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“Worst of insecurity is over”

The FG on Monday assured Nigerians that the worst of insecurity in the country was over.

It said the killing of 66 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists, arrest of 96, and surrendering of 3,407 were pointers to the fact that the

war against terrorists and other criminals was yielding positive results.

The government, also said that 52 civilians were rescued in the last four weeks, stating that the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway had been cleared of terrorists, bandits, and

kidnappers.

It added that despite the successes so far recorded, there would not be a cessation of hostilities against terrorists, kidnappers, and oil thieves.

But the assurance came less than a day after

gunmen killed a bus driver and abducted eight of his passengers in Rivers State. Also, terrorists detained a 'go-between, who delivered N7 million for the release of a Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in their custody.

These were made known

at a joint news briefing in Abuja by four Ministers and the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Gen. Leo Irabor.

Mohammed, who briefed reporters first, said: "As you are all aware, the issue of security has dominated our national discourse in recent times, against the

background of the terrorism, banditry, and kidnapping in the Northeast, Northwest, and Northcentral; separatist violence and crude oil theft in the Southeast and Southsouth as well as cultism, armed robbery and sundry crimes in the

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Special Adviser to the President, Femi Adesina (left) with Amb. Eze Ebere, National Patron of National Association of Nigeria, Students (NANS) on Monday after a visit on President Muhammadu Buhari to deliver a letter on the need to resolve the imbroglio between Federal Government and ASUU. PHOTO: STATE HOUSE PRESS, ABUJA

CAN denies meeting Tinubu

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has reiterated its position that it is opposed to the same-faith ticket in the 2023 presidential election.

The clarification, CAN said, followed the presence of the Presidential Candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Senator Bola Tinubu, at the 70th birthday celebration of the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto, Most Rev.

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Lalong, Tinubu unveil APC door to door campaign

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News

“Worst of insecurity is over”

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Southwest.

“We may not be there yet but our military and other security agencies have succeeded – and are succeeding – in substantially restoring security across the nation.

“As far as the daunting security challenges we face are concerned, we can tell you that the worst is over.

“Never again will terrorists and bandits and their cohorts hold sway in our country.

“We are not saying the battle is over. No. What we are saying is that our military and other security agents have been able to contain the daunting security challenges we face and that the worst is, indeed, over.

“We have now put the terrorists, bandits, and their ilk on the run and we will not relent until they have been crushed.

“I want to repeat, that

the worst is over and peace and security are gradually returning to the land.”

Magashi put the number of Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists killed by troops in the past month at 66

He said: “In the past four weeks, more than 3,407 Boko Haram terrorists, including members of their families, have surrendered.

“Additionally, 66 terrorists were neutralised, including one of the key ISWAP Commanders, Alhaji Modu Bem-Bem, and 20 of his fighters, while 55 were arrested and 52 civilians were rescued.

“The surrendered and arrested terrorists have been subjected to profiling and legal processes.

On the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway, he said “I am pleased to inform you that it has been secured through a combined effort of the Armed Forces, the

Police, and other security agencies.”

Police Affairs Minister Dingyadi said between July and August, the nation “recorded 773 armed robbery cases, 540 incidents of kidnapping, 3,994 other crimes.”

In his words: “The security situation in Nigeria has been reasonably stable in spite of activities of unpatriotic elements engaged in various criminal activities.

Aregbesola in his presentation, said the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) made 501 arrests, prosecuted 452 cases, and destroyed 71 illegal refineries.

On fire incidents across the country, he warned that “touts and undesirable elements” who obstruct firefighting trucks risked being killed.

APC won't descend to PDP's level -scribe

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) and its presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu have said they will not descend to the level of ‘rudderless’ Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) by engaging in insults and abuses, but rather focus on issues that are important to improving the quality of life of Nigerians.

The Director of Media & Publicity, APC Presidential Campaign Council, Mr. Bayo Onanuga, in a statement issued Monday said Tinubu's offence was that he reminded the PDP of its 16 years of cash and carry government which left the mess that the APC government has been clearing.

Tinubu had queried the moral basis for PDP's plot to return to power eight years after leaving thousands of uncompleted projects and commitments in trillions of Naira.

He had also added that a party still battling with leadership crisis and without a legacy of visionary planning has no place in Nigeria's future.

Tinubu stated: “They spent 16 years and forgot that there is a railway infrastructure that can do haulage, human carriage, animal and food carriage across the length and breadth of the country.”

“They (PDP) got there and turned it to an incubator. I wonder why they still exist as a party. These are people still fighting for leadership of their party, looking for the direction of the compass. We are not equal at all; we are smarter. We know the road; let them follow.

“We are not just the ones to hurl abuses and insults at our rivals' party. We don't need it. We are smarter; we are brilliant; we are courageous; we are not like them.”

However, the APC presidential candidate said instead of the intensely incapacitated PDP to respond to the clear issues raised by Tinubu, the party abandoned all decorum and hurled personal abuses at him.

Tinubu said this was usually the trademark of a party that has nothing to offer the people, saying that no decent person expects PDP to do better, adding that the party and its leaders were clueless as ruling party and still rudderless in opposition.

He noted: “We have had cause in the past to state our objective in the 5-month campaign leading to the 25 February, 2023 presidential election not to trade personal insults. Our party and our presidential candidate will focus on issues that are important to improving the quality of life of Nigerians.

“The PDP has again demonstrated that it has nothing to offer to better the lives of our people just like its sordid past in government. PDP only wants to keep its floundering campaign alive by engaging in groundless muckraking.”

Tinubu stressed that PDP and its ever clueless leaders did more shameful things, by declaring falsely that the governing party was dead, when they know it was the party that they needed to beat to realise the inordinate ambition of their “perennial candidate and perennially failed Atiku Abubakar.”

The former Governor of Lagos state said, PDP as a party, was not satisfied with this lie as it launched a chapter from its propaganda playbook that the APC government has achieved nothing when APC administration stellar achievements are there for even the blind to see.

Tinubu insisted that the current APC government has many achievements to be proud of unlike the PDP that squandered and plundered Nigeria's resources and could not even deliver a simple Second Niger bridge to the people of South East, that have always delivered votes for it since 1999.

He stressed that to the shame of PDP and eternal credit to APC, President Muhammadu Buhari will commission the bridge this year.

Tinubu said also this year, Buhari would complete the Lagos-Ibadan expressway, abandoned for 16 years by the PDP.

The presidential candidate said among its many laudable achievements, the current APC-led government has to its credit Lagos-Ibadan, Warri-Itakpe rail network and over 13, 000 kilometres of roads, including bridges at different stages of completion across the country.

According to him, this contrasted with the PDP years when in its first 10 years spent N633 billion on roads no one can see.

“The Buhari administration has completed no fewer than five airports and will take the credit for ensuring that the \$17 billion Dangote refinery and petrochemical complex and the \$3billion Lekki Deep Sea Port are accomplished.”

Tinubu said Buhari can point to unprecedented investments in agriculture through the Anchor Borrowers scheme for rice, maize, cotton and others, adding that under the APC-led administration, Nigeria became the biggest producer of rice in Africa and cut down Nigeria's rice and food import bill significantly.

He noted that the Buhari government would be eternally remembered for its unprecedented social investment programme that

has reduced poverty in the land and given hope to millions of vulnerable homes.

“Do we need to remind the PDP of the shame it wore as badge of honour every Christmas during its 16 years of mis-governance when Nigerians were made to queue to buy petrol? This ugly spectacle at the pumps disappeared in the last seven years.”

Tinubu said while the party acknowledged the new challenges of insecurity and the economy, they are being confronted squarely by the Buhari administration.

He added that he was already strategising on how to deal with the problems when he assumed leadership of the country as governing is a continuum.

Also, the ruling party said the main opposition party has proved itself as a party afflicted with chronic myopia, lacking in vision and incapable of recognizing the imperative of elevating the common good of the country above partisan quibbles.

The National Publicity Secretary of the party, Mr. Felix Morka, stressed that PDP's obsession with puerile partisanship blinds it to existential and strategic opportunities to heal old wounds, mend fences, and build bridges of national unity and harmony.

He said sadly, the PDP would rather fan the embers of hate and division.

Morka stated: “Asiwaju's consultative visit to the former President was a strategic move for national unity and cohesion, a move worthy of commendation and emulation.

“The infantile outburst on the Asiwaju/Jonathan parley by the same PDP that claims to be on a self-styled mission to unify Nigeria only betrays the party's extreme hypocrisy and folly.”

Morka noted that PDP's track record of 16 years of misrule and corruption remained indelible in the consciousness of Nigerians.

He said contrary to PDP's laughable claim that the duo of Tinubu and Sen. Kashim Shettima were distancing themselves from Buhari's administration, it was on record that this government deftly managed two economic recessions, and pulled the nation back from the precipice where PDP's years of atrocious rule left it hanging precariously.

“Our party and its presidential candidate are seeking the mandate of Nigerians to consolidate on the foundation of restoration and greatness that has been laid across all sectors by the Buhari administration. The PDP and its co-peddlers of hate and disunity cannot stop this noble aspiration,” Morka noted.

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Matthew Hassan Kukah, in Abuja.

According to the Christian body, Tinubu's presence at the event doesn't present a sign of recompense and change in CAN's opposition to Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket in the 2023 presidential election.

A statement signed by Special Assistant on Media to the CAN President, Luminous Jannamike, described as untrue and ridiculous, the insinuation that the new leadership of CAN might have soft pedalled on the issue of opposition against the Muslim-Muslim ticket adopted by the APC.

The association said that its “attention has been drawn to a media report titled, “How Tinubu Met, Resolved Muslim-Muslim ticket with CAN”, which claimed that the apex Christian pressure group body has changed its position regarding the same-faith ticket.

Jannamike said: “To say the least, the story is ridiculous, malicious, untrue and should be disregarded in its entirety by all reasonable members of the society.”

The CAN said that it took a position against the same-faith ticket imbroglio, under the leadership of Rev. Samson Ayokunle, its immediate past national president, adding that his successor, Archbishop Daniel Okoh, still stands on that same position.

It added that even though it might not agree with every decision taken by politicians and political

FG suspends 5% excise duty on telecom services

The Federal Government has suspended a five percent excise duty on telecommunications services in Nigeria.

Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Pantami, announced this on Monday during the inaugural meeting of the presidential committee on excise duty for the digital economy sector in Abuja.

The five percent excise duty is part of the provisions of the Finance Act 2020 which was not implemented. When implemented, the excise duty would rise to 12.5 percent.

Pantami had kicked against the excise duty saying it was passed without due consultation.

The minister said the sector is already overburdened by excessive and multiple taxations.

Pantami had earlier faulted the plan to implement the tax, but her counterpart in the Finance Ministry, Zainab Ahmed, had insisted that the federal government would go ahead to implement the five percent excise duty on telecommunications services.

Ahmed noted that all relevant agencies, including the communications ministry, were informed of

CAN denies meeting Tinubu

Okoh

parties, it respects their right to reach conclusions on issues that affect their electoral fortunes, so long as they accord with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) and the Electoral Act (2022).

“For the umpteenth time, CAN reiterates that it is non-partisan, but remains willing to partner with all leaders and other relevant stakeholders to achieve unity, peace and progress in our nation.

“Consequently, the umbrella Christian organisation cannot be antagonistic to any well-meaning political party or group as the nation warms up for a fresh round of elections in 2023 as claimed in the said report.

“In the same vein, it strongly condemn the attempt to make a mountain out of molehill with Bola Tinubu's presence at the 70th birthday celebration of

the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto, Most Rev. Matthew Hassan Kukah, in Abuja, the nation's capital”, it said.

CAN said that Kukah's birthday event was public and that friends of the celebrant and other good-spirited Nigerians donated to the building of The Kukah Centre, which is designed to be a veritable platform to propagate and promote the ideals of democracy and responsible leadership through research and intellectualism.

It added that the donations, which went directly to The Kukah Centre, had nothing to do with CAN.

“It is, therefore, mischievous to insinuate that it was a sort of bribe money for Christian leaders to make a U-turn on its stance against same-faith ticket. As a faith-based organisation, CAN maintains that its conscience cannot be bought and its prophetic voice cannot be silenced with money”, it said.

the implementation of the tax as approved by President Muhammadu Buhari.

“Against the comments by Isa Ali Pantami, honourable minister of communication and digital economy, concerning the five percent excise duty hike on telecoms services, it is worth noting that there was a circular stating the planned hike which was addressed to the communication minister and other relevant ministries and agencies of government.

“In view of the position of Prof. Pantami, there could be the question of whether he was absented in the whole processes that resulted in the Finance Act, which is a

product of both the National Assembly and Federal Executive Council.

“Suffice this to say that before the Act, the Finance Bill would have been through the FEC of which Prof. Pantami is a member and the National Assembly. In other words, he was involved in the making of the Finance Act which spells the said excise tariff hike policy”, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning had said in a statement.

The finance minister also faulted Pantami's disapproval, adding that he was involved in the Finance Act.

Five die in Jigawa boat mishap

No fewer than five people have been confirmed dead in a boat mishap in Martaba village of Gwaram Local Government Area of Jigawa State.

The incident was confirmed in a statement signed by the Jigawa State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Sale Tafida, through his Public Relations Officer, DSP Lawan Shisu Adam, and made available to journalists in Dutse yesterday.

According to the statement, September 2, at about 1900hrs, a locally made canoe conveying nine passengers was reported to

have capsized.

It said the incident happened at Martaba village in Gwaram LGA of Jigawa State, while the passengers were returning home after attending Juma'at prayer.

On receipt of the report, the statement said a team of policemen was rushed to the scene.

It said four of the passengers- Barkeji, 60, and three others from Martaba village were, however, rescued alive.



Nigeria's non-oil export as country's new lifewire

Even though Nigeria is well diversified in terms of people, culture, resources, and government revenue expectations, for many years now Nigeria has become almost totally dependent on the oil sector for its domestic and foreign financial earnings and expenditure. Musa Ilallah writes.

FOR the dire need to communicate effectively there is need to state that non oil export can be defined as those visible and invisible exports which do not form part of oil export but contribute to the growth of the total export which includes manufactured products, agricultural products, services, solid minerals like tin, coal and columbite, among others.

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has said that the non-oil sector's growth recorded recently indicates the country's growing resilience as well as decreasing susceptibility to shocks in the global oil market.

The Vice President who stated this in a keynote remark at a National Conference on Non-Oil Export in Abuja added: "in 2019, the year preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, non-oil revenue represented 92.68 per cent of our total gross domestic product, GDP."

The good news is that the Buhari administration is on track to making a significant difference in the Nigerian export market space.

The administration has undertaken an aggressive non-oil export growth strategy that is delivering practical results, with the Nigerian Export-Import Bank, NEXIM at the forefront of its

implementation. Established in 1991, NEXIM functions as an export credit agency that provides finance and risk-bearing services to exporters.

In 2017, President Muhammadu Buhari appointed a Management Team comprising technocrats with wide-ranging competencies and expertise to reposition NEXIM for a five-year term.

The Executive Director/CEO of Nigeria's Export Promotion Council, NEPC, Ezra Yakusak had disclosed recently that in spite of the global economic recession that affected most businesses last year, the non-oil sector recorded a significant growth of 4,146,534 metric tons of products valued at \$2.593billion of exports between January to June of 2022.

Presenting the country's first half-year progress report on the non-oil sector in Abuja, Yakusak stated that this represented a 62.37 per cent increase as against the sum of N1.59billion for the first half year in 2020 and 2021 which stood at \$981.442 million.

These figures were culled from the non-oil export performance reports of various pre-shipment inspection agents who are appointed by the Federal Government to determine the volume, value and destination of non-oil export.

The analysis from pre-shipment inspection agents indicates that January to June 2022 export performance is the highest half year non-oil export performance since 2018.

Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Zainab Ahmed had recently unveiled the details of what propelled a strong economic showing resulting in the attainment of Gross Domestic Product of 5.01 by Nigeria in the second quarter of 2021.

The Minister while presenting the economic performance index at a news conference in Abuja, described the second quarter GDP as the strongest growth in the economy since 2014.

Nigerian government is targeting to generate N3.96tn revenue from oil, non-oil sectors annually.

Available records show that more than 200 different products ranging from manufactured, semi processed, solid minerals to raw agriculture products were reported to have been exported in the period under review while the trend of products exported from Nigeria is gradually shifting from its traditional agricultural export to semi processed manufactured goods.

Nigerian products were exported to 112 countries USA, Asia, Europe, Oceania

regions and Africa. He pointed out that Brazil, the United States and India were the top three export destinations based on the value of their imports from Nigeria.

The traditional agricultural export commodities which have long-term export potential include cocoa, groundnuts, oil palm, cotton, and rubber, and the industrial activities include vegetable oils, textiles, cement, steel, motor vehicle assembly, chemicals and petrochemicals. Policy recommendations and areas for further work are suggested.

Apart from crude oil and gas, Nigeria's non-oil exports are dominated by raw materials and agricultural commodities. In the fourth quarter of 2021,

non-oil exports were dominated by urea, cocoa, sesame seeds, and aluminium alloys.

The top exports of Nigeria are Crude Petroleum, \$30bn; Petroleum Gas, \$5.89bn; Scrap Vessels, \$1.29bn; Special Purpose Ships, \$775m and Refined Petroleum, \$613mn and exported mostly to India, \$6.27bn; Spain, \$4.8bn; China, \$2.54bn; Netherlands, \$2.24bn and South Africa, \$2.17bn.

Nigeria is the ninth largest oil exporter in the world in terms of value. For the country, this means that about 90 percent of export value is generated by mineral fuels, oils, and distillation products.

Courtesy: Economic confidential





Business & Economy

Customers pay N92.2bn for N4.61tn PoS transactions – NIBSS

THE Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System recent data has revealed that Point of Sale (PoS) terminals transactions in the first seven months of the year totaled N4.61tn. Noting that, For withdraws or transactions between N1,000 to N5000 on PoS, about N100 fee is often charged. This brings the total cost charged for PoS transactions within the period to about N92.2bn.

While PoS terminals are not just for withdrawal purposes, they also serve as payment gateways, with customers paying for commodities and bills with their cards. Customers also pay about N1,00 for these transactions.

The National President, Association of Mobile Money Agents in Nigeria, Victor Olojo, confirmed charges raked in by the operators.

Data from the NIBSS also revealed that about 955,234 PoS terminals were deployed in the nation as of January 2022. PoS terminals were launched to promote a cashless economy in the nation and aid payment in rural areas.

The growth of mobile money and PoS terminals is evidenced by ready availability as it has become the most accessible form of payment.

According to a McKinsey report, there are four bank branches, 17 ATMs, and 147 POS devices for every 100,000 Nigerians.

Olojo added, "Agents are making a living out of this, a lot of things are happening. We have agents who have built houses, and who are earning from being an agent, it is a good initiative that is spearheaded by the Central Bank.

"As a matter of fact, many agents would not seek white collar jobs because they are earning a lot from POS business. Many are now landlords, many own properties, and many are married. We have agents who are doing very well and earning way better than bank managers."

Speaking on the transactional costs, he said it might need to be reviewed upwards of cost



Emefiele

of service and the operating environment.

He added, "The transaction cost should increase, there is something called cost to serve, there is a

Varsity ready to export shea butter – VC

THE Management of the University of Ilorin has disclosed that the institution was set to begin the exportation of multi-purpose Shea butter very soon.

Prof. Sulyman Abdulkareem, the Vice Chancellor of the University, disclosed this on Monday at a meeting with the Kwara Coordinator of the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), Mrs Lydia Adewumi.

Abdulkareem disclosed that on commencement of the exportation of the product, the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the institution would greatly improve.

He revealed that the Department of Chemistry was anchoring the project, which sought to improve the quality and shelf-life of the product.

He said that the university was open to collaboration with the RMRDC to improve the value chain of agricultural products.

According to him, Nigerian universities should work on ways to develop products from farm produce that cannot be preserved.

Meanwhike, Adewumi explained that the Council was an agency of the

challenge when it comes to serving customers, location, getting the funds available, security, threat to life, robbery, and charges of transfer, stamp duty".

Federal Government, under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.

She noted that the agency was vested with the mandate to promote the development and utilisation of Nigeria's industrial raw materials, while reiterating support for the institution in its efforts to promote development of the country.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Shea butter is a seed fat that comes from the shea tree, found in East and West tropical Africa

The shea butter comes

DMO offers 2 new FGN savings bonds

THE Debt Management Office (DMO) on Monday announced two new Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) savings bonds offer at N1,000 per unit for September.

According to the DMO, on its website, the first one is a two-Year FGN Savings Bond due in Sept. 14, 2024, at interest rate of 11.04 per cent per annum.

The second offer is a three-year FGN savings bond due in Sept. 14, 2025, at interest rate 12.04 per cent per annum

"Offer opens on Sept. 5

THE latest data on the daily Discos load summary from the Federal Ministry of Power, shows that the 11 power distribution companies in Nigeria did not utilise a total of 1,936.26 megawatts of electricity in one week amidst the country's limited power generation.

Figures contained in the load summary obtained in Abuja recently, indicated that the power firms did not utilise the 1,936.26MW between August 13 to 19, 2022 due to various concerns such as electricity theft, poor payment of bills, etc, in the distribution subsector.

The 11 power distribution companies include Abuja, Benin, Eko, Enugu, Ibadan, Ikeja, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Port Harcourt and Yola. The unutilised power was the difference between the electricity load allocated to the firms and their actual consumption.

An analysis by our correspondent of the unutilised load by the Discos showed that on August 13, the power firms did not utilise a total of 208.44MW, while they

Discos fail to utilise 1,936MW despite power generation –FG



Aliyu

did not distribute 364.11MW on August 14.

On August 15, 16 and 17, the quantum of unutilised load by the Discos in each of the days were 444.4MW, 216.86MW and 466.3MW respectively.

It was, however, observed that on August 18, only 1.47MW of electricity was recorded as unutilised load by Port Harcourt Disco, while the other 10 Discos received and distributed a cumulative excess load allocation of 656.76MW on the same day.

For August 19, the Discos did not utilise 234.68MW, while the sum of the seven-day unutilised electricity load was 1,936.26MW.

Nigeria's power supply has not been impressive since the electricity generation and distribution arms of the sector were privatised in November 2013 despite the trillions of naira pumped into the business by both the Federal Government, development partners and private investors.

Power generation on the national grid has continued to hover between 3,500MW and 4,500MW for several years, for instance, as at 6am on Monday, what was on the grid was 3,937.3MW.

Also, power distributors

have repeatedly raised concerns about the operating environment in the sector.

In a document that was recently made available to journalists by the Executive Director, Research and Advocacy, Association of Nigerian Electricity Distributors, Sunday Oduntan, the Discos argued that their performance could not be divorced from the presence of an enabling environment.

They stated that the key fundamental deficiencies of the sub-sector include non-payment of electricity liabilities by the ministries, departments and agencies of government, inconsistent and unsustainable electricity tariff modelling and implementation, electricity theft, etc.

They also said there was a misalignment or misallocation of risk, which include government-owned risk of gas pipeline vandalism, limited gas pipeline network and commercial framework, limited or constrained government-owned transmission network, government policy/regulatory inconsistencies, which had all been wrongly passed on to the Discos.

This, according to ANED, the umbrella body of Discos, was undermining a core predicate of the electricity business that risk should be borne by the party that could best bear it.

The power firms noted, "The core issues of the lack of a cost reflective and sustainable tariff, inadequate gas supply, inconsistent regulatory and policy determinations, transmission grid constraint, non-payment of MDA electricity debt, electricity theft, lack of respect for sanctity of contract, etc, must be addressed if the electricity distribution subsector, in particular, and Nigeria Electricity Supply Industry in general, is to make progress".

In spite of the challenges, they noted that Discos would continue to work with relevant stakeholders to deliver on their mandates.

and closes on Sept. 9. Settlement date is Sept. 14, while coupon payment dates are Dec. 14, March 14, June 14 and Sept. 14.

"They are subject to a minimum subscription of N5,000, and multiples of N1,000 thereafter, and subject to a maximum subscription of N50 million.

"Interest payment is made quarterly, while bullet repayment (principal amount) will be made on the maturity date," it said.

It added that the the FGN savings bonds qualified as securities in which trustees could invest under the Trustee Investment Act.

"It also qualifies as government securities within the meaning of Company Income Tax Act (CITA) and Personal Income Tax Act (PITA) for Tax Exemption for Pension Funds, among other investors.

"It is backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government of Nigeria and charged upon the general assets of Nigeria," the DMO said.



Business & Economy

Enhancing Nigeria's cybersecurity with artificial intelligence

Among the major trends in technology is the rapid development of [artificial intelligence](#) and its wide range of applications. In addition to enhancing technological applications, artificial intelligence allows us to simulate and expand human intelligence. Maryam Na-Allah Umar-Baba writes.

