strike.

He urged the government and ASUU to resolve their differences in the interest of the youths.

Okoh, who is also a co-chair of NIREC, urged Nigerians to 'embrace peace, stop inciting utterances, live in peaceful co-existence with one another, be accountable, elect leaders with capacity during the 2023 general elections, abhor tribal sentiments, among others vices'.

He said: "As we prepare for the 2023 general election, it is important that we guard our action and utterances as leaders. We must not be seen as fanning the embers of hate and disunity, encouraging political violence, or attempting to divide the populace along tribal or religion lines.

"As part of NIREC's intervention to maintain peace at all time, 60 youths representing both faiths are already gathered in Lagos, in this particular hall, for their conference. It is my hope that the outcome of their conference will include strategies to curb youth restiveness and dangers of pre and post-election violence."

Mustapha, who was represented by Dr. Maurice Mbaeri, urged religious leaders to work for peace and unity.

Sanwo-Olu urged religious and traditional leaders to work towards promoting unity, peace, justice and tranquility in Nigeria. He said promotion of unity, peace, justice and tranquility will foster peaceful coexistence among the people.

Sanwo-Olu added: "We have a responsibility today, tomorrow and in years to come, to ensure we do not fall our nation with our own hands. I believe with interventions like this, Nigeria will not be put to shame. I am hoping the conversation, decision and discussions at this NIREC meeting will further strengthen that thing that

we all swore to – justice, peace and equity in this country."

"We are in a time that this country needs all of us, now more than ever before, and so, we should not allow hate speech. We cannot afford ethnic bigotry. We cannot afford to be divided. We are going into election; let us see the commitment and nationality in all of us."

Executive Secretary of the Council NIREC Cornelius Omonokhua said the meeting was aimed at changing existing narratives to allow justice and peace to reign in Nigeria.

He said: "There is need for mental re-engineering, change of values, attitudes as well as radical emancipation to address the root of various calamities of national concerns."

Ondo State Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu says there is no going back on his administration's decision to procure arms and ammunition for operatives of state security outfit, Amotekun.

Akeredolu explained that the weapons, which would

Cont'd from Page 1
would help solve this problems.

He noted that for democracy to survive, there must be a free, fair and credible elections and the Nigeria police would do very thing possible within its constitutional role to ensure that the nation records a huge success during the forthcoming elections in the country.

In a remark, the National President, Advancement, Peace and Reconciliation Center of Nigeria, Amb. Miss. Tar Mngusuur Jessica explained that "the International Day of Peace, observed every year on 21 September, embodies our shared aspiration to end conflict in all its forms and to safeguard the peace and human rights of all people. It is a day in which the United Nations calls for a 24 hour global ceasefire with the hope that one day in our lifetime, we will

Forensic technology to be deployed for 2023 elections –IG

witness an end to violence."

According to her, "we link our knowledge and expertise with those of our partners to support and participate in the development of local and international strategies for change. We leverage our competence with the collective intelligence of these partners to develop best solutions to entrench challenges within governments, MDA's and corporations amongst others through a systematic process of sensitization of the judiciary, corporate organizations, government and the public through workshops, networking, seminars and conferences."

She further noted that the Advanced Peace and Reconciliation Center of Nigeria was established in collaboration with the

various universities in Nigeria which established a resolution and negotiation center, a specialized institution committed to the study, teaching and research in the field of negotiation, mediation, arbitration and conflict management mechanisms.

Earlier in his welcome address, Ambassador Okocha Morgan Meshack thanked all who in one way or the other contributed towards the staging of the event and emphasized the need for peaceful coexistence to ensure sustainable development in the country.

Meshack hoped that all the awardees would truly represent the organization efficiently wherever they find themselves and continue to contribute their quota to national development.

Amotekun corps to bear arms –Akeredolu

be backed by law, are to be used to fight those he termed as 'marauders committing crimes against humanity.'

He stated that the incontestable authority of the state must be used against "brazen conflict entrepreneurs and armed audacious non-state actors."

The governor spoke Monday at the passing-out of newly recruited Amotekun operatives in Akure.

Akeredolu said the establishment of security outfits by sub-nationals was "necessary and indispensable."

His words "The Amotekun Corps must be given the tools to carry out its now pivotal, indispensable duties.

"For centuries, we have been admonished that 'a bad workman blames his tools.' In the case of Amotekun Corps, the workman is expected to function without good tools.

"Those passing out today have undergone rigorous training at great expense to the state. The training will not end here, it will be continuous. However, no amount of training will mask the debilitation of fighting with one arm tied against implacable foes."

Amotekun must, therefore, be armed and will be armed and be backed by law. Otherwise, the training will be inadequate and we will be placing the lives of these great patriots in danger."

The governor decided last week to purchase arms for Amotekun operatives after a viral video showed approval granted to a similar outfit in Katsina State by the Federal Government..

He also argued that it was wrong to allow non-state actors, especially in the Niger Delta, to bear sophisticated arms while state operatives are disallowed.

He had said: "That Katsina State was able to arm its state security force, with the display of AK47 means we are pursuing one country, two systems solution to the national question.

"If the Katsina State

situation conferring advantages on some, in the face of commonly faced existential threats, it means that our unitary policing system, which has failed, is a deliberate method of subjugation which must be challenged.

"The Independence agreement was based on a democratic arrangement to have a federal state and devolved internal security mechanics. We must go back to that agreement.

"Denying Amotekun the right to bear arms exposes the Southwest to life-threatening marauders and organised crime. It is also deliberate destruction of our agricultural sector. It is an existential threat.

"We want to reiterate, that what is sauce for the goose, is sauce for the gander. This is more so, given that the bandits have unchecked access to sophisticated weapons. The state government cannot look on while its citizens are being terrorised and murdered with impunity. We will defend our people."

The Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice Abubakar Malami could not be reached for reaction.

But his media aide, Dr. Umar Gwandu, said the AGF was not willing to engage anyone on issues that are settled constitutionally.

Gwandu said: "As a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) and the governor of Ondo State, the AGF will not join issue with him on issues that have been clearly stated in the nation's Constitution. It is assumed he should know what the law says."

Afenifere throws weight behind Obi

Acting Leader of pan-Yoruba socio-political group, Afenifere, Chief Ayo Adebajo, has clarified the group's decision to back the presidential aspiration of Mr Peter Obi of Labour Party (LP), saying it was in line with ideological and equitable principles. Afenifere was known for as well as the social welfarist ideology of the defunct Action Group (AG) founded by the sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

Chief Adebajo gave this clarification on Monday at a World Press Conference, which took place at WheatBaker Hotel, Ikoyi, Lagos, adding that Afenifere's decision truly aligned with the defunct AG position which upheld strong advocacy for federalism as the best form of government to give the federating units the requisite to thrive and peacefully compete among themselves for the ultimate development of the country.

This was just as the elder statesman noted that backing Obi, who hails from the South-East, as the next president of Nigeria is its modest contribution to shaping Nigeria into a federation where no person or ethnic nationality is oppressed, recalling that the group had insisted and still advocated restructuring long before the parties conducted their conventions to pick their candidates.

Adebajo argued that it was based on the quest for peace, equity and inclusiveness that a Yoruba and Southerner, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo took the first turn at the zoning arrangement in 1999, becoming the president, saying that the sitting president, Muhammadu Buhari is a Fulani from North-West "and by virtue of the zoning arrangement that has governed Nigeria since 1999, power is supposed to return to the South imminently."

"The South-West as I have pointed out has produced a president and currently sits as VP, the South-South has spent a total of 6years in the presidency, but the Igbo people of South-East have never tasted presidency in Nigeria, and now that the post is due back in the South, equity demands that it be ceded to the Igbo.

"We cannot continue to demand that the Igbo people remain in Nigeria, while we at the same time continue to brutally marginalize and exclude them from the power dynamic.

"Peter Obi is the person of Igbo extraction that Afenifere has decided to support and back, he is the man we trust to restructure the country back to federalism on the assumption of office.

"We will not compromise this principle of justice, equity and inclusiveness because one of our own, Asiawaju Bola



Adebajo

Tinubu is a front-line candidate," Chief Adebajo.

Speaking further, Adebajo condemned the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for sponsoring Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, a northern Fulani Muslim to succeed President Buhari, describing the move as a high degree of political insensitivity.

"The principle of federal character enshrined in the constitution dictates that the government of the federation

or any part thereof shall not be concentrated in any ethnic group or a combination of such groups.

"It is, therefore, preposterous to adopt this principle for employment in public service, admissions in educational institutions, political appointments, the composition of the executive committee of a political party only to jettison it in the most important question of rulership of the federation," he said.



Preserving food in the period of inflation

As Nigeria's inflation rate recently surged to 19.64 percent—the highest since September 2005 (17 years)—it has become imperative for those willing, to understand the significance of both food processing and preservation. Ayo OyozeBaje writes.

IT is all because we live in a period of serious insecurity when many farmers in states, otherwise known for abundant food production (Benue, Niger, Zamfara, Ondo) cannot access their farms.

Even with other parts of the country where food production is high, there might be plenty of fruits, edible roots and vegetables wasting and rotting away at the rural areas due to lack of good access roads to take them to the urban centres for sale. They also lack the requisite knowledge of processing and preservation.

Furthermore, with unpredictable effects of climate change, foods that are seasonal should be subjected to modern processing and preservation techniques to retain their keeping qualities of nutrition, flavor, texture as well as sustain a long shelf-life.

We cannot therefore, afford to look down on the food industry which has the potential to diversify the economy from crude oil revenue.

In fact, the World Trade Organization ranks Nigeria as currently the largest food market in Africa, with significant investment in the local industry and a high level of imports. The food and beverage sector is estimated to contribute 22.5% of the manufacturing industry value, and 4.6% of the country's GDP.

But in India, the food processing industry accounts for about 10% of the GDP and employs around 15 million people. The sector is multiplying and is estimated to reach a value of Rs. 2,58,000 crore by 2022. There are many opportunities for investment in the food processing sector, and it offers good returns on investment.

At present, the global market of the processed food items is about 7 trillion dollars, which is gradually growing with time. Rapid globalization and industrialization are the major contributing factors for the progress of food processing industries in different countries.

An analysis of the UNIDO Industrial Statistics Database (2005) shows that food processing in developing countries is an auspicious component of the manufacturing sector, and the contribution of food processing industries to the national GDP increases with country's national income. But what are foods to mankind?

Foods "are organic substances which are consumed for nutritional purposes. They come from plant or animal origin and contain moisture, protein, lipid, carbohydrate, minerals, and other organic substances. Foods undergo spoilage due to microbial, chemical, or physical actions. Nutritional values, color, texture, and edibility of foods are susceptible to spoilage". But what



Abubabar

cause their spoilage?

The factors are microbial, physical, excess water and sugar.

Microbial spoilage

Perishable foods are often attacked by different microorganisms which are molds, yeasts, and bacteria. Microbial spoilage is the most common cause of foodborne diseases. The growth of most microorganisms can be prevented or lingered by adjusting storage temperature, reducing water activity, lowering pH, using preservatives, and using proper packaging.

Physical spoilage

The key factors affecting physical spoilage are moisture content, temperature, glass transition temperature, crystal growth, and crystallization. Food spoilage due to physical changes or instability is defined as physical spoilage. Moisture loss or gain, moisture migration between different components, and physical separation of components or ingredients are the examples of physical spoilage. Therefore, foods are required to be preserved to retain their quality for longer period of time.

Crystal growth and crystallisation

Foods, which undergo slow freezing or multiple freeze, suffer severely due to crystal growth. They are subject to large extracellular ice growth. Rapid freezing forms ice within food cells, and these foods are more stable than slow freezing processed foods. To minimise large ice crystal growth,

transition temperature, time plays a crucial role in sugar crystallization process of food items.

According to the functions to human body, food items can be categorized as: (a) body building and repairing foods, (b) energy-giving foods, (c) regulatory foods, and (d) protective foods. Depending on the nutrition value, food items can be classified as: (a) carbohydrate-rich foods, (b) protein-rich foods, (c) fat-rich foods, and (d) vitamin- and mineral-rich foods.

Food preservation as the way forward

The history of 'Food Preservation' dates back to ancient civilization when the primitive troupe first felt the necessity for preserving food after hunting a big animal, which could not be able to eat at a time.

Knowing the techniques of preserving foods was the first and most important step toward establishing civilization. Different cultures at different times and locations used almost the similar basic techniques to preserve food items.

Consumption of spoiled food can lead to illness and in the extreme situation to death. Considering the shelf-life, food items can be classified as perishable, semi-perishable, and non-perishable.

According to the authors of a research paper titled: 'A review on mechanisms and commercial aspects of food preservation and processing' such as Sadat Kamal Amit, Md. MezbahUddin, RizwanurRahman, S. M. Rezwanul Islam & MohidusSamad Khan, the techniques to combat these spoilages are becoming sophisticated in recent years.

Conventional food preservation techniques are being used comprehensively throughout the world. These include drying, freezing, chilling, pasteurization, and chemical preservation. But scientific advancements and progresses are contributing to

the evolution of existing technologies and innovation of the new ones, such as irradiation, high-pressure technology, and hurdle technology.

The processing of food has become highly interdisciplinary since it includes stages related to growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, and distribution. Therefore, an integrated approach would be useful to preserve food items during food production and processing stages.

The foods are usually ranked as perishable, semi-perishable and non-perishable.

Foods that have shelf-life ranging from several days to about three weeks are known as perishable. Milk and dairy products, meats, poultry, eggs, and seafood are the examples of perishable food items. If special preservation techniques are not apprehended, food items could be spoiled straight away.

Semi-perishable food items can be preserved for long time (about six months) under proper storage conditions. These include vegetables, fruits, cheeses, and potatoes.

Non-perishable natural and processed foods can be stored for several years or longer. Dry beans, nuts, flour, sugar, canned fruits, mayonnaise, and peanut butter are few examples of non-perishable foods.

This is the time for the ministry of agriculture, at the federal and state levels, food research centres and non-governmental organizations to engage in enlightening the public, even using local languages on the benefits of food processing and preservation. These NGOs should reach out to graduates of agriculture, food science and technology for the mass sensitization. A stitch in time will certainly save nine!

"At present, the global market of the processed food items is about 7 trillion dollars, which is gradually growing with time. Rapid globalization and industrialization are the major contributing factors for the progress of food processing industries in different countries. An analysis of the UNIDO Industrial Statistics Database (2005) shows that food processing in developing countries is an auspicious component of the manufacturing sector, and the contribution of food processing industries to the national GDP increases with country's national income. But what are foods to mankind? Foods "are organic substances which are consumed for nutritional purposes. They come from plant or animal origin and contain moisture, protein, lipid, carbohydrate, minerals, and other organic substances. Foods undergo spoilage due to microbial, chemical, or physical actions. Nutritional values, color, texture, and edibility of foods are susceptible to spoilage". But what cause their spoilage?"



Business & Economy

FG vows to achieve greener shipping in Nigeria

THE Federal Government has disclosed plans to ensure that Nigeria achieve greener shipping, saying this is in line with the International Maritime Organisation's determination to achieve sustainable development in the maritime industry.

A statement by the Assistant Directors, Public Relations, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, Osagie Edward, quoted the Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Sambo, to have said this, as the country join IMO to commemorate the 2022 World Maritime Day.

The theme of this year's World Maritime Day is linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals particularly, SDGs 13 and 14 on climate action and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources; SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure; and SDG 17, which highlights the importance of partnerships and implementation to achieve these goals.

Sambo noted that Nigeria would not be left behind in the global move towards greener shipping, while also reflecting on the need for stakeholders in the maritime sector to begin exploring ways to transition into a greener and more sustainable future.

On his part, the Director-General, NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh, noted that the theme for this year's world Maritime Day celebration is in line with the agency's mission of achieving cleaner oceans in developing shipping in Nigeria.



Sambo

He also pointed out that NIMASA is already working in line with the call by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim for developing countries to adopt green technology.

According to the IMO Secretary General, "The World Maritime Day theme 2022 "New technologies for greener shipping" reflects the need to support a green transition of the maritime sector into a sustainable future, while leaving no one behind. The theme provides an opportunity to focus on the importance of sustainable maritime sector and the need to build back better and greener in a post pandemic world.

He added, "Nigeria, represented by NIMASA, as an active member state of the IMO is involved in the processes of creating new international agreements

and protocols to address environmental issues such as marine pollution, oil spills and emissions from the shipping industry."

TCN restores national grid after partial system disturbance

THE Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) has said that the restoration of the national grid that experienced a partial system disturbance by 10:51 am on Monday is almost complete.

TCN said the incident was a result of a sudden drop in system frequency, which created system instability.

Several distribution companies disclosed on their media platforms that they experienced a blackout across their franchise in the

THE UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, has urged governments across the world to "quickly" invest in quality job creation and the provision of social protection for those without coverage.

This is contained in a statement issued by the Communication and External Relations Department of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Guterres was speaking at a high-level session to discuss "Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions initiative" during the UN General Assembly meetings in New York.

The initiative was inaugurated in 2021 by the United Nations International Labour Organisation and brings together governments, international financial institutions, civil societies, the UN, and the private sector.

The aim is to create 400 million new, decent jobs, especially in the green, care, and digital economies.

It also aims to extend social protection to more than four billion people worldwide that are currently without coverage.

Guterres told leaders to focus on concrete solutions to implement the initiative.

"The path of inaction leads to economic collapse and climate

UN urges world govts to invest in jobs



Guterres

catastrophe, widening inequalities and escalating social unrest.

"This could leave billions trapped in vicious circles of poverty and destitution."

President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina, said the

bank inaugurated a 10-billion-dollar facility which was a rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adesina said the facility helped provide social protection for more than 28 million people. He also said the bank inaugurated a three-billion-dollar social impact bond on global capital markets in 2020.

"But that is not enough. We

have to restructure our economies to be productive with education, infrastructure, and energy making sure we have productive sectors that can use people's skills and absorb that into the economy.

"At the African Development Bank, we have taken a proactive approach to job," said Adesina.

As an example, he named the bank's Jobs for Youth in Africa programme to create 25 million jobs by 2025.

"Nearly half of those jobs had already been delivered," he said. Adesina cited sectors such as agriculture where the bank was investing 25 billion dollars to transform rural areas and turn the sector into a business.

"We are investing 20 billion dollars to build 10,000MW of electricity that will provide energy for productive use and create millions of jobs."

He further said it was time for Africa to build a manufacturing capacity for polysilicon material used for solar panels "so that we can create a lot of green jobs".

"The creative industry, especially Nigeria's film industry, popularly known as Nollywood, is another area that requires significant investment given its potential to generate 20 billion dollars of revenue and create 20 million jobs," Adesina said.

According to the statement, the UN expects each government to commit to the Global Accelerator initiative and its objectives by among others, developing national policies and integrated strategies for just transitions.(NAN)

Furthermore, the National Control Centre (NCC) said a full-scale investigation is being conducted to establish and ascertain the cause of the partial disturbance as this unwholesome event has resulted in aggregated generation loss.

However, grid restoration is almost completed and the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) regrets any inconveniences caused as well as appreciates the kind understanding of customers of electricity within and outside the country.

It said, "We are committed to leveraging the concerted interventions instituted so far to enhance power supply reliability so that the issue of system disturbance will soon become outdated."

Meanwhile, a statement by Kano Electricity Distribution Company (KEDCO) stated that it received 50 megawatts from the national grid.

The DisCos disclosed that the system collapse at the national grid that led to a power outage is being addressed.

It said, "As at 3:26 pm, 50 MW of electricity was wheeled to KEDCO which is being distributed equitably across our franchise."

"We are expecting improvement in supply in the coming hours and days and we will ensure speedy supply as soon as we get more megawatts."

Others include Lokoja/Gwagwalada, Odukpani/Ikot Ekpen, Benin/Omotosho, Oke-Aro/Ikeja west, Egbin/Oke-

morning. In addition, the frequency of the affected part of the grid commenced immediately at 11:55 am with Osogbo/Ihovbor back to the grid followed by Jebba/Osogbo, Kainji/Jebba, Benin/Onisha, Shiro/Kaduna, Shiro/Katampe, and Alaoji/Ikot-Ekpene.

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DLM capital redeems N3.52bn commercial paper

DLM Capital has announced the maturity and successful redemption of its N1.24billion Series 1, N1.01billion Series 2 and N1.27billion Series 3

Commercial Paper (CP) issues under its N20billion Issuance Programme.

The funds, sourced by the organisation from various investors, including Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs), asset managers, insurance companies and banks, were repaid after the commercial paper sold in three series matured recently, a statement from DLM group.

DLM Capital approached the Nigerian capital market earlier in 2022 to get funds for its business operations, and due to the confidence investors had in the company, they bought the notes.

The firm had issued N1.24 billion Series 1, N1.01 billion Series 2 and N1.27 billion Series 3 commercial paper issues. They were sold under the company's N20 billion commercial paper issuance programme.

After the exercise, they were listed on the FMDQ Securities



Emefiele



Business & Economy

Why Nigeria's oil revenue must be protected

Amidst growing debt profile and worsening fiscal outlook, series of reports by government-owned agencies as well as the National Assembly have continued to decry leakages in revenue remittances and collection as stakeholders have insisted that unless urgent measures are taken the development may persist. *Esther Solomon* writes.

RECALL that in March this year, the media reported how the 2019 Report of the Office of the Auditor General of the Federation (OAGF) indicted the now defunct Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) – now Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd – for failing to account for 107 million barrels of crude oil in 2019.

This comes as the National Assembly had said loopholes in revenue collections and remittances to government accounts by Federal Government agencies resulted in over \$1.3 billion (N540 billion) and another N670 billion unremitted revenue from the oil and gas sector alone.

Till now, it is not clear if there has been a cogent response from the concerned entity or any unraveling from the Public Accounts Committees (PAC) of either the Senate or House of Representatives which are expected to investigate the report and make a submission on the way forward.

Not only NNPC, PAC of the National Assembly and Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative have had a running battle with agencies in the petroleum sector.

As a way to ensure efficiency, economy and effectiveness of public spending, the Auditor-General, as enshrined in section 85(5) of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria is expected to submit annual reports on the accounts of the Federation to the Parliament which then refers such reports to the Public Accounts Committee for review as to whether public funds utilised as approved in the yearly budget ensure that the integrity of such budget documents is not compromised.

Despite these unequivocal provisions, the parliament still struggles to carry out its oversight duties owing to non-compliance by some MDAs, NNPC and its subsidiaries. This is now worsened by the exclusion of the NNPC from the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA).

Lapses by government agencies, lack of monitoring and undue advantage given to some companies operating in the country, especially in the free trade zones have been causes of worries for the Growth Initiatives for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT) even as the House of Representatives Committee on Public Accounts (PAC), Chairman, Busayo Oluwale Oke, had disclosed that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited has questions to answer over oil and gas revenue hovering at \$2.3 billion.

GIFT, a Nigeria Project, is an activity under the Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (SCALE) Project funded by USAID and implemented by Palladium in collaboration with Nigeria Resource Partners (RPs).



Sylva

The SCALE Project was designed to enhance local civil society organisations' ability to be positive and responsible change agents in Nigeria. The goal of the project is to "improve public accountability, transparency, and sustainable service delivery in Nigeria" by strengthening the managerial, financial, and advocacy capacity of civil society to engage citizens to influence the Government of Nigeria in key development reforms at national, state, and local levels.

By implication, the GIFT Nigeria activity is expected to catalyze reforms around Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance (TAGG) in relation to Public Finance Management (PM) especially relating to the Extractive Sector of the country. Currently, the project is jointly implemented by OrderPaper Advocacy Initiative (OAI), Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA), HipCity Innovation Centre, CLICE Foundation and Nigeria Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS).

Like the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), the GIFT project has raised concerns on the revenue loopholes across sectors in Nigeria but the extent to which these challenges would be addressed by necessary authority remained a mirage.

Nigeria, a country rich in natural resource endowments, remained poor in development indices largely because of dysfunctional economic structure perpetuated by a rentier state.

While this persists, the level budget deficits, borrowing and debt servicing has gone from bad

to worse in recent times.

A Revenue Remittance Compliance Index of Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies designed under the GIFT sees the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) as a leeway, especially the fact that it was enacted to ensure long term macro-economic stability of the nation's economy, secure greater accountability, and transparency in fiscal operations within the Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Framework (MTEF) and to establish the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC).

But it however noted that the provisions of the act were being violated amidst the need to amend the provisions.

"Section 12(1) of the FRA, 2007 which provides that the deficit appropriated for in the budget should not exceed three percent of the estimated gross domestic product or any other "sustainable percentage as be determined by the National Assembly for each financial year," Nigeria's debt profile has continued to grow over the years.

Records show that while the 2019 and 2020 budget deficits were within the permitted range, the 2021 appropriation had a deficit amounting to 3.9 per cent of the nation's GDP, as against the stipulated 3 per cent.

Recall that a total of 150 MDAs were captured in the data Compliance indexes, including most all agencies as well as other Scheduled and Non-scheduled corporations and agencies of the Federal Government.