AS a technology, artificial intelligence has emerged as a critical component of complementing the efforts of human information security teams. Humans cannot adequately protect the dynamic attack surface of an organization alone. This is why artificial intelligence is becoming increasingly critical to cybersecurity professionals in order to reduce breach risk and improve security posture. It provides analysis and threat identification that is incredibly useful.

Cyber security has risen to become a national concern as threats concerning it now need to be taken more seriously. A wide variety of viewpoints have been expressed on the issue of cybercrime, with many people coming at it from diverse perspectives.

The threat of cyber-crimes has expanded beyond conventional criminal activity and has now posed a threat to the national security of all countries, including the most technologically advanced ones. Interestingly, cybercrime is not limited to a single sector but affects a wide range of industries. Among the nations targeted by cybercrime is Nigeria.

During the course of 2020, a Deloitte report ranked Nigeria 16th among the countries most affected by cybercrime worldwide. The Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, Professor Ali Isa Pantami in recent book, Cybersecurity Initiatives for Securing a Nation, provides insights on tackling insecurity on cyberspace.

As the trend of data breach and stealing of user information continues to rise, so does the need for advanced data protection methods. In the digital age, cyber security has evolved into a national concern due to the threat it poses to current and future generations. There has been a wide range of opinions expressed regarding cybercrime, with many individuals taking a diverse approach to the topic. There has been an increase in the number of cyber-crimes beyond conventional criminal activity, now posing a threat to national security in countries, including those that are the most



technologically advanced. Interestingly, cybercrime is not limited to a single sector but affects a wide range of industries. Among the nations targeted by cybercrime is Nigeria.

Earlier this year, 2022, a [Deloitte report](#) ranked Nigeria 16th among the countries most affected by cybercrime worldwide. As with the case of Nigeria, cybercrimes have not only caused financial losses, damaged reputation but it has also led to devastating situations for victims of cybercrimes, crimes which have led to untimely deaths of innocent people, wrongful imprisonment caused by identity theft, among so many other disastrous consequences.

Now more than ever, the need for the revolutionary Artificial Intelligence cannot be overemphasised in tackling cyber security issues in Nigeria. The establishment of The National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR) is one of NITDA's subsidiary, a special purpose vehicle created to promote research and development on emerging technologies and their practical application in areas of Nigerian national interest, could not have come at a better time, as the rapid increase in cyberattacks in Nigeria is ever overwhelming.

NCAIR, a subsidiary of NITDA, and a research facility specifically focused on Artificial Intelligence could do more to implement the use of AI to effectively tackle cyber security issues. The delegation of AI to tackle cybercrimes in Nigeria would be a plus to the Nigerian image for solving one among several other issues.

Furthermore, cybersecurity posture analysis and improvement should no longer be a human-centric endeavour but rather than of an AI. Whether figuratively or literally, AI is like the non-human friend who lifts the burden off your shoulders and leaves you stress free. Putting this into

consideration, Technology start-up tech organisations could try to leverage and maximise using AI to combat the dangerous menace of cybercrimes in Nigeria. Moving on, Artificial intelligence which goes far beyond human intelligence, can and would be able to detect cyber threat in advance, something we humans would have limitations with. Secondly, Agencies like NITDA and particularly NCAIR have a huge role to play in ensuring the safety of innocent Nigerian citizens against from notorious hackers, menaces, and cyber threats to the society

To answer the main question, how would or AI be used to solve cybercrimes in Nigeria? As a security tool, AI can identify and prioritize risks, identify any malware on a network instantly, guide incident response, and prevent intrusions from occurring.

With artificial intelligence, cybersecurity teams can form powerful human-machine partnerships that enrich our lives, push the limits of our knowledge, and drive cybersecurity along a path that seems greater than the

sum of its parts.

Additionally, AI used in cyber security to quickly analyse millions of events and identify many diverse types of threats – from malware exploiting zero-day vulnerabilities to identifying risky behaviour that might lead to a phishing attack or download of malicious code. As a self-learning system, this technology collects data from across your enterprise's information systems automatically and continuously. This data is then analysed and used to perform a correlation of patterns across millions to billions of signals relevant to the enterprise attack surface to identify new types of attacks

More importantly, thanks to ever-evolving digital world which has created tools for more efficient ways of working and problem solving, there are several tools available that could be used improving cybersecurity. Tools such as:

- TAA tool (Symantec's Targeted Attack analytics); which is targeted at finding and exposing hidden and targeted attacks. Using artificial intelligence and machine learning, Symantec security experts and researchers are able to enhance their executables, knowledge, and capabilities. It (TAA tool) was used by Symantec to tackle the Dragonfly 2.0 attack a few years back, attack majorly targeted several energy companies and tried to breach through and gain access to their operational networks.

Although the fight towards ending cybercrimes in Nigeria is not a month's work that can lead to instant result, it is the effort that matter. Efforts which the office of National Security Advisor are putting in place by joining the Budapest convention on cybercrime sometime this year.

Finally, considering the importance, challenges and applications surrounding artificial intelligence in Nigeria, agencies like NITDA, NCAIR, ONSA as well as start-up tech and even big tech organisations in Nigeria have a huge role to play in minimising, better still eradicating the massive impact cybercrimes have left in our economy. The best way to solve a problem is always through education and enlightenment, a task which is tech companies have a huge role to play in, as security awareness is a collective effort.

Source: Vanguard

Politics

Lalong, Tinubu unveil APC door to door campaign

By PALANG KASMI

AHEAD of the 2023 Nigeria's general elections, Presidential Candidate of the APC, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, his running mate Kashim Shettima as well as the Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, Governor Simon Bako Lalong have unveiled the parties Northern Speakers Door to Door Campaign.

The unveiling of the Tinubu/Shettima campaign strategy was done on Saturday, 3rd September 2022 at the Sheraton Hotel Abuja.

Addressing the APC Speakers and members of the northern States, Asiwaju Tinubu thanked the them for their show of support and solidarity which he said is very key to the victory of the party in both the Presidential election and other ones.

Vice Presidential Candidate of the APC Senator Kashim Shettima said the emergence of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and himself is a call for building a new nation which must not be missed.

He said Asiwaju apart from carrying people from all sections of the society along in governance, has over the years demonstrated capacity for transforming ideas into reality just like he did in Lagos State which is visible for all to see.

Also speaking, the Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council and Governor of Plateau State Simon Bako Lalong said as leaders of the Legislative Arms of Government in various Northern APC states, the Legislators and all members have a unique position to not only connect with the people at the grassroots, but also carry out sensitization, mobilisation and enlightenment regarding



Tinubu

The Candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and what he stands for.

He said many of them are fully aware of what Tinubu popularly called "the Jagaban" has achieved as a political colossus in Nigeria over the years and how he has built the economy and human capital of not only Lagos State but the entire country.

Lalong said "Our Presidential candidate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and his running mate Senator Kashim Shettima come along with wonderful records of achievement that are a clear signal to the journey towards a greater Nigeria".

"They are focused on building the economy, uniting the nation, tacking insecurity and addressing education and health challenges among others in a way that meets the yearning of Nigerians. As we get set to work for the success of our Presidential candidate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu".

"I wish to remind you that there is so much that the APC has done both at the Federal, State and Local Government levels that will speak for us. It is therefore our duty to

highlight these achievements just to remind Nigerians that our party has done a lot to change Nigeria for good in various ways".

Deputy Campaign DG North and Governor of Jigawa State Abubakar Badaru also praised the Speakers for coming together to deploy their grassroots structures towards delivering the Tinubu/Shettima ticket at the elections in 2023.

He advised them to carry along councillors of their various constituencies in order to deepen their reach out and consultations across the North.

Chairman, Northern APC Speakers Forum and Speaker Kaduna State Yusuf Ibrahim Zailani assured Asiwaju Bola Tinubu that they have resolved to deliver the party in the Presidential elections by going to the grassroots where they have direct contact with people. **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** newspapers reports that vehicles donated for the mobilisation and Campaign by the Northern Speakers Forum were unveiled and distributed to coordinators at the event.

Adamawa APC pass vote of no confidence on chairman

ADAMAWA State All Progressives Congress (APC) is burning with the passing of a vote of no confidence against its state chairman Alhaji Ibrahim Bilal.

Addressing a Press Conference on Monday at the party secretariat, a copy of which was released to newsmen twenty five of the members who signed the letter said they have lost confidence on the embattled chairman to run the affairs of the party successfully.

They accused the chairman of alleged anti-party activities, incompetence, gross misconduct, corruption, dereliction of duty among several other accusations.

In his stead, the vice Chairman Samaila Taddawus is to act as chairman.

The State Exco members whose statement was read by Mohammed Abdullahi Publicity Secretary of the APC insist the removal of Bilal was in order.

According to the aggrieved members, Alhaji Ibrahim Bilal had refused to respond to all the allegations leveled

From GYANG PAM, Yola

against him.

"We therefore took this line of action following his failure to respond to the allegations and see this as acceptance of guilty", they said.

Speaking further, they claimed that on the 26th of August, 2022, Exco members had issued a formal

complaint to three executive officers of the party over Bilal's constitutional violations which constitute gross misconduct in line with the spirit of fair hearing as provided by the constitution.

Those who escaped the hammer of the Exco members were the secretary Mr. Raymond Chidama and the treasurer Alhaji Yahya Hammanjulde

Plateau APC sympathises with flood victims

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

PLATEAU State Chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), has sympathised with victims of last Wednesday's flood disaster in some parts of Jos North Local Government Area that destroyed lives and property worth millions of naira.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Party's Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang, and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDAND** describing the incident as very sad and devastating.

The statement stated that, "a situation where lives are lost and families rendered homeless is not only painful but sorrowful. The Party noted with

sadness that, apart from the loss of lives, some people were reported to have lost alot of property to the flood".

The party, therefore, appealed to members of the public and Non-Governmental Organisation to assist the victims in whatever way possible to complement the efforts of the local and state governments.

Namang, prayed for the quick recovery of those who suffered injuries as a result of the flood and also against the reoccurrence of such disasters advising citizens to be conscious when building houses near water ways to avoid such ugly incidences.

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed, of Bauchi state has assured that in 2023 election there will be no family and friends agents.

The governor gave the assurance during a meeting with candidates of his party, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), party leaders and other stakeholders at the new Banquet Hall of the government House Bauchi recently.

He warned that no party leader would be allowed to bring his relations, kinsmen or neighbor at the polling units as agent.

"Such happened to Atiku in 2019 and he lost elections, because we gave money and he gave so much money but people took it as a political patronage, we will not do that, we will not commit the same mistake", the Governor said.

Governor Bala emphasized that those that would be engaged as agents are going to be completely devoid of every relation with party leaders except where if such person is confirmed to be better than any other person.

Bala Mohammed also expressed concerns that the elected local government Chairmen are not supporting candidates of the party ahead of the 2023 general elections.

The Governor who noted that the party at the local government level is not doing as expected, however pointed out that, the party is doing well at the state level.

Bala while calling for unity among party members, urged candidates contesting various political offices under the party

2023: No family, friends as agents

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

- Gov Bala

to work towards a successful outing in 2023.

"We must come together, our elected local government Chairmen are not supporting our candidates as much as i want, we have to do it, that gap should be closed down", the Governor said.

He enjoined the PDP leaders at the local governments to close ranks with councilors and Chairmen irrespective of their tenure, assuring that they would remain veritable structure of the party and would be respected even after their tenure.

The Governor hinted that the party will adopt one structure in terms of campaigns from the gubernatorial, Senatorial and other elective offices.

Bala warned party members against involvement in the

controversy surrounding the party at the national level. Where the PDP Presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar and the Governor of Rivers State Wike are at war since the announcement of Delta State Governor as vice to the PDP Presidential candidate in the forthcoming election.

" This case is above us, leave that to me to handle it the way I am handling it as your leader, because certainly we cannot afford that, it will have disparaging consequences on us", the governor said.

He hinted on the possibility of the party having unified agents at the polling units, adding that there would be consultations from the presidential to the state assembly levels in order to have uniform people as agents to give the party loyal representation.



Mohammed

Gombe stakeholders call for more citizens, govt engagement

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Gombe State Government has been called on to intensify it's engagement with citizens in preparing for next year's (2023) budget.

Some stakeholders made the call during a town hall meeting organized by Crystal Justice Initiative for Legal Advancement in collaboration with the Gombe State Ministry

on chairman

who responded to allegations against them.

It was to this end therefore according to the Publicity Secretary that the Exco invoked article 21.5(vi) of the partys constitution to pass a vote of no confidence on the chairman

In a telephone call to the embattled chairman however told our man he was at a meeting and cut off the call.

of Finance and Economic Development on the State's 2021 Citizens Accountability Report (CAR).

Most of the speakers at the meeting commended the Gombe State Government for implementing the citizens, government engagement process in developing the State's appropriation but appealed for it's sustainability and even improve in the process.

Ibrahim Yusuf, the Gombe State Chairman of the Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (ANGO), said engaging the citizens in the budget process will afford them the opportunity to make their inputs based on their areas of need rather than having projects that have no bearing on them.

He said time had long past when Government alone plans and executes projects without the input of the people adding that the improvement sought now is reappraisal, assess and analyse performance of previous budgets.

He observed that most times, there is disconnect between policy makers and the citizens because "sometimes the projects are being awarded without consulting the citizens. A lot of people don't even know the importance of some projects, the value or even starting it.

On his part, Mohammed Abubakar, the State team lead, State-to-State, Gombe, said the meeting was very important because citizens and CSO's were able to make inputs of their

requirements for the 2023 budget that is coming up very soon.

While commending the Gombe State Government for working with CSO's to discuss the budget process, he described the meeting as one that had a robust and touching discussion in all areas of human endeavour, specifically the social sector.

"It's a wonderful innovation on the part of Government and the citizens. You find out that all over the world these days, governments and SCO's are collaborating to ensure that they take part in the development process", he stated.

For Fatima Sani Yakubu, National Women Leader of People with Spinal Cord Injury and also the Chairperson of the association in Gombe State, who spoke for People with Special Needs in the State, called for budgetary allocation and release for the welfare and other needs of their members.

She also advised citizens to imbibe the habit of not only being pushy for their needed projects, but that they must always visit the project sites to ensure that standards and specifications are followed.

She noted that there are currently complaints about the standard of buildings in schools. She said teachers are complaining about leaking roofs, falling walls and many others and that is as a result of non supervision of the projects by the immediate communities where the schools are sited.

She called on the citizens to use the social and conventional media to voice out their displeasure over the processes and execution of projects sited in their communities if not, illegalities and abnormalities in project execution will not be exposed.



Bature

Politics

The paradox of vote trading in Nigeria

Vote trading is a national malaise that requires the involvement of a multiplicity of stakeholders, agencies, and groups to address it. At the root of the problem is the economic imbalance and inequality in our society, which, if fixed, would to a large extent reduce the number of poor people whose vulnerability currently is such that they can easily be dangled pittance in exchange for their votes, writes OBO EFFANGA.

HOWEVER, it is also a paradox that those saddled with the responsibility to fix the economy are also the primary beneficiaries of the vote trade – politicians.

Vote trading refers to an activity in which a political party, candidate, or interest uses money or its equivalent to influence the choice of an electorate.

Interestingly, what started as vote buying has since met with vote selling, resulting in vote trading. This is what makes the present situation more worrisome.

Of late I have come to classify vote trading into three different levels like most trading, namely: wholesale, middlemen/middlewomen, and retail.

The first paradox in this discourse is to acknowledge that vote trading is a direct consequence of the fact that, more than ever before, votes in Nigeria now count and election results are now a reflection of the actual votes of the people.

Another paradox I see is where citizens, as represented by voters (whether at party primaries or general elections), are willing to trade their votes to beneficiaries and still look forward to good quality governance or turn around and complain about what is wrong in governance.

It's also a paradox that until very recently, we focus too often on the retail level of vote trading (by the voter at the general election) and leave out the wholesale trader and the middleman/middlewoman. The reason for the above is because the trading at the higher levels is usually done by the elite and typically, the elite protects its own. No doubt, the middleman/woman only existed on the fringe and was usually operating in the dark, until vote trading became a business sector with its own life.

Paradoxically, this year, there has been a sudden and huge focus on the middlemen/middlewomen of the vote-trading industry, the party delegates, as against the previous attention given to them.

The main reason for this attention is because, in passing the new Electoral Act 2022, the National Assembly inadvertently excluded the political elite (elected and appointed public office holders) from qualifying to become delegates. Thus, those who emerged delegates were among the 'ordinary', 'regular' crowd of party members. Also before now, these delegates were handpicked loyalists of the elite caucuses in the major parties. But the present delegates are very conscious of their powers every four years, and have made it clear that they will cash out, as well.

Thus, the usual culprit of vote trading, the political elite, who now felt excluded from the trade, raised the alarm more than ever about the activities of the new kids on the trading block.

In a paradox, therefore, the complaint has not been so much about the trading during the party primaries, but more because it seemed that the money budgeted by the political parties and aspirants this time went to 'money miss roads'. Some of the sellers of votes as delegates, on suddenly coming in contact with such huge amounts of money, allegedly given in dollars, too easily squealed or showed off with their loots. I had posited back then



Mahmood

that what we had was "DollarGate: when delegates meet dollars!" The word on the street today is that the resort to trading votes in dollars (what was spent so far and is being stockpiled for the general elections) is part of the causative factors of the fall in the value of the naira against the dollar.

It is further a paradox that even though we all decried it, especially in the media and in discussions and chitchats, many generally wished they were the delegates. Thus, members of various communities, traditional, cultural, alumni associations, religious groups, etc., all wished that their members were dollargates or that such dollargates could be targeted to support their communities, especially during the various ubiquitous fundraising events.

There is no doubt that with the way the wholesale and middle person trading of votes has gone, the retail traders in votes have gotten the impetus to also involve in the trade without the feeling of guilt and in some cases, raise their asking prices. It becomes worse when people believe that all politicians and political parties are the same and would treat them and the public offices the same way as all others. They then justify being compensated for voting politicians into office. With such a mindset, the voter who is ready to sell his vote would naturally go for the highest bidder.

It is a further paradox that many of these citizens do not see themselves as capable of intrinsically effecting change in society with the choices they make, even in the electoral system. This is what has further

exacerbated the kind of vote buying we have seen in recent times. Vote trading has thus gone beyond individual transactions but the architecture often includes community members through cooperation and collaboration, now giving rise to another level in the chain – organised or cooperative retailing. This, therefore, makes it difficult for a casual onlooker of the events to be able to identify them.

Sometimes too, the vote trading may involve the collaboration of or the aiding and abetting of the election and security officials at the polling unit. This could happen either by failure to ensure adequate arrangement to guarantee secrecy of the vote or failure to take steps to prevent those who try to breach the rules. But in looking at this, we must however seriously weigh the importance of allowing a smooth process for every voter to cast his/her vote, for the vote to be counted and recorded on the one hand and the need to insist on the rule, including an attempt at stopping or apprehending rules violators, the attempt of which could lead to a breakdown of law and order and possible disruption of election in the polling unit.

Yet another paradox is that even when the electoral guidelines, processes and officials make all the efforts to ensure the protection of the secrecy of the vote, a voter who him/herself is interested or poised on exposing how he/she has voted will find every means of doing so, in collaboration with the buyer, who obviously needs proof of value for money. As I also like to allude, the current process is akin to when we talk about the collusion of two consenting adults to engage in any act, just like in the sex trade.

It would then seem that the election is one huge bazaar where



Bawa

everyone looks to pick something for themselves, depending on their location on the vote trading value chain.

Interestingly, whenever any of the above happens, it is the election management body (EMB), in this case, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) that gets all the flak. However, the truth is that vote trading is a national malaise and requires the involvement of a multiplicity of stakeholders, agencies, and groups to address it.

The law enforcement agencies, including the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) must ensure appropriate steps to stem or react to incidents of vote trading, before, during, and after each election. I am not sure we yet have records of anybody picked or investigated for vote trading during all the political party primaries this year.

At the root of the problem is the economic imbalance and inequality in our society, which, if fixed, would to a large extent reduce the number of poor people whose vulnerability currently is such that they can easily be dangled pittance in exchange for their votes. However, it is also a paradox that those saddled with the responsibility to fix the economy are also the primary beneficiaries of the vote trade – politicians. Therefore, it would appear that it serves their purpose to keep the economy in shambles, in order to sustain the vote trading market dynamics.

We also need to reform our politics and political parties to make them more moralistic in their approach to acquiring power, rather than see the election as a do-or-die process. But this seems impossible as long as there are no dire consequences for electoral offences and

recklessness/ineptitude in government.

Another place to focus on is the excessive amount fixed by political parties as nomination fees. I am sure that one reason many delegates justify their extortion of aspirants must be because they imagine that if an aspirant could pay that much money for the nomination, then there must be more where that comes from and they demand a share of it.

The above also creates its own paradox, because many of these politicians have been known to go a-borrowing and selling personal assets just to fund their political ambitions. In such instances, their primary objective in government is to recoup spent funds for themselves or their loyal sponsors – and as said earlier, these are the same folks the vote-selling electorate depends on to fix the economy, govern right or reduce costs of governance.

This would therefore explain the high cost of vote buying in the most recent elections in Nigeria, including the governorship elections in Ekiti and Osun States where some reports indicate that as much as N10,000 or even up to N20,000 may have been paid for votes in some locations.

While we all take steps to stem vote trading, we must not focus so much on it as the signpost of our elections, to the extent of overshadowing the more positive side of the elections. These positives include the fact that our electoral system has experienced a huge leap of credibility over the last few elections and the various election cycles, the very reason the politicians have resorted to getting genuine votes by all means necessary as one of the preferred vote rigging methods, rather than the old practice of relying on cooked-up figures.

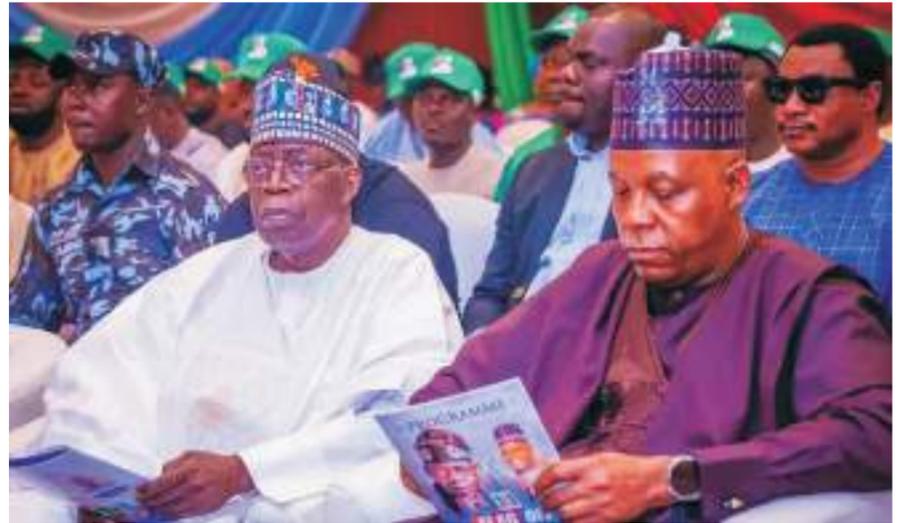
IMAGES

APC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE UNVEILS DOOR TO DOOR FOR 2023

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Candidate recently unveiled APC Northern Speakers Door-to-Door for Tinubu/Shettima 2023 in Abuja



DG of the Campaign Council and Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (middle) and Deputy, Governor Abubakar Badaru of Jigawa State welcoming the Vice Presidential Candidate, Sen. Kashim Shettima



APC Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (left) with his running mate, Sen. Kashim Shettima at the ceremony



Director General of Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Council, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (right) flanked by Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Sen. Kashim Shettima and others unveiling the Door-to-Door for 2023 APC presidential



Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda (middle) with other speakers of the Northern States at the unveiling ceremony



Some units of vehicles unveiled at the occasion



A cross section of members of the state assembly



Deputy Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong and other legislators from the Northern States at the unveiling



Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Sen. Kashim Shettima, Governor Lalong, Governor Badaru and others in a group photograph after the unveiling ceremony

PHOTOS: DOPPA'S OFFICE, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, RAYFIELD, JOS

Feature

21st century challenges in conservation profession

By:
OGAJE ENNE ESTHER

A Museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purpose of education, study and enjoyment (ICOM, 2007). While conservation is defined by Edet (1990:90) as a means by which cultural property are protected from decay and damage. In her own view, Kerri (1994:12) sees conservation as the technical and scientific activities for the treatment and continuous care of object as well as monuments.