Of most of the oil agencies

captured, it is worthy of note that the Department of Petroleum Resources (Now Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, NUPRC); the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (now Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd); the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA); the Petroleum Equalisation Fund (Management) Board (now Nigeria Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority); the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency, PPPRA (now Nigeria Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority); and the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) posted Average performances.

The National Oil Spill Detection & Response Agency (NOSDRA); and the Oil & Gas Free Zone Authority posted Above Average performances.

However, Nigerian Content Development & Monitoring Board (NCDMB) stands alone as Below Average having not submitted AFS from 2017 till date.

Busayo Oluwale Oke, chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Public Accounts (PAC), had earlier stated that NNPC had failed to remit fund between 2014 and 2019 and included delayed payments by customers without evidence of any surcharge for the delays to the tune of \$510,020,921.79.

He added that incomplete payments by customers stood at \$6,203,863.68 and another outstanding payments by customers standing at \$80,452,746.83.

The PAC chairman, pointing to audited documents by the country, noted that \$235,685,861.31 was transferred to an undisclosed escrow account – due from the sales of gas to NLNG, adding that there was unexplained shortfall on NLNG balances standing at \$18,389,334.23 and payment for gas exports of \$346,211,227.59 through NGL Funding Account instead of the Federation Account.

According to him, there was equally \$2,664,047.64 unexplained and unsubstantiated foreign exchange losses on sums paid into the Federation Account while sales without payment status, payment details or payment confirmation from the national oil company stood at \$9,389,105.80.

Disparities in billing price per unit used in billing and amount stated in sales invoice stood at \$11,973,828.48 and discrepancies on the Amount Transferred to the Federation Account in the five year period stood at N663.8 billion, Oke noted, adding that a lot of companies are enjoying undue

tax waivers as the country's lax regulations and monitoring allow for infractions in the face of borrowing.

He noted that there was non production of complete information on Allocation of Crude Oil to Refineries in 2019; non-adherence to payment of all revenues to Federation Account while pumped products from refineries without evidence of receipt at depot stood at N7 billion.

"As at today, Saudi-Aramco is the largest company on the planet in terms of revenue with about \$2.332 trillion, ahead of Apple, Tesla, Alphabet, Microsoft and Amazon.

The technology companies have dominated this space for a long while and we have not seen any oil and gas company making the list of top 10.

"Nigeria, as a country, has similar potential as Saudi Arabia, however, as at 2022, GDP Per Capita for Nigeria is \$5,000, while that of Saudi Arabia is \$24,224. The media has been reporting since the first quarter of 2022 that NNPC was failing in its ability to make remittance to the Federation Account, despite the current rise in price of crude oil."

Orji Ogbonnaya, executive secretary of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), recalled that the agency had raised an alarm that companies in the oil and gas sector owe government over N2. 6 trillion in unpaid taxes and other levies in 2019, stressing the need to close the gap in remittances.

He said there was a need to support the government in generating the needed revenues from the extractive sector that would be deployed to provide and upgrade existing infrastructure for citizens.

"For Oke Epia, Executive Director, OrderPaper Advocacy Initiative (OAI), it is not welcoming to read of the alert by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that Nigeria may be spending 100 per cent of its revenues on debt servicing," he said.

According to him, such prospect signposts the grim reality where Nigeria's rich natural resource endowments have turned in very little or no benefits to its citizens. He said there was a need to amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act (2007).

For Epia, though the FRC has the mandate to intervene in addressing the leakages, a lack of power to cause compliance with provisions of the FRA has greatly impeded the performance of the Commission.

"It is important that MAs are properly acquainted with the provisions of the FRA and functions of the FRC. The powers to enforce the FRA should be bestowed on the commission," Epia said, adding that a speedy passage of the FRA (Amendment) bill currently before the National Assembly remained an urgent necessity.

Politics

2023: Group urges Nigerians to leverage technology

The Citizens for Civic Welfare and Community Development (CWCD) Africa, has urged Nigerians to explore technology to advance their knowledge on participation in 2023 poll.

Khalil Halilu, CWCD's founder and Chief Executive, said this in Abuja at a seminar with the theme "Voters Education: The Role of Technology".

Halilu said that the event was organised in collaboration with the Goree Institute, Charter Africa Project and the European Union.

He said that the aim was to shed light on the actions that should be taken in building a peaceful digital society ahead of the 2023 elections.

Halilu said that in 2011, Nigeria introduced digital technology into its election and in 2015 it advanced it in a bid to contain electoral fraud and promote credibility.

He however, said that over the course of elections, there have been decline in voters' turnout.

"While INEC is consistently making attempts to revolutionise election, the effort will largely fail without an informed electorate.

"An especially important application of technology to elections is voter education; and one of the technologies that facilitates the creation and sharing of information is social media.

"In modern democracy, social media can be used to broaden political participation by helping citizens, receive and communicate information, among other things.

"Social media also helps reduce the cost of educating voters and for a country that hopes to keep its place in the technology industry; it needs to use the many dividends of technology to its advantage," he said.

"Information is one of the things that steers the participation boat, provides citizens of democracy with information about participating in an election, focusing on how to vote rather than whom to vote for.

"This is the core of voters' education, the target is to promote the participation of informed and responsible citizens," he said.

Halilu said that, in addition to the dissemination of balanced and neutral information on how to exercise one's right to vote, as well as the rights and responsibilities under relevant laws, voter education should provide information about the electoral process.

Anthony Eromosele, CWCD Programmes Lead, said the aim of the seminar was to promote voters education with the help of technology.

Eromosele said CWCD Africa was working to build a peaceful society, ahead of the 2023 election; so it inaugurated the Zabe 2.0 App, an election monitoring tool to equip citizens to participate actively in election.

According to him, the Zabe App encourages citizens to partake in governance and monitor elections in their various communities, so they can report in real time what is going on and also call government to action.



Okoye

"It empowers us as citizens to be able to monitor elections by ourselves, thereby building trust among citizens and helping to promote credible elections in Nigeria.

"This is what our seminar centred on, so we are urging all Nigerians to come out and vote, partake in the electoral processes and involve in

governance because together we can actually make Nigeria work again," he said.

Mr James Ugochukwu, Co-Convenor, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room and the keynote speaker for the seminar, commended CWCD Africa for initiating the seminar because it would equip citizens with the requisite knowledge for elections.

INEC warns against abusive language as campaign starts

AHEAD of the commencement of the presidential campaign on Wednesday, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has warned that a political message or slogan must not be tainted with abusive language directly or indirectly likely to injure religious, ethnic, tribal or sectional feelings.

INEC also said abusive, intemperate, slanderous or base language or innuendoes designed or likely to provoke violent reactions or emotions shall not be employed or used in political campaigns.

Mahmood Yakubu, the INEC chairman threw the caution at a two-day capacity-building workshop for INEC Press Corp Members on critical issues in the Electoral Act, 2022 and the Commission's Processes, Innovations, Preparations for the 2023 General Election in Abuja on Monday.

Yakubu, represented by Festus Okoye, INEC national chairman in charge of voter education and publicity, reminded the media of their constitutional and legal obligations, saying state apparatus including the media shall not be employed to the advantage or disadvantage of any political party or candidate at any election.

"In other words, equal coverage and visibility shall be allotted to all political parties by all public print and electronic media organisations. The same applies in equal measure to private owned media organisations subject to payment of appropriate fees," he said.

The INEC chairman urged all the 18 registered political parties to critically study and pay attention to the provisions of the Constitution, the Electoral Act, the Police Act and the Public Order Act for the proper and peaceful conduct of political campaigns, rallies

and processions.

"We will continue to use technology to improve and enhance the credibility of elections in Nigeria. Our goal is electoral justice where every Nigerian will experience electoral fulfilment.

"As I have pointed out, the Commission has entered the critical phase in the electoral process. As of today, the Commission has undertaken 8 out of the 14 items on the Calendar and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 General Election.

"On 20th September 2022, the Commission released the Final List of Candidates standing nominated for National Elections (Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, Senatorial and House of Representative Candidates).

"On 4th October 2022, the Commission will release the Final List of candidates standing nominated in relation to State Elections (Governorship, Deputy Governorship and State Assemblies).

"On 28th September 2022 Presidential and National Assembly campaigns will start while that of Governorship and State Assembly candidates will start on 12th October 2022. The Commission will continue to adhere to set timelines in carrying out its activities," Yakubu said.

The chairman said the



Yakubu

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

Bauchi State House of Assembly passed into law, a bill to establish Bauchi State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission. The passage of the bill, followed the report of the House Committee on Public Petitions and Human Rights, which was laid by the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Bakoji Aliyu Bobbo, representing Chiroma Constituency during plenary on Thursday presided over by the Deputy Speaker, Danlami Ahmed Kawule.

The committee explained that it had visited Kano and Taraba States, which have enacted the same law to learn from their experiences, adding that it also invited all relevant stakeholders and held a public hearing where

BAHA passes law to establish BSPC, ACC



Sulaiman

memoranda, observations, suggestions, contributions

and input were obtained.

The committee observed that the fight against corruption is a national trend, which should be imbibed and complemented by the Bauchi State Government because corruption and abuse of power are common evil that need to be checked in the civil and public service, hence the Bill is timely and desirable so as to curb the menace.

However, the committee recommended that a new Section 6 should be added to the law to provide for the independence of the commission as follows; "in exercising its powers under this bill, the commission shall not be subjected to the direction and control of any authority".

It further recommended that a new department; legal and enforcement should be added and the House adopted all the recommendations of the committee.

The Minority Leader Hon. Bakoji Aliyu Bobbo, representing Chiroma Constituency, therefore requested the House to allow a bill for a law to establish Bauchi State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission to undergo third reading and was seconded by Hon. Gazali Abubakar Wunti representing Ganjuwa East Constituency.

Upon approval by the House, the Speaker directed the Deputy Clerk of the House, Lamara Abdu Chinade to carry out the third reading and the bill was therefore passed into law.

innovations, preparations for the 2023 general election, and critical issues in the electoral act 2022 for Press Corps members. The event also demonstrates the importance and critical role of the Fourth Estate in amplifying INEC's public outreach and a awareness-raising endeavours.

"I hope that the Press Corps members invited to this event, but also the entire press fraternity in Nigeria will find this two-day capacity-building workshop greatly beneficial to the widest extent and that in particular, it will be a very nice source of electoral facts and evidence to inform your journalistic work," Mutabazi said.

Earlier, Olusegun Agbaje, the Resident Electoral Commissioner for Lagos State, said as the clock gradually clicks towards the 2023 general election, the media have a supreme call and duty to; mobilise, sensitise and enlighten the electorate on all electoral processes by educating them on their responsibilities to perform their civic roles to vote for any candidate of their choice in all elective posts.

He said the media can also, "address the issue of voter apathy and poor voter turnout in elections in Nigeria by rallying the electorate to perform their civic responsibilities.

"Educate voters to vote appropriately to avoid an incidence of high records of invalid ballots at the election; ensure that the game of politics is played in accordance with the enabling laws, rules and guidelines.

"Lay bare the manifestoes of political parties through robust engagement with parties and candidates to assist voters to make informed choices at the election; checkmate the current trend of fake news and sensational reportage of events; educate the citizens on the provisions of the Electoral Act 2022, as well as the rules and regulations guiding the election."

Politics

Plateau APC condoles Deputy Speaker

THE Chairman of the All Progressives Congress in Plateau State, Honourable Rufus Bature has condoled the Deputy Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase over the demise of his elder brother, the Rekna of Bashar, HRH Alhaji Adamu Idris.

This was contained in a statement signed by Hon. Sylvanus Namang, the Plateau State APC Publicity Secretary and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Jos.

According to the statement, Hon. Rufus Bature said the monarch who died recently after 59 years on the throne at the age of 98 years was one of the longest reigning monarchs in the state.

The APC Chairman while eulogising the departed Second Class Royal Father over the legacies of peace, unity also applauded his visionary leadership which he would ever be remembered for.

The APC Chairman described the deceased as a revered traditional ruler, a great bridge builder across ethnic and religious divides



Wase

which was responsible for the peaceful and harmonious co-existence of his people and their neighbours.

Hon. Bature commiserated with the government of Plateau State, the Local Government, the entire people of Wase LGA, the people of Bashar and his

immediate family over this huge and irreparable loss.

He then enjoined them to take the loss as the will of God and should be consoled by the worthy legacies he left behind.

He prayed Allah to grant the Royal Father's soul aljannah firdaus.

By **PALANG KASMI**

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) has postponed its planned activities.

The Party had earlier planned to kick start its Presidential campaign today, Wednesday September 28, 2022 but announced the shift Tuesday.

Announcing the development in a statement, the Campaign Council Director General (D G) of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidency and Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong said the council planned to start the presidential campaign with special inter-denominational and inter-faith prayers in Abuja and the capital cities of the 36 States.

He disclosed that the council also planned to have a peace walk in all the cities immediately after the prayers.

"But the postponement became necessary for the Council to fine-tune its membership list", said Lalong in the statement.

The statement further read: "Recall that we had earlier earmarked a peace

APC Presidential Campaign Council postpones activities



Lalong

walk and prayers for Wednesday, September 28, 2022, to officially kick-off our campaigns for the 2023 Presidential Elections".

"We had also announced that the members of the Campaign Council report to the Campaign Headquarters on that day to collect their letters".

"However, due to the expansion of the list to accommodate more stakeholders and interests within the APC family, we have decided to adjust the timetable of these activities to ensure everyone is on board before activities officially commence".

"Consequently, the activities earlier announced for the 28th of September will no longer hold".

"As the ruling and most attractive party in Nigeria, we understand the sacrifices and understanding of our teeming members who are more than willing to volunteer themselves for this great task ahead. It also shows the enormous love that the party members have for our candidates".

"A new date and timetable of events will be announced soon", disclosed the DG.

'Why Afenifere is supporting Obi'

THE leader of the pan-Yoruba socio-political organisation, Afenifere, Ayo Adebajo, has clarified his position on the group's support for the Labour Party's candidate in the 2023 general election, Peter Obi.

The group explained why it would not support the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate, Atiku Abubakar.

In a statement signed by Adebajo on Monday, September 26, 2022, the Afenifere leader said the group stood on justice and fairness and believed in true federalism and the Federal Character principle.

Responding to the backlash that followed his announcement of the group's support for Peter Obi in the 2023 presidential election, Adebajo said, "Not a

few Yoruba leaders question why I should be supporting Peter Obi, a candidate of Igbo extraction, against Bola Tinubu, a Yoruba.

"I took my time to explain that the presidency is not a contest between the Yorubas and the Igbos and to a large extent I was able to convince many.

"But ever since, social media has been filled with comments tending to ethnicise the campaign instead of making it issue-based. Afenifere has, therefore, decided to address you today and through you educate the public on the ideological and equitable principles which have influenced our decision."

Read also: APC postpones campaign kick-off indefinitely

Adebajo stated that Afenifere is the Yoruba interpretation of the social welfarist ideology of Action Group, a political party founded by

Obafemi Awolowo and his colleagues in 1951 with strong advocacy for federalism as the best form of government to give the federating units the requisite autonomy to thrive and peacefully compete among themselves for the ultimate development of Nigeria.

He said other founding fathers of Nigeria, Ahmadu Bello, Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Obafemi Awolowo agreed to the system with the endorsement of colonial secretary Oliver Littleton in 1954 and embodied in the 1960 independence constitution.

This is the modest contribution of Afenifere in shaping Nigeria into a federation where no person or ethnic nationality is oppressed."

The nonagenarian said Afenifere had always advocated and insisted on restructuring of the country long before the parties conducted their Conventions to elect their national executive and candidates.

Adebajo said Afenifere and the Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum unanimously proposed that the minimum condition for a peaceful transition from the disastrous eight years of Buhari's government headed by a President of Northern extraction was to have the next President from the South.

Adebajo said the position was supported by Southern governors irrespective of their political parties.

He added, "In this quest for peace, based on equity and inclusiveness, the Yoruba took the first turn at the zoning arrangement in 1999, and that led to the emergence of (Olusegun) Obasanjo, the current Vice President is a Yoruba man and equity forbids us for presuming to support another Yoruba person for the presidency in 2023.

"The current President is a Fulani

from the North-West and by virtue of the zoning arrangement that has governed Nigeria since 1999, power is supposed to return to the south imminently."

2023: ADC will defeat APC, PDP

THE African Democratic Congress presidential candidate, Mr Dumebi Kachikwu, says the All Progressives Congress and the Peoples Democratic Party cannot beat the party in the 2023 election.

In a statement issued in Abuja Kachikwu said that the two major parties stood no chance of winning as they

have failed Nigerians.

"The country has continued to lag behind in all indices of development since 1999 when PDP assumed power after which it handed over to APC in 2015," he said.

Kachikwu said that the indices of good governance anchored on the rule of law in Nigeria have remained

- Kachikwu

negative since the return to civil rule in 1999.

He urged Nigerians to reinvest in the country by voting for ADC, saying that the party has the vision and the know-how to turn the fortunes of the country around.

The ADC presidential candidate urged Nigerians to vote wisely in 2023 in order to reclaim, revive and restore the positive destiny of Nigeria.

Atiku appoints Saraki, Anyim, others as special advisers

AHEAD of the commencement of the 2023 election campaign the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and former Vice President of Nigeria, Atiku Abubakar has made key appointments of Special Advisers aimed at strengthening his presidential campaign team.

The appointees are former Senate president, Bukola Saraki as special envoy to the presidential candidate, and Anyim Pius Anyim, as special adviser.

In a statement signed by Paul Ibe, media adviser to Atiku, he listed other appointees to include Ibrahim Shekarau, a former

governor of Kano State; Olagunsoye Oyinola, a former governor of Osun State, and Senator Ehigie Uzamere as special advisers.

According to the statement, Uche Secondus, a former national chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), was also appointed as technical adviser to the presidential candidate.

"The appointments are to take immediate effect," it said.

He "charged the appointees to use their vast political experiences in ensuring that the PDP presidential campaign records resounding success in the 2023 election."



Kachikwu



Adebajo

IMAGES

LALONG AT PRE-INDEPENDENCE SERVICE 2022

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Sunday, represented by the Secretary to Government of the State, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu attended the 62nd Pre-Independence Service at the St. Peters' Cathedral, Anglican Communion, Bukuru Diocese, Jos South LGA



Representative of the Governor, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, SGS, delivering his message



A cross section of worshippers during the 62nd Nigeria's Independence Service, 2022



Representatives of the Chief Judge, Justice Geoffrey Kamyal with that of the Speaker, PLHA, Hon. Wallok Goma at the service



Rev. Fr. Polycarp Lubo, CAN Chairman, Plateau State delivering his goodwill message



A cross section of Christian Association of Nigeria, Women Wing presenting their songs



Representative of Governor Lalong, Prof. Atu (right) putting heads together with the Bishop of the Bukuru Anglican Communion, Bishop Jwan Zhumbes



Representative of the Gbong Gwom Jos, Pozoh Johnson Jauro Magaji, Ujah Anaguta of Jos North delivering the royal highness's message at the occasion



Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, Bishop Zhumbes, members of the State Security Council and others in a group photograph after the service

Politics

As APC, PDP, LP campaigns kick-off

As the campaigns for the 2023 general election begins today, the All Progressives Congress (APC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Labour Party (LP) have lined up a number of activities for the day; BusinessDay has gathered.

THE PDP has said it would go ahead with the inauguration of its Presidential Campaign Council as earlier scheduled for Wednesday.

Debo Ologunagba, the party's National Publicity Secretary, who spoke with BusinessDay in Abuja, said the party would not be distracted from its responsibilities by unnecessary bickering.

"We have moved on and nothing will stop us. Everything is set. The party is conscious of its responsibilities and every step is being undertaken to ensure that the hopes and aspirations of Nigerians are not thwarted by unnecessary bickering," he said.

He said that the party was ready to move ahead and that relevant organs within the party were carrying out the job of reconciling aggrieved members.

"The party has organs making sure that all aggrieved members are pacified," he said.

Charles Aniagwu, spokesman for the party's Presidential Campaign Council and current Delta State Commissioner for Information, told BusinessDay that the party was ready for the campaigns.

He noted that the party's Presidential Candidate, Atiku Abubakar, has demonstrated the kind of maturity and leadership qualities to pull it through whatever crisis the party might face, ahead of the campaigns.

Aniagwu said: "Atiku has demonstrated enough commitments to solving the current crises and is ready to do more with the laws of our party."

"By the grace of God, we are ready to start analysing all the issues and to tell Nigerians what we have in stock for them."

Speaking on plans to pull off the campaign with Nyesom Wike's group, Aniagwu said the party would carry everybody along, adding: "We are interested in the equity and justice they are talking about without having to bend our laws. We are determined to unite all Nigerians, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, age and creed. "Don't forget that they said they have not left the fold, they are still part of the PDP. The beauty is that democracy is at play. We will ensure that we are much more united at the end of the day."

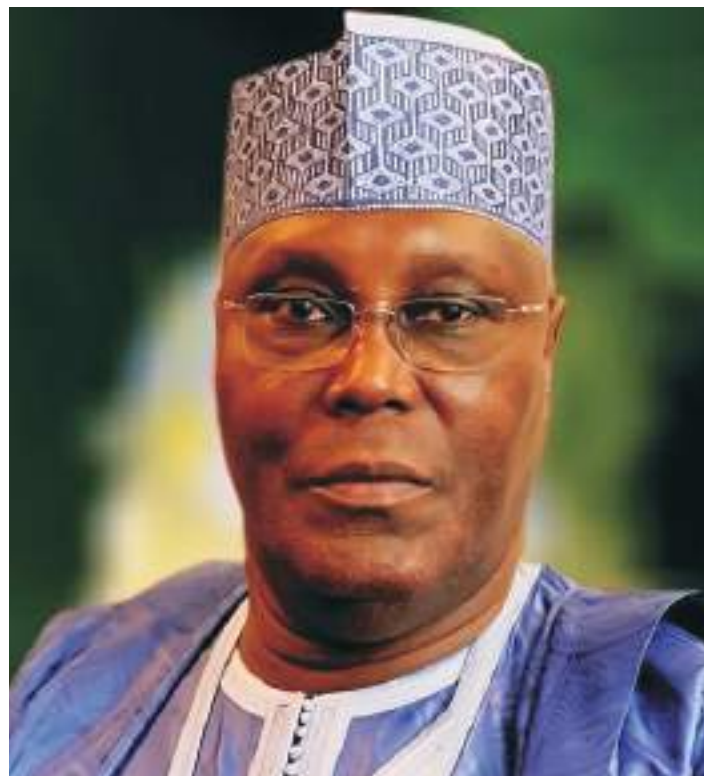
Bayo Onanuga, director, media and publicity of the APC presidential campaign council, in a statement on Monday, said that there would be a special prayer session and peace walk in Abuja on Wednesday.

According to the statement, nominated members of the council, chaired by President Muhammadu Buhari, are expected to participate in the special prayer sessions.

It said: "There will be a Peace



Tinubu



Atiku



Obi



Kwankwaso

Walk immediately after the prayers. All nominees will be issued their letters of appointment same day. On behalf of the Chairman of the campaign council, President Muhammadu Buhari, our candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his running mate, Senator Kashim Shettima, we congratulate all members of the campaign council.

"We know this is a call to serve our great party that will demand total commitment and sacrifice from all of us. It is the council's strong belief that all members will work hard to deliver a resounding victory for our great party in the 2023 Presidential election.

"We also want to use this

medium to express our profound gratitude to all support groups registered with the campaign council. We are aware you have been working assiduously to promote our candidates and the party across the 36 states and FCT.

"The party and the candidates acknowledge your hard work and great financial and human resources that have been voluntarily expended since we began this journey. We urge you to continue your good work. The PCC will work with the support groups as we move along into the campaign season. We encourage other groups yet to formally register with the PCC to do so immediately for proper harmonisation."

As part of preparations for the take-off of the campaign for

next year's polls, James Faleke, secretary of the APC-PCC, last Friday night released a 422-member presidential campaign council.

Meanwhile, the Labour Party said the party has put in place a "straightforward campaign structure."

Arabambi Abayomi, the party's national publicity secretary, said that the structure was made up of the "Nigeria Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress in all the 774 Local Government including all their affiliates, the generality of the suffering masses of Nigeria who have been short-changed and decimated economically, our Obedient political movement members all across the nation, other members in all the wards, local government and across

the 36 states of the federation and FCT."

He said: "All these will form part of the campaign structure of the party. As it stands now we have over 33 million Nigerians rooting for a change of leadership in Nigeria under Peter Obi/Datti presidency and also at every and each of these levels in LP, the party will unceasingly and strongly sustain its presence and keeps improving steadily.

"Campaigns for LP are continuous and very unbroken, not even the large scale top-notch National rallies in the states and the National Capital will in any way reduce the amount of effort, energy and focus of the party in the more local levels."

Culled from BusinessDay

News

Lalong delivers message of hope

By DANLADI DUK

IN line with activities laid down to mark Nigeria's 62nd Independence celebration by the Plateau State government, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt Hon Simon Bako Lalong alongside top government functionaries on Sunday attended the service and prayers at the St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Communion, Bukuru Diocese, Jos South Local Government Area.

Governor Lalong who was represented by the Secretary to Government of the State (SGS), Prof Danladi Abok Atu accompanied by the Chief of Staff to the Governor Hon. Noel Dongjur, the Head of Service, Engr Sunday Hyat, Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, Special Advisers and heads of parastatals.

Delivering the speech on behalf of the Governor, Prof Atu said it was an honor to lead the government delegation to the Thanksgiving service which is the first activity laid down to mark the 62nd Independence Day celebration on behalf of the Governor who was unavoidably absent.

Representative of the Governor, Prof. Atu said the Governor congratulated Nigerians and particularly citizens of Plateau State on attaining 62 years of self Governance. He said it was a privilege to be part of those alive to mark this year's Independence Day celebration as he said that in itself is enough reason to be thankful to God.

The SGS said one of the key policy thrusts of the rescue administration is partnering with religious organizations which is why the Governor has made it a duty to meet with religious leaders in the state every month to discuss issues that will move the state forward.

He further appreciated the church for bringing useful inputs into governance as he said the challenges bedeviling the nation can only be overcome by a synergy between Government and religious bodies.

He also reiterated that synergy must be extended within the arms of Government and appreciated the security agencies for the sacrifice they make in upholding the territorial integrity of Nigeria and also protecting the lives and property of citizens in the country.

Governor Lalong called on citizens in the state to partner with the government to reap the dividends of democracy. He reiterated government's commitment to deliver on its mandate.

In response to a plea made by the Bishop of the Bukuru Diocese, Most Rev. Jwan Zhumbes on the need to return schools, particularly mission schools to their rightful proprietors, the Governor assured the Bishop and the church that government has set up machinery to return the schools as a committee has been put in place to address on



Lalong

the matter.

In regard citizens of Plateau State of peaceful, free, and fair elections. In that regard, he charged citizens to come out en masse and exercise their franchise in a peaceful and orderly manner as they choose their next set of leaders.

In separate remarks, the representative of the Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Walloko Goma, member, representing Kanke and that of the Gbong Gwom Jos, Pozoh Johnson Jauro Magaji, Ujah Anaguta of Jos North all congratulated Nigerians on the occasion of the 62nd Independence Day celebration, thanking God for his mercies and protection over the years.

They prayed for God's continuous guidance and protection and pledged the support of the House of Assembly and the traditional council respectively to the Governor and constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria.

Earlier in a sermon delivered by Rt. Rev Dr Jwan Zhumbes, Bishop of the Anglican Communion Bukuru Diocese, on the topic "Independence, the pharaohs and Passover Night", taking his reading from the book of Exodus 12:1-

14. Bishop Zhumbes prayed that the 62nd Independence of Nigeria would come with liberty and freedom just like the Israelites were liberated from the land of Egypt. He said the Nigerian nation is faced with the Pharaohs of insecurity, corruption, etc among others that are trying to pull the nation down but he is hopeful that the country would overcome the challenges currently being faced as no problem is beyond God.

Christian Association of Nigeria, women wing, state CAN Chairman, Rev Fr. Polycarp Lubo, representatives of ECWA Presidents and COCIN with other denominational heads graced this year's service.

Clergy tasks Christian faithful on spiritual journey

By Hosea Nyamlong

CHAIRMAN, Regional Church Council (RCC), Jos of the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), Rev. Gyang Bot, has called on Christian faithful to stand firmly in the faith, for the days are evil.

Rev. Bot made their call in a sermon as Guest Preacher at COCIN Local Church

GENERAL Superintendent of Deeper Christian Life Ministry, Pastor William Kumuyi, has said that the prolonged crisis between the ASUU and Federal Government can only be resolved through dialogue and understanding rather than fighting each other.

Pastor Kumuyi made the assertion on Saturday during an interactive session with journalists in Minna, the Niger State capital, few hours after he hosted thousands of youth for an Impact Academy at the Trade Fair Complex with the theme, Extraordinary Pacesetters

The Man of God emphasized that the conflict between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), calls for dialogue and compromise from both parties to resolve the contending issues.

"I believe that is the way forward. Rioting may not solve the problem. But when two institutions and opposing bodies have a challenge, I should look at the challenge from the point of view of the other person and arrive at a compromise through dialogue.

Kumuyi, therefore cautions that fighting each other cannot solve the problem, rather both parties should be ready to pay the price of peace to solve the problem.

The Founder of Deeper Life Bible Church, who is also the Convener of Global Crusade with Kumuyi (GCK), has been in Minna since Tuesday for a 6-day Global Crusade, titled, God of All Possibilities.

Speaking on the 2023 General Election, Kumuyi

ASUU Strike: you cannot settle dispute Through fighting- Kumuyi

From MATHEW JWANTU, MINNA

said, "I can't tell you a lie. God has not shown me anything. He has not found it fit to tell me. He does not tell everybody, everything."

Drawing inferences from the bible, Pastor Kumuyi noted that God might decide to tell Moses something without telling Joshua.

"God might tell Moses something without telling Joshua. He might tell Joshua something and might not tell Aaron. He might tell Paul without telling Peter," he said.

He added that he cannot question God over why he has not revealed the country's next president to him.

"Who am I mine to tell God

this is my country, why haven't you told me, when he tells me, I will come and tell you," Kumuyi told journalists.

He therefore called on the youths to come out on election day and vote for the candidates of their choice and who they believe would take Nigeria to the promise land.

Earlier, upon arrival to Minna, Kumuyi had paid a courtesy visit to the Governor of Niger State, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello in his office and the former Military Head Of State, Ibrahim Babangida at his Hilltop mansion.

The Global crusade which started last Thursday is expected to end on Tuesday 27th, September 2022.



Kumuyi

Clergy tasks Christian faithful on spiritual journey

Council (LCC), Nassarawa Gwong Jos,

The cleric who took his first and second readings from the book of Genesis chapter 19:1-5 and Matthew chapter 24:3,5 and 11 spoke extensively on the topic "Recognising the truth as a child of God "He added that confusion is on the increase every day Pointed out that as a child of God,

you should be able to differentiate between the truth and anything that is false. The word true is what is real not what is invented

Bot, pointed out that for Christians to differentiate between truth and false, they have to allow the Holy Spirit to be in control of their lives, not man.

He stressed that in the world today, the truth and

false teaching of the word of God is being mixed together in order to deceive many believers in Christ. These are mostly based on Church doctrines and interpretations of the Bible.

He admonished Christians to desist from the habit of destroying the truth by living a comfortable life of sin. Noting that sin kills the spirit of holiness in their lives.

He urged Christians to know the truth, rather than falsely deceiving themselves with lies that would lead them into deception and doom. Believers should be consistent in living a transparent life that is free from pretenses.

The cleric advised that Christians should always have a rethink, they should note that it is not everything that comes their way that they should accept. Until you test every spirit to know whether they are from God or not, because the devil can also come in a form of light to deceive many believers (I John 4:1).

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that the Church auditorium was filled to capacity. The service also featured songs ministration from choir, COCIN Women Fellowship (CWF) and Church band.

Foundation organises gender analysis programme

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Chachavivi Women and Girl Child Development Foundation has put in place Gender Analysis programme in Igalamela/Odolu, Adavi and Kogi Local Government Areas respectively.

The Gender Analysis cut across the three Senatorial District of Kogi State where Chachavivi Women and Girl Child Development Foundation (CCWGDF), with funding from the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NUTF) is implementing a project aimed at preventing and responding to GBV. The project he added is to strengthen and give support to systems towards enabling them respond and prevent GBV in Kogi, Adavi and Igalamela. It would come to an end in February 2023.

According to the Project Coordinator, the analysis was aimed at identifying gender gaps, their responses and prevention mechanisms that

gender analysis carried out in Ofuloko, Osaragada and Koto-Karfe communities in Igalamela/Odolu, Adavi and Kogi Local govt areas respectively.

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would inform capacity development in areas that require strengthening as well as sensitisation with the type of GBV identified across the different locations.

The Gender analyses he



Bello

News

Fintiri laments non usage of NPC data

From
GYANG PAM, Yola

GOVERNOR of Adamawa State Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri says it is sad to note that data generated by the National Population Commission meant for effective development planning are not being utilized by those that are supposed to use them.

He pointed out that government Ministries Departments and Agencies that are expected to be clamouring for such data are not forthcoming and copies of publications given to relevant ministries and agencies continue to gather dust on shelves and tables in government offices and they continue to plan in the dark.

The Governor represented by his Chief of Staff Professor Maxwell Gidado at the Nyako Centre on the occasion of a stakeholders meeting organized by the National Population Commission (NPC) Monday.

Fintiri however noted that the summit underscores the determination, commitment and readiness of the present commission to deliver on its mandate to conduct a credible, reliable and acceptable census.



Fintiri

This, he said is reinforced through the daily registration of births, deaths and migrations.

Furthermore, such regular collection and dissemination of data ensures that a detailed and up to date information on the characteristics of our population are captured and made available for planning purposes.

Earlier the National Commissioner National

Population Commission Adamawa State, Dr. Clifford Zirra assured both government and stakeholders that the commission remains committed to the conduct of a credible and acceptable census that will be transformational and meet international standards.

Zirra said that, in the 2023 Census, everyone will be counted in the right way, at the right place and time and for the benefit of all persons resident in the state.

Male students protest government's school separation policy

From
ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE new education policy introduced by Bauchi State government separating male and female students in secondary schools has generated serious concern by the male secondary school students on Monday where they protested against the new education system that came from the Ministry of Education.

The students who came out from most of the secondary schools within the Bauchi metropolis disrupted commercial activities as they marched along major streets to the Emir's Palace and the headquarters of the Ministry of Education to

express their disagreement.

The students carried placards with various inscriptions against the new education system which they strongly condemned stating that it is retrogressive to education in the 21 century.

Some of them who spoke to journalists said that the new policy will make students lag behind in the area of social interaction as well as portray them as in mature people.

The protesting students also berated the Education Ministry for not carrying them along while taking the

decision, stressing that as stakeholders they too have a say in making decisions that affect them.

The students therefore appealed to the State Government under the listening people's Governor, Sen Bala Mohammed to look into the development and rescind the decision and revert to the old co-educational system which they said is promoting social interaction.

Recall that the State Commissioner for Education, Dr Aliyu Usman Tiide announced that the state government had taken the decision to separate male and female students in all secondary schools in the state.

While addressing journalists after a State Executive Council (SEC) meeting held at the Government House recently, he noted that it would only be executed whenever and wherever it was possible.

Just last week, the ministry published the names of male and female students in secondary schools across the state before the government of academic activities for the 2022/2023 session on Monday, 26th September 2022.

Also the commissioner said that private schools too have been advised to look into the possibility of separating the male from the female students, though the private school owners are yet to respond to the advise.



Mohammed



Rethinking tourism

Every September 27th, the United Nations (UN), celebrates World Tourism Day. This year's theme for the celebration is "Rethinking Tourism" and the event held yesterday, Tuesday September 27, 2022, was hosted by Indonesia to celebrate the many opportunities that can be found in the tourism sector and rethink how humanity can do tourism in a sustainable, inclusive and resilient manner. This event was also aimed at showcasing the potentials of tourism in creating jobs for all and bringing communities together.

The event which in the past had been colourfully celebrated on the Plateau has since 2001, when Ladi Dako held sway at the Plateau Tourism Corporation been consigned to the dustbin of history. This is in spite of the many natural endowments nature has blessed the state with. In the good old days, prior to the day, a lot of hyping was done to herald the event. Apart from talks on various radio platforms, there usually was a road show to inform the people about the event and in course of traversing the streets of the state capital, flyers were distributed informing the populace of all of the planned event. This, not only attracted tourists to he state on a yearly basis but boosted the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). Hotels profited, souvenir makers had their wares purchased and employment was provided for the youths albeit on a temporary basis.

But since Ladi Dako left the Corporation, things have not been the same again. Yes, there were series of crises which came to be associated with Plateau and Jos, the state capital in particular. But the argument is, should we allow the misfortune that befell our state define us as a people? I do not think so. So far, there have been concerted efforts by governments in the state to bring under control the various conflagrations that have happened and threaten the peace in the state. This has culminated in the present administration establishing the Plateau Peace Agency, (PBA) which model has been copied by other states to help provide roadmaps for peaceful coexistence in

the states.

To compliment this effort, therefore, events such as the World Tourism Day should be given prominence as a confidence building mechanism. Tourism is capital intensive but it has the potential to turn things around for any state that can creatively engage and attract stakeholders involved in the sector. Investors can only throng to the state if they are aware of the existence of the endowments that can be found in the locality. This can be brought to their attention by holding enlightenment events and a lot of noise made to attract their attention. If we are to package an attractive and a successful tourism plan, the media has to be adequately used to the maximum.

On the part of government, it needs to put in place basic infrastructure to attract investors. This could be in terms of laying roads not only to the sites



To compliment this effort, therefore, events such as the World Tourism Day should be given prominence as a confidence building mechanism. Tourism is capital intensive but it has the potential to turn things around for any state that can creatively engage and attract stakeholders involved in the sector. Investors can only throng to the state if they are aware of the existence of the endowments that can be found in the locality. This can be brought to their attention by holding enlightenment events and a lot of noise made to attract their attention. If we are to package an attractive and a successful tourism plan, the media has to be adequately used to the maximum.



that would be attractive to investors but all other roads within the state. Also, other attractions could be the provision of water, electricity, security and a patronage that would serve as motivation and ensure return on investment. That apart, the Peace Building Agency, PBA, must be adequately funded to enable it reach out and spread its message of peace to the various communities. The people must also make deliberate efforts at ensuring they live in peace with one another.

And our politicians whose specialty is causing disaffection amongst the citizenry must jettison their divide and rule tactics. They cannot continue to appeal to base sentiments when their popularity begins to wane. They must realize that the people are becoming wiser and know that what matters is development and the betterment of their living conditions. The era when tribe and religion were the selling points are over and no politician worth his salt should resort to using these mundane sentiments to deceive the people. We must all rise to the occasion by accommodating our brothers. After all, our holy books are very clear about how to treat our brothers. In both religions, the message of love and accommodation takes centre stage and this should not be toyed with.

To concretise on all of these, governments must, therefore, ensure that justice must be served to all no matter how lowly or highly placed. The standard used to judge one should be that used for all. It is only a just society that can give its citizenry the confidence to do their best and thrive knowing they are protected by the law and would never be looked down upon as second class citizens. And, for this to be possible the government at both the centre and at the states must be fair and just in dealing with all manner of people. Some should not assume that they are more Nigerian than others. We must therefore, all see ourselves first as humans then Nigerians before any other sentiment. That way, we can change a lot of the narratives that have come to be associated with us.

News

Estate agents tasked on ethical standards

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Honorary Publicity Secretary, Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV), Kogi State Branch, ESV Eniwaye John, has called on estate agents to embrace ethical principles in the practice of the profession in Nigeria.

Eniwaye made the call weekend at a One-day training and capacity building for the Association of Estate Agents in Nigeria (AEAN), Kogi State Chapter.

While delivering his lecture, titled "Ethics of Estate Agency Practice", Eniwaye said estate agency practice which is one of the professional services of estate surveying and valuation require adequate knowledge and continuing capacity development.

According to him, inculcating ethical principles in the practice of estate agency becomes imperative to better and foster a good tie and promote interest of clients' representation and interpersonal relationship in the field of estate agency practice.

He highlighted some of the basic ethical principles for practitioners in discharging their duties to include honesty, fairness, integrity, accountability, and confidentiality, and respect for law, responsibility, transparency/objectivity, compassion, loyalty, environmental concern and leadership.

"Estate agents therefore have a duty to uphold and protect the interest of the clients by ensuring they maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct in achieving both clients' and their personal/corporate goals, following several laws which govern the zoning/permitting and related matters concerning the use and development of land at both the federal and state levels", he averred.

While emphasizing on the necessity of ethics in real estate practice, Eniwaye, also used the forum to outline some of the challenges estate agents to include lack of regulations that allowed ease of entry and exit into the practice/business; setting up monitoring mechanism to checkmate activities of members since the agency is known to be "all comers' affairs"; poor record keeping; lack of separate account for clients' fund, members failure to be ethical in the practice leading to lack of technical know-how in real estate transactions giving room for misrepresentation; amongst others.

The Estate expert however, recommended that,



Bello

practitioners in the profession should service ethical climates that operate in tandem to guide service and ethical behaviors among employees without supervision.

Continuing, Eniwaye, said "Service excellence if poorly planned promote insufficient condition for good success. Business owners should take corrective actions before unethical behaviors occur by periodically measuring employees' perceptions of the company's ethical climate. Service and ethical behaviors are most essential within turbulent or competitive markets, with competitive intensity being the most important.

"Estate agents/surveyors are expected to develop themselves continually in

other to fit into real estate practice proper through ethical principles as it concerns employees, clients', society, the environment, shareholders, and stakeholders.

"Total compliance to developing and exhibiting ethical standard in real estate industry and service delivery will forestall ethical model and practices that will eradicate misconducts, sharp practices, incompliance to governing laws, irregularity or embezzlements of clients' fund, impersonation into other registered professions. It will also guide members/employees in their actions and ensure they prioritize the interests and welfare of the association and the body of AEAN members represented in real estate industry".

HYPPADEC flags off relief materials distribution in Kogi

Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission, (HYPPADEC) has commenced distribution of relief materials to victims of flood arising from release of water from hydroelectric power generating dams in the country.

Engr Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa, Managing Director of HYPPADEC who flagged off first phase of the distribution on Saturday in Koton-Karfe, said 113 households from communities in the 10 affected Local Government Areas made the first list.

The Managing Director was represented by Jimoh Haruna Gabi, Director, Finance and Administration in the Commission

Yelwa (Katukan Yauri) said the exercise was in response to the devastations caused by flooding of the riverine communities by water released from hydroelectric generating dams in the last two weeks.

He said that the Commission was created basically to ameliorate the pains of community members whose means of livelihood were affected by the floods.

"You will recall that the commission was created to address ecological challenges bedeviling HYPPADEC member

states due to operations of the dams.

"We cannot do less than what we have done. We feel their pains, when they sneeze, we catch cold and that is why we are here to identify with them in this unfortunate incident", he said.

The Managing Director however, called on Kogi State government to upscale its

As Gombe plans to host its maiden Investment Summit to showcase its potentials to the World, the Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park and International Conference Centre will take the centre stage during the event.

The State Deputy Governor, Manasseh Daniel Jatau, gave this indication when he visited the two multi billion naira projects over the weekend. The summit is slated for 11th and 12th October, 2022.

Dr. Manasseh led members of the Steering Committee during the visit to the Industrial Park and the International Conference Centre as part of preparation to ensure that both facilities project the business potentials of the State.

The Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park is a multi billion naira industrial hub capable of creating thousands of job, through entrepreneurial activities while the International Conference Centre, is an event centre capable of hosting world class events of any type. It will also be the venue for the Summit.

The International Conference Centre, has been made suitable to host business magnates all over the world while the industrial park has been made to give a good impression of a business worthy environment to woo investors into the State.

Briefing newsmen shortly after the inspection visit to the two places in Dadinkowa, Yamaltu- Deba LGA and Tunfure in Akko LGA, the Deputy Governor expressed delight that the stage is almost set for the hosting of the summit.

At the industrial park the team was received by the site Engineer, Abubakar Batagarawa of Multi System Consultants. He told the committee that the activities at the park were at various levels of completion.

He explained that the park is planned in such a way that all the basic infrastructure needed such as water, power, roads, hospitals, security points,

Gombe to host investment summit

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

among others have been provided to attract investors and for successful operations in the park.

He said "there are provisions of five hectares and above for heavy industries, Two- point Four to five hectares for medium industries and zero-point- four to two-point- four for low industries.

"There are provisions for low density and high density houses. There are also provisions of two reservoirs for reserving water to the tune of one million five hundred thousand liters. One is completed and the other is ongoing", he stated.

The Engineer noted with happiness that the industrial park will create employment, boost revenue and income generation as well as raise the standard of livelihood of the people in the state.

The contractor was however asked to do more in the site so as to positively impress the investors by putting in place all the necessary things needed in a modern industrial park.

Also receiving the Committee

at the International Conference Centre, the Facility Manager, Engr. Istakis Emmanuel, informed the committee that everything is in order except for services that needed to be done on some of the facilities.

Recall that the Gombe State Government had recently inaugurated a Steering Committee to facilitate the staging of the State's investment summit tagged Go-Invest 2022.

The steering committee is chaired by the State Deputy Governor, Manasseh Daniel Jatau; Dr.Umaru Kwairanga, Chairman, Gombe State Investment and Property Development Company Ltd; Haruna Jalo Waziri, Managing Director/CEO, Central Securities Clearing Systems Plc. among others.

Dr.Ishiyaku Mohammed, the State Governor's Special Adviser on Budget Planning and Development Partners Coordination is the secretary of the committee.

The summit is being facilitated in conjunction with the Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission and other partners under the patronage of the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo.



Yahaya

level of devastations. As the wise ones will say, Prevention is better than cure.

"Today, we have brought here relief materials that represent a widow's mite of the commission. It is not as if we can really feed everybody but we have shown kind gesture to everybody.", he said

The HYPPADEC Managing Director however expressed appreciation to Governor Yahaya Bello for always being there for the Commission. He added that, "In all our programmes, the governor has never failed us."

Mr Victor Adewale Omofaiye, the Kogi state Commissioner for Environment speaking at the occasion said HYPPADEC had become a household name.

He commended Governor Bello for being part of the force that brought HYPPADEC into being saying that the Commission was making positive impact in 10 Local Governments Areas of the state including Adavi, Koton-Karfe, Idah, Ibaji, Omala, Lokoja, Bassa, Igalamela-Odolu, Ofu and Ajaokuta.

Speaking earlier, the Ohimege-Igu of Koton-Karfe, Alhaji Abdulrazaq Sani Isa-Koto regretted that flooding had become a recurring decimal particularly in Kogi Local

Government as most of the settlements were riverine on the banks of Rivers Niger and Benue.

"So any time there is flooding, we are always at the receiving end. As I speak with you today virtually all the riverine communities in Kogi Local Government are no more. They have relocated.

"Today as we speak, we have lost our farmlands our properties our houses. So, our happiness is in these palliatives that we are receiving today.

"So, we are appealing to the State Government to support the victims to relocate. The land is available. We have provided land", the Ohimege said.

In her remarks, Engr Joan Ogwuche, Kogi State Coordinator of HYPPADEC said the relief materials were meant to cushion the excruciating conditions of members of the affected communities and expressed the hope that they would be judiciously utilised.

The relief materials include bundless of zin mattresses, rice, millet, beans, noodles, detergents as well as a medical items for diseases and ailments arising from the effects of the flood which have consistently devastated the communities in the last two weeks.



Aliyu

Foreign Commentary

Italian elections: Who's who, how votes work

Giorgia Meloni is seeking to form a right-wing government with two other parties. For the first time since World War Two, Italy's next leader could come from the far right. PAUL KIRBY writes.

GIORGIA Meloni's Brothers of Italy party is leading the polls ahead of 25 September elections - and if she wins, she will look to form a right-wing government.

Two months after the collapse of Mario Draghi's unity government, here's what you need to know about the main challengers and how Italy's revamped elections work.

Four years ago, her party attracted little more than 4% of the vote in the last general election and yet she's now in pole position to win, with a possible quarter of the vote. Backed by two other parties, the League and Forza Italia, polls suggest she is heading for a majority coalition in Italy's two houses of parliament.

Giorgia Meloni, 45, was the only major party leader who refused to go into popular technocrat Mario Draghi's broad-based coalition, so she was the only big opposition leader when it collapsed in July.

She formed Brothers of Italy (Fratelli d'Italia) in 2012, four years after becoming Italy's youngest-ever minister under Silvio Berlusconi in 2008.

As a teenager, she joined the youth wing of Italy's neo-fascist movement, formed after the war by supporters of late dictator Benito Mussolini. In her 2021 book, *I Am Giorgia*, she stresses she is not a fascist, but she identifies with Mussolini's heirs: "I have taken up the baton of a 70-year-long history."

Unlike her right-wing allies, she has no time for Russia's Vladimir Putin and is pro-Nato and pro-Ukraine, even though many voters on the right are lukewarm on Western sanctions. Besides tax cuts, her alliance wants to renegotiate Italy's massive EU Covid recovery plan and have Italy's president elected by popular vote. To change the constitution, she would need a two-thirds majority in parliament.

Embracing a controversial old motto, "God, fatherland and family", she campaigns against LGBT rights, wants a naval blockade of Libya and has warned repeatedly against Muslim migrants.

She also seeks a "different Italian stance" towards the EU's executive body. "That does not mean that we want to destroy Europe, that we want to leave Europe, that we want to do crazy things," she says.

If Giorgia Meloni is to be beaten, it will require a big showing from the likely runner-up - the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) of Enrico Letta. But his hopes of forming a strong, rival alliance with an array of smaller parties suffered a blow when the centrist pro-European Azione (Action) party pulled out, objecting to two of his other partners, the Italian Left.