The Museum as an organization has several purposes and functions of which the crucial one is conservation. The major purpose of conservation is to ensure that the collections of the museum are preserved and made available for future generation. In recent times, emphasis is on prevention because it attempts to prevent decay/damage from occurring. Preventive conservation is a process that seeks to nip in the bud or mitigate the effect of all the factors that, every day, threaten an object's continued survival. It requires a holistic attitude which includes a constant evaluation of how objects are stored, treated, handled, displayed and maintained. Preventive conservation is to keep objects/collections or monuments safe from harm or maintain them etc. So as to prevent their destruction (Okpoko, 2006), preventive conservation is a strategic enterprise driven by a museum's primary purpose that cannot be



introduced without planning.

Museums today strive to attract all kinds of visitors; outreach and marketing have become important in ensuring that people of all cultural and social backgrounds visit the museum and return to visit again. Museums now offer a range of events beside their traditional functions of preserving; collecting and exhibition, concerts, films, lectures, shops and workshops aim to create a complete entertainment experience.

A challenge to the profession: when reference is made to the cultural heritage, the public and the authorities is fascinated by the age, beauty or

message of objects or monuments which have survived over the centuries and tend to forget that, that beauty is embodied in a substance which is essentially perishable, most of the creations of the past have been lost. Nevertheless our generation has come into a certain archaeological, historical, technological, scientific and industrial heritage, and its value is all great because of the disappearance of the rest. The question now is shall we be able to pass it on to future generations? This seems doubtful for the situation today is not what it was a generation ago. To take a comparison, it is

generally acknowledged that conditions fob the preservation of the natural heritage that has deteriorated drastically over the past thirty years. The same is true of conditions for the preservation of cultural heritage. But while ecological movements are working everywhere to avoid impending and disasters, to change people's outlook and thus win public support, there are no signs of anything comparable being done to protect the cultural heritage. On the contrary, people say: 'it has lasted still now, no doubt it will last long again.' The public often thinks like this. It is mistaken. The authorities often think the same way. They are mistaken

worse yet. Professionals think this way too, because each specialist sees only his own field and hopes the situation is less serious in other sectors. In thirty years, conditions for the proper preservation of the heritage have undergone drastic changes.

Archaeological sites have been torn up by unprecedented civil, engineering projects such as dams and highways, and by deep ploughing. Uncontrolled industrialization and unplanned urban growth have done irreparable damage, in some cases, the point of no return has been reached. Air pollution has brought the destruction of limestones, especially marble, which had survived intact for centuries. The use of new materials which were fleetingly regarded as miracle product cements, plastic resins and the like-has caused secondary reactions and speeded up the phenomena of deterioration.

To keep in the pass alive, all that we really know of ourselves and our world is the past and all that we really know of the past is that part which has survived in the form of material objects. Only a small fraction of our history is recorded in literature, and literature is subject to the errors of human interpretation. Only the material specimens of human and natural history are inadequate, they are the raw materials of history, the unamiable facts the truth about our past. Conservation is what we preserve. By and large, a museum first duty is to protect objects from the past with care, not only for today but for generation yet to come.

Ogaje Enne Esther is the Chief Conservator, National Museum, Kaduna.



News

Police rescue kidnapped persons in Bauchi

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

POLICE operatives in Bauchi state have successfully rescued three persons, Alh. Alhassan Gambo from of Unguwan Bawa in Kaduna State, Badamasi Saadu and Abdullahi Sani earlier abducted by suspected kidnapers.

Bauchi Police Public Relations Officer, SP Ahmed Mohammed Wakil, who confirmed.

He explained that the victims were rescued by the operatives unhurt and later reunites with their families after proper medical examination.

Wakil, in the press statement said that the suspects had on 26th August, 2022 kidnapped Alh Alhassan Gambo of Unguwan Bawa, Kaduna State and shot one Alh Mujitafa Usman of Funtua LGA in Katsina State who were on a business trip to Tulu village in Bauchi state

He however described as unfortunate the death of a vigilante members during a gun duel led by Divisional Police Officer of Tulu Division while combing the kidnapers enclave.

"On 27th August 2022 at about 2100hrs, credible intelligence available at the disposal of Tulu Divisional Police headquarters on the activities of suspected kidnapers noted that on the 26th August 2022 suspected kidnapers blocked Tulu - Rishi Road".

According to the Police spokesperson, the operatives had a gun duel following hot exchange of superior firepower at the Doka Auwalu Mountain of Tama ward in Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi state while other suspects were subdued and scamper in disarray with gunshot wounds into a nearby forest.

"After follow-up and intense surveillance in the area on 28th August, 2022, two suspects were apprehended who were found wandering aimlessly in the area, while investigation is ongoing to establish their connection or otherwise with the suspected kidnapers".

According to the statement, the state Commissioner of



Alkali

police, CP Umar Mamman Sanda commiserated with the family of the vigilante member who sacrifices his life while protecting life and property of the citizens.

Wakil also disclosed that a group of notorious thugs armed with cutlasses, knives, sticks and other dangerous weapons last week attacked members of peace and security committee of Bakin Kura office and mercilessly inflicted serious injuries on two committee members namely Danladi Suleiman (32) and Yakubu Ibrahim (42).

To this end, he said, a team of detectives led by Commander Rapid Response Squad (RRS) swiftly swung into action scene and succeeded in arresting suspects namely Aliyu Adamu of Bakaro quarters, Ukasha Abubakar of Kofar mukaddas, and Abdulmalik Abdullahi of Kandahar quarters in Bauchi metropolis.

Others include Nura Inuwa of Bakaro, Umar Abdullahi of Malan Goje, Mohammed Mohammed Koli, Umar Sulaiman, Ibrahim Idris, Kabiru Shehu, Musa Usman, Buhari Sani, Aliyu Yakubu alias (Ali luta), Isah Nuhu, Abdulsamat Aliyu, Muhammad Umar alias, Aliyu Adamu Aliyu, Abubakar Adamu, Mujahid Abdullahi (alias (James),

Ibrahim Yunusa alias 'Dan-mama', Mubarak Ismail alias 'Dangongo' and Abdullahi Garba alias (Dan Alhaji)

Subsequently, all the suspects confessed to the crime, as the Commissioner of Police CP Umar Mamman Sanda directed that the suspects be charged to court.

"In keeping with our constitutional mandate to maintain law and order and ensure the safety as well as the well-being of the citizens of the State at all times, The Commissioner of Police directed that a special operation be mounted to protect citizens, especially in this period".

"Therefore, coordinated patrols and surveillance would be carried out at a strategic locations across the State to ensure that any criminal element is apprehended and de-mobilized without collateral damage to the citizens". He assured.

Katagum youth debunk insinuations against minister

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

KATAGUM Youths Salvation Forum (KAYOFO) has debunked statement credited to the Political Adviser to the Bauchi State Governor, Mr. B.B. Dogo against the Humanitarian Affairs Minister, Hon Sadiya Umar Farouk alleging that she was showing indifference to the people of the state on activities of her ministry

The forum, while debunking the statement, noted that Mr.

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

A civil society organization, Connected Development, has urged the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to play its role to curb voters' inducement in the 2023 general elections.

Amb. Hamzat Lawal, the Executive Director of Connected Development, made the call during a Town Hall and Sensitisation meeting held at Mangogo in Ogorimangogo Local Government Area of Kogi State.

Lawal stressed that vote buying and selling remained one of the biggest threat to a smooth transition in 2023, and urged the anti graft agency to play its role by tackling the menace.

He further called on the civil society organisations, the media, the anti corruption body as well as other security agencies to play their roles to jointly curb vote buying and selling in elections.

He also stressed the need to work with the traditional and religious institutions to amplify the message at the grassroots in order to do away with vote buying and selling.

Lawal, who is an international election monitor, disclosed that Connected Development was committed to deploying 20,000 observers to monitor the 2023 elections, as well as women participation in the elections, and issues affecting them.

He noted that the organisation in its published quarterly security dossier, reported that over 3000 people lost their lives just within six months in Nigeria, describing it as a threat to democracy and the elections.

According to him, one of the biggest threat to 2023 general elections is insecurity; there is break down of not only law and order but also the value in our society.

EFCC urged to checkmate voters' inducement



Mahmood

He emphasised the need to engaging the communities, sensitising them and transferring knowledge, stressing that the meeting was to sensitise the electorate on the need to conduct themselves peacefully and vote rightly during the 2023 general elections.

He stressed that the time has come when electorate should look beyond taking money from politicians, but base their votes on credibility of the candidates contesting elections.

The activist enjoined the people to base their choice of candidate during election on competency, credibility and vibrancy that would bring about service to the people and their communities.

He, therefore cautioned electorate in Nigeria to desist from selling their votes candidates of political parties that lack the capacity to deliver dividend of democracy.

In his remarks, His Royal Highness, the Olumagongo of

Magongo, Chief Sam Bola-Ojo, appealed to politicians to bear in mind that in politics there must be sincerity, love and understanding.

He stressed that the use of money to buy victory had been a cog in the wheel of political development in Nigeria.

The royal father lamented that the resultant effect of vote buying and selling was poor performance, and urged the electorate to do the needful during the forthcoming 2023 general elections.

"If you have regard for yourself, you will not run after what cannot add value to your life. We must have faith in God that created us" the monarch said.

In their separate comments, the Women Leader, Mrs Rukayat Ahmadu; and Youth Leader, Mr Desmond Obaro, both promised to mobilise their people to vote for credible candidates irrespective of political party.

ministry, especially the democracy dividends of the N-Power programme.

The Chairman wondered how the minister who is canvassing votes from the state electorates in favour of her husband to win the 2023 gubernatorial elections, could be depriving democracy dividends to those she is looking for their votes, describing as outrageous the statement credited to Dodo.

Chinade told the press in Bauchi that such absurdity of B.B. Dogo's sort or breed leaves much to be desired of a reputable politician and advised him to always think before leaping, as the political space is accordingly too dynamic for such outburst.

The chairman defended that no amount of political maneuvers could henceforth allow the PDP lame ducks in Bauchi to through the electoral processes once again steal the APC mandate as it was scrumptiously done in 2019 when hired hoodlums gazed boxes with corrupted ballot papers from a hideout.

He recalled that even during the 2019 general elections, it was the anti-party activities of some APC members that gave the PDP an edge to mug the

Bauchi gubernatorial seat, saying 2023 elections would be devoid of any daylight balloting robbery by any party machinations in Bauchi.

On the unsubstantiated claim that the minister was not an indigene of Bauchi State, forum categorically stated that Sadiya Umar Farouk is a legitimate and legalized indigene of the state by virtue of the provisions of extent laws, and the Nigerian Constitution (as amended).

Chinade queried whether such brands of political machinations orchestrated by Mr. B.B. Dogo, could force the Buhari-led federal government put into consideration to sack the Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouk from the public office she is occupying as he and his cohorts demanded.

He further advised B B Dogo to respect his age and not to follow himself to be used by desperate politicians who want leadership by all means forgetting that it is only Allah that gives power to whoever he want at his own time. So the issue of blackmail, insult, allegation, fabricative statement on someone or abusive language on political opponents does not give power.



L-R Chief Sunday Bulus Rogo, who stood in for HRM Pozoh Johnson Jairo Magaji, Ujah Anaguta of Jos North, Director General, PLASCHEMA, Dr. Fabong Jemchang and his staff during NUJ Plateau State Council's discourse with theme " Beyond politicking: Harnessing Plateau potentials at Tamarald Event Centre, Jos. Picture: Danladi Duks.

CHANGE OF NAME

NYAM

I, formerly known as **SUNDAY CHRISTIANA, CHRISTY PAUL NYAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NYAM CHRISTIANA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note

NERAT

I, formerly known as **MISS. NERAT JOHN PAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. NERAT WEING TONG**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note

News

Governor puts smiles on journalists faces

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE leadership of the Pen profession in Bauchi State, under the chairmanship of Comrade Umar Saidu, has expressed gratitude and commended Governor Bala Mohammed for providing 2 brand new buses to members of Correspondents Chapel and Government House press crew in the State.

The NUJ Chairman expressed his appreciation to Governor Bala shortly after the official presentation of the 2 buses recently at the

Government House Bauchi, where he said the gesture is timely and a step in right direction to encourage productivity among the working journalists in the state.

Umar Sa'idu pointed out that as journalist, Governor Mohammed has demonstrated his concern by ensuring the welfare of members of the pen profession.

The NUJ boss however, charged working journalists in the state to reciprocate the gesture by publicizing government's policies and programmes geared towards the betterment of the citizens.

Presenting the buses, Governor Mohammed said the move was in recognition of the journalists' contributions through reminding the government of its responsibilities. According to him, journalists are the most dehumanized people in the society. He called on newspaper proprietors in Nigeria to improve the welfare of its journalists.

The Governor also assured them that he will fulfill his earlier pledge of the total renovation of the State NUJ Secretariat before the end of the first term of his administration.

CAS commends NIPR for hosting summit

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

THE Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Oladayo Amao has commended the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) for the successful hosting of the well-attended "Citizens Summit for National Integration, Peace and Security" held recently in Abuja. He stated this when the President and Chairman of Council of the NIPR, Mallam Mukhtar Zubair Sirajo paid him a courtesy call at the headquarters of Nigeria Air Force (NAF), Abuja.

According to Air Marshal Amao, going by the theme of the summit, 'Reopen Conversation, Rebuild Trust', it was obvious that it aimed at bridging the widening trust gap between the leaders and the citizens, as well as amongst the citizens, through promotion of national integration and enhancement of cross-country peaceful co-existence.

He went on to add that, 'For us in the Nigeria Air Force, we see your efforts as non-kinetic means of frontally confronting and addressing the myriads of security challenges facing us as a nation in view of its import to national integration and cohesion, reconciliation, peace and unity of all Nigerians.'

Air Marshal Amao went further to state that the NAF concurred with the notion that most Nigerians care less about the country's political problems, but rather its accelerated development

and a stronger Nigeria built on equity, fairness, and justice. 'Indeed, a Nigeria built on these ideals will surely minimize the risk of conflict and violence which are inimical to national security,' he noted.

The CAS went on to aver that a whole-of-society approach towards tackling the various security challenges confronting the country remains the surest bet towards finding lasting solutions to the security challenges and summits such as the 'Citizens Summit' are the non-kinetic means deployed to give Nigerians a sense of national cohesion and integration.

He also added that though the NAF, in synergy with other sister services, has stepped up its air operations against enemies of the state with varying degrees of success, the efforts can barely address 20 percent of the security challenges being faced while the remaining 70 percent will be resolved via non-kinetic means such as the recently held NIPR Summit.

The CAS then assured the NIPR team of NAF's support as they continually seek ways to foster cohesion, promote understanding, build relationships, and improve peaceful co-existence among Nigerians.

Earlier, Mallam Sirajo had intimated Air Marshal Amao on the *raison d'etre* behind the NIPR-organized 'Citizens Summit' which according to him, arose from Nigeria's future being plagued by several developmental issues, lingering insecurity and unabating wave of

agitations for cessation, among other challenges. This challenges thus informed the need for the summit which wasn't necessarily an event per se but a process that will fast-track national integration, peace and security.

Mallam Mukhtar also briefed the CAS on NIPR's solution-driven platform initiated by NIPR which necessitated the institute to tour the 6 geo-political zones of the country to feel the pulse of Nigerians on the need for national cohesion and reintegration.

While informing the CAS that NIPR remains the only legal entity approved by law for the regulation of PR practices in Nigeria, the chairman added that though it frowned at the appointment of non-professionals as PR managers of government organizations, the Institute now conducts crashed master classes for such persons to enable them to be absorbed into the fold of the Institute.

In commending the CAS on his military leadership style which has seen the NAF play frontal roll in the decimation of terrorists, Mallam Sirajo noted that the outcome of NAF's targeting of terrorists' enclaves is there for all to see and appreciate. He thereafter solicited for NAF's support in subsequent summits and other people-oriented projects.

On the Chairman's entourage were Vice President NIPR, Assistant Controller General of Custom Wale Adeniyi, Dr. Ike Neliaku, Chairman, NIPR Citizens Summit and other council members.



A post mortem

IT was a delight when last week, Thursday, September 1st journalists on the Plateau deemed it necessary to put together a discourse with the theme "Beyond politicking: Harnessing Plateau' potentials". The event had Prof. Gyang Pam Sha of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Research Institute as discussant. Prof Sha however, tinkered with the topic and charged it to "Beyond Politicking: Rethinking a Patriotic Agenda for the Development of Plateau State". The NUJ did not have a problem with the modifications at all. The modification further reinforced the need for the discourse at the time as it challenged political actors to look beyond politics and see how they can change the political landscape of the state given the vast potentials available.

Prof Sha not only took a tour of the available natural resources stock available in the state but suggested how these could be exploited for the benefit of the state. He provided free consultancy for the candidates who were available and those represented, challenging them to use the large pool of local human resources available in the state to change the story and fortunes of Plateau. Prof Sha succinctly captured the essence of the discourse and at the end, showed Plateau will be a lot better if too much partisanship were to be discontinued. That politicians need to rise above these partisanship and build a network that would be useful to the State and stop the winner takes all tendency which is often not beneficial to the State.

Prof Nanven Gambo, pioneer Vice Chancellor of Karl Kumm University, who chaired the event lent his voice to the discourse saying it was not only timely but needful that the NUJ on the Plateau thought of putting together such thought provoking event. He wondered why Plateau people have not been able to distinguish between politicking and governance. He called on

political actors as well as followers to play the game according to the rules. That as soon as elections are won and lost, the interests of the State must take pre-eminence over everything else. He advised political actors to look beyond their political parties and see the bigger picture while calling on the followers to be objective in criticizing those saddled with the responsibility of running the affairs of the State.

While welcoming guests to the event, Chairman of the NUJ, Plateau Council, said "the discourse was about the political future and survival of the state and that the event was not only very dear to their hearts, but it was conceptualized to challenge Plateau people about the kind of State they want and how they intend to achieve it.

He went further to say "we, therefore, have deliberately brought together political actors and stakeholders from across the different divides to interact and share insights that would be helpful for the development of the State. To be honest,

“ He went further to say "we, therefore, have deliberately brought together political actors and stakeholders from across the different divides to interact and share insights that would be helpful for the development of the State. To be honest, the political atmosphere has never been as toxic as it is at present and as the fourth estate of the realm, it is our responsibility to set an agenda that will be helpful to steer the ship of our state in the right direction.”

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the political atmosphere has never been as toxic as it is at present and as the fourth estate of the realm, it is our responsibility to set an agenda that will be helpful to steer the ship of our state in the right direction."

"To set the tone for the discourse therefore, we have invited Prof. Pam Dung Sha, of the NIPSS to lead the discussion and challenge all of us present on the type of Plateau we want. Is it a Plateau that is working and is peaceful where all can realize their dreams? What we read on the social media, churn out by the various supporters of the political players sends a lot of chills down the spine of anyone who holds the state dear. It is such kind of needless toxicity that the discourse sets out to tame to allow for the flourishing of helpful and useful ideas in the state."

"It is our hope that going forward and as we approach 2023, political campaigns and discourses would centre around ideas that would lay a path for the pursuit of growth and development of the state. I once again welcome you and call on all to be open and honest in our interactions and submissions as we pursue the re-engineering of a peaceful Plateau State."

The political actors present all keyed into the submission of the lead speaker and lent their voices to the need for politicians to rise above partisanship so as to change the fortune of the state. Indeed, representative of the Plateau State governor at the event, Hon Dan Manjang reiterated the need for all to support whoever was elected in 2023 so that he would succeed. He said always running down our own was not useful and that Plateau people must think and act Plateau.

Various persons who made comments commended the NUJ for bringing Plateau people together to reason as a State and prayed that the event would help change the narrative of the State and help it realise its potentials.

News

NGOs empower widows, offer scholarships

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A Non Governmental Organization, Ayo Adun Foundation (AAF) and Millennium Christian Ministry (MCM), have empowered over 36 widows and awarded scholarships to 10 of their children from nursery to primary school level.

The foundation, which trains the widows on skills' acquisition such as baking and soap making, also distributed foodstuffs like noodles, garri, spaghetti as well as clothing materials to the widows.

Speaking at the event tagged, "Widows' Outreach" held at Millennium Christian Ministry in Lokoja, the

Executive Director of AAF, Mrs Mercy Ayo Adun, said the outreach was organised to mark the 54th posthumous birthday of her late husband, Pastor Ayo Adun, the founder of MCM

According to her, the AAF was established to keep the vision of our founder, Pastor Ayo Adun of blessed memory alive.

She stressed that her husband touched many lives. According to her, his driving force was affecting and impacting on the lives especially of the vulnerable people during his lifetime

She said the vision of the Foundation was in line with the vision of the Millennium Christian Ministry which is to

shine the light of God in the dark areas of the society

She noted that the intensive skill acquisition training would continue for the next one week for thorough understanding.

The Foundation also offered cash donations to the widows to start small businesses

Present at the occasion was the Senior Pastor of Emphasis Assembly, Pastor Mrs Maurine Frank, and Pastor Mrs Alice Halidu of Revival House Church, who both delivered messages of hope and encouragement to the widows.

One of the widows, Mrs Aisha Sanni, thanked the Foundation for the gesture, saying the materials given and the scholarship would go a long way to alleviate their sufferings.

She prayed God to continue to bless the foundation and the Church to be able to reach out to more vulnerable people and the less privileged in the society.



Farouq

Gunmen kidnap 32 guests at funeral

By ABDULKARIM FATIMA TAYE

GUNMEN suspected to be kidnapers have abducted 32 people attending a funeral ceremony in Edo state.

The victims were abducted on Saturday, September 3,

around Ifori area of the state. It was gathered that the victims were paid by the gunmen while travelling in a coaster bus.

However, some of the occupants of the bus reportedly escaped. The Ondo

state Commander of Amotekun, Chief Adetunji Adetoye said his men are combing the area from the Benin -Ifon to Owe forest in search of the victims.

Chief Adeleye said his men would take all necessary

No fewer than 9 persons lost their lives while 10 sustained various degrees of injuries following the auto crash that occurred on Abuja-Lokoja Highway on Sunday

The Corps Public Education Officer (CPEO), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Mr Bisi Kazeem confirmed the incident in a statement made available to journalists in Lokoja over the weekend.

According to Kazeem, the crash involved a Toyota Hiance Bus with vehicle registration number KTG-450 KQ and Howo Sino truck at about 06:05a.m on Sunday.

He said that the passenger bus was coming from Osun State and heading to Katsina State, but unfortunately crashed into the stationary truck.

Kazeem further revealed that the accident occurred at Sabon Gari village, near

Motor accident claims 9 lives

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Gada Biyu adding that the First Information Report, FIR, had been forwarded by Zebra16, Abaji.

"Twenty-two people were involved in the crash. They were all male. Ten were

injured and nine were killed. First aid was given to two,"he said

Items recovered from the accident, according to him, are: N3,170, six bags and 4 different mobile phones.



Biu

SGF, quintessential gentleman

From Mathew Jwantu, Minna

SECRETARY to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Boss Mustapha has received birthday best wishes on his 66th birthday anniversary from Niger State Government, describing him as complete gentleman from Soul to crown.

The Secretary to the Government of Niger State (SSG), Ahmed Ibrahim Matane has congratulated the Secretary to the

Government of the Federation (SGF), Boss Mustapha on his 66th birthday anniversary noting him to be a man of integrity.

Ahmed Matane in his birthday message, described the SGF as a quintessential gentleman, rare gem and erudite lawyer, who has distinguished himself in all

ramifications.

According to the SSG, "Boss Mustapha has provided excellent leadership in managing the engine room of the Federal Government, thereby providing impetus to the implementation of policies and programmes of the present administration.

He further lauded the SGF for the provision of strong and commendable rallying

point for the Federal Executive Council.

"On behalf of the people and Government of Niger State, I heartily felicitate with the Secretary to the Government of the Federation on the auspicious occasion of his 66th birthday anniversary".

It would be recalled that Boss Mustapha has demonstrated high level of patriotism by Chairing the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19.

Youths should engender peaceful society

THE urgent need for a peaceful coexistence

From Dorcas Pankyes, Abuja

-Stakeholders

dominated discussions at the 2022 International Youth Summit for Peace.

At the event organized Monday in Abuja by the International Organization of Youth Promoters of Peace in Collaboration with Foundation for the Support of Nigeria Veterans and Universal Peace Federation, stakeholders are of the view that youths are in the forefront to engender a peaceful society.

President, Internanaonal Organization of youth Promoters of Peace, an organization under the auspices of the United Nations, Ambassador Johanness Makouvia said Nigerian Youths are duty bound to create a peaceful atmosphere, stressing that the UN sub-organization is to explore the huge number of youth population in Nigeria in furtherance of their peace

mission.

Another representative of the organization, Captain Hounakey Kafu-Ata echoed that the event which is the first of its kind in Nigeria is aimed at using the youth across the country as catalysts for peace.

Other stakeholders at the event led by the Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for the Support of Nigerian Veterans and Universal Peace Federation Brigadier General Lonsdale Adeoye (rtd) urged Nigerian youths to be engaged in gainful ventures devoid of violence and any other form of unrest as the 2023 general election beckons.