Enrico Letta, 56, was prime



Meloni

minister for 10 months in 2013-14 and is no stranger to Italy's cut-throat politics. He led a coalition with Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia and was ultimately brought down by a rival in his own party, Matteo Renzi.

A big supporter of Mario Draghi's government, Mr Letta said Italians would punish those who brought him down in July, pointing the finger squarely at the populist Five Star Movement under Giuseppe Conte. Mr Letta found common cause with former Five Star leader Luigi di Maio, who fell out with Mr Conte and formed a new centrist party called Civic Commitment.

The centre-left leader's main goal is to stop the hard right taking power in Italy. He wants investment in renewable energy and proposes an eight-point plan for education under the banner "knowledge is power".

The PD backs a €9 (£8; \$9) minimum wage to cover some three million workers and wants to: make it easier for children of immigrants to obtain citizenship; combat anti-LGBT discrimination and legalise gay marriage.

The winning alliance will need a majority in both houses of parliament, the Chamber of Deputies and Senate, and Italians are voting for both of them.

New rules mean parliament has shrunk by a third, so there will now be 400 deputies in the Chamber, instead of up to 630 MPs, and 200 Senators instead of 315.

Italy has a hybrid voting system, in which three-eighths (about 36%) of members are elected in a first-past-the-post vote in single-member constituencies. The rest are elected by proportional representation according to party lists of candidates, with seats reserved for voters abroad.

Voters need to be 18 and get one vote for the Chamber and one for the Senate. Parties have to secure at least 3% of the vote to get in, with Italy divided into 27 electoral districts. Final opinion polls were published on 7 September, including this one from Ipsos.

Giorgia Meloni's party has no experience in government, so she will need full support from ex-PM Silvio Berlusconi and Matteo Salvini, who were both part of the Draghi government. As the end of the election campaign drew close, the three leaders held a joint rally in Rome.

The three right-wing leaders united on stage on Thursday for the first time in more than two years.

Although he was Italy's longest-serving prime minister, Mr Berlusconi, 85, is running for election to the Senate for the first time since he was barred in 2013

for tax fraud. His centre-right Forza Italia is seen as the weakest of the three parties.

Matteo Salvini's League is a natural partner for Ms Meloni. As interior minister, he closed down migrant camps and blocked NGO boats carrying migrants rescued from the Mediterranean from entering port.

They are promising to cut sales tax on energy and other essential items, and to introduce a flat tax for the self-employed, possibly set at 23%, which critics say would give more to the rich than the poor.

They want to end Italy's ban on nuclear power. There are plans to shore up Italy's birth rate with increased allowances for families. And they aim to combat irregular immigration and manage legal immigration in an orderly way.

Giuseppe Conte's anti-

establishment party won the 2018 election with almost a third of the

They began by sharing power with the far-right League, and then switched to the Democratic Party before ending up as part of the broader Draghi government. Dozens of Five Star MPs deserted Mr Conte when he objected to sending weapons to Ukraine.

Under his leadership, their policies have swung to the left. Five Star's flagship policy four years ago was a citizens' income for the poor. Mr Conte now supports a €9 minimum wage, wants to scrap a regional business tax and make it easier for immigrants' children to get citizenship.

Five Star's ideas are not wildly different from the centre-left, and the two main centrist parties have warned voters that Mr Conte might patch up his differences with Enrico Letta.

Centrists

Matteo Renzi of Italia Viva and Carlo Calenda of Azione have joined forces, aiming to attract votes from both right and left to create a "third pole" alliance.

If they secure more than 10% of the vote, the thinking is they could win over other parties and avoid a Meloni-led government. It is for President Sergio Mattarella to nominate the next prime minister, but he is likely to choose the winning coalition.

Carlo Calenda and Matteo Renzi want to pursue the policies of the previous government.

The centrist preference would be to continue the pro-European policies of the previous Draghi government and even persuade Mario Draghi to return as prime minister, although the former European Central Bank chief sounds unenthusiastic.

Like the centre right, they are keen to lift the ban on nuclear power, and like the centre left, they want to import more liquefied natural gas.



The three right-wing leaders united on stage for the first time in more than two years

Foreign News

Ukraine war enters new phase

ANNEXATION referendums in four occupied areas of Ukraine will draw to a close, paving the way for Moscow to officially seize more territory and expand its military operation, possibly within days.

The votes on whether to join Russia are being held in Kherson, Luhansk, Donetsk and Zaporizhia, four regions that make up about 15 percent of Ukraine's landmass.

While Kyiv and its Western allies dismiss the "sham" polls, Russian media are reporting high turnouts.

In rebel-held Luhansk, the voting rate was above 90 percent by early Tuesday.

Moscow insists voting is voluntary and the polls are fair, but the results will inevitably favour annexation. When Russia held a referendum in Crimea after seizing the peninsula in 2014, it declared that 97 percent of people had voted to join Russia.

But even traditional Russian allies such as Serbia and Kazakhstan have said they will not recognise the latest annexation votes.

The five-day exercise has been beset by irregularities, including reports of Russian troops taking ballot boxes door-to-door and coercing Ukrainians into voting.

"In no way, certainly according to the Ukrainians, are these votes legitimate or do they represent any real kind of guide on what the people living in those occupied territories want," said Al Jazeera's Charles Stratford, reporting from Kyiv.

Kyiv has warned that Ukrainians who assist the votes and annexations will face treason charges and at least five years in jail.

"We have lists of names of people who have been involved in some way," presidential adviser Mikhaïlo Podolyak told Swiss newspaper Blick.

"We are talking about hundreds of collaborators. They will be prosecuted for treason. They face prison sentences of at least five years," he said.

However, Podolyak said, Ukrainians who were forced to vote would not be punished.

Faced with recent humiliating battlefield setbacks for his forces in Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin hopes the annexation ballot will boost Russia's performance in the war.

As the votes were under



None of the four regions where the annexation referendums are taking place is fully under Moscow's control [Alexander Ermochenko]

way, the Kremlin cautioned Kyiv faces a devastating escalation of the conflict, all the way up to the use of its nuclear arsenal.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by Putin, spelled out the threat in the bluntest terms yet on Tuesday.

"Let's imagine that Russia is forced to use the most powerful weapon against the Ukrainian regime that has committed a large-scale act of aggression, which is dangerous for the very existence of our state," Medvedev wrote on his Telegram app channel. "I believe that NATO will steer clear from direct meddling in the conflict in that case."

Reports suggest Russia's parliament could possibly approve annexation before the end of this week, allowing Putin to declare their incorporation into Russia.

Al Jazeera's Mohamed Vall, reporting from Moscow, said Russian media portrayed the referendum votes as "smooth".

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that the Donetsk region in the east remained his country's top strategic priority, with fighting

engulfing several towns as Russian troops try to advance to the south and west.

Ukraine's recent success in recapturing territory has forced Putin to rethink Russia's military strategy, leading to the conscription of a reported 300,000 reserve troops.

THE Royal Mint, based in Llantrisant, Rhondda Cynon Taf, said all coins bearing the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II would remain legal tender.

The date the new coins will enter into circulation, and images of them, are yet to be released.

Royal Mint boss Anne Jessop said: "Coinage of King Charles III and Queen Elizabeth II will co-circulate in the UK for many years to come."

There are approximately 27bn coins currently circulating in the UK bearing the effigy of the Queen.

They will be slowly replaced over time as they become damaged or worn, and to meet demand for additional coins.

Before decimalisation in 1971, when all UK coins were

JAPAN bid farewell to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in an elaborate state funeral Tuesday, despite public opposition to the cost of the event as the country grapples with their late leader's legacy.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister, was shot dead during a campaign speech in Nara in July, stunning a nation where gun violence is extremely rare.

More than 4,300 guests attended the service at the Nippon Budokan Arena in Tokyo, including foreign dignitaries such as US Vice President Kamala Harris, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Other government figures including former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga – who was Abe's right hand man for many years – also gave remarks, before attendees laid flower offerings and bowed in turn.

Other ceremonial rites on the program include an honor guard, gun salute, and musical performances, before a government reception for visiting foreign dignitaries.

Police ramped up security for the event, with public broadcaster NHK reporting that about

On Tuesday morning, crowds of people lined up outside designated memorial sites to leave flowers and pay their final respects to Abe, who dominated Japanese politics for a generation.

But as they mourned, thousands of others took to the streets in anti-funeral protests

Japan holds state funeral for Shinzo Abe

across Tokyo, illustrating a deep public divide over the occasion, Japan's first state funeral for a Japanese leader since 1967.

Some crowds chanted slogans as they marched near the funeral venue, waving banners that urged a stop to the proceedings. Protest leaders rallied the crowd through loudspeakers, and a van rolled past with music blasting from a boom box.

The protests grew tense at times, with several loud confrontations and scuffles between demonstrators and police.

Abe's death sent shock waves through Japan and the international community, with thousands of mourners gathering in Tokyo in July as his private funeral took place. But in the months since his assassination, the outpouring of grief has given way to a growing discontent.

Abe's state funeral comes as the country grapples with rising inflation and anger stemming from revelations that half of Japan's ruling party members had ties with the controversial Unification Church which has faced backlash over fundraising practices.

Some critics have also pointed to Abe's more unpopular policies while in office as a reason for the shift in mood, and questioned why so much taxpayer money is going to the state funeral – which will cost some \$12 million (1.66 billion yen) – at a time of acute economic strain.

Abe held office for two separate terms, during which he

transformed Japan's security posture, raising questions over the country's status as a pacifist nation, and passed a major security legislation in 2015 that expanded what Japan could do militarily to support the US.

He also was a prominent figure on the world stage, cultivating strong ties with Washington and seeking better relations with Beijing – while also trying to counter Chinese expansion in the region by uniting Pacific allies.

One of his final successes in office was securing the 2020 Tokyo Olympics – though the Covid-19 pandemic forced the competition to be postponed to 2021.

People wait in line to offer flowers at a park near the venue for the state funeral of Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Japan, on September 27.

After stepping down in 2020, citing health reasons, Abe remained active in politics, often campaigning for his party – which is what he was doing at the time of his assassination.

Controversial church under the microscope after assassination

But the assassination saw a backlash against the Unification Church, which said Yamagami's mother had been a member who attended church events, though Yamagami himself was never a member.

It also said that the church had received a message of support from Abe at an event it organized, but that the former prime minister was not a registered church member, nor did he sit on its advisory board.

King Charles III coins to enter circulation



have been released, but this official coin marking The Prince of Wales' 70th birthday in 2018 may give us a clue of how it will look

Ms Jessop added: "We are honoured to have struck each UK coin of Her Late Majesty's reign, documenting her journey from young Queen to respected Head of State."

"As official coin maker to the UK, we have told the story of each monarch since Alfred the Great and are now preparing for the biggest change in British coinage for several decades."

"The first coins bearing the effigy of His Majesty King Charles III will enter circulation in line with demand from banks and post offices."

The Royal Mint has said it will unveil further details about the coinage of King Charles III over the coming weeks.

replaced, it was common for coins featuring different monarchs to co-circulate, which will be the case after these new ones are

No images of the new coin

Kazakhstan to 'ensure safety' of Russians fleeing country



Thousands of Russians are reported to have fled the country since Moscow's partial mobilisation order

land border – since Russia issued what it called a "partial mobilisation" order last week.

Russians do not need a visa or even a passport to enter Kazakhstan, just their Russian identity papers. The Russian

language is also widely spoken in the vast but sparsely populated country, which is home to a large ethnic Russian minority.

Tokayev said his government, which has refused to support what Russia calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine, will discuss the growing crisis directly with Moscow, a traditional ally.

Meanwhile, Kazakhstan's interior ministry has published a proposal to change immigration rules that would limit to three months the time Russians can stay in Kazakhstan unless they have a passport.

While some Kazakhs have

already called for border closures or restrictions on Russians' entry, others have arranged meeting points for arriving Russians and set up volunteer networks to help them find shelter amid reports of limited availability at hotels and hostels.

A resident in the country's largest city, Almaty, told the Reuters news agency she had taken in three young men from Russia on Monday who were preparing to spend the night on the street.

Others who fled Russia were staying with friends, and expressed certainty they would not return home, come what may.

Feature

Nigeria as an emerging nation at 62

On the 1st October 1960, Nigeria got her independence from its British colonial masters. Since then, the country has been struggling to manage affairs of a nation. Particularly on the political stage, it has been one issue too many. VICTOR ALI writes.

ON Saturday, Nigeria would be marking its 62nd Independence Anniversary. Exactly on the 1st October 1960, the British Union Jack Flag was lowered while Nigeria's Green-White-Green was hoisted. That singular historic event signals the end of Nigeria's tutelage under the British colonial rule which lasted for several decades if not over a century.

Even at that, some political pundits posit that Nigeria simply got her independence on a platter of gold unlike the armed struggle that ensued for instance, in Kenya with Jomo Kenyatta's Mau Mau movement leading the struggle. Truth be told, there were intense negotiations by the founding fathers of Nigeria through conferences both here in Nigeria and London for the same purpose of independence. That in itself amounted to struggle.

After independence, Nigeria adopted the British-style parliamentary system of government with Alhaji Tafawa Balewa as Prime Minister, while Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe served as President. Other Nigerian leaders at inception included, Sir Ahmadu Bello (Sardauna Sokoto), Premier of Northern Nigeria, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the Premier of Western region and Michael Okpara, The premier of Eastern region. the ecstasy of the Independence and enthronement of democratic governance was not to last long as barely six years, precisely in January, 1966. Some ambitious young officers of the Army struck in the process, killing the Sardauna (Ahmadu Bello), Tafawa Balewa, the then Finance Minister, Okolie Oboh, among other politicians.

virtually all the officers that carried out the first coup in Nigeria were of Igbo extraction. Therefore, it was perceived as an Igbo coup. Incidentally, the victims of that bloody coup, the politicians – Sardauna and co- and even military officer's victims – Maimalari, Pam and co, happened to be from the Northern part of the country.

By the way, for one Sardauna, Sir Ahmadu Bello were revered leaders by the standard of the Northern elite of that time. Hence, barely six months of the first coup, the second one occurred in July 1966, said to have been led by Northern officers. In that coup, the Commander-In-Chief, Aguiyi Ironsi alongside his host Adekunle, Fajuyi, were killed.

Those two deadly events of 1966, simply show that, disunity, disloyalty and indiscipline have firm grip on an



Tafawa Balewa

organized and professional the military high command. institution in the country at the Consequently, he was ousted early years of independence. from power while away in For those who saw what the Kampala, Uganda for a meeting coup and counter coup, killings of the Organisation of Africa and reprisal killings portend, Unity (OAU). Murtala Ramat Nigeria was simply seating on a Muhammed who took over the keg of gunpowder. With this and reign of power from Gowon was intransigence, arrogance and shortly assassinated by soldiers even none recognition of led by Sukar Bukar Dimka. Yakubu Gowon's leadership by With the death of Murtala, the belligerent Chukwuemaka many Nigerians were Odumegwu Ojukwu, it was just a apprehensive particularly the matter of time before the Civil politicians because he had War broke out. earlier promised a return to civilian rule in 1979. However, his successor, General Olusegun

Ojukwu, in an attempt to undermine Gowon and by extension the Federal Government declared the Republic of Biafra. What began as a police action eventually snowballed into full scale war which lasted thirty (30) months with the monumental results of millions of people dead on both sides of the divide. On reflection at sixty two (62) that was one of Nigeria's sad moments, like then President Olusegun Obasanjo (himself an active participant in the Civil War) wrote in his book, *My Watch*, (Part 2), he said Nigeria survived by divine grace.

After the War, the gentleman soldier, General Yakubu Gowon, who some of the officers famously called the Supreme Commander, declared that in the 30 months fratricidal War, there was "no victor, no vanquish". He went ahead to unveil his three(3) Rs policies of Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. No doubt, these policies went a long way to achieve its objectives.

Despite General Gowon's efforts at trying to stabilize a reunited Nigerian nation after the bloody Civil War, there were still some misgivings amongst

“ That two deadly events of 1966, simply shows that, disunity, disloyalty and indiscipline has a firms grippy on an otherwise organized and professional institution in the country at the early years of independence. For those who saw what the coup and counter coup, killings and reprisal killings portend, Nigeria was simply seating on a keg of gunpowder. With this and intransigence, arrogance and even none recognition of Yakubu Gowon's leadership by the belligerent Chukwuemaka Odumegwu Ojukwu, it was just a matter of time before the Civil War broke out. ”



Nnamdi Azikiwe

Obasanjo kept faith with the date as he successfully handed over the mantle of leadership of the country to the late Alhaji Shehu Usman Shagari of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) who won the election. Shagari was to last for only one term of four (4) years as the military hawks came back and overthrew him on 1st January, 1984.

The biggest beneficiary of the 1984 coup was General Muhammadu Buhari. Though several analyst opined that, he was not part of the coup, but he was chosen nonetheless as Head of State and Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by the coupists. He (Buhari) too was not to last long as he was pushed aside by his benefactors.

Then enter the gap-toothed Minna-born General, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. He organized the most longest and most expensive transition to civil rule programme in Nigeria, if not in the entire African continent. After shifting the goal post severally, elections were finally conducted culminating in the presidential election, widely acclaimed by both local and foreign observers and even the Nigerian people as being the most peaceful, fairest, and freest.

There is no doubt even in the hearts of the most dangerous sadist that the late business mogul, billionaire Moshood Kashimawo Olawole Abiola, popularly known as M.K.O. won the election. Babangida, for whatever reckless reason(s) annulled the popular mandate of the Social Democratic Party's (SDP) candidate (MKO) given by the Nigerian people. Hell was let lose all over the country. Nigeria

was really on the brink, to borrow from the title of the book by the former United States Ambassador to Nigeria, John Campbell. Again there was another divine intervention.

After Babangida stepped aside and created a contraption called Interim National Government (ING) with the late boardroom Guru, Ernest Shonekan as Chairman, the dark-goggled Abacha was on the wings. He quickly, showed Shonekan the way out and became Nigeria's Numero Uno. He was on his way to transiting from a military Head of State to a civilian President as the five political parties then, in what the late Bola Ige said are five leprosy fingers of a hand had already endorsed him for the presidential election. Suddenly, there was another divine intervention.

Somehow, General Abdulsami Abubakar navigated the turbulent terrain and handed over power to the politicians in 1999. With over two decades of uninterrupted democracy in place, there seems to be hope. With the 2023 elections around the corner, Nigerians should do the needful by rising up to the occasion by voting candidates of their choice. At 62, Nigeria and Nigerians should know what to do.

Independence did not come on a platter of gold as some pundits would want us to believe. The fact that blood was not shed is very inconsequential. Nigeria's founding fathers were no fools. As a part of national anthem aptly captured it, we should not allow their sweat go in vain. HAPPY INDEPENDENCE NIGERIA!

EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Things that happen when you believe in yourself



HOW much better would life be if we always believed in ourselves? Of course it's much easier said than done, but it's definitely worth the try. Here are things that happen when you start to believe in yourself!

Self-acceptance

When you believe in yourself, you're accepting who you really are. You're not afraid to give your opinion and you're going to be proud of this person you're becoming.

You feel more energized

When you believe in yourself you feel like you can handle the world! Positive energy and a little confidence gives a major lift. You don't need those three coffees to start, you just own Monday morning.

You're always in a good mood

If you're happy with yourself, you feel better about everything, which puts you in

a great mood all day long. Of course, we are human and will have bad days, which is absolutely fine but you will learn to take situations less personally if you know and believe in yourself! A very nice side effect of believing in yourself if you ask me.

Success will be guaranteed

If you believe everything is going to be fine, it will. It's called the law of attraction. You attract the things you wish for. If you truly believe that you'll get a promotion or finally manage to work out three times a week, you will. It's that simple.

You can motivate others

When you feel good about yourself, you can inspire and motivate others with your story. People love to hear great success stories

and trust me your story is definitely worth telling.

Positivity is your new mantra

There is no space for negativity in your life. You have goals to reach and deadlines to catch. So when you believe in yourself you'll be surrounded by positive people that bring a good, relaxing vibe.

You will glow

Even though true beauty starts on the inside, once you believe in yourself you will see it on the outside as well. Your hair, skin, and mood will be better than ever. You go, girl!

Respect

People will appreciate you for who you are. When you believe in yourself you exude confidence that will make you respected. Exactly what every person needs right?



EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Blood types that are susceptible to memory loss

VASCULAR dementia is the second most common form of dementia after Alzheimer's disease, affecting roughly one in 10. It occurs when other underlying conditions disrupt blood flow to the brain, resulting in inadequate oxygen and nutrients. "Inadequate blood flow can damage and eventually kill cells anywhere in the body, but the brain is especially vulnerable," explains the Alzheimer's Association.

The Role of Food & Your Health: Blood Sugar

Many factors can put you at heightened risk for vascular dementia, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and more. Additionally, one lesser-known factor—your blood type—can also play a role in your risk level for this condition. Learn which blood types are most susceptible to vascular dementia-related memory loss, and what you can do to mitigate your risk.

Most people don't realize their blood type can impact their health.

Your blood type is determined by a group of proteins within your red blood cells, known as antigens. Though there are eight blood groups in total, there are four main blood types which differ based on these particular proteins: A, B, AB, and O. Some people are aware of their blood type, while others are not. However, as Penn Medicine points out, "even if you do know your type, you might not realize that the type might



make you more prone to conditions." certain medical That's because the

antigens can react differently to various external threats, they say. "When antigens come into contact with substances that are unfamiliar to your body, such as certain bacteria, they trigger a response from your immune system". "The same type of response can occur during a blood transfusion if your donor's blood type doesn't match with yours. In that case, your blood cells could clump and cause potentially fatal complications."

In fact, your blood type can raise or lower your risk of heart disease, certain types of cancer, stroke, and more. It can also affect your memory, which can raise or lower your risk of dementia.

According to Penn

Medicine, having the ABO gene—meaning having type A, B, or AB blood—is associated with an 82 percent increased risk of memory loss. People with type O blood are at lowest risk of memory problems and, subsequently, of dementia.

"One possible reason for this memory loss is the fact that blood type can lead to things like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes. These conditions can cause cognitive impairment and dementia".

Here's how to slash your risk.

Because the factors that could link blood type to memory loss are associated with vascular dementia, you may be able to mitigate this increased risk by modifying any other risk factors you may have.

In particular, it's important to get regular exercise, avoid unnecessary stress, get an adequate night's sleep (seven to nine hours per night), quit smoking, and maintain a healthy diet and weight. It's also helpful to visit your physician for regular checkups in which you discuss screening for signs of dementia.

Look out for these signs of vascular dementia.

Knowing the signs of vascular dementia is also important. Besides memory loss and confusion, you may experience difficulty concentrating or organizing thoughts, communicating, or planning. Some people with vascular dementia additionally experience restlessness, agitation, depression or apathy, unsteady gait, and an increased urge to urinate, the Mayo Clinic says.

Though there is no cure for vascular dementia, you may be able to slow its progression or improve your symptoms by treating the underlying causes for the condition. Speak with your doctor if you or a loved one are experiencing any of these symptoms.

Source: Health news.com



Editorial

As the campaign kicks off

RECENTLY, INEC declared 28th of September, 2022 as the date for the commencement of campaigns for the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly elections. While the 12th of October is scheduled for that of the governorship and states houses of assembly.

ALREADY the final list of candidates vying for national electoral positions for the 18 registered political parties have been released and those of the states are expected to be released on the 4th of October, 2022. The INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu has advised political parties to pay critical attention to the provisions of the Electoral Act, the Police Act and Public Order Act, for proper peaceful conduct of political campaign rallies and processions. Political campaigns and rallies in Nigeria have been a sort of jamboree characterized by reckless spending of money on the production of T-shirts, billboards, posters, media adverts etc.

WE admonish political parties to make a difference by departing from what used to obtain in the past and restrict their campaigns to issues that would bring about development to the nation and not the to be insensitive to the feelings of others. Nigerians want to hear how candidates can help solve their problems not those who would bore them with rhetoric.

ON their part, the media be they private or government must endeavour to be balanced in their coverage. Every political party should be given equal access so as to ensure fairness. The media, therefore, must not allow itself to be used to propagate and promote the ambition of one candidate to the disadvantage of others.

ALSO, all through the campaigns, political parties must helm-in their supporters so as to bring to a halt thuggery. The system where hirelings are made to stand as security or body guards for political gladiators during campaigns or rallies should be checked by law enforcement agencies and INEC. And, any party or candidate found wanting should be sanctioned. This is to curb unrest and mayhem often unleashed on innocent citizens through no fault of theirs. Already bugged by so many problems, Nigerians do not need added burdens. All they want are practical solutions to their problems.

THOUGH the electoral body has warned parties to desist from the use of abusive languages, derogatory statements or hate speeches during the campaigns, it must go further to punish perpetrators so as to serve as deterrent to others.

ONE the whole, we advise that youths should be guided and avoid statements capable of creating disunity amongst the electorate. We call on the electoral body to strictly deal with whoever is found wanting in accordance with the Electoral Act. We also call on the EFCC to be on the alert so as to stop illicit funding from being used during the campaigns.

ALL security agencies sharpen their skills so as to nip in the bud any likely skirmish and must strive to be non-partisan to ensure law and order.

SIR, I want to use this medium of The Nigeria Standard newspaper to appeal to the federal government to build an overhead bridge to enhance easy pedestrian movement or crossing around old airport roundabout.

As resident of Jos city and always plying the old airport road, the traffic challenges caused by road users is getting worse by the day, people find it difficult to pass the road as a result of heavy vehicular movement which creates regular traffic grid mostly in the morning and evening.

This ugly situation affects people who are either expected to be at their duty posts or those on transit to other parts of the state and beyond.

However, the state government is trying its possible best to see that plateau is well developed and also a comfortable place for citizens to live.

Seeing the infrastructures government is providing in the state and also the success of



Need for overhead bridge at Old Airport roundabout

budgets implementation in the state, there is need for the government to also use such reasons towards the provision of an overhead bridge around the roundabout in order to reduce time wastage which in common saying "time is money".

Building an overhead bridge at Old Airport road would enable fast and easy transit of people to their various destinations and also reduce

the risk of falling into the regular traffic holdup which is time consuming and very stressful for motorist and commuter's who ply that route either within Jos or to other areas within the state capital.

Finally, I hope other people making use of old airport road will join in this appeal to the state government to reduce stress and enable fast and easy transit for those traveling to other states.

By Ngot Bwehmasi Caleb
I.T Student Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.

A united family breeds healthy relationship

PERMIT me space in your widely read newspaper **The Nigeria Standard** to express my most profound gratitude to leadership of Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) for raising awareness on unity in the family.

The stories emanating from most families today are nauseating, giving birth to unhealthy and toxic relationships. The homes have turned to battle grounds where children don't learn good morals as there is nothing exemplary for them to emulate.

In the beginning of creation,

God made this union to be enjoyed and not endured. The table has upturned; parents no longer take up responsibilities as expected. Most children are struggling on their own to make ends meet. This has landed some of them in the hands of traffickers and blood thirsty unscrupulous elements that use them particularly for ritual purposes.

Base on this ailing situation, the church has deemed it fit to correct the anomaly by creating awareness that can restore and sustain healthy family relationships.

Spouses have been admonished to close ranks, bury their differences and give peace a chance so as to lay a good foundation for our healthy spiritual growth.

Many young people are becoming scared of going into marriage contracts because of the bond surrounding it. The insecurity that accompanies the marriages nowadays puts one off.

The bottom line is to go back to God. It doesn't matter how bad the situation is, he is faithful and will meet all needs and fix things right.

Christy Adams

Standard Cartoon



Opinion

The need for Nigeria workers to unite

By FELIX OLUDARE AJIOLA

GIVEN the class dynamics of the protracted ASUU strike, it is important that the struggle be prosecuted with the full mobilisation of the entire working people of Nigeria across all trade unions. This is germane, because the capacity of Nigerian students to carve out a future for themselves has been severely constrained by the educational crisis and insecurity they face daily. Nigerian students face severe challenges of dilapidated teaching and research infrastructures, limited job opportunities after graduation, an impoverished social welfare system and a political domain marked by corruption and mismanagement.

Simply put, the Nigerian industrial climate is due for a general strike!

Given the class nature of the present ASUU strike and government's unwillingness to fund public education, it is imperative for the entire working people of Nigeria, under the aegis of the various labour unions, to embark on a comprehensive general strike that would compel the government to definitively end the ongoing ASUU strike. It is obvious that Nigeria is a class society. But the class relations through which the citizens are exploited involve both the internal political class and their international capitalist collaborators. Given this fact, class action by the poor requires that they organise themselves to act directly in their own cause, perhaps ultimately culminating in a People's Revolution against the parasitic thieving ruling class. In embarking on collective action for the resolution of the current impasse, this would not be the first time that a class struggle would be prosecuted against imperial agents, neoliberal actors and authoritarian leadership. Indeed, there have been instances when the entire working class mobilised in solidarity with their counterparts across diverse sectors.

First, a general strike became necessary under colonial capitalism during the famous "Cocoa Pool 1937-1938", when Nigerian workers fully mobilised in solidarity with Nigerian cocoa farmers. In this case, 41 registered trade unions with a total membership of 17,521 downed their tools in solidarity with the cocoa farmers. This radical struggle was initially spearheaded by the Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM), which organised several protests and revolts against the British-imposed Cocoa Agreement. A delegation of the NYM made an extensive tour of Western Nigeria to ensure that the general strike was comprehensive and effective. In Lagos, the NYM organised mammoth rallies against the Cocoa Pool. Thereafter, a resolution was passed condemning the formation of the Cocoa Pool, with full solidarity expressed for the impoverished cocoa producers. The working class sustained the general strike until the government dissolved the Cocoa Pool.

Secondly, the Great COLA General Strike of 1945 is another notable example of working class solidarity against an unjust law, as well as deplorable conditions of service. What started out as a labour crisis by railway employees in June 1945 eventually spread to other unions in

the civil service, with private sector workers later joining their counterparts in the public sector. Like the previous general strike, the 1945 strike, which involved 17 labour unions and up to 200,000 workers, lasted 45 days and caused a total shutdown of the economy. Given the class dynamics of the protracted ASUU strike, it is important that the struggle be prosecuted with the full mobilisation of the entire working people of Nigeria across all trade unions. This is germane, because the capacity of Nigerian students to carve out a future for themselves has been severely constrained by the educational crisis and insecurity they face daily. Nigerian students face severe challenges of dilapidated teaching and research infrastructures, limited job opportunities after graduation, an impoverished social welfare system and a political domain marked by corruption and mismanagement.

How can Nigerian university teachers play their part in this process if they have to contend with the perennial problem of miserable salaries, especially under conditions of hyperinflation? How can academics working under such conditions of severe stress compete with their counterparts in other climes? It is unacceptable for university teachers to be placed on salaries that shame their labour! There can be no denying the strong link between cutting-edge scholarship and the material well-being of scholars, as instanced by an environment that is conducive to learning and research.

Young academics are increasingly recoiling from the nightmare to which they had, perhaps unknowingly, committed themselves, especially when they critically examine the current conditions of their own former teachers. Little wonder they have been migrating in their numbers to Europe and America and sometimes to other African countries that invest more seriously in education. It is troubling that the Nigerian government has turned a blind eye to the suffering of Nigerian university academics. The situation is even worsened by a series of cruel neoliberal policies that seek to transform public education from a public service into a commodity. Indeed, we must ask: How can a people struggling with endemic poverty, misery and disappearing livelihoods afford the commercialisation of education at this time?

It is clear that the political class only represents power, money and policies skewed towards its inordinate and prebendal accumulative tendencies. The title of a popular book on Nigeria by Karl Maier, *This House Has Fallen*, is quite illustrative. The author, of course, borrowed the phrase from the Nigerian novelist, Chinua Achebe, whose words he quotes at the beginning of the book: "This is an example of a country that has fallen down; it has collapsed. This house has fallen." While Achebe's work reflected a moment of postcolonial pessimism about state and society in Nigeria and Africa in

general, today such pessimism is reinforced and it has found particular expression with regard to Nigeria's working people, whose common patrimony is being looted by a parasitic and shameless ruling elite. Nigerian politics under President Muhammadu Buhari has taken the shape of 'prebendal politics', similar to Ekeh's qualification of the two publics. Political instrumentalisation of disorder is a way in which political actors under the regime maximise their returns on the state of confusion, uncertainty and sometimes even chaos that characterises the polity. The term 'disorder' here refers to the lack of institutionalised legal frameworks for bureaucratic statecraft or the supplanting of such frameworks by political actors, thus allowing for prebendal strategies.

With regards to the economy, the country's economy has stagnated since Buhari came to power in 2015 owing to a plethora of problems, including the lack of capacity to expand productive enterprises, enhance small and medium manufacturing, promote macroeconomic stability, expand utility grids through public infrastructures such as transportation and communication networks, education and public health. Other issues include removing the impediments to business startups and cross-border flows of commodities and capital. It can be stated unequivocally that this regime is in fact the country's worst political experiment and historical accident, with its brazen display of lack of micro- and macroeconomic knowledge, its encouragement of corruption as well as its ignorance about the structural workings of the modern global financial system. Undoubtedly, the Nigerian economy has also suffocated intensely owing to the absence of innovation toward price stability, fiscal balance and several essential macroeconomic indicators without which the country is unlikely to transcend the stalemate between extreme poverty, inequality and limited growth. The dominant interest of the comprador bourgeoisie is no longer productivity and aggregate benefit but the individual aggrandisement of a select few. As systemic sabotage and corruption continues unabated under the Buhari administration; revenues that the country should receive from her resources remain unearned, as cartels and oligarchs have captured key public institutions for their primitive accumulative interests. The mother of all corruption is taking place on a daily basis in the oil industry owing to an unholy alliance involving the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the government and their foreign partners. Interestingly, this is a sector where the president doubles as the Minister of Petroleum.

In the light of such disturbing evidence, one cannot but conclude that only a drastic working class-led revolution can end the monumental corruption in the oil, maritime and aviation sectors, followed by subsequent deployment of these resources and wealth towards the funding of education, employment and sustainable development. Put mildly, a drastic general strike

by the Nigerian working class is expedient, as the Buhari regime has failed in representing the interests of the vast majority of citizens. A general strike is overdue, given the class dynamics of the struggle and government's refusal to fund public education in Nigeria. This is important because revolutions or social transformations are not made by the masses and peasants but by intellectuals and the working class whose expectations are not met by the political system in which they exist. As Professor Olorode has noted, there is need for "the reinstatement of collectivism, public purpose and democratic control of plans, programs and processes which used to be guaranteed by the underlying ethos of inclusive and affordable social services such as public education, health and housing and transportation." A stable political future will continue to elude Nigeria as long we shy away from building an inclusive political and democratic system on a firm and robust foundation of sustainable investment in education and empowerment of the intelligentsia and professionals.

Finally, the social economic development of the working people in any country depends on the existence and degree of strength of labour unions to challenge the exploitative practices and policies of the bourgeoisie. When these are lacking, weak or subjugated by forces of capitalism or authoritarianism, there will be poverty, misery, lack of human dignity and slavery. It requires a continuous struggle and long-term process to achieve some kind of humanitarian life, lasting peace and human dignity. It should be the common objective of all workers to eradicate the exploitation of humans by humans, if we are ever to reach that goal of building an inclusive society. As Mitchell Foucault has noted, "history is not a predictable mechanism, but a most problematic site of often random struggle, viciously articulated in a cruel world of capitalist-socialist, bourgeoisies-proletariat, oppressor-oppressed, rich and poor's relationship."

The current struggle between Nigerian academics (ASUU) and this present prebendal capitalist government is glaringly a class struggle requiring unflinching solidarity from the masses, artisans, market men and women, youths, workers and labour unions. The defeat of ASUU would be a devastating one and humiliation for the working class as a whole. Education can be adequately funded if the issues of wasteful governance, corruption, oil theft and dwindling revenues, etc., are seriously addressed. As Lai Mohammed noted in 2013 (*Daily Post*, 21 August, 2013), "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."

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AMONG the days observed by the United Nations is the International Day of Peace which is remarkably and most desirable for any nation's stability and development. The International Day of Peace was established on September 21, 1981, by the United Nations General Assembly. The Assembly declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace by observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Worthy of note is the theme for the 2022 celebration, which is "End Racism. Build peace".

As Nigeria joins the rest of the world to celebrate the popular September 21, the deep reflection within the hearts of many Nigerians is the big question: What is Peace? This question is critical considering the reality of diverse names and peculiarities of existing and lingering challenges of insecurity ravaging and consuming our country across regions.

Over the 12 years of the existence of the popular Boko Haram militia group that has unleashed terror within the North Eastern region of the country are yet to be curbed or brought to a standstill despite our military formation and the huge

By MOSES OLUWASEYI

financial resources committed. The activities of the sects have rendered many homeless; forcing them to become Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) within their states, children becoming orphans, turning out more widows, many girl child marriages, and increasing the community of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) from their pattern of terror on the people.

Some states in the North West have become a den for banditry who have now institutionalized kidnapping activities. The proceeds gotten from their victims have become a huge source of income and a sustainability mechanism for banditry activities within the region. Road traveling is gradually becoming a mirage in most parts of the country. The safer rail travel recently became a scary tale. In the last rail banditry operation, victims yet rescued have spent over 175 days in horrifying custody without any hope of being reunited with their families.

The conflicts between Herder-farmers in Nigeria and

disputes over land resources across Nigeria is sensitive that it is gradually degenerating into religious and ethnic sentiments. One cannot ignore the agitation in the South Eastern part of the country, the clashes for resources in the South-South region, insecurity challenges that had led to community provision of autonomous policing in the South West, and minority-majority discrimination which predominates in other States.

In celebrating this year's theme, it is imperative to narrow the concept of 'racism' to a country base rather than a universal context. According to Wikipedia 'Racism' is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to inherited attributes and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. However, Oxford drives it home as prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a

minority or marginalized.

It is imperative to note that, the increasing discrimination within ethnic and religious groups in Nigeria is responsible for the increased crises experienced within our States. This has further divided us as a people making our vast and rich ethnic diversity to be a curse rather than a blessing. The heightened level of nepotism consistently created by our elites and privileged persons in place of leadership has brought prejudice and made us discriminate against one another more than ever before.

Our ignorance and docility have fueled ethnic and religious territorialism as a nation and selfish politicians have consistently cashed on this to thrive. This attitude has deprived us of demanding accountability in areas that directly determine development in our everyday lives.

The monstrous insecurity still stares us in the face alongside the discrimination of youth, and women and the inaccessibility of systems and structures for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) at almost every level.

Haven highlighted some of the

existing challenges, we must admit that there are gains and progresses made as a country. However, there is a need to build a consensus and be intentional in our attitude to sustain our existing successes to consolidate our gains.

Citizens must shun attitudes of discrimination against one another and begin to see Nigeria rather than tribes and religion. Our leaders must eschew politics of identity, and impunity and strengthen our institutions. The culture of human dignity and the right to equality must be demonstrated professionally by our security architecture.

Good governance is possible, it is a mechanism for peace and for ending racism only if we embrace and respect our diversity. The neutrality of institutions is key in attaining a peaceful country.

Oluwaseyi, program manager Access Nigeria Campaign, writes v i a mosesoluwaseyi12@gmail.com, @moluwaseyi12

World Peace Day: Ensuring peace in Nigeria

News

'We will operate an open door policy'

Executive Chairman of Pankshin Local Government Council Hon. Kakmena Audu Goteng has reiterated his administration's commitment to run an open door policy and accountable administration that will yield dividends of democracy for the people of the area.

Hon kakmena Audu stated this recently at the swearing in of supervisory councilors and advisers of the local government area held at the council chambers. He charged the appointees to take up their responsibilities with every sense of humility, seriousness and without prejudice to all asundry. The chairman urged them to conscientize the electorates in their respective wards on government programmes and policies for the growth and development of the area. And sued for cordial working relationship and urged citizens of Pankshin to support and be loyal by remaining peaceful and offering constructive criticism towards greater development of the area and state.

While administering oath of office to the Supervisory councilors and advisers, Barr. James Miner charged them to see oath taking as a civil responsibly as it involves God and the constitution of Nigeria.

Responding on behalf of the supervisory councilors sworn in Hon Abafarsa Gabriel Ngolong said their appointment as a mark of honour and promised to translate their quota into practical solutions that will move the council forward.

Also responding, Hon. Shamshi Dafom Tanat promised not to betray the confidence repose in them by Strategizing measures to help in improving the area.

In their separate good will messages, DVC PLASU, Ass Prof . Nengak Jurji Gomos, APC chairman Pankshin, Nde Tanimu shitmuut resented by his deputy Nde Zakka Lengji , Former Education secretary Hon. Felix Tappi, Ngolong Tal, Alhaji Yusuf Gutus II, the Executive Director Advancement Office of the Vice Chancellor University of Jos Yakubu Gomos, Education Secretary Pankshin, Timothy Bodang, Madaki Panksnin



Goteng

Nde Philip Yilmazaka all sued for unity of purpose and urged the people to bury their differences and work for the progress of the local government area. They also challenged the appointees to work hard in order not to disapoint and ensure victory for the APC at forth coming elections.

Those sworn in as supervisory Coucillors, Hon. Abafaras Gabriel Ngolong for works department, Hon. Neple Gungret Yoila for Education, Hon .Gwinyol Dagen Mark for Water and sanitation (WASH) and Hon. Mutle Mwaji Manshak For Social Services Department, Hon. Emmanuel Yakubu Auta for Agriculture and Natural

resources Department and Hon Michael Diyal Detyon for Budget Department, Hon Denty Jacob. Laven for Health.

Those sworn in as Advisers while others include. Maxwell Shabur on Political matters, Kebang Chindap Golu on investment, Daniel Joshua Watyil on Security, Luret Dayit on Religious Matters, Shamshi Dafom Tanat on Youth mobilization, Jude Bitrus Gaknun, on Disability, Henry Koproda and on Research and documentation, Ephraim Fwenshinen on Media and communication, Sunday Duna on Special duties, Fidelis Danjuma Gonzuk on Revenue Mobilization and Musa Gobum on Education and sports.

Usman praises deputy leader for equipping women, youth

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North local government council Shehu Bala Usman has reaffirmed the commitment of his administration to work closely with the Legislative Arm to drive development to the door step of its citizens.

The Chairman disclosed this during a town hall meeting put together by Deputy Leader of Jos North Local Government Council, Auwal Baban-Ladan held at Owodunni hall Garba Daho ward in Jos.

The town hall meeting organised by the deputy leader of Jos North who is also the Councilor representing Garba Daho Ward, was to present his scorecard in office as councilor.

Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Bala Usman said the relationship between the Executive and the Legislative Arm of the Council remains

very cordial.

Represented by his Special Adviser on security Matters, Nasiru Sheikh Shenu said all hands must be on deck to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people.

The Chairman noted that his administration is proud of the Deputy Leader of Jos North legislative Arm for touching the lives of his constituents and appealed to his colleagues to emulate the Deputy Leader's sacrifice in providing succour to the populace.

On his part, the Deputy Leader, Auwal Baba Ladan informed the gathering in the last one year in office as councillor of Garba Daho ward, he has equipped Youths women with skills and provision of water noting that this amongst others was achieved with the support of some Non Governmental Organizations NGO.

The councilor promised to

DEPUTY Commissioner of Police, DCP Emuobi Fred has assumed duty as the new Chief Investigation Officer of Plateau State Command, Jos following the transfer of his predecessor, DCP Muhammed Bunu to another Command.

DCP Ekokou was enlisted into the Force on 18th of May, 1992 as a Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police. He has a Diploma in Police Science from Police Staff College, Jos and a Degree in Agric Economics from the prestigious University of Ibadan. He has also served in various capacities in Oyo, Ogun, Rivers, Kaduna, Enugu,

Plateau Police Command gets new SCID boss

State Commands and Railway Command Ebutemeta, Lagos.

Before his appointment as the Deputy Commissioner of Police, State Criminal Investigation Department, he served in different capacities at various Divisions and formation within the State in Operations, Administration and Investigation among others and has attended several courses and training such as, Citizenship and

Leadership Course, Shere Hills, Jos, Senior Leadership and Command Course (SLCC), Intermediate Command Course, Divisional Management Course at Police Staff Colleg Jos, and Combat Training, Gwoza Desert Camp Maiduguri among others.

DCP Emuobi Fred Ekokou who is a fellow of the National Defence College (fdc) promised to bring his wealth of knowledge to refine investigation process in the State.

...As three Police officers receive awards

THREE officers of the Plateau State Police Command were celebrated and honoured by the Northern Youth Association of Nigeria with the "Sir Ahmadu Bello Platinum Leadership Award" considering their exceptional performances in the fight against crimes and criminalities in their various areas of responsibility.

The occasion which took place at the Police State Headquarters, Jos recently was an intriguing sight to behold as some managerial officers of the Command were visibly impressed and proud of the recipients.

Speaking at occasion, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Department of Operations, DCP Emmanuel Ado who represented the Commissioner of Police, CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka, attested that the awardees are no doubt one of the finest officers in the Command and had done a lot of exploits in the task of securing the State.

According to DCP Ado, the Command did not know the benchmark that the



SP Ayuba

association used to identify and distinguish the officers but their judgment was justified due to the fact the officers are the hit men of the command when it comes to combating crimes in the State.

He further described the awards as a motivation and a challenge to the recipients to double their efforts in order to

prove that they deserve the awards.

DCP Ado also appreciated the officers for their uncommon sacrifices to their fatherland and encouraged them not to rest on their laurel as such commendations usually confer more responsibility on recipients.

In his remarks, the President of the Northern Youth Association of Nigeria Comrade Godiya T. Adams Bogoro disclosed that the award was in line with the vision of their late founding fathers to honour worthy individuals whose attainment in life have impacted positively on the lives of the citizenry as a way of encouraging them to do more.

Also speaking, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Department of Finance and Administration of the Command, ACP Ibrahim Gimba who spoke on behalf of the recipients thanked the association for following the brilliant breakthroughs of their officers and finding them worthy of award.

The recipients of the prestigious "Sir Ahmedu Bello Platinum Leadership Awards" are; Superintendents of Police, SP Ayuba A. Iliya, the Divisional Police Officer of Rantya Division, SP Aloba Ebere John, the Divisional Police Officer of Riyom Division and SP Jibril B. Guful, the Divisional Police Officer, Bukuru Division, Jos.



Usman

continue to do more adding that the exercise is in phases and assured his people of his readiness to ensure that all is achieved without bias.

Speakers at the town hall meeting described the councilor as a devoted leader who meant well for his people and assured him of their

unflinching support and cooperation to enable him succeed and wished him well through out his tenure.

Climax of the ceremony was the presentation of an award to the councilor, Auwalu Baban-Ladan for his selfless service to humanity.

News

Ban on urea fertilizer raises concern

From – Gyang Pam, Yola

Concerns have been raised that the ban on the use of Urea fertilizer product has impending danger on food security especially in the North East region of Nigeria.

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri expressed this concern when the Leadership of the Chemical Society of Nigeria paid him a courtesy visit at Government House Yola the Adamawa State Capital.

According to the Governor, the Society should come up with an alternative solution to Urea fertilizer to enable farmers in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states enhance their farming activities in addressing the impending danger of food security.

He reiterated that the ban on the use of Urea fertilizer product has impending danger on food security in the region and its people who rely largely on farming for survival. It would be recalled that the Federal Government had ban the use of Urea fertilizer in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States due to the Urea component which is used by Boko Haram insurgents in the manufacture of explosives



Fintiri

"I therefore think this should be a challenge to your Society in fashioning out an alternative that will take care of the Urea component in the production of fertilizer", he says.

He called on the members of the Society to use their knowledge in Chemistry to come up with further alternatives to the food people consume especially those identified with harmful chemical content.

Earlier, the National

Chairman of the chemical Society, Professor Moses Nkem said the Society is on the visit for its 45th National conference. Its theme he says is focused on security issues in the country especially where chemists are involved which may be environmental security, food, drug, energy and manufacturing of chemical weapons and other hardware and software where chemistry is involved.

Prof Alewo Johnson-Akubo, Vice Chancellor (VC), Salem University, Lokoja, Kogi, has bagged the Sir Ahmadu Bello Sardauna Sokoto Platinum Leadership Award by the Northern Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN).

Our Correspondent reports that the award which was conferred on the VC in his office on Monday, was accompanied by a Medal of Honour as the "Garkuwan Matassan Arewa/Icon and Cynosure of Educational Transformation."

Presenting the award to the VC, the NYCN President, Dr Isah Abubakar, explained that Johnson-Akubo's choice for the prestigious award was sequel to his outstanding achievements as a Nigerian youth in the position of leadership.

"Sir, your lofty induction into Northern Youth Council Hall fame today, Sept. 26 is in recognition of your immense contributions towards purposeful leadership and

Salem varsity VC bags platinum leadership award

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

youth empowerment.

"You are, indeed, the youngest Vice Chancellor in Nigeria today, and your life is already a blessing and role model for others to emulate.

"As a youth, you are Nigeria's pride being a man of strong and good character doing marvellously in Salem University, Lokoja," he said.

The president, who was represented by his Vice, Mr. Victor Adodo, urged the VC to remain focused and committed to the wonderful works he was doing at Salem University, which he said had become a known citadel of education in Nigeria.

Responding, Johnson-Akubo, thanked the council for counting him worthy for the prestigious award and pledged not to let the Nigerian youths

down.

The VC said he was surprised when he was first told about his choice by the council to honour him, but that it had not only encouraged him to do more as a leader but to stand for honesty, sincerity and hard work

Johnson-Akubo lamented the involvement of youths in various social vices such as kidnapping, cyber crimes, thuggery, drug abuse, among others. He said, "integrity, is key to a man's success in life simply because once you have integrity nothing else matters.