Having started in Abuja, the message of peace to mark the International Youth Summit for Peace 2022 is expected to continue in Abeukuta and Port-Harcourt in the coming weeks.



COCIN Choir, LCC Jenta Mangoro, Jos presenting a song during a visit to COCIN LCC Rukuba Road, RCC Kabong Jos, recently.

Foreign Commentary

UK PM-Truss gets to the top

As the next prime minister, Liz Truss has little time or support from Conservative MPs to turn things around for the UK. David Allen Green writes.



Truss

THE United Kingdom has a new prime minister. She is Elizabeth "Liz" Truss, the current foreign secretary, and she is taking over from Boris Johnson.

In some ways, this is not constitutionally or historically unusual. Several previous foreign secretaries have taken over as prime minister, such as Anthony Eden (1955), Alec Douglas-Home (1963), James Callaghan (1976) and John Major (1990). Johnson himself was foreign secretary from 2016 to 2018. Indeed, the post of foreign secretary is often regarded as the most prestigious and senior role in the British

government after the prime ministership.

It is also not unusual for the prime minister to change without a general election. Since 1974, every single British prime minister has either come into office or left office between general elections, with the last two — Theresa May and Johnson — doing both.

What is, however, unusual is the manner of this change at the top. More importantly, many of the challenges that Johnson struggled against politically in recent months could also haunt Truss.

On the face of it, Johnson was in

a strong position. He had called and won a general election in 2019 which gave his government a substantial majority. He "got Brexit done" — although that was by the messy expedient of agreeing to a withdrawal agreement that had been previously rejected and is now causing complications with its Northern Irish protocol.

This summer, however, his government imploded. Dozens of ministers suddenly resigned. The cause of this political drama was that his colleagues, in effect, lost confidence in his leadership. In particular, they did not know whether a position they took in parliament or in front of the media one day would be compromised by the government the next day. Johnson, who is currently being formally investigated for misleading the House of Commons about the Downing Street parties during the Covid-19 lockdown, was seen as not a friend either of the truth or of the careers of his colleagues.

That this — and not any matter of grand policy or high political principle — was the reason for his sudden departure is significant. Although the new prime minister will have to deal with problems to do with Brexit, the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and the escalating energy price crisis, none of these matters was directly the cause of Johnson's downfall and Truss's elevation.

It is the means of her elevation which may point to what happens next politically. Here it must be noted that Truss is not especially popular with her backbenchers.

Only 50 out of 358 Conservative members of parliament (MPs) voted for her in the first round of the leadership contest. Her ministerial record, although long, is pretty vacant of any accomplishments.

In the final round of voting by MPs, she still was behind former Chancellor Rishi Sunak among her colleagues. That she got on the shortlist of two candidates to go to the national party vote was not inevitable.

Truss has won by appealing to Conservative Party members, who may not be representative of Conservative voters more broadly, and are certainly not representative of the electorate in general. Although she may now break free of any sense of political obligation towards those who voted for her, it is more likely that she will govern from a partisan perspective with a like-minded cabinet, and with economic policies that make little sense. If so, this may be the most partisan British government of modern times, at least in tone if not substantive policy.

With the United Kingdom heading towards another general election, she has limited time, until December 2024, to make any political impression. In the meantime, any controversial legislation — especially if not covered by the Conservative's 2019 manifesto — may get stuck in the upper chamber of parliament, the House of Lords. Strident words may not have time to become striking achievements.

This would be a challenging time for any prime minister. Given how low her support is with her party's MPs and the limited time left before the next election, Truss is in an especially difficult position. A lot of noise can be made, of course, but little progress. If Truss leads her party to defeat in the next general election, as is predicted by opinion polls, she will join other prime ministers who, having taken over mid-term, went on to be defeated, such as Callaghan (1979) and Gordon Brown (2010). That would not be unusual.

To be sure, one should never underestimate any politician who climbs to the top of what Victorian statesman Benjamin Disraeli called "the greasy pole". Truss has managed to become prime minister, while hundreds of her contemporary politicians have not.

The signs are not good for a successful Truss premiership, or for her party at the next general election. Truss is the UK's fourth prime minister since the Brexit referendum, just over six years, and we may soon be on our fifth after the next election.

Yet, more unusual things have happened in British politics in recent years than a successful Truss premiership, and so all one can say confidently is that the next two or so years will be as politically interesting as the last six or seven.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance.



Johnson, wife leaving 10 Downing street

Foreign News

Chile rejects new constitution

LORENA Donaire woke up in her hometown La Ligua, in central Chile, with tears of joy. Confident that her country would vote to approve the proposal for a new constitution, she had planned to celebrate a new chapter in Chilean history which placed the environment as a key priority.

Donaire, 50, grew up in the drought-stricken zone Petorca, where La Ligua is situated. An environmental rights activist and spokeswoman for water rights group Modatima, the approval of the proposal meant the realisation of the rights she had fought for her entire life.

Several of her Modatima colleagues were elected to write the draft, enshrining landmark environmental protections and consecrating water as a fundamental right.

But when the results came in, her tears of joy turned to those of heartbreak. A majority 61.9 percent of Chileans voted against the text, firmly rejecting the ambitions of a proposal that dubbed itself feminist, ecological and groundbreakingly progressive.

A supporter of the new constitution sitting on the sidewalk listening to the partial results of the plebiscite on whether the new constitution will replace the current one [Cristobal Escobar/AP Photo]

Donaire told Al Jazeera that she feels "abandoned and very sad", but will not lose hope. "We will continue to fight for the little water Chile has left."

Demands for a new constitution arose during nationwide protests in October 2019, when millions of Chileans took to the streets to march against the rising costs of living, their anger directed towards an out-of-touch political elite.

The ruling constitution, written in 1980 during the dictatorship of conservative President Augusto Pinochet, was singled out as the root cause of the country's gaping inequality and lack of social welfare. Many protesters, including Donaire, argued that Pinochet's text gives private companies disproportionate power over civil and environmental rights.

In October 2020, Chileans voted by a landslide 79 percent to replace the 1980 charter and draft a new text written by 154 popularly-elected candidates. In May 2021, a largely independent and left-wing assembly was chosen to begin the drafting.

It was the world's first constitutional proposal written by equal parts men and women, and it had reserved seats for Chile's Indigenous groups.

However, the process was smeared by infighting, with opponents criticising constituents for prioritising leftist demands over wider, more representative solutions.

President Gabriel Boric had been supportive of the assembly; dozens of the proposal's writers were members of his Broad Front coalition party.

The "Reject" victory signals a huge blow to his



Boric

political agenda. A former left-wing student protest leader only months into his first government mandate, Boric's ambitions to provide greater social security and prioritise the environment are blinkered by the framework of Pinochet's ruling doctrine.

On Sunday night, Boric promised to lead the nation forward in a televised address. "The people of Chile were not satisfied with the proposal ... and decided to clearly reject it at the ballots," he conceded, before pledging to begin a new constitutional process.

Members of the opposition parties who led the "Reject" campaigns have similarly committed to writing another draft. "We have the space to build great agreements," said centre-left Senator Ximena Rincon on Chilean television after the result. "It's beautiful what happened today, and we won't celebrate now, but when we finish this process," said Luz Poblete Coddou, president of the centre-right Evopoli party at a separate news conference.

Jose Francisco Viacava, political scientist and academic at the government faculty of the University of Chile, said Boric must bring together a diverse team that includes political actors, opinion leaders, and the current Congress to reach a consensus for the process ahead.

Boric must also ensure that a new draft is communicated clearly and correctly: the dismissed proposal was besieged by an onslaught of fake news that fuelled "Reject" campaigns. False claims spread rapidly online, spreading misinformation that claimed that the text outlawed bottled water, permitted abortion up to nine months of pregnancy, and allowed the state to claim property and usurp homeowners.

The latter is why Adriana Rojas rejected the proposal. A mother who lives in the working class district of downtown Santiago, she took to the streets to celebrate the result on Sunday night with her two young children and her teenage niece.

In La Ligua, Donaire looks out onto a parched landscape. Petorca's two main rivers are now completely dry; a result of unregulated agricultural companies cultivating avocados by pillaging the

region's water supply, as facilitated by Pinochet's constitution.

Donaire has received dozens of anonymous threats, including phone calls and online intimidation. She said she believes that they come from actors paid by the agricultural industries because of her environmental work. In June, her house burned down under suspicious circumstances. The case is still being investigated.

Despite the danger, Donaire said she will continue to rally for the environment and hopes the next draft will incorporate protections for nature and its defenders. She believes that more Chileans will soon face the brunt of the environmental crisis, and drastic change is inevitable.

FORMER Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga whose petition to nullify his rival William Ruto's presidential election victory was thrown out by the Supreme Court, has said he respected the decision but disagreed.

"We respect the opinion of the court although we vehemently disagree with their decision today," Odinga said on Twitter within an hour of the court's decision.

The seven-member court had delivered a unanimous verdict upholding Ruto's victory earlier in the day.

Chief Justice Martha Koome said the court found no evidence that the results had been tampered via hacking of The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission's (IEBC) servers, as was alleged by Odinga's camp.

The decision paves the way for Ruto, 55, to be sworn in as Kenya's fifth president in the coming days.

"The court returned its verdict and I welcome it with tremendous humility," Ruto said on Monday,

Odinga respect supreme court decision



Odinga

promising to run an inclusive administration.

The defeat was Odinga's fifth in five attempts. He blamed several previous losses on rigging. Those disputes triggered violence that claimed more than 1,200 lives in 2007 and more than 100 lives 10 years later.

In 2017, he challenged

his loss to Kenyatta but boycotted the rerun ordered by the Supreme Court, in which he lost again.

The election in East Africa's wealthiest and most stable nation was seen as a democratic barometer for the rest of the region.

Burkina Faso blast kill 35

At least 35 civilians have been killed as a convoy of vehicles carrying supplies in Burkina Faso's restive northern region struck an improvised explosive device (IED), according to the regional governor.

The explosion, which wounded 37 others,

occurred as the military-escorted convoy travelled along the road from Bourzanga to Djibo on Monday, said Rodolphe Soro, the governor of the northeastern Sahel region, which borders Mali and Niger.

The tri-border area has

been central to a spiralling security crisis in the wider region over the last 10 years, and has seen increasing attacks by groups linked to al-Qaeda and ISIL (ISIS) following military takeovers in Mali and Burkina Faso, in May 2021 and January 2022, respectively.

"One of the vehicles carrying civilians hit an improvised explosive device. The provisional toll is 35 dead and 37 injured, all civilians," the regional governor's statement said.

The explosion follows a string of attacks on main roads leading to the region's main cities, Dori and Djibo.

In early August, at least 15 soldiers were killed in the area by a double IED blast. In June, at least 86 civilians were killed by armed attackers in the northern town of Seytenga.

Burkina Faso's military rulers have branded fighting armed groups in the northern and eastern regions of the country a top priority, with the army saying it has undertaken "offensive actions" and also initiated a process of dialogue with certain armed groups, through religious and local leaders.

Still, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) has documented more attacks this year in Burkina Faso than in Niger or Mali, where the security crisis was first triggered by an ethnic separatist movement in the north in 2012, followed by the rise of various armed groups in the central border region.

On Sunday, AFP reported that military leaders in Mali and Burkina Faso have agreed to strengthen their military partnership to combat armed groups, a move that followed the withdrawal of French troops from Mali, which was completed in August, and Mali's withdrawal from the regional G5 Sahel Joint Force, which went into effect at the end of June.

Putin attends military exercises with Chinese forces

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has attended large-scale military exercises involving Chinese forces and the militaries of several other Russia-friendly countries, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told local news agencies.

The Vostok-2022 (East 2022) joint military exercises began on September 1 and are being held amid Russia's war in Ukraine and at a time when both Moscow and Beijing face tensions with the United States.

Putin was at the Sergeevskiy military range on Tuesday to meet with Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu and

military chief of staff Valery Gerasimov and would observe the final phase of the military exercises, Peskov was quoted as saying.

General Gerasimov has personally overseen the drills, which involve troops from several ex-Soviet nations as well as from China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua and Syria.

A Chinese armed convoy arrive for Vostok 2022 at the Sergeevskiy training ground at Primorskiy Kray, Russian Far East [File: Russian defence ministry handout via AFP]

More than 50,000 soldiers and more than 5,000 units of military equipment, including



Russian President Vladimir Putin (C), Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu (L) and Chief of the General Staff of Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov oversee the military drills at Sergeevskiy training ground

140 aircraft and 60 ships, are involved in the exercises which run until Wednesday across several training grounds in Russia's Far East and in the waters off its eastern coast.

The exercise continues a series of joint war games by Russia and China in recent years, including naval drills and long-range bomber patrols, and showcases ties between Moscow and Beijing, which have grown stronger since Putin sent his troops into Ukraine.

Chinese defence ministry spokesperson Colonel Tan Kefei said last week that China's participation in Vostok-2022 aims to deepen "cooperation between the militaries of the participating countries, enhance the level of strategic cooperation among all participating parties, and enhance the ability to jointly respond to various security threats".

Similar drills were last held in 2018.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno on Monday criticized Russia for holding part of the Vostok-2022 exercises on two of four Russian-held islands claimed by Japan.

"Japan will continue to monitor the movements of these ships with serious concern, and will take all possible measures to conduct warning and surveillance activities in the waters surrounding Japan," Matsuno said at a news conference.

China's Ministry of National Defense said in a statement on Sunday that China participated in air, ground and naval exercises as part of the drills. It said a Chinese naval tactical team conducted joint exercises with Russia in the Sea of Japan, including one designed to destroy drifting mines.

Feature

Felicitations for Bishop Hassan Kukah at 70

As it is popularly said, the good deeds of a man will surely not be hidden, and by their fruits, they are known and appreciated. This explained the excitement on the faces of the numerous crowd that flooded the prestigious Sheraton Hotel and towers, Abuja, venue of the event organised to celebrate and honour the highly revered Man of God, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah of the Sokoto Catholic Diocese on August 31, 2022 as he clocked 70. Palang Kasmi writes.

ATTENDANCE of the event was overwhelming with an influx of people from the Nigerian society including the political, business, religious, academia and other class.

The forum became rather like a gathering of miniature Nigeria with the presence of Nigerian personalities from all works of life cutting across political religious, ethnic, geographical, and social affiliations.

Chief Host, of the event, Sokoto Governor Amimu Tambuwal and the Special Guest of Honour, Former President Goodluck Jonathan, were among dignitaries and political actors that attended including Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun, Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong, APC Presidential Candidate, Asiawaju Bola Tunubu and his running mate kashim Shettima, Labour Party Presidential Candidate, Peter Obi, former Minister of Information, Labaran Maku, Edo Governor, Godwin Obaseki, Sultan of Sokoto, Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-olu, Governor Of Kaduna Nasir El-Rufai, Minister of Women Affairs Dame Pauline Tallen, Former Senate Leader, Victor Udom, Former Deputy Speaker House of Representatives Rt. Hon. Emeka Ihedioka, Akwa Ibom Governor, Udom Emmanuel, Former Sokoto Governor, Attahiru Dalhatu Bafawara.

Other personalities like Charles Oputa popularly called Charley Boy, Publisher of Sahara reporters and Presidential candidate of African Action Congress (AAC), Omoyele Sowore, Governor Emmanuel Udom, Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State, Representative of Conference of Catholic Bishops Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama, Gen. Martin Luther Agwai Rtd. among an endless list of personalities.

As goodwill messages started to flow, Chairman of Nigeria's Governors Forum (NGF) and Ekiti state governor, Kayode Fayemi said he has known Kukah for over 30 years and he was known as one with "good trouble".

Fayemi noted in his remarks that Kukah loved to ruffle the feathers of political leaders all for the good and development adding that no past or present Nigerian leader had escaped from Kukah's messages, which were not based on hate or rivalry, but to resolve lingering challenges in the country.

While calling on him to continue his good trouble, Fayemi said he always looked forward to his homily and awaited the trouble that follows after adding " He practised a frontline component of theology of engagement. His trouble was good because it was always for the good of the people and entire country. Though a priest, he was always working and acting for the good of the church and country. He was a man of many parts who has ruffled many feathers".

"If you ask former Presidents Good luck Jonathan Olusegun Obasanjo or even President Mohammedu Buhari, they will tell you they have had an encounter with him, and a bit of the good trouble, but it was for the good of the country" he said adding "Continue with the good trouble for the good of the country".

In his encomiums, Plateau Governor Lalong, and Chairman of Northern Governors Forum said attaining 70 is a great blessing describing the Bishop as an honest man who does not hesitate to tell the truth and engage in constructive criticism of personalities and governments to address issues.



Lalong urged Kukah to continue with his good works for the development of the country.

In his comments, the presidential candidate of the APC, Tinubu described Kukah as a Great mind, with a great mind and a great and resilient personality, who loves Nigeria overwhelmingly that he never gives up on the Country.

While urging Nigerians to emulate the Bishop's good legacies, Tinubu said Kukah's contributions to all sectors has helped in shaping the nation and serving humanity promising to contribute to bringing into reality, the Kukah Centre.

Chief host of celebrations and Sokoto Governor Tambuwal, who was represented by Former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Emeka Ihedioka said the proposed 'Bishop Kukah centre' will serve as a place for fostering dialogue and advocacy causes as it will be a legacy in Nigeria, Africa and world which will affect lives of poor, vulnerable Nigerians, and the world.

Representative of the Bishops Conference of Nigeria, and the Archbishop of Abuja, Ignatius Kaigama, said he is proud of Bishop Kukah saying God has blessed him with the gift of knowledge, wisdom and skills of all kinds which he has used wisely, for the growth of the church and the country.

"Since you joined the priesthood and was

ordained a Catholic Priest on December 19, 1976, you have been the pride of the church and Nigeria", Kaigama added.

In a documentary that gave a brief summary of the life and works of Kukah since he joined the Priesthood, he was described as a hardworking priest and the way he contributed to national issues gave him the name "Conscience of the nation".

In the documentary, one of his admirers said "He does not discuss people but issues, and started writing articles in national issues two years into priesthood".

Former Nigerian President, Abdulsami Abubakar in the documentary also extolled Kukah's great virtues and prayed for people like him to assume leadership of the country someday, because of his ability for living and preaching for religious tolerance, love, honesty, and development across the country.

Muape-Ogun Yusuf, a Journalist from Channels TV who chaired a panelist round table discussion at the forum tagged 'Nigeria's Unfinished Greatness: Next steps' described Kukah as a bridge builder across political parties, religious and generational divides, and governments both during the military and Democratic era.

She said the Bishop had personally called her to anchor the panelist discussion, saying it was indeed a call that humbled her, and a move that describes him as a

gender friendly personality.

The panelists discussants were Governor Kayode Fayemi, Fr. Anthony Akinwake, of the Dominican University, Dr. Sam Amadi, Mr. kabirbu Adamu, security expert, Barr. Gloria Ballanson, Human Rights activist and CEO House of Justice.

During the discussions, Fayemi said the roots to nation building is peace and inclusiveness, Ballanson called for the scrapping of Section 308 of the constitution saying it is not useful to the country because it allows leverage and room for leaders to get away with corruption.

While calling on Nigerians to elect credible leaders in 2023, the Panelists suggested that for the country to move forward, laws should be for everybody and for keeping everyone in check no matter how highly placed, therefore the rule of law should be for everyone and not only for some people. They also said the inability of the justice system to proffer punishment to offenders is a major setback in the country while the way forward for Nigeria is to have institutions that protects Nigerians, creating a nation that upholds sincerity and justice to all, adequate security, religious freedom, and for every citizen to learn to do what is right, look beyond self and accommodate everyone, eschew from authoritarian democracy, create a state where values of privileges, rule of law, rights of people are respected, and citizens are given equal rights.

There was fundraising for the permanent site of Kukah Centre spearheaded and chaired by SGF Boss Mustapha. The SGF held the microphone and attracted handsome donations towards the cause.

Fr. Atta Barkindo, Director of the Bishop Kukah Centre said the centre will provide a forum for research that will give facts and empirical evidence including national recommendations on issues, for the growth of the nation.

According to the Director, although Kukah comes from Anchuna, a tiny village in Zangon Kataf Local Government of Kaduna state, he expressed happiness that he is able to make the kind of impact that is touching the nation and the world, despite his humble background.

Bishop Kuka has a rich profile and has earned the respect of many Nigerians over the years especially for his bridge-buding attributes straightforwardness and sincerity on commenting and calling for solutions to national issues.

Ordained Priest in 1976, Kukah was popular between 1999 and 2001 as a member of the Nigerian investigation Commission of Human Rights Violations 'The Oputa Panel', Secretary of the National political reform conference in 2005, Chairman of the Ogoni-shell reconciliation and the convener of National Peace Committee that assisted in the peaceful election and transition of power during the 2015 general elections in Nigeria among many other positions held in the Church and country.

Aside cutting the 70th Birthday Cake with the numerous high profile dignitaries that attended the event, the maiden edition of the 'Kukah Prize Award' for young Tech Innovators was given to deserving young Nigerians. The awards is to be yearly, and will be championed to promote modern trends in resolving the challenges that affect the youth in society through innovations.

Other fun catching attractions to remember during a dinner held in honour of the celebrant, was how the Bishop thrilled guests to the popular 'Buga dance' by Nigerian Musician Kizz Daniel.

THE EVE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Living

Can women wield power without gender reference?

WOMEN and power: Is there a more incendiary combination of words in the English language? Drinking and driving? Teenagers and sex? A woman can never be too rich or too thin, but until very, very recently, she could be too powerful, for which—if she wasn't smart enough to camouflage herself—she generally pays the price. Sometimes she got burned at the stake. Sometimes she got run out of town. Sometimes she simply gets sexualized, which has been the easiest way to neutralize, if not destroy, an accomplished woman.

Of course, women have long exercised influence behind the scenes. A few thousand years ago this drove Aristotle to distraction: "What difference does it make whether women rule or the rulers are ruled by women? The result is the same." Especially on the domestic front, women are acknowledged to be experts at a tensile brand of quiet authority: And no one with a mother can deny that she wields—without lifting a finger and by virtue of her sheer existence—an outsize, open-ended, irrevocable influence on a life.

For the most part, though, history acknowledges a different, more disarming brand of power: a woman's ability to unmake a man. In a first-century B.C. marriage contract, a bride promised to be faithful and affectionate. She also vows not to add love potions to her husband's food or drink.

For the several thousands of years before they became firefighters and physicians, women were sirens, enchantresses, snares. At times it seems as if female powerlessness is male self-preservation in disguise. And for millennia, this has made for a zero-sum game: A woman's intelligence was a man's deception. The accepted wisdom is that



women have made the longest strides toward independence, towards authority and opportunity, in periods of great dislocation. If that is so, we must be living in the most fractured, befuddled, out-of-joint age ever, as we live—for the first time—in a world of female taxi drivers and Supreme Court justices, fighter pilots and four-star generals. For the second time we have a woman in the state house who might just as well have landed there on her own.

We even live in an age when what have traditionally been considered female traits—strong communication skills, a collaborative instinct, a gift for

juggling, emotional intelligence—are hailed as desirable leadership qualities. For a few thousand years women had no history.

Marriage was our calling, and meekness our virtue. Over the last century, in stuttering succession, we have gained a voice, a vote, a room, a playing field of our own. Decorously or defiantly, we now approach what surely qualifies as the final frontier. Which raises a question of the hour. Is it possible for a woman to wield power without reference to her gender? Can she prove herself competent, effective, articulate without being dismissed as either



a bitch or a bimbo, until recently her only career choices? Power has for so long been a male construct that it distorted the shape of the first women who tried it on, only to find themselves in a sort of straitjacket.

Powerful women were caricatures of their male colleagues. They had no feelings. They didn't like to talk about shoes. No wonder early feminists hoped the concept of power would vanish entirely when women ran the world. Instead it seems that women have begun to transform, to broaden and deepen, the whole idea of power. A woman no longer has to leave off being a woman to embrace it. (Ego trips are not a male preserve.) Nor does anyone have to sit in the vicinity of a corner office; power has many addresses. One can wield it without a suit and tie, just as one can do so without a paycheck, a portfolio, a job. Having been for so many years defined by our

bodies, we have no particular desire to be defined by our business cards.

Across the board, we're separating success from purpose, focusing less on title, career, status, more on accomplishment, influence, responsibility to ourselves and to our world. Those are not only equal-opportunity employers but also self-employers. They're bestowed from the bottom up rather than from the top down. They can't be forcibly removed. As the feminist scholar Carolyn Heilbrun defined it, "Power is the ability to take one's place in whatever discourse is essential to action and the right to have one's part matter." That is no less true on the playground than at the Pentagon. At issue are self-mastery and self-esteem rather than title and totem pole; we're overhauling the very concepts of influence, leadership, clout, control. There may be no single better definition of power. **Source: Oprah.com**





Health

See what pap does to your body

By **FATIMA GIMBA**

CORN pap is a Nigerian fermented cereal pudding made from maize, also known as *akamu*, *ogi*, *koko*, or *eko*. This super-light food has been around for decades now and a lot of people in Nigeria are eating it.

A study in 2018 on the Nutritional composition of pap found that pap is rich in essential properties, including carbohydrates, Vitamins [A, B5, B3, B1, riboflavin, C), folic acid, potassium, chromium, selenium, zinc, phosphorus, and magnesium. It also contained high contents of amino acids such as tryptophan, phenylalanine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, and valine. The calories in one serving of pap are 152. Read carefully now to see what pap is doing to your health:

Regulates Blood Pressure

Pap is an excellent source of potassium and contains zero sodium content, making it a good diet for people with high blood pressure and those who want to maintain stable blood pressure or prevent hypertension production. Another benefit of taking potassium-rich foods such as pap is that it helps to lessen the effects to sodium in your body while also relieving discomfort in your blood vessel walls, thereby protecting you from myriads of health problems that might have to sprout. **Lowers**

LDL Cholesterol

There are two primary forms of cholesterol in the body, low-density lipoprotein [LDL] and high-density lipoprotein [HDL], respectively. The former, LDL, is also considered to be 'poor' cholesterol since having excess cholesterol in your body will

cause plaque to grow in your artery walls, making circulation a problem. It may also result in undue heart strain, and can even lead to high blood pressure, stroke, or heart attack.

On the positive side, pap contains a decent deal of chromium, zinc, magnesium, and some other active properties that help minimize the body's cholesterol levels of 'poor' LDLs.

Highly beneficial for nursing mothers

Pap contains a high amount of water and some other components which facilitate the adequate flow of breast milk for mothers who are lactating. It also helps to recover strength after having suffered from one disease or another, not forgetting that it is again an easy-to-digest food – a friend of the digestive system.

Good source of energy

Pap is an excellent source of carbohydrate, one of the nutrients on which your body strongly relies on adequate energy. Carbohydrate-rich foods such as pap not only provide the body with energy but also encourage mental sharpness and improve fat for energy metabolism.

Pap is one of the easy to digest foods that we have around us. This helps the body to get rid of unnecessary contaminants and chemicals quickly by simply increasing the pace you urinate at. Another advantage of eating easily digestible food is that it puts less stress on the digestive system and is good for people recovering from illness. In addition to the above, people with digestive disorders, including irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), irritable



bowel disease (IBD), or a sensitive stomach, may enjoy consuming easily digestible foods such as pap as they function on the digestive system quite carefully and seldom trigger issues.

Boosts the kidney's health

The kidneys are among the body's most important organs, so any disruption can cause adverse effects in the human system in this area. Many of the things that can destroy this vital organ are uric acid, urea, toxins, waste, and other hazardous substances. The great news, however, is that drinking pap can get rid of these substances because it helps remove harmful contaminants in the body by urine. If you're drinking pap you appear to urinate more.

Promotes healthy pregnancy and lowers the risk of neural tube defects

One of the main products pregnant women need to have a successful pregnancy is folic acid. This acid deficiency may contribute to the birth of underweight children, or may even cause neural tube defects in newborn babies. Pap is high in folic acid on the plus side making it a perfect and safe food for expectant mothers. Apart from that, you'll be surprised to learn that the same

paper also encourages breast milk development after childbirth-what a healthy meal!

Akamu is good for babies and toddlers

Pap is one of the safe foods for children in Nigeria. In Nigeria, it's a common weaning meal introduced to infants. While being highly economical, simple

to prepare and easy to digest, it is also very nutritious to growing children. Brown pap is the best form of baby pap. Brown pap consists of carbohydrates, millet, and guinea corn which provides some proteins, vitamins, and minerals that are very important to the growth and overall development of babies.



Editorial

Political party funding: Need for caution

Nigeria's Attorney General and Minister of Justice Abubakar Malami, SAN recently raised some concerns over what he perceived as a breach of the electoral Act 2022 by some Nigerians in diaspora who have indicated interest to fund the campaign of Peter Obi, the presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP) in the forthcoming presidential election.

ACCORDING to him, "what these individuals failed to understand is that Nigeria is a democratic nation, governed by democratic rules and regulations. It is against the electoral act for those living abroad to sponsor any candidate in an election as such funds cannot enter Nigeria as certain measures have been put on ground to apprehend those who will get themselves involved in such Act."

THE feud erupted after the Diaspora Support Groups pledged to crowd fund about 150million dollars for Peter Obi and another 100 billion naira to be sourced from supporters in Nigeria. The Federal Government's position was made clear after the National Chairman of Labour Party, Julius Abure inaugurated a Diaspora Committee to organize fund raising activities.

An insight into the Electoral Act on Diaspora funding seems unclear as there is a lacuna that needs proper interpretation to avoid controversies surrounding the issue. Section 85 of the Electoral Act for instance clearly spells out that any political party that holds or possesses any fund outside Nigeria in contravention of section 225 (3) (a) of the constitution, commits an offence and shall on conviction forfeit the funds or asset purchased with such funds to the commission and in addition may be liable to a fine of at least 5million naira or retain any fund or other asset remitted to it from outside Nigeria.

THE constitution and the Electoral Act seem to have a huge gap that should subsequently be addressed in future amendment and review. Some of these issues were raised in the report of the Centre for Social Justice on reforms and amendments to the campaign finance provisions of the constitution and Electoral Act submitted to the National Assembly as a contribution toward the review of the Electoral Act. Unfortunately these issues were ignored and the challenge remains.

WE are of the opinion that as much as Nigeria wants sanity in its electoral system, INEC needs to cover the field in its regulation to ensure that grey areas are addressed and that there is certainty in the campaign finance laws and regulations in the 2023 elections. Allowing foreign persons to provide resources for national elections will imply that persons who are not eligible to vote or be voted for will be in the position to influence the outcome of local and national elections.

AGAINST the background of this explanation, it appears the limitation related to foreign funding should cover both the political party and the candidates. Where sources of such funds are questionable, the electoral umpire most take drastic measures in order to give the entire process the required credibility in an election where so much is expected in the spirit of free, fair and credible contest by stakeholders.

CONSIDERING the divergent legal opinions on the issue, we are of the view that, all parties should be cautious so as not to overheat the system at this point in time where the corporate unity and peace of the nation is at stake.

THEREFORE, it is expedient for all political parties and stakeholders to approach the courts in order to seek legal interpretation of the provisions of the law on this very sensitive issue for clarity and better understanding by all.

IN a traditional African society, the male child is considered as more important, much emphasis is placed on the female gender, little is asked of young men about their participation and responsibility in doing house hold chores. It is believed that being a man, is to succeed in the financial and economic aspects.

Most parents base their parenting on the female gender thereby leaving the male gender to fend for himself overtime, this has prove costly and detrimental to the society. The male child that was abandoned has become a bane in the society and the wheel of progress. The time is right for the narrative to change to avoid stories that touch the heart.

Most vices perpetuated in the society is carried out by the male gender ranging from armed robbery, kidnapping, rape, theft etc, their actions have broken homes and shattered the dreams of aspiring individuals. Most parents base their sex education at the tender age on just the girl child, they seldom leave the male child to his fate, little wonder we are having increasing number of unwanted pregnancies and abortions. The male gender at the tender age depends on his peers to teach him what his parents considered irrelevant to impart in him.

Furthermore, most parents consider house

chores to be mainly for the girl child thereby allowing the male child to have a filled day, playing with friends.

It is mundane to think certain responsibilities and teachings are for just a particular gender, this nasty and backward belief is costing us much

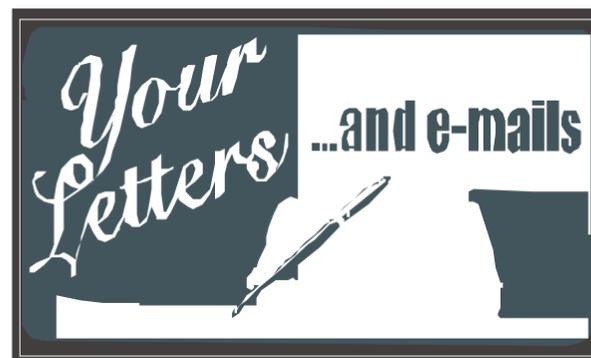
Why gender selection?

more than we are willing to pay. The boy child that was neglected is unleashing terror, pain and agony on the girl child. This is evident in the spate of rape and senseless killings on rampage, its obviously a carnage, which is endemic on the society.

It is gradually becoming a norm which must urgently be nipped in the bud.

Its time to salvage the future, we can't continue to have girls and women who are traumatised and rendered useless. Abortion and unwanted pregnancies have cut short the dreams and aspirations of our dear children. For how long will the boy child continue to uproot the good morals inculcated in the girl child? It is heart breaking and mind blowing.

Parents should as a matter of urgency consider both gender as equal in other to avoid one sided discipline. Parents should learn to appreciate their children and give them the necessary support. Family values should be



upheld and the girl child has gotten enough. Sex education should be taught to both gender with the impending danger associated in practicing pre-marital sex. The boy child should be taught contentment, to be satisfied with whatever might be given to him, so as so distant himself from theft and

robbery. Values of prayer should also be encouraged amongst children, their closeness to God will distant them away from vices that will corrupt the good morals imbedded in them.

By Ajang Ajiji John, Jos.

Harvesting with caution

I write through this medium of the Nigeria Standard to remind households to exercise caution in choosing the type of crops for planting within the vicinity of their compound during this planting season.

Let's not forget what happened in the recent past where those who planted corn within their houses in some communities provided cover for unknown gunmen who attacked some house holds especially in Bassa, Riyom and Barkin Ladi LGAs.

Although farming is good as a means of providing food for the family, it has also become ideal to plant those crops that will not endanger lives and property.

We are living witnesses to recent happenings in farming communities where high crops like corn block or prevent rural residents from noticing attackers most especially at the peak of the rainy seasons and worse, at night.

By Gyang Dung Gada, Gada Biu.

Standard Cartoon

JAMB QUESTION

1. Jagaban and Atikulate who amongst them has not changed party?
2. Who amongst them did not give dollars to delegates during the primaries?
3. Between the two who doesn't use medicated glasses?

Oga this one is a competition between aged billionaires. Let them carry on. 'God dey!'



Opinion

Why Nigerian graduates are half baked

By JIMOH ABDULLAHI

CEASELESS missiles of criticisms have often been rained on some Nigerian tertiary school graduates and that criticisms have brought about a trite compound word "Half-baked."

Year-in and out, graduates with empty pods are turned back to the society by our various tertiary schools but what rally round the problem is multifaceted.

However, the pristiness of the children right from their tender age is undeniable. Whatever quantity and quality of learning they receive, it will certainly be transparent wherever they find themselves in all their endeavours.

The way "standard III" students do speak flawlessly and fluently in the olden days are quite amazing, which is far better than university students of nowadays. This is not an auxesis, it is a bitter truth that pulls out the porosity in the decaying modern quality of teaching and learning in Nigeria.

The children in primary schools, that is regarded as the foundation, are not getting what they deserve, especially in public schools where pupils are jam-packed in a class.

How could two or three naturally weak mistresses with insufficient energy and low incentive, project from their tiny voices amid the powerful rowdy of the little children? And also, there are no facilities that can aid teaching.

Thus, a slow- learner or

absent-minded among the pupils will forever be abandoned to grow up with his dullness. Who cares!

90 percent of the parents in Nigeria strive by all means to bundle their children or wards to private schools even, if such schools lack the ability to be given government approval, it rather pays them than taking their children to government schools where pupils will not be taken care of.

Such lively-skilled pupils from primary schools may be fortunate to be advanced to secondary school with his dullness, who do not get adequate and necessary knowledge from where he comes, will continue like that.

Virtually all government secondary school teachers in those rural areas and villages and some private schools in the urban centres greatly contribute to this particular problem, they want to be glorified without working for it.

They expose their students to all sorts of corruption. Go to those villages where you can hardly find students in class.

Even if there are students they would not see teachers on time, only the day their teachers wish to come to school. It does happen, go and confirm.

Have you ever considered why "miracle centres"

dominate rural areas and villages? Though, the clandestine operation of those public schools teachers in the villages are not justified but they cannot manage stress of the road with laziness but the greediness and curiosity to get praises from members of the public and secret "fresh kola nut" (bribe) push them to be engaging in examination malpractices, claiming to be helping the students not without knowing that they are besmirching the society with their silly succour.

Students who passed through those kind of schools by God's grace and connection, not by merit, will secure admission to either colleges of education, polytechnic or university depending on the capacity of his or her JAMB score coupled with giggling "As" and "Bs" in WAEC or NECO in one sitting. Management of higher institutions of learning and government also stylishly escalate the country's predicament.

In an attempt to drastically reduce the unemployment rate, the governing council of each higher institution of learning reviewed the academic curriculum by fixing entrepreneurship into it so that, students can stand on their own without looking for a job after the somnolent years in schools. Well, the initiative is good but not perfect.

Recently, a radio station in Lagos State aired this particular topic, where a mass communication female student from Auchu Polytechnic was asked on how they do their own entrepreneurship course in the school.

She said, in her group there were many students with sewing machines, their lecturer used in teaching them to sew. But that is not the issue, but the dark side of the initiative is that, it rendered the main course students go to learn in school as a mere secondary course.

Later, a professor from the department of philosophy at Lagos State University joined the programme via Zoom and he was asked what was his view on the entrepreneurship course students are introduced to in school.

He affirmatively said it was the best thing to do, since there is no white-collar job outside there again, despite the fact that the radio presenter asked the student to repeat what she said earlier before the professor joined.

Also, a student of Kwara State Polytechnic was asked by this author on how many students are in his department? He said they were up to one thousand five hundred, just a department!

Hardly would the students hear what the lecturer is teaching in spite of the public

address system. As a result, students find it difficult to receive effective learning.

It is no longer genuine that the class of university lecturers are currently in their perennial and destructive industrial action, students have been stranded in their various homes without regard to studies again.

Some are learning trade or engaging in cyber fraud to keep themselves busy.

When school finally resumes, lecturers will go and take their extant lecture papers from where they were dropped before the strike, with various school management re-drafting new academic calendar that gives no clemency to students mental health.

Lecturer will dictate junkies to students to cram and write it back in the examination, some lecturers will not even come to class, some final year projects of the students and thesis of PhD holders are plagiarised.

Nonetheless, those researches turned to project papers are just left to dust where they are packed without implementation.

So, in a situation where these dung heaps of problems are what we are facing, how do you expect a country to progress and not depend on the westerners when its own education system is treated as a mere side-hustle.

The place of character in leadership

By JOSEPH YOKAT

ONE of the major problems we have in Nigeria and in the world today, is the problem of leadership. We have people handling leadership positions which they are not qualified to handle. We have people saddled with responsibilities they lack the capacity to handle. No wonder, we continue to grapple with different problems for years, because we have not been getting it right in terms of leadership. Even the few people who will end up occupying the positions they can handle, will be frustrated by those who cannot handle theirs. And since the whole system functions as a team, the strength of that team is only as strong as that of the weakest individual in it.

A lot of people would have been qualified based on their educational qualifications and intellectual prowess to handle very key leadership positions in our country, but leadership is beyond having a first class, second class upper, speaking good English and other intellectual properties. Yes, it is good for a leader to have all those, but there is something crucial which must be added to this for any leader to be balanced and effective in the discharge of his/her duty. That additional component is CHARACTER.

Many people have failed in leadership due to character problem more than intellectual. Sometimes, you will come

across dexterous craftsmen in different fields of endeavours, who should be making waves and training other people, struggling to survive because of character problem. The truth is, your competence in terms of intellect and experience can make you rise to the top, but it is character that will sustain you up there. You will agree with me that we all like truthful and men/women of integrity around us. But such people are very few in our societies today. Many people only pretend to be so, as money, power and other privileges have exposed them. If it were not so, we couldn't have been faced with the problems we are currently passing through as a country today.

It will be good for us to look at the definition of character before we go ahead with this discussion. Simply put, character is integrity, or sameness all the time. A man/woman of character is one who can be trusted, someone you can hold by his/her words. In Nigeria, we are blessed with many individuals aspiring for leadership positions which they can handle in terms of competence, but there is a lacuna in the aspiration of some, because they lack character.

The high level of syndicated corruption we are passing through as a country is just a testament that character is lacking in virtually every part of our societies. Unless we have men/women of character in our leadership positions, stealing, terrorism, corruption and many

of the problems we are currently facing as a country will continue to be unsummountable for us.

A man/woman who can promise and fail lacks character; A man/woman who tell lies to his followers lacks character; A man or woman who steals lacks character; A man/woman whos YES is his/her NO lacks character; A man/woman who can be a different person when people are not seeing him/her lacks character. A man/woman who is a hypocrite lacks character.... As we approach the 2023 general elections, let us remember to look beyond party and intellectual capacity, to rate our candidates based on their track records whether they are men/women of character.

"The truth is, your competence in terms of intellect and experience can make you rise to the top, but it is character that will sustain you up there. You will agree with me that we all like truthful and men/women of integrity around us. But such people are very few in our societies today. Many people only pretend to be so, as money, power and other privileges have exposed them. If it were not so, we couldn't have been faced with the problems we are currently passing through as a country today."

Feature

Self-defence not enough reason to tackle insecurity

There is insecurity everywhere in Nigeria. Apart from the period between 1967 and 1970 when the Nigerian Civil War raged, this country has never experienced anything close to the worsening insecurity. From the North to the South, terrorists are everywhere killing, maiming, kidnapping for ransom, burning and sacking whole villages. They are not relenting. Mack Ogbamosa writes.



AGAINST this background, many ordinary and prominent Nigerians, including state governors and those with military background, have made suggestions on the way forward. Some have suggested that we bring in mercenaries to fight the terrorists. Others have called for self-defence by allowing Nigerians to bear arms.

While Borno State Governor, Prof Babagana Zulum, wants the use of mercenaries to fight insecurity, some of his counterparts are proposing that citizens should be allowed to bear arms to defend themselves, since our security forces are not capable of defending us.

Among those who have made this call are Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari, Zamfara State Governor, Alhaji Bello Matawalle and their Benue State counterpart, Mr Samuel Ortom.

The governors have reportedly requested the police commissioners in their respective states to issue licences to their citizens to bear arms.

Also making a similar proposition are a former Chief of Army Staff and Defence Minister at different times, Lt Gen Theophilus Danjuma (retd), and the current Minister of Defence, Major-General Bashir Magashi (retd.)

Much as this suggestion appears good on paper, its implementation will be difficult. Besides, the idea of bearing arms for self-defence by the generality of our citizens cannot be a solution to insecurity.

Both the Nigerian Criminal and Penal codes support the right of self-defence.

Good as these provisions are, there are many impediments to the implementation of this proposal.

For instance, in defending yourself, you are not to use a weapon that is higher than the type used by your attacker. The weapon of self-defence must be proportional to the weapon of the attacker. How do we ensure compliance with this?

Also, the Firearms Act does not allow for the possession of arms by those not authorised to do so. Section 3 of the act states: "No person shall have in his

possession or under his control any firearm of one of the categories specified in Part 1 of the Schedule to this Act (in this Act referred to as prohibited firearm) except in accordance with a licence granted by the President acting in his discretion".

Section 4 of the act also says, "No person shall have in his possession or under his control any firearm of the categories specified in Part 11 of the Schedule to this Act (in this Act referred to as "personal firearm) except in accordance with a licence granted in respect thereof by the Inspector General of Police, which licence shall be granted or refused in accordance with principles decided upon by the President"

It is clear from these provisions that contrary to the advice from the state governors, state police Commissioners do not have the powers to authorise the use of firearms. This power belongs to the President.

Another impediment to the implementation of self-defence is that governors have no control over the police, Army and other security forces in their states. They do not have powers over the appointment of security forces like the police or the military. They do not have authority over their deployment for operational purposes. They are simply lame-duck chief security officers.

Both the Constitution and the various acts setting up the agencies give the power of appointment and to authorise operational use of the forces to the President.

The situation would have been different if we had state police under the control of the respective governors of the states in question. But this is not the case.

It is unfortunate that the ninth National Assembly did not deliberate on this issue. None of the 44 bills passed during the recent constitution amendment exercise dealt with the issue of insecurity, which is the most daunting challenge confronting the nation today.

Besides, how many Nigerians are mature enough to handle arms for self-defence? Are we not going to be creating a Hobbesian state of nature where life is

"solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short"?

Insecurity is beyond arms bearing for self-defence. To tackle the challenge, we must look at its root causes. These include poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, nepotism, wide gap between the rich and the poor, corruption, injustice as well as lack of good governance. Most of the issues have already been tackled in Chapter II of our 1999 Constitution (as amended) under Fundamental Objectives And Directive Principles of State Policy.

According to the Chapter, the State shall ensure: That the material resources of the nation are harnessed and distributed as best as possible to serve the common good; the economic system is not operated in such a manner as to permit the concentration of wealth or the means of production and exchange in the hands of a few individuals or of a group; suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions, and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of the disabled are provided for all citizens; the composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity, as well as to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few states or from a few ethnic groups or other sectional groups in that government or any of its agencies; and that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government

It is obvious that we have failed or neglected to implement these provisions of the Constitution. This is why we find ourselves in the state we are today.

Nigerians need leaders who will ensure the realisation of the purpose of the state and the responsibilities of government as enshrined in Chapter II of the Constitution.

Until this happens, bearing arms for self-defence as currently being propagated as a solution to insecurity in the country can only lead to anarchy. **Source: THEWILL**

News

Essesein impregnated Abayomi's wife -Witness

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

A witness in a case between the Nigeria Police and Prophet Moses Essesein, named Cecilia Joshua, confirmed to the court that Prophet Essesein impregnated one Mrs. Martha Abayomi Adewumi and planned to run away to Nasarawa State.

She disclosed this recently, while appearing in court as PW1 to testify against the man of God, who is the leading Prophet of Garden of Prayer Ministry, former Mount Zion Miracles Ministry, Bassa at the Magistrate Court West of Mines in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

The witness told the court that she was invited by her friend, Mrs. Martha Adewumi, to attain the ministry one fateful day and she followed her only to discover that the man of God was using fetich powers because after laying his hand on her head, she had headache so she stopped going to the ministry.

Cecilia said, "I told my friend that I will not attend that ministry again and she told me that she was parking out of her husband's house because the prophet asked her to do so. And that, he will rent a house for her because her husband is not fit for her."

"There was a day I was with her when the prophet called and asked her to meet him in a hotel room (name withheld). When she returned I discovered she was looking sad so I asked her what happened? She told me that the prophet gave her one drink and she could not understand herself again and he had sex with her and from there, my friend started acting abnormal."

"I told her husband how abnormal she has been and he gave us transport to go and see one man of God in Benin."

The man of God laid his hand on her and prayed and she became healed. When we returned, I noticed that she was pregnant but was not aware so, I went to the pharmacy and bought a pregnancy test drugs and it tested positive", she narrated.

According to Cecilia Joshua, "I was with Mrs. Martha when she called the prophet to inform him that she was pregnant. Immediately, the prophet sent his Personal Assistant, Mr. Paul with drugs for her to terminate the pregnancy. When she came back from meeting the PA outside, I notice she was angry she said " can you imagine the prophet gave me drugs threatening her to terminate the pregnancy".

"I pressured her to tell her husband the truth about the pregnancy promising not to tell anybody and she admitted. that, Prophet Moses was responsible for the pregnancy because she has been away from her husband for long and the prophet had been coming to where he rented for her", Joshua



Alkali

revealed.

However, there was a mild drama when the Prosecuting Counsel, ASP Obi Isan, Esq, presented two receipts of the transport fare paid by Cecilia Joshua and Mrs. Martha Adewumi, to Benin issued by Plateau/Delta Transport Limited to be admitted as evidents 1 and 2 because Counsel to the 1st and 2nd respondents objected, but was overruled by the presiding Judge, Justice Zakka Dung backing it with Evident Act.

It would be recalled that the Police FRI revealed that, the

prophet was standing trial in the same court for enticement of married women, adultery, procuring abortion and criminal intimidation and conspiracy against women under Justice JD Chollom, but transferred where the case went de-novo and started afresh before Justice Zakka Dung recently.

The case was adjourned to September 27, 2022 for ruling on the submission of past PW1 report that has been termed de-novo and for the continuation of cross examination hearing of PW1 testimony.

GOC declares IBCP competition open

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Division Nigerian Army (NA) and Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH).

Maj Gen Ibrahim Ali had on 5 September 2022 declared open the 3 Division Inter Brigade Combat Proficiency Competition 2022 with a call on officers of the Nigeria Army to constantly train and update themselves on current security challenges.

The commander disclosed this in a statement signed by major Ishaku Takwa acting deputy director army public relations 3 Division to journalists Monday in Abuja.