"Therefore, our fellow youths, who are the leaders of tomorrow, should keep their integrity intact and be prepared to take the Nigerian nation to an enviable height.

Lalong condoles Wase over elder brother's demise

By Palang Kasmi

PLATEAU Governor Simon Bako Lalong has commiserated with the Deputy Speaker House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase over the

demise of his elder brother, the Rekna of Bashar, HRH Alhaji Adamu Idris.

The Governor has also extended his condolences to the entire people of Bashar Kingdom and Wase Local Government Area over the death of the Second Class traditional ruler who died at the age of 98.

Lalong in a statement Monday said the death of the Royal Father who has been on the throne of his forefathers for 59 years is a great loss to the entire State.

He said during his long reign, the late monarch played a great role in maintaining peace within his domain and also contributing to the progress of Wase Local Government, Plateau State and Nigeria in general.

"Alhaji Adamu Idris was a man full of passion and compassion for his people and

always demonstrated a sense of justice, fairness, honesty and love for education during his reign by encouraging the establishment of schools as well as cooperating with government to attract development to his area" Lalong said in the message.

He also said although the exit of the Royal Father is painful, and he will continue to be remembered for the good legacies he left behind including the wonderful memories of unity, love and selflessness he demonstrated on many issues.

While urging the people of Bashar, the Deputy Speaker and entire family to accept the death of the Paramount Ruler as the will of God, Lalong urged them to continue to pray for God to forgive his sins and grant him eternal rest.



Lalong

'Tour Nigeria' will boost domestic tourism-NTDC

FRIDAY Anumba, Director of Special Duties, Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), says 'Tour Nigeria' will boost domestic tourism and Nigeria's economy if properly utilised.

Anumba said this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday in Abuja.

NAN reports that 'Tour Nigeria' is the name of a tourism brand created by the NTDC to promote domestic tourism in Nigeria and inaugurated by Folorunsho Coker, NTDC Director-General in 2017.

According to him, the present leadership of NTDC led by Coker is not resting. It is striving so hard to ensure that domestic tourism moved to the next level. "Coker, on arrival at NTDC, came with the product 'Tour Nigeria'. Some of the products under 'Tour Nigeria' include Nigeria Flavor.

"This is the product where you have to showcase Nigerian foods, fashion, movies, and music among others. "As you can see, our Nigerian music artists are doing great by ruling the world with their music."

According to him, when you

talk of Burna Boy, his music is all over the world, portraying the kind of asset Nigeria has in tourism. He said the "message we have for the world is 'Tour Nigeria', visit Nigeria, see Nigeria, eat Nigeria food, wear Nigeria fashion, see the sites and monuments in Nigeria."

Anumba also said that the Nigerian Association of Tour operators (NATOP), an association under Federation of Tourism Associations of Nigeria (FTAN), had a prominent role to play in the tourism sector.

GAC commends BASG for establishing microfinance agency

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

The Bauchi State establishment of State Agency for Sustainable Microfinance has been described by Global Affairs Canada as roadmap towards ensuring effective implementation of microfinancing initiatives for poverty reduction in the state.

The representative of the organization in Bauchi, Mrs Pamela made the remark when she led other officials for a visit to the Management of the Agency in a bid to lubricate the mutual partnership between the two agencies. She appreciated the foresight of the state government for establishing the microfinance agency, which she observed will go long way in assisting citizens to access microfinancing intervention as to improve

their business activities and livelihood.

She applauded the agency for partnering with Oxfam Nigeria in the implementation of Village Savings and Loans Scheme (VSLA) in the 20 LGAs of Bauchi state and welcomed the Microfinance Institution Building Program for Poverty Reduction (MIFIN) initiated by the state government.

"We are happy to interact with you today, we have seen the commitment of the Bauchi State in the area of poverty alleviation programmes through this Agency, Village Savings and Loans Scheme is key to tackling poverty, as it inculcate the culture of Savings among its members. We are here to tell you that we are ready to support Bauchi State Government to implement its various poverty alleviation programmes in recognition of its efforts to provide citizens with

opportunities to become self-reliant."

The Global Affairs Canada's top official urged the state government not to relent in providing windows of opportunities to people especially rural dwellers to access financial intervention for total eradication of poverty and hunger in the society.

Responding, the Director General of the Agency, Alhaji Muhammad Nura Dan'madami, informed the visitors that his agency was established in the year 2012 by the state government to strengthen the operation of microfinance institutions in order to provide efficient services to citizens at the grassroots by assisting them to access financial interventions from relevant institutions.

Nura Dan'madami explained that the agency has since embarked on an advocacy visit to various stakeholders to seek their support in commencing the implementation of the Microfinance Institution Building Program for Poverty Reduction (MIFIN) across the 20 LGAs of the state.

He added that, the MIFIN programme would sit on the Village Savings and Loans Scheme implemented by Oxfam Nigeria in the 6 local government areas of the state and replicate it in the 20 LGAs where OXFAM has not covered. He further congratulated Oxfam for the successful implementation of the programme in the benefiting communities.

"We are honoured to receive this very important visitors to our agency whom we are always looking for



Mohammed

News

Policeman dies saving neighbour's daughter

A policeman has died from injuries sustained while saving his neighbour's daughter from a fire incident.

The fire incident took place on Saturday night in the neighbourhood of the late officer in Mararaba area of Nasarawa State.

The policeman, who until his death was attached to the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) in Abuja, was said to have rushed into his neighbour's house to save the child that was trapped in the fire.

A resident of the area told PREMIUM TIMES that the policeman successfully rescued the child but sustained major injuries.

He was rushed to the hospital Saturday night but died on Sunday, the source said. "He is a hero, without him the neighbour's child would have died in the fire."

Officials at the NFIU confirmed the death of the policeman who was said to be attached to the mobile police unit before he was seconded to the NFIU.

Police spokesperson Muiywa Adejobi said, the force headquarters was yet to be briefed on the matter at the time of this report.

"I can't speak because I've not been briefed and I can't confirm it," he said.

Other police officers interviewed for this story described the incident as touching, lamenting what police officers often go through to save lives of civilians.



Akali

The action of the late policeman occurs at a time the police is trying to repair its battered image.

Over the years, Nigerians have had negative perceptions about the police due to the actions some of its officers.

Some of the illicit activities of the police led to the historic #EndSARS protest in 2020: a youth-driven anti-police brutality demonstration across Nigeria.

The protest, which morphed from social media campaigns into street demonstrations in October 2020, was triggered by the excesses of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a now-disbanded police

tactical unit notorious for cruelty against crime suspects.

Although SARS activities and general issues of police brutality, including unlawful arrests, torture, and extrajudicial killings, were at its core, the protest became a platform for demanding government's decisive action against insecurity, corruption, economic woes and general maladministration.

Prophet rented house for Adewumi's wife -witness

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

ONE Mrs. Chidera Doris Ikechukwu Promise who stood in as witness (PW2) in court has confirmed to the court that Prophet Moses Essessein of the Garden of

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) has postponed its planned activities.

The party had earlier planned to kick start its presidential campaign Wednesday September 28, 2022 but announced the shift Tuesday.

Announcing the development in a statement, the Campaign Council Director General (D G) of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidency and Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong said, the council planned to start the presidential campaign with special inter-denominational and inter-faith prayers in Abuja and the capital cities of the 36 States.

He disclosed that the council also planned to have a peace walk in all the cities immediately after the prayers.

"But the postponement became necessary for the Council to fine-tune its membership list", said Lalong in the statement.

The statement further read: "Recall that we had earlier earmarked a peace walk and prayers for Wednesday, September 28, 2022, to officially kick-off our campaigns for the 2023 Presidential Elections".

"We had also announced

APC Presidential Campaign Council postpones activities

By PALANG KASMI

that the members of the Campaign Council report to the Campaign Headquarters on that day to collect their letters".

"However, due to the expansion of the list to accommodate more stakeholders and interests within the APC family, we have decided to adjust the timetable of these activities to ensure everyone is on board before activities officially commence".

"Consequently, the activities earlier

announced for the 28th of September will no longer hold".

"As the ruling and most attractive party in Nigeria, we understand the sacrifices and understanding of our teeming members who are more than willing to volunteer themselves for this great task ahead. It also shows the enormous love that the party members have for our candidates".

"A new date and timetable of events will be announced soon", disclosed the DG.



Lalong

Plateau varsity gets new deputy vice chancellors

THE Plateau State University Boko has appointed Prof. Pyefa Galadima and Dr Jurji Gomos, as its Deputy Vice Chancellors in charge of Academic and Administration respectively.

Mr John Agarm, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the institution, disclosed this in a

statement on Tuesday in Jos.

Agarm said the appointment was announced shortly after the special Senate meeting of the university on Monday.

He explained that the appointment of the two principal officers, which would run for two years, was with immediate effect.

The PRO also said, the

Senate approved Oct. 10, as resumption date for newly admitted students for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 academic sessions.

He explained that new students would return to campus to conclude their registration process and prepare for the commencement of lectures.

He said Prof. Yohanna Izam, the Vice Chancellor of the institution, congratulated the new deputy vice chancellors and urged them to live above board and be diligent. (NAN)



Prof. Izam

Women's participation in politics imperative- NOA

The National Orientation Agency (NOA) has called for increased participation of women in the electoral processes, to promote the entire spectrum of the value chain of national growth and development.

The Director-General of NOA, Dr Garba Abari, gave the advice on Monday at the National Unveiling of a Project and Orientation meeting between the National Action for Women Agenda (NAWA) Zonal/State Coordinators and NOA State Directors in Abuja.

Abari said that women had played key roles historically in human development across Africa and indeed the world, adding that their participation

and inclusion should be sustained and increased.

"The role of women in peacebuilding, governance, and socio-political development is coming under increasing interrogation with a view to ensuring an increasing trajectory in women's development.

"Women's participation in politics on the other hand is a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy.

"Their participation in politics facilitates direct women engagement in public decision making which is essential for inclusive national growth," NOA Chief said.

In her remarks, the National President of NAWA, Hajiya Hauwa Bagu, stressed the need to build the potential of poor women and girls through active involvement in economic empowerment, representation in policy processes and political decision-making.

Bagu said that these were the essential solutions to achieve lasting peace and security in the country.

According to her, these will also improve human security, by making women attain economic independence, hence the need for this project at this material time.

"The focus of NAWA is predicated on the need for women to play an increased and participatory role in peacebuilding, governance and socio-political and economic development of the country.

"NAWA is a Non-governmental organisation, conceived in 2020 and came into operation in 2022 for the promotion of sustainable peace and justice, good governance and peaceful coexistence among Nigerians.

"These are being achieved through advocacy, public enlightenment, dialogue, vocational skills, seminars, workshops, symposiums and conferences in Nigeria," she said. (NAN)

Marwa, the leadership we need



By CELESTINE ATTSAR

"LEADERSHIP is not just a position, it consists of action transparency and a setting of high level of integrity, honesty and strive to achieve a goal" (anonymous).

When in January 2021 Brig. General Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd) was appointed Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), it was received with applause as many who knew him as a strict disciplinarian knew quite well that the country was a new phase of illicit drug crisis. Also at that time, the increase in drug abuse was almost at an alarming rate.

The Retired General who before the appointment was known for his no nonsense attitude towards any public assignment given to him rolled up his sleeves and moved like a wounded lion to salvage the country from the menace of

illicit drugs. His holistic approach to the fight against illicit drugs has within a short period of his stewardship added a record that is worth praising.

Within the period of his leadership, a lot of arrests were made; even those untouchables in the illicit drug business were arrested and handed various jail terms. Marwa received commendations on his approach to rid Nigeria of the activities of illicit drugs barons. The agency in its existence had many who led it, who also had their fair share of leadership and contribution towards making it a strong institution.

To remember a few of them, General Musa Bamaïyi, Fulani Kwajafa, Iliya Lokadang, Farida Mohammed all did their possible best to achieve the goals establishing NDLEA. Of course, having identified the consumers, Marwa collaborated with the Nigerian film industry on how to win the drug war which has affected millions of young people watching Nigerian movies even as they admire star actors will be easily sensitized on the dangers of drug abuse through their moves. The approach has helped lot of youths to see the danger of abusing drugs in society.

In June this year when the drug czar was featured on Channels Television programme 'Hard Copy' said his officers have arrested some politicians in possession of illicit drugs which he described as disappointing. According to

him, the agency had suggested drugs test for all those vying for political office to undergo drug test. He added that "as you know the cartels are also active participants in political activities; they actually fund candidates into the various levels so that they can enact laws that can favour them". The recommendation is very goal approach to rid our political class of those that will use drug money to sponsor candidate and to have them trade or consumes of illicit drugs not given attention to by those in power.

Recently, in what appeared to be the biggest singular cocaine seizure in the history of the agency, operatives of the agency had busted a major warehouse in a secluded estate in Ikorodu area of Lagos where 1.8 tonnes (1.55kilogrammes) of the illicit drugs worth more than 194 billion naira in street value were seized and the kingpin in the business was arrested including foreigners. In what the agency described as a well coordinated and intelligence led operation that lasted for two days across different locations in Lagos State.

The Lagos operation which is said to be one of the biggest and successful operations of the agency received commendation from the Presidency. In a telephone call to the Chairman of the anti-narcotics agency from New York where he was attending the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77),



President Buhari said that the news of the recovery gladdens his heart. "I deeply appreciate the good work that you have put into the eradication of the drug menace. It gladdens my heart as I continue to follow the success achieved under your leadership."

The president added that "you have demonstrated over and again that choosing you to lead this fight against wicked merchants of death whose sole aim is to endanger and truncate the future of our youth is a good choice. Please keep the good work."

It was also reported that the president still amazed with the achievement of the agency especially in the recent Lagos seizure, told the Nigerian

delegation at a meeting in New York that, "Buba Marwa is doing well. Two tones of cocaine, that is a haul."

This exceptional commendation by the President to one of his appointees for doing well in his area of assignment is very rare looking at the poor performance of most of our institutions in the country. People like the NDLEA boss should be encouraged through both executive and legislative powers so that the goal of which they are established can add value to our society.

It is high time other heads of agencies that are saddled with the responsibilities of making Nigeria great emulate the NDLEA and its leadership.

"you have demonstrated over and again that choosing you to lead this fight against wicked merchants of death whose sole aim is to endanger and truncate the future of our youth is a good choice. Please keep the good work."



By HOSEA NYAMLONG

IN Nigeria today, a day cannot pass by without recording one crime or the other, that has to do with quick money making.

Indeed, get quick rich syndrome has become one of the trending fashion among the present day

Road to wealth has no shortcut

Nigerian youth.

Unfortunately, many citizens don't care about having a good name or image for themselves, rather they prefer to get involved in different crimes such as kidnapping, drug peddling, armed robbery, prostitution, cyber fraud, killing for rituals among others, all in a bid to get rich quick.

It is worrisome that today, the deteriorating nature of core moral values, societal norms, culture, tradition and beliefs is a cause for concern in the lives of citizens.

The way in which many youths idolized wealthy people and celebrities have contributed in fueling more crime in recent times in the country. Youths only want to be seen driving exotic cars, wearing designers clothes, gold necklaces and living an expensive lifestyle, without any proof of legitimate work or source that earned them such.

In time past, the case of ritual killings was not rampant and it was not accepted in the society, because human life was very important to be wasted in an evil venture.

Sadly enough, under aged children are now involved in ritual killings for the purpose of making quick money, not minding the gravity of their actions to humanity. The fact is, life is sacred.

Recently, a 17-year-old teenager killed his girlfriend together with his friend for rituals and they were later arrested in the process of cooking her head in a clay pot.

Another case is that of a 14 year teenage boy in Lagos state who tried to escape with his employer's 2 year old son, with the intention of selling him to ritualists, before he was later arrested in the process of the negotiation.

Early this year, the Plateau state Police Command, paraded a 20-year-old, Moses Okoh, the suspected killer of Miss Jennifer Anthony, his girlfriend and a 300-level student of the University of Jos (UNIJOS).

In Abeokuta this year, a Magistrate's court remanded four boys who allegedly beheaded a 20-year-old, Sofiat Okeowo, in Ogun State for ritual purpose.

In September a girl named, Maryam Salisu, was found killed in Babale community on the outskirts of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State for suspected ritual purposes. The body of the deceased according to residents of the community was found in a trench. The relatives of the deceased said that Maryam's corpse was found in

a trench with her throat, tongue, her breasts and eyes cut off.

Another issue to be considered is greed, as in the case of a 5 year old girl, Hanifa Abubakar who was kidnapped and killed by her school teacher, who said that he was depressed and he needed money to pay for his kids school fees.

However, the get rich quick syndrome is slowly killing Nigerian youths who indulge in desperate pursuits to become rich at all cost, even at the expense of other people.

These societal ills have affected every citizen, directly or indirectly as this ugly trend seems to have taken the order of the day.

This is because some parents in some ways have encouraged their children negatively to make quick money, as in the case of a young man who was told to sacrifice his younger brother by his mother.

Notwithstanding, in the past, hard work was seen as the pride of every person both male and female, old and young which was a mark of dignity and respect in the society, but today, is no longer considered as a legitimate means of earning a good living.

Many youths today would want to have their own way to get quick money at all cost in order to show to the world that they have arrived or they belong to the millionaires club, by way of displaying of wealth.

Also, some would want to oppress others. In this same vein, many youths have lost their moral values by engaging in things

that are not legitimate.

There are millions of jobs in Nigeria. The issue of passing through shortcuts to success has overshadowed most minds of the youths not knowing that today, wealth is knitted in dirty jobs that seems to be rejected by many, because they don't want to be seen dirty by their peers, rather being neater and rich in ill ways.

To this end, things have gone wrong. And the question in the minds of every responsible Nigerian is how to curtail this evil menace in our society?

Who is to be blame, parents, peer groups, or the society in general. The suggestion is that parents, guidance and care givers should endeavour to bring up their children in a Godly way that they would inculcate good moral virtues in them.

It is very important, that the mind of materialism, be checked, especially among youths to see that wealth can be earned legitimately through hard work, determination, dedication and patience in life.

Government as a matter of urgency should engage the youths meaningfully to enable them have a positive life so that they can add value to the society. Nigeria can be rebuilt on the foundations of integrity, transparency, truth, and justice.

On the part of the Nigerian youths, they are encouraged to embrace hard work, honesty, integrity as the hallmark to a sustainable wealth and peace of mind. The road to success has no short cut.

"The way in which many youths idolized wealthy people and celebrities have contributed in fueling more crime in recent times in the country. Youths only want to be seen driving exotic cars, wearing designers clothes, gold necklace and living an expensive lifestyle, without any proof of legitimate work or source that earned them such."

By LUCY CHINDABA

THE Calvary Baptist Church Naraguta in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State was filled to capacity on Sunday September 18, 2022 due to the diaconate ordination of seven deacons. According to the Ordination Committee, the seven deacons is comprised of five males and two females.

They are: Deacon Amos Ali Madaki, Deacon John Akinrinola Akintunde, Deaconess Caroline Adebisi Tosan and Deacon Jeremiah Akintunde. Others are Deaconess Oluyomi Oyedoyin Akintunde, Deacon Samuel Danjuma Wapwera and Deacon Bulus Samci Dabit.

In a remark, Chairman of the Ordination Committee, Mrs Comfort Sariem while presenting the ordinands explained that, the ordinands had gone through training and have served and are serving the church in various capacities.

A motion was then moved by Mrs Jemimah Edah and seconded by Bro. Moses Matthias after which a brief biography of each of the ordinands was read.

The ordinands thereafter took the Deacons' pledge administered by Rev. Mike Oluwaniyi in which they affirmed and pledged commitment to accept the Bible as the inerrant word of God and their superior authority for Christian life and service as they look to the New Testament for direction on the work of a deacon. From the pledge they said they will learn how the first seven were chosen to assist the apostles and ordained to serve people in need that Deacons are expected to serve and live exemplary Christian lives.

Also, the deacons pledged that the Pastor as the shepherd and chief administrative officer of the church, determines their specific area of service and authority that they will be true to him by serving faithfully and strive to support the ministry in whatever way possible.

On the church, they pledged to participate and support the church financially, encouraging indifferent members, guarding sacredly any confidence entrusted in them and witnessing to the unsaved, winning souls to Christ and urging them to join the church, among others.

In a litany of dedication, they consecrated their whole self, their lips, minds, hands and hearts to the Lord to use their ministry for the building up of the body of Christ,

the church until they attain the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

In a sermon by Rev. Dr. K K Saleh, President, Plateau Baptist Conference Jos, who took his reading from 1 Tim. 3:8-13 said the scriptural passage talks about expectations from them as deacons, from their calling as deacons.

It has been severally said that Deacon simply means a

ordained then they don't have a role to play. They should serve as lead servants. It is a call unto duty to lead others, lead the process and ensure the activity is executed adequately. Your calling is a high calling and the expectation is higher.

They have been set apart so the pastor expects more, higher diligence. You will be held accountable when things

'Deacon means servant, not anything fanciful'



The ordained deacons

servant. It is not anything fanciful. They are servants of the church. Their service delivery is to the church. That does not mean others will do nothing. In Biblical terms it is there and also in the secular world. That does not mean they are the only ones. Every member of the church has also been called to serve and in Phil 1:1, Paul introduced himself and Timothy as servants and also in Acts 1:1-6.

In Acts 6:3 some have to be selected to lead the remaining servants. They are only chosen to serve in an official capacity so the others should not just relax and think because they are not

are not going well in the church. There will be expectations from all quarters, be a better husband, a better wife, a better father and lot more is expected from you both at home and in the church.

He said, "You are expected to keep your home together, in order, in check. Wherever you find yourself, the expectation now is more, people's expectations is heightened. You are called upon to meet needs. Acts 6.

Your work is to minister to people who are hurting. Minister gives hope to people who are hurt particularly now when the country is going

through such difficult times that virtually everyone is hurting at the moment. You are expected to minister to them even when you are also hurt".

According to him, the nature of the work is practical field work. The Calvary Baptist Church (CBC), particularly has an extra assignment as they are in the environment surrounded by students who are hurt because of the ASUU strike. They have an opportunity to reach out to the students who have lost so many opportunities as some would have graduated, some working or doing so many other things. The pastor relinquished some of his responsibilities and conferred it on them at the ordination. So they are held responsible for that which has been relinquished to them. The assignment may seem difficult but some have served well and earned for themselves a good standing. He urged them to serve diligently.

1 Tim 3:8 and Acts 6:6 they were able to serve well and a large number were added to them. They stepped into an arena where there is a measurement standard at that level.

He prayed God to grant them grace not to fall or fail but that they will earn for themselves a good name.

They need to steer up the members to go with the vision and accomplish the task ahead of them

In a response on behalf of the ordained deacons, Deaconess Oluyomi Oyedoyin Akintunde quoted 1 Thess 5:25 which says, brothers pray for us, asked all to pray for them not to fail.

In a chat with some of the newly ordained deacons, Dr. Samuel Wapwera a lecturer with the University of Jos, said that, ordination is a public declaration of servanthood and a call to consecration. That as Deacons they are expected to assist the pastors in ministry and based on these he intension is to depend on the Lord Jesus to lead him all the way. On his part Deacon Bulus Dabit former Plateau State Director of the National Orientation Agency, NOA, said, I feel humbled to be ordained as a Deacon. That the ordination comes with awesome responsibility requiring only the grace of God to serve, but I am reassured again that I can serve because of the enabling presence of God in me. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

This is wishing them God's wisdom as they serve in the vineyard of the Lord.

"It has been severally said that Deacon simply means a servant. It is not anything fanciful. They are servants of the church. Their service delivery is to the church. That does not mean others will do nothing. In Biblical terms it is there and also in the secular world. That does not mean they are the only ones. Every member of the church has also been called to serve and in Phil 1:1 Paul introduces himself and Timothy as servants and also in Acts 1:1-6."

IMAGES

NIREC MEETS IN LAGOS

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) held its meeting on Monday at the Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos State hosted by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State



Executive Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu delivering his speech at the opening ceremony of NIREC



Dr. Francis Kuria Kagema, Secretary General, African Council of Religious Leaders presenting his goodwill



Rev. Dr. Caleb Ahima in a photograph with TEKAN ECWA bloc delegates to the NIREC meeting



New Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN) President, His Eminence, Most Rev. Daniel Okoh delivering his speech



Immediate past President of CAN, Rev. Samson Ayokunle (middle) flanked by NIREC members



A cross section of members of the high table during the NIREC meeting



Chairman, Co-Chairman in a group photograph with dignitaries at the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council meeting in Lagos



His Eminence, Sultan of Sokoto and President General, Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Alhaji Muhammad Saad Abubakar III making his speech

Odd World

Go to hell! Woman accused of dressing young

ANTONIA Fifi is determined to help other women over 40 feel confident in their skin and show them that they really can wear whatever they want - and should ignore any haters.

We all know that age is just a number - and nobody should tell women how to dress 'appropriately'.

But one 40-year-old is causing quite a stir online, with some haters nastily claiming she dresses 'too young' for her age.

This is because Antonia Fifi has taken the internet by storm with her glamorous outfits. From figure-hugging dresses to mini skirts - Antonia does not shy away from dressing exactly how she wants to.

Antonia, a fashion expert from

Toronto, Canada, refuses to conform to society's expectations of 'toning it down' when women get a bit older - and she looks fantastic for it.

There's been some haters round here so figured I had to bring this one back!

Although her wild wardrobe has helped Antonia gain a large following on **TikTok**, sadly she is a regular target for trolls who think she needs to dress differently.

She makes videos with negative comments pinned at the top, and then rocks the outfit they're telling her not to.

One person wrote: "To be honest, mini skirts suit no one unless your legs are like Naomi [Campbell] and you're 20..."

Source: The Mirror



Nigeria is skulking at 62

IN a few days time, Nigeria, the most populous black nation in the world will be celebrating its 62nd independence anniversary. This year's event is coming on the heels of various unhealthy developments which are bedeviling the population at the moment. Most disturbing among these problems are the issues of high sense of insecurity in almost all parts of our homeland, incessant strike actions by stakeholders in the academia and lack of adequate healthcare facilities in particularly rural areas.

So far, some of these unabated acts of criminality perpetrated in this country with impunity have led to the death of thousands of innocent lives even as other criminal acts of armed robbery and kidnappings have continued to take a great toll on the citizenry. This aside, the issue of effective policy implementation and infrastructural provision failure necessitated by blatant acts of administrative ingenuity have also continued to create more problems than possible pragmatic solutions.

It would be recalled with great nostalgia that in his post independent speech, immediately after Nigeria's liberation from colonial rule, Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa noted with great enthusiasm that the struggle for sovereignty was attributed to leaders of various ethnic groups in the country. While explaining that it took the nation lots of battle to gain its sovereignty and such leaders must be willing to play an active part in maintaining the peace of the world and in preserving civilization; the prime minister had hoped that Nigeria would outgrow its difficulties.

For the founding fathers of this nation, Nigeria had all it needs to ensure a smooth journey to nationhood. But again, despite the huge challenges ahead, our founding fathers were equally aware of the fact that with resilience and patriotism, the nation stands a better chance of navigating over its challenges to foster socio-economic advancement, integration and national development.

After 62 years today, Nigeria has in the words of some scholars derailed from the rudiments of its developmental anticipations. Unlike other struggling nations of the world where its leaders have continued to sacrifice for their country, the elites in Nigeria are not thinking along this direction. Our nation is for the first time in decades polarized along tribal, regional and religious lines creating great division and incise baseless sentiments which are destroying our quest for unity of purpose.

Of major concern however, is the magnitude of corruption and other acts of personal aggrandizement perpetrated with impunity by public officers. It is only in Nigeria that we hear stories of snakes and monkeys swallowing monies and or a single individual stealing over 200 billion and is left walking on the street almost a freeman.

Statistics have rightly indicated in most recent times that had all the stolen and recovered monies from our national treasury been put to use, most of our infrastructural and institutional deficits and or challenges would have by now gone with the wind. Sad enough, after decades of our nation's liberation from the shackles of colonial subjugation, Nigeria is yet to find its footings. Our leaders have also failed to carry us along due to the obvious fact that they lack some fundamental leadership qualities.

It is very embarrassing that with both the human and natural resources we are blessed with, the citizens have continued to suffer some systematic deprivations. It is

significantly a shame that in the past seven months, our children have remained at home due to irreconcilable differences between the government and members of the Academic Staff Unions of Nigerian Universities. This issue which started in 2009 has lingered for decades without our leaders doing anything about it. This lack of efficient dispute resolution mechanism to help end the crisis in our tertiary institutions have led to the present unpleasant situation which we have found ourselves in.

Our children are languishing at home without any hope for better tomorrow because our leaders do not have them at heart. After all, since all their children are studying abroad, many of them would not mind sinking our epileptic tertiary institutions back home.

Beyond this, we also have many other issues to deal with. Sincerely, for the fact that Nigeria has survived many economic recessions does not mean that we are out of the woods. Even though we have a national economic team mandated with the responsibility of channeling our potentials for the benefit of all, it seems that they are overwhelmed by these circumstances which has befallen us as a nation. Beyond our going back to the drawing board mentality, its high time we begin to ask ourselves some fundamental questions considering the efficiency and efficacy of our economic team even as they struggle to pull us out of the woods.

Though in the past few months, Nigeria has witnessed small improvement in its operational obligations against terrorists and other criminal gangs across the country, the nation is at its most trying moments.

Though the incumbent administration rightly inherited some of the security problems which we are battling to overcome; it should also be blamed for not taking the bull by the horn when it mattered most. Most times, even after fingers have been pointed on the hierarchy of our security agencies; no proper investigations are conducted to fish out alleged looters of these resources.

However, it is unacceptable that despite the magnitude of security agencies at our disposal, kidnappers and armed robbers have continued to take us for a ride in this country. Consequently, each time I come across video clips of kidnappers torturing their innocent victims, it becomes disgusting that such criminal elements can hold the giant of Africa this long without devastating consequences on their side.

As it is, 62 years of our nationhood has left much to be desired in times of developmental expectations which has left us like orphans as far as impactful global engagements are concern. In factual terms, Nigeria's foreign policy framework has not served its intended purposes bearing in mind, how the citizens of this country have been brutalized in foreign land with impunity.

As Nigeria speed past its 62nd independence celebrations, our leaders must have a rethink and practicably come to terms with the reality of the fact that the political class has failed. What we need to do to move this country forward is genuine repentance and patriotic display of selfless strategic methodologies for our holistic development. We must also prove a point particularly to our children who are leaders of tomorrow that Nigeria is worth dying for by doing the needful. Let's therefore celebrate this epoch making event with great enthusiasm hoping for the best in the interest of all.

Feature

Yarima clinches UN Peace Ambassador's award

By Bulus Gambo

This year's United Nations International World Peace Day 2022 and Conferment of Award Ceremony was witnessed by people from all works of life who took time to attend. Held at the National Merit Award House, Maitama in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, the occasion was organized by the Advanced Peace and Reconciliation Center of Nigeria under the auspices of the United Nations and intended to recognize women and men in Nigeria who have contributed their quota towards the fight against human rights violations and sustainable peace around the globe. Indeed, the United Nations had devoted the day to strengthening the ideals of peace through the observance of a 24 hours global ceasefire with great hope that one day, we will all witness non-violence and cease-fire in our lives. Therefore, the beneficiaries of this distinguished awards were drawn from the top military hierarchy, police officers of unquestionable character, civil liberties organizations and journalists who have distinguished themselves in their anticipated obligations.

Interestingly, one of the award recipients was Mrs. Jennifer Yarima, the immediate past Chairman of Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, (NAWOJ), Plateau State chapter. Yarima, who is the Features Editor of the Nigeria Standard newspaper is an elegant example of a contemporary woman with a rare quintessence of a responsible and translucent leader. The former NAWOJ chairman throughout her six year stint with the association and only stepped down from office last month was able to create a niche for herself as one valuable individual who logically believes in the notion that "what a woman cannot do, no man can be able to do same in any aspect of human endeavor."

Without mincing words, this virile woman of high repute has in the past decade been known to have unabatedly championed the course of a voice for the voiceless; fighting to uphold the rights of the downtrodden women and children both in Plateau State and the nation at large. As a result of this, she was severally docked during court proceedings while standing firmly in defense of violations of the fundamental human rights of some of these oppressed citizens of our society.

Born on 15th January 1968 in Gindiri, in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State, Mrs. Yarima who hails from Abwor-Dyis village in Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State attended Kabong RCM Primary School in Jos North Local Government Area of the state between 1974-1980.

Yarima subsequently progressed to Pankshin Community Secondary School Jing between



Amb. Jennifer Yarima

1980-1985 where she obtained her General Certificate of Education, (GCE). After her graduation, she proceeded to the famous School of Preliminary Studies (SPS) Keffi in now Nasarawa State between 1988 and 1990 before writing the Interim Joint Matriculation Board Examinations (IJMB) in 1990 which saw her gained admission into one of the most respected citadel of learning in the country, the University of Jos where she obtained BA Religious Studies in 1993.

Mrs. Yarima on completion of this study went for her National Youth Service Corps between 1994-1995 where she served at Ezra Foundation in Maiduguri, Borno State.

In pursuit of further educational excellence, she subsequently enrolled for Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism with the Nigeria Institute of Journalism, (NIJ) Jos in 1998 which professionally redefined her intellectual approach within the framework of ethical practice and considerations when analyzing contemporary developmental issues particularly within media domain for sustainable growth of the nation.

Unlike some of her contemporaries, though Mrs. Yarima had no premonition of working in the media industry, she got an employment opportunity to work with the Nigeria Standard newspapers, one of the distinguished

establishments created by a visionary leader of the Middle Belt region, Police Commissioner Joseph Gomwalk of blessed memory. Having the privilege to start her journalism career there was a thing of pride as the organization is known to have produced many media gurus in the likes of Dan Agbese who is a prolific writer in his own right, former Press Secretary to the late General Sani Abacha, Chief David Attah, former Minister of Information, Labaran Maku, Former Minister of State Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Solomon Ewuga, Member House of Representatives and BBC correspondent Rima Shawulu and a former General Manager of the organization, Nde Jonathan Ishaku amongst others.

While in the Nigeria Standard, Mrs. Yarima did not only get deeply rooted in her chosen career but also learned leadership qualities which later helped her in administering and withstanding the heat of many official obligations on her path to greatness. Some of these experiences which sharpened her leadership qualities led to the tremendous records she achieved in Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) and other life's endeavors. Back home, Mrs. Yarima had the privilege of becoming the Vice Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Plateau Publishing Chapel between the years 2000-2006.

The catalogue of achievements

would never be complete without mentioning her specific roles and contributions to the growth of Christendom. Jennifer Yarima, an Elder with the Church of Christ in Nations, LCC, (COCIN) Nasarawa Gwong Jos, is also serving in other various capacities within the church. These include, Patron, Boys Brigade Nigeria, 18th Jos North Battalion Company, leader, Women Fellowship, (COCIN), LCC Nassarawa Gwong and was the Chairman, Central Planning Committee, 50th Anniversary celebrations of the church as well as the Assistant Secretary of the Church Council spanning eight years.

Due to her sincere commitment and honestly, Mrs. Yarima was unanimously voted as the fourth President of the Plateau Publishing Corporation's Multipurpose Cooperative Society. Indeed, this woman of virtue successfully navigated the society into greater reckoning which necessitated the members to unanimously endorse for second term in office which she has just began.

Just recently and in another milestone, Mrs. Yarima was nominated to serve as the chairman of the Central Planning Committee of the Plateau State Cooperative Federation, (PLASCOFED), where she distinguished herself by organizing an epoch making event ever held in the annals of the federation's history. But again, as a human rights activist

and gender equality promoter, this wonderful woman has continued to seek for justice for many vulnerable women and children whose fundamental human rights have been subjugated and violated through orthodox and cultural myths and traditions in our society. Following her sincere commitment to this cause, Mrs. Yarima was invited to Nairobi Kenya, where she participated in a seminar organized for like-minds and selected women from Sudan, Namibia, South Africa, DR Congo, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Nigeria.

Held at the Radisson Blu Hotel Nairobi and under the watchful eyes of Liberia's Leader of Non Violent Peace Movement during the dictatorial and brutal regime of one of the country's fearful leader, Charles Taylor, Leymah Gbowee; the theme which dwelled on "Women Peace and Security" reappraised traumatizing disposition of African women considering their vulnerability in the continent. This rare experience motivated her into getting deeply involved in addressing some obnoxious and fallacious societal myths and beliefs which had held vulnerable women captive within her areas of anticipated obligations.

This development through selfless service and dedication to promoting gender equality and create enabling environment for sustainable development, peace and tranquility led to her emergence as the Chairman of Jos Stakeholders Center for Peace in Plateau State.

Mrs. Jennifer Yarima has also distinguished herself in journalism profession where her passion remains so strong. By the grace of God, Yarima who is presently the Features Editor of the Nigeria Standard newspaper was amongst others the pioneer staff and Women Editor of The Light Bearer newspaper, a publication of the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), a newspaper widely read in all the 36 states of the federation, Abuja and other countries of the world where the church has its branches.

No doubt, over the years, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima who has had a humble beginning is impacting a lot of vulnerable women and children and contributing to the integration of the heterogeneous and multifaceted ethnic nationalities in the country. Mrs. Jennifer Yarima, who had the opportunity of visiting the Holy land, Israel on pilgrimage in 2010 has also visited other countries in the likes of Niger Republic, Turkey, Egypt, Ghana, Benin Republic, Togo and Kenya. She is always regarded a woman of vision, a leader, great companion to work with and one who has continued to create a niche for women in this country in her field of endeavor.



62nd 'Independence to be celebrated with pomp, pagendary'

Shortly after attending the 45th Agricultural 5-day Summit hosted by Plateau State from September 12-15 at Langfield Event Centre Jos, that drew stakeholders from across the 36 states of the Federation and the FCT, Governor Simon Bako Lalong traveled to be part of the Nigerian delegation for the 77th General Assembly of the United Nations UNGA77 in New York which was led by President Mohammedu Buhari.

However despite his absence, activities at the Government House continued with the hosting of former Governor of the State, Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye, who returned home last week, after a Presidential state pardon.

Dariye who is also a former Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria had led his wife and former First Lady Valentina, political associates, and well-wishers cutting across political lines on a courtesy and 'Thank you' visit to Plateau Government House to mark his first visit to his state after his years of incarceration in prison.

He was received by the Secretary to the Government of the State (SGS), Prof. Danladi Atu, and key government officials on behalf of the Governor.

There was also a release of the arrangements and programme line-up of the celebrations of Nigeria's 62nd Independence in the state by the Commissioner for Information, Hon. Dan Manjang.

The 2022 62nd Independence celebrations in the state according to the Commissioner, is to be marked with "Fanfare, pomp and pageantry" with Pre-Independence Prayers to be held on Sunday, 25th September, 2022 at the St. Peter's Cathedral, Anglican Communion, Bukuru Diocese at 10.00 a.m and a Pre-Independence Muslim prayer to be held on Friday 30th September, 2022 at the Jos Central Mosque at 2.00 p.m.

It is also to be marked with a parade by the Military, Police and selected para-military agencies, Primary, Secondary Schools and Voluntary Organizations on Saturday 1st October, 2022 at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos at 8.00 a.m, including the 62nd Independence golf kitties and novelty football match, with details to be made available in the course of this week. The Governor is also scheduled to parley with a cross section of the media, as parts of events for the occasion.

Already, the Governor, represented by SGS Atu was part of the first event which is the Special Pre Independence Day Interdenominational Prayers and Thanksgiving Service held at the St. Peter Cathedral Anglican Communion, Bukuru Diocese on Sunday.

Also in attendance at the event was the Head of Plateau State Joint Traditional Council, The Gbong Gwom Jos, government officials from the Judiciary, executive and legislative arms

including Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, Special Advisers, Heads of Parastatals and other stakeholders.

While praying to God to help Nigeria surmount its security and other challenges, the Governor in his message during the prayers urged citizens of the state to come out en-masse to participate in the 2023 general elections.



News

Yilwatda interfaces with Jos East stakeholders

AHEAD of the October deadline for commencement of campaign for the 2023 general elections, the Plateau State APC Gubernatorial Candidate Dr Nentawe Yilwatda has interfaced with village holders in Jos East Local Government Area.

The APC Gubernatorial flag bearer, Dr Yilwatda who addressed Village holders at the MDGs Hall Angware in continuation of his consultation with the electorate, unveiled that his team decided to adopt bottom-top approach to meet with the people across the Wards and Polling Units in the State.

Dr Nentawe who used the opportunity to appreciate delegates from Jos East for giving him Bloc votes during the primary election, solicited that the same team spirit be accorded him during the Secondary election.

The APC candidate pledged to live above board if given the mandate.

The Gubernatorial hopeful who was flanked by his wife, his running mate, Pam Botmang, Director General, Generation Next level Movement campaign Council, team members and Party Officials as well as Supporters, pledged to address the State's economy, by deploying 10 percent of the State's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) to tackle issues of youths, women, and people living with disabilities.

Earlier, Chairman, Jos East Local Government Council, Yakuku Ezekiel, commended

the APC Governorship flag bearer for choosing capable hands to champion the campaign team, and solicited that the major roads linking Jos East with the outside world be put into consideration when voted into office. He showered accolades on the Lalong led rescue administration for placing its foot print in the sands of time.

Contributing, Director General of the generation next campaign council, Professor Sebastian Maimako who is the former Vice Chancellor, University of Jos, called on the people of Jos East and Plateau State to ensure their PVCs are handy to vote for Dr Nentawe in order to get the best of the dividends of democracy.

State APC Chairman Rufus Bature through the State APC Northern Zonal Chairman, Agwom Atang Azi and State APC Women Leader, Alice Dimlong in their

separate remarks said the campaigns are yet to commence but the need to interface with the people across the state to unite and support APC Candidates to succeed in the 2023 general election.

Others who spoke at the event include: Jos East APC Chairman, Gideon Azi Nyako, Vice Chancellor, Plateau State University Bokokos, Professor Yohanna Izam, APC Candidate for Jos East State Constituency, Isah Madaki Ajiji, representative of Village holder of APC and women leader among others.

Highlight was the commissioning of APC party office at Angware, jointly donated by the Vice Chancellor Plateau State University Bokokos, Prof Yohanna Izam, Markus Buba and Arum Ajiji, while Asharuwa dancers spiced up the event.

Chairman scores Tinibu's movement high

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Bala Usman has encouraged political support groups for Bola Ahmed Tinibu to remain focus in presentations so as to woo more supporters for the party against the 2023 general elections.

He gave the advised when he received the Plateau State Chapter of APC National Affiliated Campaign Movement for Bola Ahmed Tinibu on a courtesy visit in his private resident in Jos recently.

The Chairman who was

represented by the Secretary to the Council, Pastor Gyang Chollom applauded members of the group for self sacrifices and scored them high in terms of strategy, planning and executions.

Delivering a key note address, the Chairman of the forum, Iliya Banfa expressed optimism that the appointment of the Executive Governor of the State, Barrister Simon Bako Lalong, a leader who carried everybody along has brightened the Chances of the

THE 149 National Executive Council (NEC) of the Laity Council meeting, has decried the state of things caused by poor leadership blaming the inability of leaders to rise to their responsibilities and urged Catholic to apply the Catholic teaching of extensive and complex issues in all spheres of life.

This came in a press statement signed by its National President, Hon. (Sir) Henry H. Yunkwap KSJI, JP and the Acting National General Secretary of the Catholic Laity Council Nigeria, Mr. Godwin A. Gege, and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital Monday.

The meeting which has as its theme: "Revitalizing our Catholic Faith for Political Stability and Enhanced

party in the coming elections.

Banfa praised the council Chairman for his determination and commitment to deliver the dividends of democracy to his people.

In a vote of thanks, the supervisory councilor for Social Services, John Arin advised against politics of religious and tribal sentiments and urged the group to be magnanimous in giving every body what belongs to him when opportunities come.

Laity Council decries failure in Nigeria's leadership

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

Nigeria", disclosed that "after an in-debt deliberation at different sessions, the Council resolved as follows: that the problem of Nigeria is the failure of leadership; the inability of our leaders to rise up to their responsibilities.

"The Council, therefore, urge Catholics to study and apply the Catholic social teachings to extensive and complex issues in all spheres of life so that, being involved in the political developments in Nigeria, will be able to revitalize our Catholic faith for Political stability in the Nation.

"Council joins her voice to that of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) to urge all Catholic lay faithful and Nigerians in general to be honest and have a conscience and rise above the sentiments of political parties, support and vote for the best candidates whose manifestos and economic blueprint can lead Nigeria out of her present quagmire.

"The electorate must consider the age, health status, intellectual sagacity, and grasp of developmental paradigm shift in choosing their next leaders. The Lay Faithful are encouraged to take up evangelization in order to promote the common good of the church and not to relinquish their participation in public life because it is necessary to achieve their task for Christ ", it

stated. achieve their task for Christ ", it stated.

The Council, therefore, condemned the unjustifiable and unprovoked attack on facilities, abduction and gruesome murder of Catholic priests, religious leaders, lay faithful and innocent Nigerians in general, calling on the Federal government to rise to her statutory obligation of protecting life and property of her citizens.

The Council also enjoined the Federal Government to note that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) was seeking the common good of Nigerian students, lecturers and the university system in its entirety and should yield to all reasonable demands of the striking university lecturers. They said, "the "No work no pay" policy should be rescinded to alleviate the plight of the families of the affected university lecturers".

It, however, called on government at all levels to create employment opportunities and make same available to all categories of employable and creative youths and not just the children of the "high and mighty. They also admonished the youths that were caught up in the web of "get rich quick" syndrome to explore and exploit their God-given talents for positive things rather than negative purposes.

Sports

Liverpool, Chelsea desperate to sign Bellingham

By JAMES ROBSON

JUDE Bellingham is set to leave Borussia Dortmund at the end of the season. A bidding war is inevitable. Jude Bellingham can take his pick of clubs next season. It is as straightforward as that for the 19-year-old with the world at his feet and the giants of his game banging at his door.

Manchester United love him, Liverpool want him to inject youth and sparkle into an ageing midfield, while Manchester City know they are likely to have to replace at least one of Bernardo Silva or Ilkay Gundogan next summer.

Chelsea, too, are long-term admirers and have shown under their new owners that they're not afraid to splash the cash.

Article continues below

Bellingham, then, is quite simply the player every top Premier League club is prepared to battle it out for when he likely leaves Borussia Dortmund at the end of the season.

But who's going to sign the most in-demand young player in world football? **GOAL** analyses what the future holds for Bellingham.

Bellingham knows his worth

First things first, there is no guarantee the teenager from Stourbridge will even opt for a homecoming just yet. After all, he already resisted the overtures of Sir Alex Ferguson, Bryan Robson and Eric Cantona when United threw everything they had at trying to tempt him away from Birmingham in 2020.

Bellingham knows his worth, knows his own mind – and has the assuredness of someone much older than his tender years to follow his own path.

Dortmund, he decided, was a better environment to develop his prodigious talents than Old Trafford.

Erling Haaland thought likewise when being courted by United at around the same time – and it didn't turn out too badly for him.

So, like Haaland, Bellingham is set to be at the centre of an almighty transfer scramble when he leaves Dortmund – but don't rule out Bayern Munich, Real Madrid, Barcelona or Paris Saint-Germain, if he concludes that a return to England is not the right move for him.

Ready for the next step

Something that does seem certain is that he will be ready for the next step come the end of the season.

He gave a tantalising glimpse of his qualities in Dortmund's Champions League defeat to City earlier this month, scoring at the Etihad and imposing himself on Pep Guardiola's star-studded team.

He feels like the man to take England to the next level ahead of the World Cup, with Gareth Southgate facing scrutiny during this international window over how he handles the midfielder.

Indeed, there are growing concerns that the manager's conservative tactics are stifling



2021 - Jadon Sancho to Manchester United; 2022 - Erling Haaland to Manchester City; 2023 - Jude Bellingham to ?

Bellingham's immense talent.

The future of England

Bellingham's versatility is a strength and has allowed Southgate to keep him involved over the past 18 months – but he needs to be given a defined role in the team.

A midfield three with Declan Rice and Phil Foden would breathe life into an area of the pitch where England too often look short of inspiration – but would the risk-averse Southgate really veer so far away from the extra protection added by a Jordan Henderson or Calvin Phillips?

Mason Mount instead of Foden might provide more of a half-way house – but the Chelsea player's best performances have come in a more attacking role for club and country.

The feeling is that Bellingham is the future of England and that the midfield now needs to be built around Bellingham but, as once again underlined in last week's 1-0 loss to Italy, which relegated the Three Lions from the top tier of the Nations League, there are significant doubts over whether Southgate is capable of getting the very best out of the nation's best attacking talents.

Still, there is a growing clamour for Bellingham and Rice to make up two thirds of any England midfield at the World Cup. How Southgate chooses to supplement them is, of course, up to him. It's a decision that will likely define both England's tournament and, by consequence, the manager's legacy.

What's clear, though, is that if Bellingham shines in Qatar, Dortmund can effectively name their price for their most valuable asset.

He is already considered a

potential era-defining talent. If he were to leave his mark on the 2022 World Cup, Bellingham will likely be a £100 million (\$110m) player by this time next year, which narrows the field of potential destinations significantly...

United's hopes

Erik ten Hag still feels he is short of a ball-carrying midfielder after admitting defeat in the lengthy pursuit of Frenkie de Jong.

United are still monitoring the Netherlands international's situation at Barcelona and plan to renew their interest – but Bellingham's imminent availability could prompt a change of direction.

He could be deemed more marketable for a club that has prided itself on having England's star midfielders at the heart of its teams down through the years, from Sir Bobby Charlton to Bryan Robson and David Beckham.

But they will need to show genuine progress under Ten Hag to eradicate the doubts Bellingham clearly felt when last being courted by the club.

A defined style, trophy prospects and evidence of players actually improving under Ten Hag's guidance will be key factors.