The statement explained that the GOC revealed that, training is a cardinal pillar of the COAS vision, which is to have " A Professional Nigerian Army Ready to Accomplish Assigned Mission within a Joint Environment in Defense of Nigeria". He said, Nigeria is currently bedevilled by myriads of security challenges to which the armed forces have continued to upscale its training and military exercises to curb the menace.

Speaking further General Ali revealed that training is the bedrock of military successes. He said, the competition is aimed at sharpening the skills and competencies of subalterns of the Nigerian Army in line with the COAS Training Directive for the Year

2022. He averred that competitions such as Combat Proficiency is organised to develop the spirit of healthy competition, cooperation and teamwork needed in the

ASUU seeks elders' intervention in ending strike

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), University of Ilorin (Unilorin) chapter, has called on well-meaning Nigerian leaders to swiftly intervene in the ongoing industrial dispute between the union and the Federal Government.

Making the appeal while fielding questions from newsmen in Ilorin, Prof. Moyosore Ajao, the Chairman of the union, also called on organisations to intervene in the prolong dispute.

Ajao said he was seeking the interventions with a view to ending the strike in the interest of innocent students and their parents.

He said that it was high time elder statesmen, traditional rulers and religious leaders of all divides stepped into the lingering debacle in the interest of the nation.

The Professor of Anatomy said that the leadership of the union was in no way against the interventions of those whose voices would be respected by the federal government.

He pointed out that those eminent men and women

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

YOUTHS in the North-East Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Nigeria have been told to stand out and show the light to this corrupt world.

The youths, who gathered in Billiri, Gombe State, for their 2022 Youth Congress, were admonished to identify themselves with the chosen people of God whom He personally called from darkness into His marvelous light because of His love.

Guest Speaker at the Congress, Pastor (Dr.) Yohana Dangana, President of the North-West Conference of the Church, who represented the Northern Nigeria Union President of the Church, Pastor Y.U. Harry, in his sermon, encouraged the youths to live out the special purpose which God called them.

Taking his scripture reading from the Bible book of Deuteronomy 7:6-8 and with the topic, 'I am chosen', Pastor Yohana reminded the youths that they are favoured by God because He chose them, as such, their everyday conduct must reflect the light of God and shun anything inimical to that.

He said, as God's property, they must declare His glory and bear good fruits as well as live exemplary Christian lives. He added that, as it is in Holy Bible, God never calls anyone without giving him/her a task.

He also charged them to always avail themselves for the service of God by actively responding, "I will go" whenever the call is made.

Pastor Dangana also used the pulpit to caution his fellow pastors against misleading their congregations into doing

'Stand out from this corrupt world'

their (Pastor's) personal wills instead of God's will, warning that, like in I Samuel 3:1, the spirit of the Lord will depart from them if they don't turn away from their deeds.

President of the Church in the North-East Nigeria Conference, Pastor Joshua Ezra Mallum, in his address to the campers, reminded them that they are in Billiri to experience the power of mission with Jesus Christ as the leader, sharing the life changing message of hope found only in a personal relationship with Him.

In his message to the youths, the North-East Nigeria Conference Youth Director, MG Jacob Alabai, called on the youths to go and be the "hands of Jesus" in their local

churches, campuses, cities as well as unreachable countries of the world in these trying times.

Representatives of the youths from all the six States of the North-East comprising Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe and Plateau States which makes up the North-East Conference of the Church had camped for seven days beginning Sunday 28th August, 2022 in Federal Government College Billiri for the annual event.

They were engaged in community service, lectures, parades and many other skills and recreational activities. The Congress came to a close with the Sabbath worship on 03 September, 2022. Ten souls were baptized after the worship.



Inuwa

Division Garrison, Brigadier General Micheal Agi thanked the GOC for encouraging healthy competition among officers of the Division. He urged the participants to make good use of the week-

long competition to develop new combat skills and modern warfare techniques.

The opening ceremony was attended by traditional rulers, heads of security agencies and principal staff officers from Headquarters 3 Division.

NDE trains 100 unemployed youths

THE National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Monday flagged-off five-day training workshop for 50 unemployed youths on small stock (Goat) production in Yobe state.

Its also commenced week-long training for another 50 youths on Post Sustainable Agricultural Development (POST-SADTS), a scheme under Rural Employment Promotion (REP) department.

In his keynote address, the director general NDE, Mallam Abubakar Nuhu Fikpo said, the programme was geared towards achieving improved livelihood for the unemployed youth, reducing rural and urban migration, providing raw materials for leather manufacturing industries as well as reducing poverty.

Represented by the Yobe state NDE coordinator, John Tumba Kwaji, Fikpo stated that the scheme designed considering the immense potential inherent in Goat production business.

parents and guardians with children and wards studying in the nation's ivory towers," he said.

preserving the nation's university system, which is currently being afflicted with brain drain and deterioration of enabling infrastructure

He said, "Engaging the unemployed in Goat production business can play an important role in socio economic and environmental life of the farming Communities in terms of income generation and food supply for the local population and the country as a whole".

Earlier in his address, the head of department REP, Headquarters Abuja, Mr Edem O. Duke represented by Mrs Hauwa Bassi said, the small stock (Goat) production has the potential of positively affecting the living standards of farming communities.

Mr. Duke revealed that it is an opportunity for the participants to make good use of the offer given to them.



Geidam

News

Jatau chairs 'GoInvest' 2022 summit screening committee

By WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, has inaugurated a steering committee under the Chairmanship of the State's Deputy Governor, Manasseh Daniel Jatau, for the proposed maiden edition of the State's Investment Summit tagged, 'GoInvest 2022 Summit'.

Dr. Ishiyaku Mohammed, Special Adviser on Budget, Planning and Development Partners, is to serve as the secretary of the committee.

At the inauguration ceremony, which was done virtually, Governor Inuwa Yahaya charged the committee members to devote their time towards ensuring the summit attracts investors that would help grow Gombe State economically.

He urged the committee to take the assignment seriously, adding, "devote our time so that we have investors that will help in arresting the socio-economic challenges that are confronting us."

He gave the committee the following terms of reference: Provide strategic guidance in the actualisation and successful hosting of Gombe Investment Summit; liaise with Government and private sector operators; Ensure participation in the summit and to drive pre-summit engagements and post-summit follow-ups.

The steering committee had other members such as the Chairman of Gombe State Investment and Property Development Company Limited, Dr. Umaru Kwairanga; Managing Director/CEO, Central Securities Clearing Systems Plc, Haruna Jalo Waziri and the State Commissioner of Finance and Economic Development, Mohammed Gambo Magaji.

The summit, which is facilitated by the Gombe State Government and other partners, will also be under the patronage of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission in Gombe State.

GoInvest 2022 summit, with the theme "Industrialization, the pathway to Innovation, Transformation and Development of Gombe State," aims to find, engage, and attract new investment leads, market Nigeria as a top investment location, and facilitate interactions between potential investors and the state.

It is also geared towards engaging Business to Business and Business to Government meetings as well as ready to Offer Investment Projects, Premium Land, Public Private Partnership (PPP) Projects, and other opportunities would all be open to investors, financiers, investment facilitation agents, and companies interested in doing business with the Gombe State.

The Summit also hopes to facilitate agreements that would promote growth in key industries and demonstrate



Yahaya

Gombe State's leadership in the fight against climate change.

Considering its strategic location in the North East zone, Gombe State provides a favourable investment environment for investors.

It could be recalled that the

state ranks Number one in the ease of doing business, acts as a logistical centre and a gateway to Northern Nigeria, Nigeria, Africa, and the global markets.

The summit is expected to hold between October 11th and 12th 2022.

Bauchi Govt. inoculate dogs against rabies

The Bauchi State Government says it has inoculated 5,000 dogs against rabies across the 20 local government areas of the state.

Dr Ibrahim Bello, Director, Veterinary Services in the state Ministry of Agriculture, said this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Bauchi.

Rabies is a deadly virus spread from the saliva of infected animals to humans usually through a bite.

Animals most likely to spread rabies include dogs, bats, coyotes, foxes, skunks and raccoons.

He said the vaccination exercise was being conducted under its free anti-rabies vaccination campaign designed to stem the spread of the disease in the state. Bello said the ministry would also administer anti-rabies vaccine on another 5,000 dogs and pets in the next round immunisation exercise billed to commence on Oct. 19.

He urged dog keepers and pet owners to avail themselves the opportunity and present their pets for vaccination to protect them against zoonosis. "The vaccine helps prepare pets' immune system to fight disease causing organisms."

"It contains antigens that resemble disease causing pathogens and mildly stimulate the immune system," he said.

The Director, however, decried the spate of stray dogs in major towns across the state, describing the trend as "alarming".

He said many dogs had not been registered or licensed with relevant authorities,

noting that a lot of rabies infected dogs could be on the prowl.

The dogs, he said could be potential source of transmitting rabies disease, especially unvaccinated ones.

Bello said properly kept

The House of Representatives has promised to unravel the circumstances that led to the July 5 Kuje jail break by suspected Islamic State for West African Province (ISWAP).

Rep. Sha'aban Sharada, the Chairman House Committee on National Security and Intelligence, said this on Monday at the resumed investigative hearing of the terrorists' attack on Nigerian correctional Centre, Kuje in Abuja

The Reps had on July 22, set up a joint committee on National Security and Intelligence and security related committees to investigate the causes and effects of Kuje attack.

Other members of the committee include Rep. Anayo Edwin, Chairman, House Committee on Reformatory Institution and Rep. Abdulrasaq Namdas, Chairman, House Committee on Army.

Sharada, who is the lead Chairman of the joint committee, assured the public that members would not spare anyone in the security breach.

He said the House would trace the circumstances that led to the incident, adding that deliberate efforts would

Reps promise to unravel circumstances behind jail break



Sharada

be made to ascertain the security situation within and around the facility.

He said measures would be put in place to safeguard the reoccurrence around the facility and others around the country.

He said that the House would also ensure the monitoring of measures put in place to protect lives and property of residents in the FCT and those of all Nigerians.

He reassured Nigerians that the joint committee would be thorough, firm and objective in carrying out its assigned responsibility.

He said that insightful briefs had been received from the Directors General of the Department of State Services, the National Intelligence Agency and the Comptroller General of the Nigerian Correctional Service.

The committee, however, re-invited the security chiefs and other heads of security agencies including some ministers who failed to honour its earlier invitation.

A mild drama, however, ensued when Rep. Osai Osai (PDP-Delta) raised a constitutional order for the security chiefs who failed to honour its invitation to be summoned.

He said that the next action would be to issue a warrant of arrest if they failed to honour the House summons.

Quick intervention by Rep. Namdas, saved the day when he pleaded with the House to re-invite the affected officers, adding that some of them could be on duty, considering the security challenges in the country.

Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, the Minister of Interior, while appearing before the committee said that a good number of terrorists came to attack the Kuje correctional facilities.

He said that the security challenges currently ravaging the country were inherited by this administration.

He said, "We have kidnaping for ransome, Boko Haram, separatists agitation, among others. (NAN)

Senator proposes bill on same faith presidential arrangement

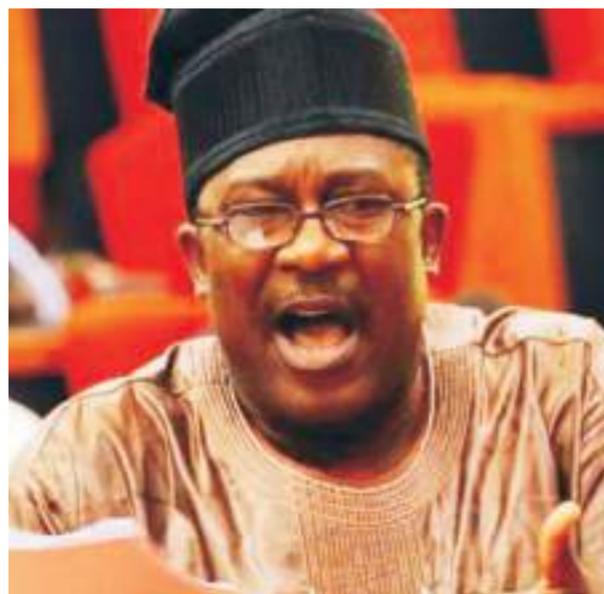
From JIDAUNA YANUNG
Abuja

WORRIED by the controversies generated in the country so far by the Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket of the All progressives Congress (APC), a senator has proposed a bill to outlaw same faith presidential arrangements in future.

This was made by, Senator Smart Adeyemi (APC, Kogi West), who aligned with the position of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) on same faith ticket while at

the same time backing the Bola Ahmed Tinubu/Kashim Shettima joint ticket.

Briefing journalists in Abuja recently, Adeyemi disclosed that he came up with the bill to forestall future occurrence of same faith presidential ticket while appealing to Nigerians to allow Tinubu/Shettima candidacy to sail through the 2023



Adeyemi

When wrong leaders are in power



By **BULUS GAMBO**

IN the course of my journalism career straddling virtually three decades now; I have had the opportunity of meeting some prodigious men and women who have distinguished themselves in their chosen careers. One of such persons is none other than Prof. Ali Mazrui, the Tanzanian born American political writer on African and Islamic studies, reputable and globally acclaimed scholar who was not only passionate about the underdeveloped status of Africa but the ineptitude disposition of most of our leaders on the continent. Even though Mazrui had separately underlined some humanly created hiccups which had consequently hoven nations of Africa into reversible dilapidation, he was always quick to affirm that our leaders in this part of the world were and still are so selfish to a magnitude that they only think of themselves.

Even when Mummar Gaddafi held sway, building enclaves for himself, even when Mobutu Sese seko was amassing significant wealth, even when many tyrants and despots were

tormenting vulnerable negotiations across Africa, not any of us was bold enough to challenge such obnoxious, brutal aggression s, policies and or intrigues.

Today, these acts of administrative ingenuity continuously perpetrated by our successive docile and vision-less leaders have derailed our dreams and developmental projections. In between their freeholds of phenomenal misrule, nations of the continent have been polarized, subjugated and milked with consistent unbearable hardship necessitated by elements of excruciating poverty.

Today, one of this African countries which is presently on its knees is Nigeria presently regarded as the most populous black nation in the world. In the past few months, it has become so evident that this nation is fundamentally sick and incapacitated with no practicable remedy in sight.

One of the most disturbing issues holding this country by its neck is the ongoing precarious sense of insecurity bedeviling the nation. Since the advent of this democratic dispensation, it has not been that worse than this time around. The activities of kidnappers, bandits and insurgents with boldness and impunity are already pricking our intellectual thoughts.

For instance, in a recent BBC documentary on the activities of bandits in Northern Nigeria released this year, Nigerians were shocked following the confessional statements offered by some of these heartless criminals. In fact, it became much more disturbing after one of the bandits disclosed that the incumbent government after

whooping N60 million as ransom for the release of some kidnaped victims.

Surprisingly, while the government has vehemently denied giving such an amount, one bandit who was turbaned with a traditional title in Zamfara State, north western Nigeria openly declared that he does not kidnap but kill innocent citizens. This particular bandit further noted with pride when asked about the number of lives he had killed disclosing boastfully that he could not recount the number of his victims of unnecessary mayhem.

In the aftermath of this BBC documentary, many fundamental questions are continuously being ask by both scholars and members of journalism profession in this country and even beyond . Some of these questions include how was this journalist able to locate these dangerous elements which the nation's security had consistently failed to locate and ensure that justice is done. Is it true that the government has been paying ransom to these elements even as they have openly criminalized any of such acts? How workable has been this amnesty programme dished out to the so called repentant Boko Haram sects in our country?

We have also heard unconfirmed reports that some of these repentant extremists have been conscripted into the nation's security organizations after undergoing several demilitarization programmes to disengage them from their inhuman ideologies. Though one cannot conclude on this assertion, it has become so worrisome and unacceptable by



any and every standard that despite the billions of naira spend on the issue of tackling insecurity, the nation is still unable to make any headway.

Just some days past, the National Security Adviser, Babagana Monguno noted that tired of the unabated calamity bedeviling this country, Nigerians have stated seeking for self-help in an effort to protect themselves. This self-help connotes the fact that many communities are militarizing their domains, buying weapons and training themselves to acquire certain elementary skills of physical confrontation in this moment of uncertainty. What this equally means is that the citizens of this country have lost confidence over government's ability and or capability to protect them.

We have been abandoned in a forest full of loose hungry lions looking for anyone to deplete. In the midst of this unpleasant calamity, most Nigerians are finding it difficult to have three square meals a day. In this same country, our public universities are closed due to unending fruitless negotiations which have taken us nowhere. Come to think of it, the increasing fuel price in a petroleum producing nation like ours has contributed in no small measure to the sufferings the citizens of this country.

The hike in fuel pump price has continued to affect all facade of

our lives. In a situation whereby the government has almost failed in regulating the price of this essential commodity, vulnerable Nigerians are the ones bearing the burden of these excruciating predicaments.

Without any contradiction, many innocent citizens of this country are only but enduring this obvious hardship. In the last few years, government policies have left much to be desired even as people are yawning for any systematic improvement particularly regarding policies affecting the welfare of the entire vulnerable citizens.

Sad enough, the vision-less disposition of the leaders of this country has greatly polarized this nation. Consequently, nothing seems to be working for our good due our pretentious lifestyle coupled with glaring dishonesty which has truncated nearly all our hopes for a better tomorrow.

Summing it up in one of his pragmatic documentaries, Prof Mazuri explains that our contemporary leaders lack remedies to some of these challenges because they cannot give that which they don't have. For Mazuri, leaders in Africa have not lived up to our expectations because we have always been voting the wrong people into power.



By **YVONNE ISHOLA**

THERE are thieves and there are thieves in Nigeria. Ours come in categories. If you have ever come across a thief that takes the form of a rat that bites you and soothes the place by blowing air on it, you would prefer meeting an honest thief. My definition of an honest thief is one who steals as a profession and does not hide under any guise or give his profession fancy names.

Dishonest thieves abound at Lamingo, Haske, Babawo axis. Unfortunately, these group of thieves rob students. Literally, one can say they rob the cradle.

Wolves in sheep's clothing milking students

Sadly, the thieves are in the age bracket of 30 to 60 years.

Most of the thieves pose as agents, landlords. Some of them even call themselves lawyers, but the way they play their game or run their businesses, leaves a lot to be desired.

One would think since most of them are parents or aspiring to be parents, they would run their business with a human face. But far from it. All they are after, from every indication, is milking these young and vulnerable students dry. And who bears the brunt of it all? The parents who like every other Nigerian, are struggling to survive.

Lamingo axis has become a hub for Medical students, Laboratory Science and Film Arts students of Nigeria Film Institute, Jos. Also, Resident Doctors abound there because of the presence of Jos University Teaching Hospital where they do their residency. And for the same reason, staff of JUTH have made it their home. That apart, staff of Remote Sensing abound there since their office is located there.

It has also gained popularity

as a developing area that is steadily taking over from Rayfield. Or that is rubbing shoulders with Rayfield in terms of development.

The fact that Nigeria Film Institute students have not been allowed to access their hostel, due to security challenges considering the location of the school, the issue of one room apartments have become scarce commodities. Students now have to rely on agents to get them accommodation in the school vicinity. This has opened up an unlicensed business for some merciless group of people who call themselves agents.

Recounting their ordeal, some students say the landlords have left them at the mercy of these sharks who usually hike the rent to oil their palms. A house that used to go for N80, 000 (eighty thousand Naira now goes for as much as N140, 000 or even N150, 000. The arrangement is that the landlord will be given something like N110, 000. Whatever remains would be split between the middlemen.

A young lady recounted how she discovered that between

the lawyer and agent, N30, 000 was added to her rent. She only discovered when she went to the lawyer office to sign the agreement as a new tenant.

Being too desperate, she signed the agreement before she told her parents. We all know that a lawyer's fee is always worked into the rent. And what is paid to the agent is ten per cent of the rent. Going by this, where did they come up with thirty thousand? This is a clear case of taking advantage of children. Or taking the nature of a vulture when somebody is in need?

A student of National Film Institute was lamenting that she paid through her nose for a house she was made to believe had pipe borne water. And if at all there was a problem with water board, there was a bore hole that supplied water to the house constantly. She happily paid and packed in. To her greatest surprise, we are in the heat of the rainy season and her taps are not running. She has been forced to be drawing water from the well which is not funny.

When she complained to the

caretaker, he said they were trying to rectify the problem. That was a week ago. The student has now been forced to buy water containers, Jerry cans and all what not.

Must they sell their products by lying to these young ones? The caretakers and agents forget that what goes around comes around. And the Bible says ill gotten money does not pay. This is the type of money that will pave the way for so much wahala, so much pain, loss, destruction.

Yes, you might spend the money and much more treating one illness or the other.

There should be an organisation that fights for the rights of tenants. These students should find out about that and put their heads together.

On its part, National Film Institute should engage its legal department in issues of accommodation for its students to uproot the leeches in the system and to make sure their students are not taken advantage of again.

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE need to enhance good governance has led the Plateau Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to engage political actors ahead of 2023 general elections.

Over the years, it has all been about writing promotional stories and analyzing issues that tend to avoid languages and behaviours that may offend particular group or personalities, but the story is quite different now because the of negative reflections of politicking these days.

Journalists have also been promoting successes and processes of democracy, but not much has been recorded in our twenty-three years (23yrs) of uninterrupted democracy. It was on this premise the Plateau State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) led by Mr. Paul Jatau, saw the need for journalists on the Plateau to engage stakeholders and political actors in a discourse to think beyond just politicking.

Picking a suitable and most qualified Guest Speaker who is the a Political Scientist and a Director of Research, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Prof. Pam Dung Sha, the erudite scholar spoke on the theme; "Beyond politicking: Harnessing the potentials of Plateau" and it was mind blowing. While welcoming participants at the discourse Chief Convener and the State Chairman of NUJ, Mr. Paul Jatau said, "this event is not only very dear to our hearts, but it is conceptualized to challenge Plateau people about the kind of State they want and how they intend to achieve it.

"We, therefore, have deliberately brought together political actors and stakeholders from across the different divides to interact and share insights that would be helpful for the development of the State. Continuing, he said, the political atmosphere has never been as toxic as it is at present and as the fourth estate of the realm, it is our responsibility to set an agenda that will be helpful to steer the ship of our state in the right direction.

"Is it a Plateau that is working and is peaceful where all can realize their dreams? What we read on the social media, churn out by the various supporters of the political players sends a lot of chills down the spine of anyone who holds the state dear. It is such kind of needless toxicity that the discourse churned to tame to allow for the flourishing of helpful and useful ideas in the state", he enthused.

Jatau; further opined that "as we approach 2023, political campaigns and discourses would be centred around ideas that would lay a path for the pursuit of growth and development of the state." He called on all to be open and honest during interactions and submissions as they pursue the re-engineering of a peaceful Plateau State.

Presenting the paper titled; "Beyond Politicking: Rethinking a Patriotic Agenda for the Development of Plateau State", complementing the original theme; Beyond Politicking;

Harnessing the Potentials of support during elections. Plateau", Professor Pam Dung Sha, highlighted the need to go beyond the usual politicking that takes place in Plateau State and invest time to discuss ways of harnessing the potentials and resources of Plateau State for development and also for the common good of all.

He said, "I want to remind all political actors, the operators of the state bureaucracy and citizens of the potentials that exist in Plateau State and the need to consciously reactivate the state machinery to convert in governance.



NUJ: Changing the political narratives on the Plateau



them to strengths to be used for the benefit of all.

"What form does politicking takes in Plateau State and why should we rise above it? In politicking, it involves the practice of winner takes it all approach politics, excessive partisanship, blame games where people spend years blaming previous administrations and also the issue of name calling to denigrate previous administrations.

"This unhealthy politicking has instituted exclusion on the basis of ethnicity, religion, Zone, State, Local Government, districts and wards. It has also brought unequal distribution of resources and projects based on the quantity and quality of political

Earlier, the Chairman of the occasion, Professor Nanven Gambo, who is the Vice-Chancellor Karl-Kumm University Vom, commended the leadership of NUJ for conceiving this mind changing discourse expressed concern over the exchange of words on the social media and called on supporters to market their candidates in a decent way and stop over hitting the polity.

Meanwhile, the Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, represented by the State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Dan Manjang, thanked Journalists on the Plateau for being gracious to his administration, described his principal as a man of humility and could ask for forgiveness in areas

that government has been lacking.

It was truly a mind blowing discourse at the Tamarald Events Centre Jos, with the two moderators, Beyitmwa Nyam and Kenzy Ngupar, of the Plateau Radio/Television Corporation (PRTVC) doing what they love best. The occasion which has Veteran Journalists like Nde Jonathan Ishaku, Elder Nanyak Miner, Hon. Sylvanus Namang and host of others.