The Sancho effect

Jadon Sancho could either be a help or a hindrance in that regard.

The winger, who made the move from Dortmund to United in the summer of 2021, became the latest marquee signing to stall at Old Trafford, resulting in him losing his England place.

While he was an inspiration to Bellingham before moving to the Westfalenstadion, he cannot have failed to see Sancho's difficulties since returning to English football with United.

But Ten Hag has already had an impact on Sancho. He's scored three goals this season and is responding to the attentions of his new manager.

Should his development continue on an upwards trajectory, it could positively influence Bellingham's thinking.

Liverpool leading the chase?

In many ways, Liverpool feel like an ideal fit for Bellingham – and it is easy to see why Jurgen Klopp is such an admirer.

The German needs the energy of youth in a midfield that is showing signs of creaking this season.

Jordan Henderson, James Milner and Thiago Alcantara are all over 30 – and have a combined age of 99.

Klopp was prepared to wait for the right target, with Bellingham widely considered to be that man – but so alarming was Liverpool's start to the campaign that a loan move for Arthur was hastily completed before the window shut.

The Brazilian is nothing more than a stop-gap solution. Liverpool's No.1 target remains Bellingham. But would the often-frugal FSG really be willing to enter a bidding war for the 19-year-old with some of England's and Europe's elite?

Of course, they have been prepared to spend big before, breaking the record both for a centre-back and a goalkeeper after determining Virgil van Dijk and Alisson as must-haves – and Bellingham could well fit that description.

It will also be fascinating to see if Klopp and Liverpool can maintain their allure if we are witnessing the start of a transitional period post-Sadio Mane – and the natural decline of players who have been pivotal to

their recent success.

City's dream team

Conversely, while Liverpool may be on the slide, City look primed to dominate for years to come – thanks in no small part to the signing of Bellingham's former Dortmund team-mate Haaland.

It would be difficult for any young player not to be excited by the prospect of joining Pep Guardiola's serial winners.

Haaland has shown the possibilities of what can happen when brilliant individual talent combines with such a devastatingly fluid machine.

For Bellingham, there would be the allure of playing alongside the unrivalled midfield qualities of Kevin De Bruyne and the chance to hone an understanding with Foden, England's other great hope.

In addition, Gundogan is out of contract next summer and Bernardo came close to leaving in this window, so there will potentially be room for a major signing to come in as a replacement.

City, too, have already proven they are prepared to pay £100m for a player (Jack Grealish) – the only English club ever to do so.

Chelsea's ambitious new owners

Chelsea make up the quartet of Premier League sides with a realistic ambition of landing Bellingham.

By the end of the season both N'Golo Kante and Jorginho will be out of contract. Rice remains a long-term target – but is also valued in excess of £100m.

Committing to both England men would be a major statement from new owners, Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital – but midfield is undoubtedly an area in need of overhaul.

The truth is there is a case to be made for Bellingham to solve problems at any of the Premier League's big four and beyond.

Sports



Giron has never reached the final of an ATP event before

San Diego Open:

Evans loses semi-final against Giron

BRITAIN'S Dan Evans missed out on a place in the San Diego Open final as he lost 6-3 7-5 to Marcos Giron.

BBC SPORTS said that, World number 25 Evans failed to convert three break points in the fifth game of the first set and was immediately broken by American Giron.

World number 58 Giron, who hit 11 aces, broke Evans again at 5-5 in the second set before serving out the match.

"I played twice and he'd beaten me twice, so I knew it was going to be a hell of a tough match," Giron said.

"But I'm really happy with the way I played under pressure. That's kind of why I'm here."

Giron will play American world number 69 Brandon Nakashima, who beat Australian Christopher O'Connell 6-4 7-6 (7-3), in Sunday's final.

"It feels amazing. It's the first final that I've made this year and no better place to do it than in my hometown San Diego," Nakashima said.

"I feel confident with my game right now and I'm looking forward to [the final] tomorrow."

Meanwhile, Great Britain's Emma Raducanu is out of the Korea Open after retiring injured from her semi-final against top seed Jelena Ostapenko.

The 19-year-old took a medical timeout during the second set as she struggled with a left glute injury.

She carried on as Ostapenko claimed the second set but conceded the match to the Latvian at 4-6 6-3 3-0.

Ostapenko will face second seed Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia, who beat

Germany's Tatjana Maria 6-2 6-4.

British number one Raducanu, who was playing in her first semi-final of a regular WTA Tour event, has struggled with various injuries and has retired mid-match on a number of occasions since winning the US Open in 2021.

After a nervy first service game where she was broken by the former French Open champion, Raducanu regained composure to break back immediately and claim a

decisive break at 4-4 and then served out the set.

However, Ostapenko, who had edged ahead in the second set before Raducanu took her off-court medical timeout, took control of the match when the Briton returned to court but continued to grimace in pain.

After securing the second set 6-3, the 25-year-old raced 3-0 ahead in the third when Raducanu called it a day.

Raducanu had beaten Polish third seed Magda Linette in the quarter-finals to claim three wins in a row for the first time since her US Open victory last year.

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

PANKSHIN Local Government Area was agog on Saturday the 24 September 2022 as athletes from all over Nigeria stormed to compete in the 21 kilometers Marathon Race, tagged Pankshin Hill Race, organized by Bet9ja.

The Marathon Race featured over one hundred Marathoners who came out to compete for the different prizes to be awarded for the championship.

Speaking during the tournament, the Executive Chairman, Pankshin Local Government Council, Katmena Gotteng, through the Council Secretary, Edward Sunkur, expressed happiness with the organizers for choosing the Local Government Area to host the event, noting that, that will elevate the area and commended the athletes for conducting themselves during and after the tournament.

"As you all know, the athletes came in from

DOUBLE Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge has broken his own men's marathon world record at Sunday's race in Berlin.

BBC SPORTS said that, the 37-year-old Kenyan crossed the line in a time of two hours, one minute and nine seconds, to beat by 30 seconds his previous best, set four years ago in the German capital city.

He had previously taken one minute 20 seconds off compatriot Dennis Kimetto's 2014 record of 2:02.57 in Berlin.

Kipchoge had played down his chances of a world record in the build up.

"I am happy with my preparation and I think I was so fast because of the teamwork. Everything is down to teamwork," he said.

"What motivates me is my family and I want to inspire young people. Sport unites people and that is what motivates me."

On an overcast day in

Kipchoge breaks own marathon world record

Berlin, Kipchoge, who has now won 15 of his 17 career marathons, ran the first half of the 26.2-mile race in 59 minutes, 51 seconds, prompting thoughts that he may become the first runner to break the two-hour mark in an official race.

He has run a marathon in under two hours, in Vienna in 2019. However, that was not recognised as the official world record because it was not in open competition and he used a team of rotating pacemakers.

When asked whether he would attempt a sub-two hour run in Berlin next year, Kipchoge replied: "Let us plan for another day."

"I will celebrate this record

and have to realise what happens. Just roll and see what happens."

Andamlak Belihu was the only runner able to keep up with Kipchoge, who set a blistering pace from the start, but the Ethiopian dropped back around 17 miles into the race.

It is a fourth victory in Berlin for Kipchoge, matching Ethiopia great Haile Gebrselassie's record.

Fellow Kenyan Mark Korir was second, four minutes and 49 seconds behind Kipchoge, with Ethiopian Tadu Abate third.

In the women's race, Ethiopia's Tigist Assefa ran the third fastest time in history to set a course record of 2:15.37.



Kipchoge claimed his fourth Berlin Marathon victory

Mu'azu, Vera wins Bet9ja Marathon race

various states of the country to participate in the tournament, so it is not a local event but a national one. I think this is a very big; national one. We are very happy with bet9ja for organizing the

championship," he said.

"We are very happy that, it was one of us here in Pankshin that emerged the winner, we congratulate Mu'azu Adamu for this great feat, he has been lifting the name of

Pankshin in all the events he participated, so our prayers is that let others emulate him, gradually he is growing older and we are expecting that some will also grow to take over from where he will stop", he ended

Also, David Paul, Super Agent, Bet9ja emphasized that the organization have passion for uplifting the young talents who are all over the country and it is one of their Cooperate Social Responsibility to ensure talents are harness and regarded.

"Actually, I had a dream that if I could get a platform, I will encourage athletes to do better and fortunately, Bet9ja have been supportive and giving me the enablement to achieve that. Bet9ja renders supports to so many sporting activities as their Corporate Social Responsibilities. So we choose long distance race because it is part of me."

"Next year we hope for a better edition, but before then, we have the Lagos City Marathon coming up;

we want to ensure we groom this athlete very well in order to perform well in the championship. The winner of today's championship has been competing in Lagos City Marathon, but after the training camp we will have with him, we will ensure he improves in the time he has been finishing in Lagos, then look towards any Olympic trials to enable him to be perfect", he said.

In their separate remarks, Shehu Mu'azu Adamu, who emerged the winner of the male category and went home with five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000) and Vera Yohanna Maisaje, who also clinched the female category and won Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000), thank God for giving them the grace to compete in the tournament, saying that their next target is to win the Anti corruption Marathon Race which will hold next week in Abuja.



David Paul, Bet9ja Super agent

Sports

'Settle your differences with aggrieved parties'

WORLD Football governing body, FIFA, has reportedly advised the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to reconcile its differences with aggrieved parties ahead of its elective congress scheduled for Benin City, Edo State on September 30.

Newsnow said that, Nigerian football has been in turmoil for the past two weeks, with legal battles casting doubts on the chances of the NFF elections holding as scheduled.

A Federal High Court in Abuja, led by Justice Inyang Ekwo, recently stopped the NFF election, ruling that all parties should maintain the status quo. He adjourned further proceedings until October 31.

His order followed a suit filed by the Professional Footballers Association of Nigeria (PFAN) against the NFF over unequal representation of all the five statutory bodies that make up the NFF in terms of voting rights and representation on the board, its congress and committees.

Another group, known as Nigeria Football Stakeholders, has also threatened to 'bomb' the election venue in Benin City, if the poll is not cancelled.

In a letter signed by Dogogo Johnbull and addressed to Sports Minister, Sunday Dare, the group warned that 'blood will flow' if they refuse to heed their demand. It claimed that the present NFF board, headed by Amaju Pinnick, committed so many atrocities.

The Guardian learnt yesterday that the NFF wrote to FIFA, alleging interference from several quarters in the build-up to its election in Benin City.

"FIFA actually replied NFF, who wrote to them that there is interference. But FIFA told them to go and reconcile with the aggrieved parties," a source close to the football body said yesterday.

MEANWHILE, the Professional Football Association of Nigeria (PFAN) has dispatched a letter to FIFA stating that: "As of today, the NFF is not a registered body and not known to the laws of



FIFA President

the land (Nigeria) as in FIFA, where it is registered under the Swiss laws."

The letter to FIFA dated September 25, made available to The Guardian yesterday, signed by the Deputy Secretary General/PFAN Secretary Project 2022 Task Force, Comrade Edema Fuludu, added: "Even the dominant 37 States Football Associations are not juristic personalities, yet they are the ones overriding the congress and foreclosing other members in connivance with the executive committee."

"PFAN has been part and parcel and voted in all previous congress and elections, including the 2014 and 2018 elective assembly in Warri and Katsina respectively. However, the union was barred from being part of the congress on August 18, 2022, in Lagos, which is not in agreement with Action 10.1 and 22 sub (D) to avoid the demands for Statutes Amendment from the Union."

"PFAN made an official complaint about the conduct of the former President, Amaju Pinnick, to the FIFA Ethics Committee in a letter dated October 14, 2021."

"Having exhausted the internal mechanism and excluded in the composition of the NFF board, its congress and sub-committees with one member (The State Football Associations) having 37 votes in the 44 member General Assembly and 11, out of 14 members on the NFF board;

and having failed to establish any internal arbitration process to resolve internal dispute hence, the NFF have adopted the conventional court as means of resolving issues as enshrined in Article 1.1 of the Statutes of the NFF, which the outgone board was beneficiary of a judgment of the Court of Appeal, Jos Division, in suit No CA/J/119/2016.

"On the strength of this, the PFAN Task Force approached the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, praying the court to address the issue on the skewed NFF Statutes, which imbalance in representation tilted towards 37 voting rights to one member (States Football Association Chairmen). With a pending matter in court in which the NFF was duly represented in several sittings so, they still proceeded with the activities to conduct the purported September 30, 2022 election."

"The claimants and the court will be helpless as it was in the light of the above that the court ordered on September 15, 2022, that the election be put on hold until the substantive matter is heard and resolved," PFAN stated.

Speaking with The Guardian yesterday, Fuludu said: "They are planning to undermine the court injunction, so we need to get forms 48 and 49 that will send anybody to jail. The outcome of the meeting tomorrow with the Sports Minister will determine a lot. So, after tomorrow we will know if the elections will hold or not."

SALIF Diao has alleged Mane left Liverpool because Klopp did not show him enough.

Goal revealed that, the Lion of Teranga joined Bayern Munich in the last transfer window after spending six seasons with the Reds. During that period, the Senegal international played 269 matches and scored 120 goals. He played a vital role as the Merseyside charges won every major club trophy in the last six seasons.

However, he opted to join the Bundesliga champions who paid his former club €41 million (£35m/\$43m).

Article continues below
Premier League Africans by numbers

Looking at the big numbers involving African players in the Premier League

Ex-Liverpool midfielder Diao has suggested Klopp should be partly blamed for the attacker's exit. "I think he has been here for a couple of years and I think at some point he thought he did not have the love that he needed really, here at Anfield," the now 45-year-old told the **Echo**.

"I'm not talking about the fans, for him, I think it was more with the manager."

"Things weren't really going on as they should be so that's why he decided to go for a new challenge. I think as a top player, every time you stay 4-5 years at a top club, sometimes it's good to go for a new challenge."

Klopp did not show Mane needed love- Diao

Liverpool have struggled for consistency this season. They are currently placed eighth on the log with nine points, from six matches while leaders Arsenal have secured 18 points.

Bayern Munich started the campaign strongly, but have failed to win their last four league outings. The Bavarians are now fifth on the table with 12 points from seven games, five less than leaders Union Berlin.

Mane has scored five goals in the 11 matches he has played for the Bavarians this season so far.

He is currently on international duty with Senegal. Mane was on target as the Teranga Lions defeated Bolivia 2-0 in their latest friendly match. On Tuesday, he is expected to feature in another international friendly, this time against Iran before embarking on club assignments against Bayer Leverkusen next on line.



Mane and Klopp



ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross - ICRC- (www.icrc.org) is an independent humanitarian organisation, neutral and impartial. Jos Sub Delegation is looking for a suitable candidate to fill the vacancy below

Logistician 1

Under the direct supervision of the Logistics Site Manager, the Logistician 1 provides technical and operational support in the areas of purchasing, warehousing, stock management and statistics, in accordance with the ICRC's logistics standards and local legislation. Can be sent for support to other Sub delegations for short term missions.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Coordinate transport with the contracted transportation company the transfer of goods from warehouse to other Sub delegations or to the distribution points.
- Follow-up on statistical reporting using Tableau application (MoPed, Dashboards for purchasing and Customer Service Desk (CSD))
- Maximizes the efficiency and effectiveness of the Vehicle Fleet through planned resource allocation in accordance with guidelines from Vehicle Fleet Manager.
- Ensures that administrative paperwork related to vehicles and drivers is handled in a professional manner and is in line with guidelines from Vehicle Fleet Manager.
- Manages, monitors and accountable for vehicle fuel supplies, including contingency planning.
- Establishes the spare parts inventory and carries out controls in accordance with ICRC guidelines.
- Supply-chain management and planning (manage and follow up on requests, provides customer desk service, and carries out related reporting) in case of Supply Chain Officer absence
- Participation in purchase planning (purchase orders, request orders, supplier files, etc.) and liaise with requesting department
- Designate Cash Transfer Program (CTP) focal point and participate in CTP activities in the field missions
- Implementation and follow-up for financial and administrative procedures
- Work with different tools such as Lotus Note, ProFiles, FleetWave, JDE/Oscar Light
- Understands and supervise the Performance Management & Development (PMD) activities of the employees under your supervision
- May be asked to perform tasks not covered in this job description and to provide support to other departments when necessary

Education and Experience Required

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Logistics or Business Administration or any equivalent field
- Minimum of 3 years' extensive experience in logistics management/coordination, preferably in Humanitarian or development work
- Excellent people management skills combined with the ability and desire to further develop staff capacity

Desired profile and Skills

- Fluent in written and spoken English and knowledge of local languages (Hausa, etc.) is an asset
- Expert level in computer skills, proficient in Microsoft Office software skills (outlook, Excel Power Point, Word)
- Effective multitasking skills with ability to coordinate and meet deadlines
- Possess strong analytical, communication and interpersonal skills

How to Apply

- Send Curriculum vitae, Application letter and NYSC Certificate to **ABJ_Recruitment_Services@icrc.org**
- Clearly indicate "**ABJ202200328 Logistician 1 JOS**" as the subject of your application (*Applications intended for this role without this subject will not be treated*)
- In the body of the mail, please indicate the following in the format as seen:
 - Qualification(s)
 - Current location
 - Languages you speak
 - Years of relevant experience

The deadline for the submission of applications will be 09.10.2022, 16:30hrs. Late application will not be considered

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Equal opportunities shall be provided to all employees and applicants for employment based on their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex, nationality, status, disability etc.

(Female candidates are encouraged to apply)

However, ICRC will not request for any monetary payments from applicants at any stage of the recruitment process

Neymar desperate to break Pele's goal record

NEYMAR is closing in on Pele's all-time goal record for Brazil, and the Paris Saint-Germain star is determined to make history as quickly as possible.

As things stand, the 30-year-old forward has found the target on 74 occasions through 120 appearances for his country. That return leaves him three efforts short of an iconic countryman that won the World Cup on three occasions during his glittering career and will be forever remembered as one of the very best to have ever played the game.

Neymar has told Telefoot of chasing down Pele: "God willing...I hope to get past him. I'm going to talk to my teammates about it and tell them to



Neymar and Pele

help me score so I can finally get there."

Pele struck 77 goals through 92 outings for Brazil, but his standing at the top of a notable chart is now under serious threat as a superstar of the present seeks to cement his own legacy.

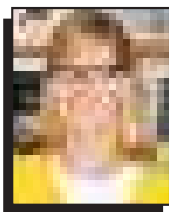
Change of Name

PETER

I formerly known as **WENG PETER DUNG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **WENG PETER BABALOLA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and general public should please take note.



Quest



writer

ELLEN W. GORSEVSKI

FRAGMENT

"By contrasting an attractive past grounded in nature with a plastic, uneasy present, Maathai encouraged Kenyans, Africans, and others within postcolonial nations to retrieve from their cultural past an understanding or a standpoint of ways that environmentally unsustainable practices harm both people and the environment. Maathai used historical facts to convey narratives of Western influenced and inequitable social structures and practices that were put in place to harm most Africans while only enriching elites".

ELLEN W. GORSEVSKI

Wangari Maathai: Greening Global Peace building

Continued from last week

For audiences internationally, Maathai invoked the macro scale of the planet to create a sense of wider community with all humanity and nature. In Maathai's ER, she frequently used trees as metaphors for peaceful change. In her discourses, trees function as tropes, bidding a cultural revival of traditional respect for nature. For instance, in her CC Commencement Address, Maathai urged the audience to "plant your saplings" and to appreciate the possibility that the audience might just have been "the only graduating class that has ever carried a living tree seedling at their graduation ceremony". She offered the fact that "every one of us needs eight trees to take care of the carbon dioxide that we exhale. I am very happy to know that at least every one of you graduates are taking care of your responsibilities. You [each] have one tree that you will plant to take care of the carbon dioxide that you exhale. You can also plant for others". In this passage, Maathai factually described trees, rendering them a means for audience members to act: she asked them to plant trees as a symbolic way to link environmental consciousness to a simple environmental action of planting a sapling, which is easy to do. In this way, Maathai helped to show that environmental activism is not a complicated process.

Leading up to her invitation to the college graduates to plant a tree sapling as a small, locally achievable environmental act, Maathai reminded the audience of their place in the larger cosmos, saying, "This little planet is our home". She reminded the audience of the American slogan, "reduce, reuse, recycle." She then linked the slogan to internationally shared norms of environmental awareness by noting the Japanese as a cultural model for attempting to cut waste associated with an "affluent" modern lifestyle; she urged a return to environmental consciousness in everyday practices, saying, "There is a [Japanese] Buddhist term called *mottainai* and this word means: Receive the resources with respect, receive resources with



gratitude. Do not waste resources". Here she encouraged the audience to see that waste of precious resources is an international problem, but one that can be stemmed with personal action at the local level: "It is what we do individually that is important". Further, she urged the audience "to decide to take the responsibility and I am very, very proud of the fact that in this country citizens do take responsibility. Citizens do decide to hold their leaders accountable and by doing that you become an inspiration for so many other people in the world". In asking the audience to respect local traditions like recycling, *mottainai*, and tree planting, Maathai linked shared normative activities that are grounded and emplaced at local, national, and international levels. She indicated that such activities root individuals in self-sufficient communities while fostering a sense of environmental responsibility. On a larger scale, she invited each audience member to be mindful of their connection to planet Earth and to other peoples and cultures on earth.

As a telltale sign of ER, Maathai's messages presented geographic, communal belonging as being perfectly in balance with belonging in the political order and governmental

systems. By recreating a sense of rootedness in the natural world, Maathai invited disenfranchised persons to participate in budding democratic patterns of social power and access. Stamp confirmed that Maathai "succeeded in putting the environment on [Kenya's] ... political agenda". By the time of her Nobel award as the very first environmentalist to receive the Peace Prize, she had also heightened the world's awareness, effectively making the environment an integral part in global peacebuilding.

In connecting the importance of how environmental activism is peace activism, Maathai invited audiences to understand in a visceral way the responsibility of each citizen to participate in working toward "positive peace," that is, a condition of peace with social justice. Maathai's ER asserted a belief that environmental justice upholds democratic social justice in three key ways: environmental management, resource allocation, and democratic institutions and practices. In her CC address, Maathai explained:

... for us to enjoy peace, we need to manage our resources more responsibly, more sustainably, more accountably, more transparently and we need to share these resources more equitably. Yes, we do. And that

the only way we can do so is if we learn to govern ourselves through systems and institutions that promote justice, that promote equity, that promote respect for the rule of law, that promote respect for human rights. Sometimes we call such systems democracy.

In this passage, words like "sharing," "accountably," and "human rights" point to strategies of peacebuilding that foster "democracy." Maathai emphasized the rightful place of people within the political schema was a place where people are responsible for both environmental and social justice.

Maathai used ER to represent environmental justice as a physical, cultural, and political locus in the public sphere. Maathai portrayed environmental awareness as means to occupy democratic space. For instance, Maathai used the metaphoric example of the substitution by Kenyans of "beautiful, colorful baskets of different sizes and types made from sisal and other natural fibers" with "flimsy plastic bags to carry their goods". Maathai described the place of the plastic bags as a metaphor for the negative aspects of globalization, such as the "focus on a cash economy and cash crops" that she maintained has impoverished life for Kenyans. Plastic substituted for sisal mirrored economic and social practices that have displaced people physically from nature, causing an "explosion of immigration" of villagers from rural areas to cities. Maathai painted the town plastic, as it were, lamenting: "These plastics litter the parks and streets, blow into the trees and bushes, kill domestic animals (when they swallow them inadvertently), and provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes. They leave the town so dirty it is almost impossible to find a place to sit and rest away from their plastic bags". The use of action verbs, "litter," "blow," and "kill" emphasizes the unsettling movement of the plastic across town in everyday life. Plastics make it nearly "impossible" to "rest," thus the

plastics seem to appear in this passage like an invading force. She implies there seems no proper place in nature for plastics. Statements such as these demonstrate how Maathai used ER to contrast the pre-colonial era in Kenya, in which people could thrive sustainably and use natural goods such as sisal, with the contemporary postcolonial phase, in which modern, artificial products such as plastics evoke environmentally unsustainable movements of people and products from place to place, such as from self-sustaining rural villages to cities swirling with trash.

By contrasting an attractive past grounded in nature with a plastic, uneasy present, Maathai encouraged Kenyans, Africans, and others within postcolonial nations to retrieve from their cultural past an understanding or a standpoint of ways that environmentally unsustainable practices harm both people and the environment. Maathai used historical facts to convey narratives of Western influenced and inequitable social structures and practices that were put in place to harm most Africans while only enriching elites. By letting historical and environmental evidence, rather than her own opinions, speak, her rhetorical strategy invited audiences to identify with her position. By providing copious evidence, readers could arrive at the conclusion that postcoloniality caused many of Africa's dysfunctions. For instance, Maathai described the colonial displacement of indigenous persons from their own lands:

To consolidate their hold on their new territories in Africa, during the first decade and a half of the 20th Century the European governments encouraged people of European descent—among them South Africans, Australians, Canadians, Britons, Germans—to settle in their colonies. In Kenya, these settlers began arriving in increasing numbers and the British authorities gave them land in the highlands.

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