The occasion had in attendance General Managers of Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), the publishers of THE NIGERIA STANDARD and SUNDAY STANDARD Newspapers, Sir (Dr). Boniface Gwotbit and Mr. Jephtha Jackden, of the Plateau

Radio/Television Corporation (PRTVC) were physically present to the end. There were representatives of NGOs, CSOs Security Agencies, Ethnic and Religious heads respectively.

The National President of the NUJ, Comrade Chris Isiguzo, was represented by the Vice President Zone "D", Comrade Chris Asaka, could not hide how touching the discourse was, commended the Plateau Council for challenging other Councils across the country and asked other to emulate Plateau Chapter. All gubernatorial candidates of respective parties were present as political actors and were given the opportunity to showcase their manifestos.

IMAGES

JOS KIDS FASHION HOLDS MAIDEN SHOW

The Jos kids fashion show recently held its maiden show at the Crest Hotel, Jos



Convener, Jos Kids Fashion show, Kyendi Daniel Dale delivering her speech



Dance drama being performed during the show



Some of the participating kids at the show



Some of the attendees on the red carpet



A little kid participating in the fashion parade



Another kid taking his steps at the show



Participants at the Jos kids fashion show waiting for their turn



Fashion designer, CEO of Ashybelzkids, Tega Oga answering questions

Odd World

'I booked the same wedding venue as my sister '



A woman who doesn't see eye to eye with her sister has experienced further frustrations after their partners proposed at around the same time.

Shortly after announcing her own engagement, she discovered her sister was also set to be wed, and that she had booked her ceremony at the venue she herself had wanted for years.

According to the irritated bride-to-be, her 'shallow' parents have always shown favouritism toward her 'much prettier' sister, which has understandably left her feeling 'pretty bitter and distant.'

Exasperated, she brought up the venue issue with her parents, who told her sternly 'to stop being so petty.'

It was in this spirit of pettiness that she decided to just go ahead and book her longed-for venue anyway, one month before her sister's big day.

Taking to Reddit, the woman wrote: "I checked with the venue and there's no way my sister can move the wedding up (they're booked up) and if she changes venues she'll lose her deposit.

"My mother recently reached out to me and implored me to talk to my sister (I blocked her after the first call where she tried to ream me out).

"Apparently, my sister's really distraught and my mum said the least I

could do was try and work something out with my sister, especially over such a huge event. I said no, but my mum said I was being an a***** for not even trying to hear her out and for being so stubborn and petty."

The poster - who goes by the username u/Any-Description-2013 - went on to explain that this particular venue means so much to her as her beloved grandparents 'practically raised her', and she always knew she wanted to get married in the same place they did.

Meanwhile, her sister - who now insists the venue 'means the world to her' - had previously stated that she 'couldn't care less' about it, and that she had simply booked it out of convenience.

Still, after learning just how upset her sister is about the whole thing, the poster now wonders if she could have reined in her pettiness a notch.

However, others feel that her sister is in fact the petty one, having known for a long time about the special place the venue held in her heart.

One person wrote: "You were going to book that wedding venue anyway. Sure, you booked the earlier date out of spite but I find it hard to believe your sister wasn't doing the same.

Source: The Mirror



Pharaohs and the rest of us

AS a Christian, I have formed the habit of looking at historical Biblical stories with keen interest in most recent times. For sure, some of these stories of great men and women of the old have taught us a lot about the changing signs of our time. While in some cases, such stories have taught us to guard our loins, be diligent and continue to exhibit high sense of responsibility in our anticipated obligations, some have continued to remind us that nothing in this world lasts for ever. Each of these Biblical stories have served as pragmatic source of inspiration in our journey of life.

As such, one of these exciting stories of the Holy Bible found in the Old Testament is none other than that of Pharaoh of Egypt. In the days of Moses who was called by God to liberate the people of Israel from captivity, the end of the entire episode of the liberation of the people of Israel did not turn out a child's play. While for the people of Israel, it was a perfect situation of answered prayers, the Egyptians perspective was that of anguish and sorrow. Come to think of it however, the liberation of the children of Israel in the Red Sea was one of the significant Biblical stories which has continued to remind us not to conclude that God is not interested in the affairs of men.

Pharaoh was so influential and wealthy to a point that he lost touch with reality. Aside the slaves he had working in several fields across Egypt, he also managed spontaneous wealth and power as a ruthless ruler in his time. Amid sycophants who were praising him even when he goes wrong, many were able to benefit from his acts of personal aggrandizement and wealth as the case may be. Unfortunately, he was unable to decode the fact that a moment of transition had come after Moses requested he set the people of God free. Since he had all which humanity needed and could eat and have almost everything at his disposal, he never gave it a thought about other vulnerable subjects of his who had perhaps nothing. Pharaoh had no clue that whatever had a beginning must definitely have an end. Pharaoh must have also forgotten that his time was up even as he had transformed himself into a monster and one of the wicked leaders of ancient history.

Yet, Pharaoh was too power-drunk to appreciate the reality of the fact that his time was up and that he must unconditionally let the Israelis go back home. On the contrary, Pharaoh had concluded that diamonds are forever. At the end of it all however, one of Egypt's wicked rulers was destroyed alongside his family, regiment and other unrepentant sycophants right from his city center to the epic stage of the drama in the Red Sea.

Fast forward this scenario to our contemporary times, we also had rulers in the likes of Idi Amin of Uganda, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, Gaddafi of Libya, and even our own General Sani Abacha of Nigeria who became tyrants and never imagined that power had its eventual end. Throughout their reign, these tyrants never gave it a thought that there is a time and season for everything in this fragile world of ours. Without the fear of God, these ruthless rulers decided the fate of thousands and killed many innocent souls who opposed them.

At the end, all these despots and tyrants were eventually humbled by God in a miserable way and manner. Their fall from grace to grass was a lesson which would not be forgotten for more decades to come. Unfortunately, some of them have been inducted into our history books as

leaders who were barbaric and complete failures as far as their obligations to changing humanity for the better was and or is concern.

Fast forward this development to our today, most of our politicians have not learned any lesson from these obvious experiences of the past. Many of them have continued to think that any opportunity given them by God to serve will not go with the wind someday. Some of them also think such lucrative positions which they occupy is but an opportunity to subjugate the common man and make him subservient for life. One is not surprised as many of them have been too engaged to read their Bibles and understand the benefits of becoming servant leaders.

Worse of it all is that when an elected official has no developmental blueprint for the possible transformation of his immediate community; the electorates suffers the most. In this case, while such an office holder is knee-deep into looting the scarce economic resources, his people are left wallowing in abject poverty and unending lamentations. No doubt, over 90 percent of the unprecedented difficulties and challenges Nigeria is facing today is attributed to the issue of administrative ingenuity by the political class. It is also not far-fetched that the selfish interest of our political class couple with their retrogressive ideological disposition have contributed to crippling the prospects of this nation. It is unimaginable for instance that despite the huge human and natural resources this country is blessed with; we are still struggling to find our footings in the scheme of things. If one should put into use the amount of monies stolen from our national treasury since the advent of this democratic dispensation in 1999, no Nigerian citizen would have been suffering the way and manner more than half of our population are experiencing at the moment.

Unfortunately, many citizens of the nation have become lovers of themselves and careless about the progress of the country. Though we all know that it would be difficult to entrench monarchical democracy and or regional political gimmick in a heterogeneous nation where everyone needs a sense of belonging, some cynics have continued to tow this path to plunge the nation in chaos and a state of anarchy. We cannot continue to dwell on issues which promotes disunity, political imposition and or disrespect to one another and think that it shall be well with us as a struggling developing nation of the world.

The truth is; nothing lasts forever and even this tenure of elected political officeholders and the offices they occupy shall always pass away. I wish our political juggernauts and those who govern us with iron first including those who loot our common resources will have a rethink and fear God by doing the needful so that their names will be written in gold when they are no longer occupants of such offices. I wish that our political officeholders will see reason that Nigeria is at the moment sitting on a time bomb where any wrong move will lead to our complete disintegration. Knowing too well the various challenges this country is managing to overcome, it is becoming obvious that we must all sacrifice the little we can for the general interest of the citizens of the nation.

If the late President Nelson Mandela who had the opportunity to continue leading South Africa on a platter of gold refused to do so when the ovation was high, it should serve as a lesson to many of our political leaders to emulate. Our leaders must desist from any form of manipulation which is aimed at promoting elitism to the detriment of the common man as has been the case all these years. We must begin to believe in our nation and its prospects and sacrifice the least we can towards laying a solid foundation for national integration and growth of our beloved motherland.

View Point

South Sudan: Tales of gender violence, insecurity

Gender based violence and insecurity which is unequivocally regarded as a universal reality today has over the decades been a point of pragmatic intellectual discuss. This has become necessary based on the fact that these "atrocities" which has continued unabated takes place in our contemporary societies regardless of our huge divergent developmental status, culture, income and or the prevailing unbearable traumatic experiences in most developing nations of the world, Bulus Gambo writes.

THEORISTS in fields of domestic violence have identified a variety of forms of violence that a batter can use including not only physical abuse but also emotional abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse, isolating the victim from friends and the family and intimidating the victim.

When gender is considered, special focus automatically shifts to women needs and in this regard, some of these gender based violence meted them includes rape, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, wife battery and sexual assault and abuse. Others include deprivation and discrimination amidst the expected obligations of the women towards national development and integration in comparison with their better placed male counterparts.

The United Nations General Assembly in adopting the 1993 declaration on the elimination of violence against women defined gender based violence as any act of violence that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women; including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life

Intertwined with this topical issue is the menace of insecurity particularly in developing nations of the world where the indices economically, socially and politically has affected the women in these societies. For the cause of this study, this research will lay more emphasis on the issue of gender based violence and insecurity in South Sudan which got her independence from Sudan in 2011.

South sudan at a glance

South Sudan which seceded from the Republic of Sudan in 2011 after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which marked the end of about 22 years of civil war is mostly inhabited by Nilo-Saharan speaking people and the Niger-Congo speaking minorities. Interestingly, two civil wars, one in 1955, a year before Sudan achieved independence and that of 1983 after President Gaafar Nimerny declared all Sudan an Islamic state including the non-Islamic majority of the southern region, contributed in no small measure towards creating violence and insecurity which South Sudan is facing at the moment. Today, the country is faced with a sense of turbulent conflict and mismanagement of resources including breakdown of law and order which is directly affecting the women in the country, not forgetting its rigid grip to cultural beliefs considered by many scholars of high repute as women unfriendly in all and every ramification.

Economic and budgetary problems worsened following the shutdown of oil production in



South Sudan in January 2012, after the disagreement with Sudan over transit fees. In July 2012, an austerity budget was adopted which cut down net expenditure by one third. The impact of austerity was felt across the country. With inflation at 75 percent, the situation led to a substantial depreciation of the south Sudanese Pound and dramatic increase in food and fuel prices bring more hardship to the citizens including women and children in particular.

Gender based violence and insecurity

Though violence and general insecurity have always been a major concern for the people and the government of South Sudan, this has increased in recent months. Since the country's independence in 2011, it is common to hear many people and institutions- whether law enforcement agencies, judiciary, opposition political parties, individual citizens, human rights groups or organized local civil rights activists decrying the seemingly escalating insecurity across the country.

In the aftermath of the signing of the peace accord which eventually led to the referendum for the independence of South Sudan, one of the challenging problems confronting the nation has been ethnic conflicts, weak judicial system necessitated by unabated war and cultural intrigues which has left the women in the country at the receiving end. In most cases, these conflicts lead to the rape of several women and such victims

are not allowed due to cultural myth to report suspects to the authorities concern.

There have been little reporting on gender based violence during Sudan's wars; but a recent study found out that a large number of women experienced Gender Based Violence during the second civil war. Of the 267 women interviewed, few admitted to having been raped, but 41.9 percent knew of others who had been ganged raped, 31.1 percent know of women who had been forced into marriage and 28.5 percent know of women who had been abducted and subjected to sexual abuse.

Violence against women significantly affects various aspects of their overall well-being such as self-esteem, mobility, psychological and emotional capabilities as well as the freedom to live a normal and healthy life

Unfortunately, survivors of this traumatic dilemma face many interlocking barriers to justice, and discriminatory judicial processes and legal procedures that discriminate against them or afford them legal rights.

In addition to violence related to common crime, security misconduct, political targeting, militia activity and ethnic conflict, there are also issues related to gender insecurity in the country. For instance, while many factors define who receives security and legal protection; women in the country are particularly excluded from access to justice system. This is

as a result of the related weakness of the protection system itself which had been eroded by years of conflict and certain cultural practices.

We have documented that women, whether rural or urban do not seek justice after experiencing any type of violence especially cases of sexual violence. This is largely related to the readily applied perception that a woman who reports rape for example brings shame to herself and her family.

In other words, the judicial system is not favourable to women and even when cases are brought before it, the unexpected happens. Thus, the vulnerability of women in South Sudan is still beyond intellectual capacity and or any human comprehension.

Another concern raised in several reports is that customary land rights and management traditionally discriminates against women. While the Land Act chapter 1 (2) and 4 (13) stipulates that a man and woman have equal rights to land, under Customary Law, property is held by men as the heads of the household and usually women cannot own property in their own right

Likewise, in a deeply patriarchal society of South Sudan, women are seen as inferior to men and the inequalities between men and women still persists. Consequently, as heads of households, men have the decision making power within their families and women are expected to be subservient to

their husbands.

Many women in the focused groups stated that they are overworked as they had a multitude of tasks including taking care of the children, doing the house work, fetching water and firewood and engaging in farming

That aside, the prolonged war in South Sudan also destroyed basic facilities as a result of which health facilities in most hospitals are grossly inadequate. Consequently, the women in the country are vulnerable particularly when it comes to issues of reproductive health in most if not all rural populace in the country.

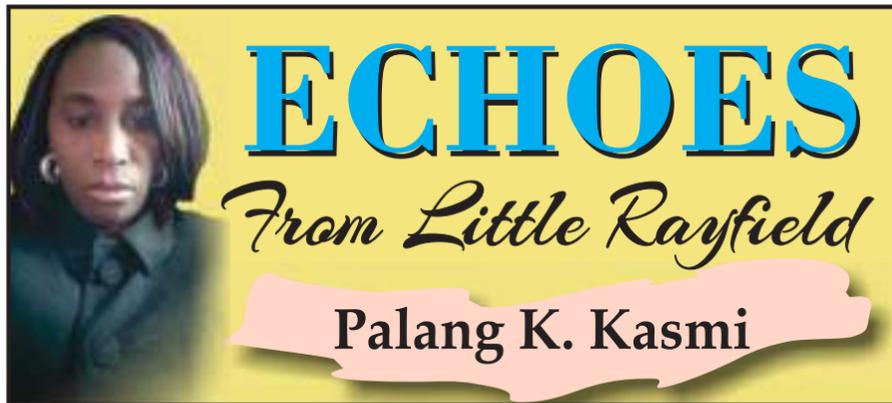
There is no health facility. The main problem we are facing is during delivery. It is either you deliver successfully or you die. There are five midwives, but they have no facilities. If women are in serious conditions in most cases, they die

But again, despite the increasing participation of women in non-farm economic activities and politics, gender roles have not convincingly changed in South Sudan. As a result of this development, there are recognizable lines of discrimination and segregation particularly when it comes to creating a level playing ground for all irrespective of gender differences in the country.

Thus, when it also comes to the issue of acquiring education, employment opportunities and other lucrative societal openings and lucrative obligatory expectations, the women are left behind and at most times not considered at all.

The issue of gender based violence and insecurity in South Sudan has caught global attention these decades due to the turmoil that enveloped the nation both before and after it got her independence in 2011. In the aftermath of the referendum that led to the emergence of the country as an independent nation state, the long years of conflicts and unprepared nature of the state when independence eventually came led to all sorts of bitter experiences with the women left at the receiving end. No doubt, traditional and cultural myths also added to the anguish of women in the country.

Indeed, that is the more reason why the country needs a total overhaul of its judiciary and other relevant organizations and reorientation of the entire citizenry to systematically inculcate positive gender related notions in the country. In general terms, South Sudan needs to come to terms with the contemporary changes inherent in institutionalized global nation states in conformity with general standards and requirements.



Bishop Kukah a bridge builder

-Lalong

In view of the political atmosphere playing in the country and his new job as the Director General (DG) of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Organisation, Governor Simon Bako Lalong attended some key state and political functions at the Federal Capital Territory and including some stakeholders meetings.

The Governor was among dignitaries that graced the 70th Birthday of Bishop Matthew Kukah of the Sokoto Catholic Diocese, and launching of the 'Kukah Centre' at the Sheraton Hotel, Abuja on August 31, 2022.

The event had attracted Nigerians irrespective of religious and ethnic affiliations from all works of life including the clergy and admirers of the Bishop.

At the forum, the governor and many dignitaries that attended supported the cause of the 'The Kukah Centre' project which will become a leading research centre that will proffer recommendations and solutions to issues and governance. The attendees among which are Former President Goodluck Jonathan, Governor Kayode Fayemi, APC and LP Presidential aspirants Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and Peter Obi respectively, Secretary to the Government of the federation, (SGF) Boss Mustapha, and a long list of personalities praised the Bishop for being a bridge builder across political and ethnic divides, and for championing the agenda for the development and unity of Nigeria.

The Governor also attended the first Nigeria Golf Federation Summit on 1st September 2022 at the Ladi Kwali Hall Sheraton Hotel Abuja. The Summit attracted representatives of about 70 golf clubs and other important stakeholders from across the country who brainstormed on ways to chart a way forward for the expansion and development of golf in Nigeria.

Lalong, the APC Presidential Campaign DG who is a lover and player of golf disclosed the reason for his passion for the game. "It makes me relax from work related stress" he said.

He commended organisers of the forum for putting together such a laudable maiden edition of the summit urging them to sustain the platform for the development of golf in the country.

He challenged the Minister for sports and Youths Development, Sunday Dare, President of NGF Otunba Gbenga Runsewe, Lady Golfers, golf players and enthusiasts to come to Jos Rayfield Golf course in December for the upcoming 2022 Governors Golf Competition which has become a yearly tourism sports fiesta that attracts sports enthusiasts from the nations and international shores.

Lalong was emphatic as he said: "Come to Plateau State with your friends and family this December to enjoy the Jos weather and play golf and you will not regret it". You may not even want to return back to your state" he said smiling as he challenged the big wigs at the forum to contest with him.

He said those in hot geographical terrains in the country may assume they are in Europe if they come to Jos to play the game of golf during the December Harmattan weather which is usually very chilly and cold.

He even bragged of how he won and beat some of the golfers at a past golf tournament organised in Lagos, and urged the organisers to consider including the female golfers to be part of the upcoming Jos December tournament.

However, some of the major takeaways from the forum by the major stakeholders including the sport Minister, Dare, NGF President Runsewe is the need to make golf a money spinner and money making venture like football and other games. The Minister admitted that golf has not been given due attention as other games, and promised to consider it in his Ministry's subsequent budget. Other outcomes was to enable Nigerian golfers to network on the process of integrating Nigerian Golfers into the World Handicap System (WHS), which the Board of the NGF is initiating, to allow the handicap of best Golfers that are captured on the system to be recognised in all parts of the world.

The APC Presidential campaign DG also led the Presidential aspirant Tinubu aka 'Jagaban' and his running mate Kashim Shettima to unveil the Party's Northern Speakers Door to Door Campaign at the Sheraton Hotel on September 3, 2022.

Vehicles were donated for the mobilisation and campaign by the Northern speakers and distributed to the coordinators.



News

Chairman condoles family of Gokaru, inspects flood areas

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

Executive Chairman of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council, Hon. Ernest Abner Daa, has expressed shock over the demise of a prominent politician, late Alhaji Ibrahim Gokaru, who died recently in Kurgwi.

This was contained in a press release signed by Daniel Usaini, Media Assistant to the Executive Chairman of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council and made available to

THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos recently.

He said that the death of Alhaji Gokaru has left a vacuum that would be difficult to fill, considering the fatherly role he played and prayed for the repose of his soul and condoled the family asking them to accept the loss as an act of God.

Earlier during the visit, Da'a together with Prof.

Hamidu Sharubutu inspected flooded areas within the locality, where property worth millions of naira.

Da'a after the assessment, promised to take necessary actions and to liaise with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and other relevant authorities to provide succor to those affected by the disaster.

Speaking, Prof. Sharubutu, the Executive Secretary of Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) said he was saddened by the event but urged the victims to accept what happened in good fate.

He thanked the Council Chairman for his concern and prayed that the visit would produce immediate intervention for the affected people.

Mallam Audu Quaka, who spoke on behalf of the flood victims appreciated the Chairman and his entourage for coming and hoped for speedy actions. He informed that about 30 houses were affected by the flood, while about 200 people have been displaced.



Da'a

The 2022 edition of the Kogi Built Environment and Building Materials Exhibition (BEBM) is to hold its annual exhibition between 6th and 8th December, 2022 in Lokoja.

In a statement released by the Media Director of BEBM, Mr. David Anuwe which was made available to journalists in Lokoja on Tuesday, said that the theme for this year's event is: Building Smart Environment Using Made in Nigeria Building Materials.

The statement also indicated that the Built Environment and Building Materials Exhibition (BEBME) in 21st century is geared towards providing information on new innovations to support and help stakeholders to compete and stay relevant in the building industry.

The statement noted that access to veritable information has always been one of the most important benefits for stakeholders that will attend this very important event.

Highlight of the event is the showcase of innovative developments in the Built Environment industry, paper presentations from iconic experts and leading names in the industry.

"In addition, stakeholders in the sector would be rewarded for their massive contributions and support to the industry

"The event is usually a hybrid interface of lectures, marketing and commerce and product exhibitions. About fifty (50)

BEBM to hold building materials exhibition in December

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

participants of about two hundred across the country.

"Special days are to be set

aside to promote the use of

building products and service-

related organizations would be

invited with estimated

made-in-Nigeria building

materials"

Sports

By SIMON STONE

What next for Ronaldo?

ON 27 August 2021, Manchester United confirmed the return of their prodigal son.

Just over 12 months later and United's relationship with Cristiano Ronaldo has changed beyond all recognition. And Erik ten Hag needs to manage it very delicately.

At the King Power Stadium on 1 September, the 37-year-old started on the bench and came on for the final 22 minutes of the 1-0 win at Leicester.

His most significant contribution was an acrobatic overhead kick that bounced wide of the far post.

In five appearances so far this season, the brilliant Portuguese has not managed a goal or an assist.

Ronaldo's Old Trafford return followed days of intense speculation, first about a move to Manchester City, before United declared their interest and Sir Alex Ferguson spoke to the player who regards the Scot as his footballing father.

The tweet in which United declared "Welcome home, Cristiano" was liked 1.9 million times. The club added an additional one million followers on Instagram within two hours of the signing being announced.

Two days later, United beat Wolves away from home. Two weeks after that, amid joyous scenes from the moment he arrived at Old Trafford to the second he left, Ronaldo scored twice on his debut, the 4-1 win against Newcastle propelling his new club to the top of the Premier League.

Yet there were red flags before Ronaldo's return. And not long afterwards, some were starting to wonder if United had done the right thing.

Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer did not go into the 2021-22 season with the perfect squad. But he was starting to get close to his ideal team.

Jadon Sancho had been brought in as the wide, attacking player he craved. Weeks persuading Edinson Cavani to remain at Old Trafford reached fruition in May when the Uruguayan signed a one-year extension.

Raphael Varane had joined from Real Madrid to become the latest defender to try and secure United's leaky backline, although some wondered whether he was actually the leader they needed given the amount of time he had spent playing alongside Madrid captain Sergio Ramos.

The defensive midfielder Solskjaer wanted had not been delivered but not even City's Pep Guardiola gets



Ronaldo made a dream return for Manchester United, scoring twice against Newcastle at Old Trafford

everything he wants.

Ronaldo's arrival changed the entire dynamic. His only effective position could be as a number nine. At a stroke, that reduced significantly the number of games Cavani was likely to play, quite aside from the fact the Uruguayan had to give his shirt number over.

For someone who would have moved away without Solskjaer's intervention, it was a humbling experience. Little wonder, his contribution last season was fitful.

It also meant United's other "number nine" Mason Greenwood was moved into a wide position to compete with Sancho. At the point where Greenwood became unavailable for selection due to off-field issues, he had started 16 Premier League games compared to Sancho's 10.

Ronaldo could not play the high tempo game Solskjaer was looking to introduce so a compromise in playing style was made.

Solskjaer did have a plan to leave

Ronaldo out of his team occasionally. However, the first time he did it, against Everton on 2 October, the debate around the move was immense even though it was only three days after a Champions League away game.

The Norwegian said afterwards he had to "pick the right moments" to use Ronaldo. He started all seven matches after that until Solskjaer was sacked on 21 November.

The only times he was left on the bench for the remainder of the Premier League campaign were at Chelsea on 28 November, when Michael Carrick took the decision, and Burnley on 8 February.

Ronaldo's appearance at Turf Moor was overshadowed by the fact he ignored the travelling fans at the final whistle and walked straight to the United dressing room at the other end of the pitch.

It was on 18 April that Ronaldo and his girlfriend announced the death in childbirth of their baby boy. Ronaldo played - and scored - against Arsenal

the following weekend, having missed the 4-0 defeat at Liverpool. On 7 May, United were beaten 4-0 at Brighton to end any hope of qualifying for this season's Champions League.

Subsequently, Ronaldo missed the final game of last season due to injury, as well as United's pre-season tour of Thailand and Australia for personal reasons. By the time he did appear in the Old Trafford friendly with Rayo Vallecano on 31 July, his desire to move away from United was well known.

The reasons, it was established, were career orientated. He still wants to compete for major honours. The opportunity of doing that at United, it was felt, was a mirage.

Yet the expected offers did not materialise. There was one from Saudi Arabia but that was rejected. The latest rumours concerned Atletico Madrid, Napoli and Ronaldo's first professional sporting club, Sporting Lisbon. But when the deadline closed across Europe's major leagues, Ronaldo remained at United, his own status weakened considerably from where it was when he returned.

That Ronaldo has been on the bench for more Premier League games this season than he was for the whole of last and there has been barely a murmur of opposition tells its own story.

Ten Hag is in a far stronger position to deal with the five-time Ballon D'Or winner than either Solskjaer or his interim replacement Ralf Rangnick were.

Solskjaer publicly declared his support for Ronaldo's return. But really, he had no choice.

It was determined among United's powerbrokers that the thought of Ronaldo turning out for Manchester City was too much to accept. Even at his age, the combination of the former Real Madrid man's output - he had finished the previous season as top scorer in Serie A - and commercial pulling power was irresistible.

It never came to that but the chances are, if Solskjaer had challenged the transfer, his concerns would have been ignored.

Ten Hag is in a different position completely. Rather than the Dutchman finding a system that fits

Ronaldo, Ronaldo has to fit in with his. If that means appearances off the bench and starting games in the Europa League - a competition the 37-year-old has never played in - until the World Cup, that is how it will have to be.

The chances are Ten Hag will handle the situation more subtly.

Asked after the Leicester game if it was possible one of the greatest players ever was about to be reduced to the status of bit-part player, Ten Hag replied: "It's really early in the season and we have a squad. We have more than 11 starting players, that is what you see now, players now on the bench can play in one, two or three weeks."

Ten Hag must also work to lift Ronaldo's mood. While BBC Sport was told only the player's exit could completely lift the negativity that surrounded the club, the words were uttered in the belief a parting of the ways was possible. In the end, that has not happened.

Efforts to absolve Ronaldo of all blame from last season's catastrophic ending have been dismissed by United sources. But in truth, still no-one can really know whether Ronaldo was the reason United weren't even worse than they ended up being last season, or if he was one of the chief reasons for their poor form.

Now though, for the first time since he arrived at Old Trafford as a raw teenager, Ronaldo has to prove himself.

Can he be a team player, something his individual brilliance meant he never needed to bother about too much for so long?

Can he maintain the facade of being supportive of his team-mates from the bench?

Can, at 37, Ronaldo once again deliver goals for a team that puts a premium on pressing the opposition?

It is 10 weeks until the Premier League breaks for the World Cup. It doesn't start again until 26 December, a week before the January transfer window opens.

Most people, probably including the man himself, didn't anticipate Ronaldo spending that time as a Manchester United player.



Ronaldo was rarely rested by Manchester United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Sports

Novelty match

Sule floors legislators

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

EXECUTIVE Governor of Nasarawa State, Engr. Abdullahi Sule, was on top of his game on Saturday afternoon, as he led the State's Executive Team to a 1-0 victory over hard-fighting Lawmakers of the State at a novelty football match played at the Federal University Football Field in Lafia.

This was contained in a press statement, signed by Eche Amos, PRO, Nasarawa State Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and made available to the **Nigeria Standard sport desk**, noting that, after sighting an infringement in the eighteen yard box in the first-half, centre referee for the game, instantly awarded a penalty.

The statement said that Governor Sule, who captained his side, summoned the courage and superbly placed the ball beyond the grasp of the goalkeeper.

It said that the lawmakers captained by the immediate-past Governor of the State and serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Umar Tanko Al-Makura, weathered the storm and made frantic efforts to draw level at several occasions as the clock ticked faster toward regulation time, but were kept-in-view through the resilience of the Deputy Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Agbadu Akabe, Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Amb. Lucky Isaac Yargwa, and that of Information, Culture and Tourism, Yakubu Mohammed Lawal, as well as other members of the squad.

It further revealed that the State's Executive Team jealously guarded the score line till the final whistle as the Governor was named Man-of-the-Match for his spectacular



Sule

showing, which caused series of threat against the legislators.

Organizer of the event and Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Sports Affairs, Comr. Hamza Ibrahim Moyi, shortly after the game, told journalists the motive behind staging the event.

"The reason I organized this novelty football match is to appreciate the Governor for creating a peaceful, united and enabling environment through sporting activities in the state.

"It's a general belief that football unifies people from all walks of life. It fosters the spirit of togetherness, patriotism, hard work and forgiveness among people of different classes in the society.

"I decided to make it a novelty match between the Executive versus Legislators in order to enhance a more peaceful, workable and harmonious relationship in Nasarawa State.

"I feel happy that my team

won. The Governor is not just a sports lover, he equally plays and gets involved in sporting activities and his performance today was top-class."

The statement said that, earlier, a novelty match involving players of Nasarawa Amazons FC on the same venue had ended in a goalless stalemate.

The event witnessed large turnout of political stalwarts and sports stakeholders from across the state, including Chairman of Nasarawa United FC, Chief Barr. Isaac Danladi, together with his counterpart from Nasarawa Amazons, Hajiya Hussaina Suleiman Nagogo.

High point of the novelty match was the presentation of a giant trophy to the victorious State Executive Team.

TURKISH Super Lig club Sivasspor have acquired the services of forward Ahmed Musa after he had left Fatih Karagumruk.

Goal revealed that, the 29-year-old Super Eagle has changed clubs in the top-flight after sealing a two-year contract.

The 29-year-old Nigeria international had earlier on Friday parted ways with Karagumruk, who confirmed terminating his contract. A few hours later, he signed for Sivasspor on a two-year deal.

Article continues below "Sivasspor has tied Nigeria player Ahmed Musa to their colours," the club confirmed on their official website.

"Musa signed a contract that binds him to Sivasspor for two years starting from the 2022-2023 season. Our President Mecnun Otyakmaz also took part in the signing ceremony.

"We welcome Musa to our Sivasspor and wish him success under our jersey."

On terminating his contract which was set to run until June 2023, Karagumruk could not give reasons behind the move.

"We have parted ways by mutual agreement with professional football player Ahmed Musa, who was included in our 2021-2022 season," Karagumruk announced on their Twitter handle.

"We would like to thank Musa for his services to our club and wish him success in his future football career."

Musa, who started his career with Kano Pillars in Nigeria, has played for several clubs in Europe notably, CSKA Moscow, Leicester City and Al-Nassr before he moved to Turkey where he signed for Karagumruk in the 2021-2022 season.

Last season, Musa played 34 games for Karagumruk, scored

Sivasspor unveil Musa from Karagumruk

four goals and made two assists.

Sivasspor are currently sitting in position 16 of the 19-team table with two points from four matches. They are yet to win a match, losing two, and drawing two.

Meanwhile, Nigerian club Bayelsa Queens became the sixth side to qualify for the Women's African Champions League after winning their zonal qualifier.

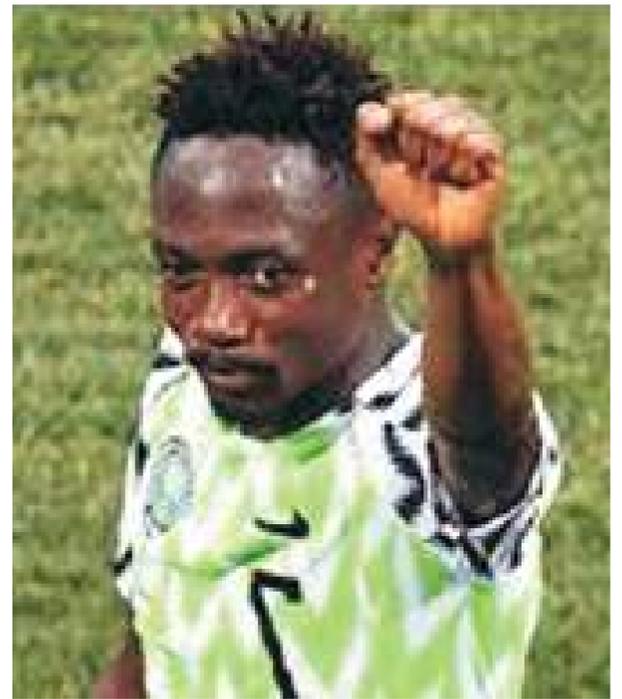
Newsnow said that, the Queens beat Ghana's Ampem Darkoa Ladies 3-0 in Ivory Coast on Saturday to seal their spot at the eight-team finals, which begin in Morocco on 30 October.

The Nigerian champions join Moroccan hosts AS FAR, inaugural champions Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa and Egypt's Wadi Degla, and will be one of four debutants in the competition.

Zambia's Green Buffaloes, Determine Girls of Liberia and Tanzanian side Simba Queens will also be making their first appearance.

The final qualifier, from Africa's central zone, will be decided at a tournament in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 10-16 September.

The group-stage draw for the second Women's African Champions League will be held in Morocco on Friday.



Musa

Coach Nash-P laid to rest

THE remains of Late Coach Nash John Dang,

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

popularly know as Nash-P, has been laid to rest in his home town, Rung in Foron District of Barkin Ladi, Plateau State, last Friday following his demise.

Born to the family of Late Da Yohanna Tsok Dang and Ngo Titi Yohanna Dang, on March 21, 1979 and the 9th out of 12 children of his parents, late Nash was a devoted Christian and baptized on June 20, 1999 at the ECWA Bishara 1, Tudun-Wada of Jos-North Local Government Area.

Before his demise, Nash-P was the Assistant Coach of Soccer and More Football Academy Rayfield, Jos and was the Head Coach of Irigwe Development Association (IDA) Football Club of Tudun-Wada, Assistant Coach of Tudun-Wada Football Academy and Assistant Coach of Derby Football Academy respectively.

His passion for football right from childhood was

translated into professional football to a point in life and became a Coach under the tutelage of former Nigerian international professional footballers like Thomas Ekoja, Kelechi Okoye-Ahaneku and a host of others.

Coach, as he was fondly called lived a very simple life, straight forward, humble, outspoken and related very well with whoever came in contact with him irrespective of age, class or background and was also available to all, being the bridge builder and peacemaker he was known for and will be greatly missed.

Pastor Zachariah Chindawa of ECWA Bishara 1, eulogized Late Nash John Dang for his show of commitment to service to the Lord as he read from the book of John 9:4 and charged those who came to bidhim farewell to work for the kingdom of God because that was the only sure way to God.

CHAN 2022: Maiden appearance for Madagascar, Nigeria miss out

MADAGASCAR sealed an historic first appearance at the African Nations Championship (CHAN) but Nigeria and South Africa will be notable absentees from the 2022 finals in Algeria.

Madagascar played at the Africa Cup of Nations for the first time in 2019, and will make their CHAN debut next year.

Ghana beat arch-rivals Nigeria on penalties after a 2-2 aggregate draw, while South Africa suffered to a 4-1 loss at home to Angola, who triumphed 6-1 overall.

Indian Ocean nation Madagascar will be the only tournament debutants - despite being held 1-1 by Botswana in Antananarivo on Friday they progressed 2-1 on aggregate.

Leading nations who will be at the seventh edition of the tournament reserved for domestic-based players include title-holders Morocco, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

The defending champions, hosts Algeria and Libya were already assured of places at the

finals after Egypt and Tunisia withdrew from the Northern Group.

The expanded 18-team CHAN finals are scheduled to be held from 13 January to 4 February 2023, and the group-stage draw will be conducted in Algeria on 1 October.

Trailing 2-0 after the first leg in Ghana, Nigeria staged a late rally in Abuja to win the return match 2-0 through goals from Zulkifilu Rabiu and Chijiokwe Akuneto, the latter through a 94th-minute penalty.

The Black Galaxies converted all five spot-kicks in the shootout while Maurice Ugochukwu missed to eliminate 2018 runners-up Nigeria.

The dramatic victory took two-time beaten finalists Ghana back to the finals after failing to qualify for the last three editions.

Africa's most populous nation Nigeria boast one of the stronger national leagues in Africa but have reached the CHAN finals only three times - with their qualifying failures including a stunning 2020 loss to Togo.

It was yet another celebration for Ghana in the Nigerian capital city after pipping their bitter rivals to 2022 World Cup play-off ticket at the same venue in March.

In Soweto, South Africa got

off to a great start with Prince Nxumalo halving the aggregate deficit by nodding home a free-kick just six minutes into the first half.

But disaster struck for the home side on 39 minutes when an attempted headed clearance by Mosa Lebusa looped over goalkeeper Reyaad Pieterse into his own net.

It left South Africa needing to score three unanswered goals to survive with a team sorely weakened by the absence of stars on club duty.

Angola grew stronger as the second half progressed with Jaredi Teixeira a constant menace on the left wing. He set up the second and fourth goals for Deivi Viera and Danilson, and Joaquim Paciencia netted the third with a free-kick that flew in off the underside of the crossbar.

Cameroon, fourth when they hosted the 2020 tournament, netted twice late in the opening half to beat Equatorial Guinea 2-0 and squeeze through, having lost 1-0 away.

Djawal Kaiba broke the deadlock on 43 minutes in the north-western city of Garoua and Souaibou Marou snatched what proved the crucial goal in stoppage time.



Zulkifilu Rabiu helped Nigeria back into their game against Ghana, but the Black Galaxies prevailed

Sports

Nigeria's football can be revived by quality leadership - Chukwu

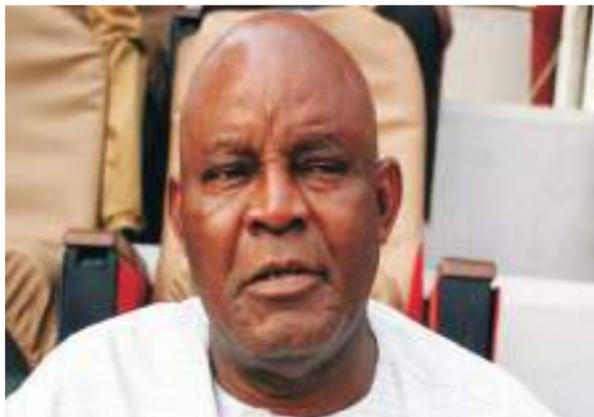
By CHRISTIAN CHUKWU

FORMER Super Eagles Coach, Christian Chukwu, has charged football stakeholders to elect credible leaders to the board of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) because that is the only way to correct the ills of the game.

Speaking in the wake of Super Eagles Team B's ouster from the African Nations Championship (CHAN) by Ghana at the weekend, Chukwu said that the result as given more insight that the nation's football is in total disarray.

He maintained that if urgent measures were not adopted to set things in the right way, the country would continue to drop.

"The Super Eagles Team A missed out from the World Cup following a defeat by Ghana; now the Team B has also suffered the same fate in



Chukwu

the hands of the same Ghana in CHAN qualifiers.

"This clearly shows Nigerian football is in a big problem as we speak. I don't understand what the problem with the team is; if it is administrative, coaching or team selection issues, because I am not with the team.

"But my advice is for stakeholders to elect

experienced football administrators to come and save Nigerian football. It is a big embarrassment that the country cannot book tickets this year for two major championships.

"If things are not handled right, Nigerian football will not come out of this situation," he said.

THE Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has confirmed that the Super Eagles will play Algeria in an exhibition match on September 27.

The federation announced the friendly game in a post on the team's Twitter page on Monday.

The match will take place in Oran, Algeria, with the exact stadium and the kick-off time yet to be announced.

The last time both nations met was in October 2020 at Worthersee Stadium in Klagenfurt, Austria, where the Super Eagles were defeated by a lone goal scored by Ramy Bensebaini.

Both Nigeria and Algeria won't be at the 2022 World Cup after being denied qualification by Ghana and Cameroon respectively.

The match is billed to be a preparation for the upcoming African Cup of Nations

Super Eagles to clash with Algeria in friendly

(AFCON) qualifiers. The Eagles are scheduled to face Guinea-Bissau in a double-header clash between March 20 and 28, 2023.

The qualifiers were initially dated for September 2022 before CAF announced a revision of its calendar to "make room for the African

nations that have qualified for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 in November/December 2022 to prepare adequately."

The AFCON billed to hold in Ivory Coast has also been moved to January and February 2024.



Super Eagles will play Algeria

NFF Election: My ambition not a 'Do or Die' affair — 1st VP

THE 1st Vice President of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Seyi Akinwunmi on Monday said his ambition to

become the next President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) was not a 'do or die' affair.

Akinwunmi told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that his dream for Nigeria's football as president, was because of his passion for the Nigerian football and as a driving force.

Akinwunmi, who also doubles as the Chairman Lagos State Football Association (LSFA) is gunning for the NFF presidency scheduled for Sept. 30, in Benin, Edo.

Akinwunmi is hoping to take over the baton from the incumbent, Amaju Pinnick who came into office eight years ago.

The LSFA boss said that his father figure in the football administration in Nigeria endeared him towards other contestants whom he respected so well.

"One thing I did that I am very proud of is that I personally attended the declaration ceremony of the first person to declare for the NFF president, I even spoke at the event.

"My NFF presidency ambition is not a 'do or die' affair because football is a family thing and we must, in competition, not forget that.

"I have been to three declarations so far and that

is the way to go, I will not put anybody down or be abusive because I have my own mistakes and I want my conscience to be clear.

"I want to run the race of that his dream for Nigeria's football as president, was because of his passion for the Nigerian football and as a driving force.

The 1st Vice President said he had a noble idea with good programmes to move Nigerian football to its

eldorado. He said anyone who wanted the best for Nigerian Football this time would vote for the candidate that would change the face of football for better, an experienced and passionate leader.

"For others, they have a bit of something in football, like administration, league management, but I have all of them and more.

He stated that he also possessed the ability to attract funding through partnerships to the NFF, moreso as a lawyer, knowing that many of the problems in NFF were infrastructural, based on law.

"The expansion that the stakeholders were clamouring for may not bring much change in Nigerian football administration, but the amendment to NFF statutes is bigger expansion.

"For me, the expansion is the smallest thing because there are bigger issues. We need to have inclusion; expansive inclusion in the football polity.

"I was part of the Reform Committee of NFF and I supported the expansion idea, I am also part of the 10-year Football Master plan and I am a proponent of expansion.

"My opinion is that the state FA should not just be a subordinate, but an affiliate so that NFF can budget grants for them to run their associations; this is one of the ideas I will implement as the president," he said.

NGF President promises to rejuvenate golf in Nigeria

OLUSEGUN Runsewe, the President of the Nigeria Golf Federation (NGF) has promised to rejuvenate the game of golf in the country.

Runsewe spoke with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on the sidelines of the 1st Nigeria Golf Federation Summit for Captains with delegates from over 70 clubs across the country.

The three-day summit, which was declared open by Simon Lalong, the Governor of Plateau, also had as Guest of honour, Sunday Dare, the Minister of Youth and Sports Development.

The NGF president told NAN that he was working assiduously to ensure that the game of golf wears a new look in the country.

"Let me first and foremost thank the two great personalities for honoring our invitation to come for this very important summit.

"Both of them being here today is a very big statement and most especially their commitment to give us the much needed support which will take our Federation to the top is a moral booster.

"Golf indeed is a great game but most people have not come to understand fully what it is all about.

"So, today is a testament of the fact that golf has the

support and followership of both the government and private sector as well the good people of Nigeria.

"For me, I feel fulfilled and extremely happy that this summit has gone so well and look forward to Nigeria building on it," he said.

He noted that the game of golf was a big business, adding that other countries made a lot of money from it but it was unfortunate that it was being looked at as leisure in Nigeria.

He added that one of the purposes of the summit was to create an opportunity for golfers in the country to network and acquaint themselves with the process of the World Handicap System (WHS).

He explained that the WHS is a universal ranking software which could be accessed by players globally.

NAN also reports that the WHS is initiated by the Runsewe led Board in partnership with the Royal and Ancient (R&A) and when it is finalised, is expected to ease the development of golf in the country.

"Golf is beyond leisure. It's a big business.

"Do you know that if they don't play golf in Dubai for three days, it will affect their

economy?

"Over 260 pros live on training, which is what I am trying to introduce here. Academic golf, getting the youth immediately now because you can't start playing golf at an old age.

"The WHS which we are also trying to introduce, of course, is going to be a huge success for Nigeria.

"We will key into the WHS, which we are almost there and we will also build golf academies in all the state of the federation," he said.

He expressed joy that alot of sponsors had already started to indicate interest in the development of the game in the country, adding that the summit would be sustained and organized yearly.

He stressed that the NGF would utilise the support base of the golf clubs' Captains to be optimally involved in grassroots development of the sport.

"Anything I do, I usually don't do it small. I do it big and when I start by the grace of God with his divine intervention, I will sustain it because the sincerity of

purpose is there.

"You can see that all of sponsors are now asking how they can key in.

"You cannot blame the sponsors because they are not sure of what you have on the table.

"But now the sponsors can see a serious and genuine project and to cap it up, the minister of sports and the governor of Plateau State are all here to endorse it," he said.

He also thanked all the captains from over 70 clubs across the country participating in the summit, stressing that the event would chart a new direction for the development of golf in the country.

"They (the captains/delegates) all came in good spirit and ready for us to change the narrative and the history of golf in Nigeria.

"You can see the competitive spirit between them, which is the beauty of the game and by the grace of God next year will even be much bigger than this.

"I promise you that the game of golf is going to wear a new look going forward in the country, starting from today," he said.

Volleyball : Cameroon bow to Egypt 3-1 in final match

THE Egyptian team on Monday defeated their counterparts Cameroon 3-1 in the ongoing 2022 Under-19 African Nations Volleyball Championship in Abuja. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that in the final match of the championship at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, the Egyptians were determined to win the game at all cost. Egypt beat Cameroon in the first set 26-24, defeated them again in the second half with nine points 25-16. Cameroon fought back to win the third set in the

third 25-22.

The Egyptians regained and bounced back to win the third set 25-13 to make the final score at 3-1. NAN reports that Egypt is now crowned the champion of the U-19 Girls African Nations Volleyball Championship. Speaking after the match, Farida Kamel, a player from the Egyptian team, said "we came for a business in this championship." "Now that we are champions our coaches will know what to do to guide us in our training back in Cairo." "We

will represent the continent with good results in the world next year. We will win the world Cup next year," she said. NAN reports that Egypt and Cameroon will represent the continent in the World Cup next year. Cameroon won the 2021 edition of the championship held in Abuja.

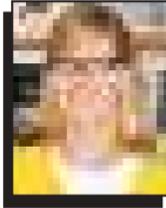
NAN reports that Nigeria, Cameroon and Egypt participated in the 2022 Under-19 Nations Championship. The event started on Thursday and ended on Monday.



Runsewe



Quest



writer

ELLEN W. GORSEVSKI

FRAGMENT

"This analysis covers Maathai's suasive argumentation created for divergent audiences in Africa and beyond. Chief among her communication successes was her ability to navigate challenging limitations placed on women rhetors, made all the more, so since she underscored intersections between environmental and social justice for peace building. Maathai's contributions to communicating for environmental and social change featured her "persistence" in public protests for locally based environmental preservation and her "wisdom" in promoting peace building while addressing local, regional, global, and multicultural audiences."

ELLEN W. GORSEVSKI

Wangari Maathai: Greening Global Peace building

DR. Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for 30 years of reforestation work in her native Kenya, and for being a "strong voice speaking for the best forces in Africa to promote peace" (Nobel Committee, 2004). Maathai led projects across great swaths of Africa, where forest ecosystems and the people whose lives depended on them had been devastated by colonial and subsequent postcolonial development processes. With Maathai's death in 2011, it is time to take stock of the rhetorical contributions for global greening of this remarkable African leader. This article appraises Maathai's communication, theorizing emplaced rhetoric (ER) as a significant and growing form of environmental discursive and symbolic action.

Maathai was a trailblazer. She was the first woman in East Central Africa to earn a doctoral degree and the first African woman and first environmentalist to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement (GBM) in 1977, engaging women to plant over 30 million trees in Africa. Before her GBM leadership, Maathai chaired the National Council of Women of Kenya (NCWK), "an umbrella organization for many of [Kenya's]... women's groups ... [which] expanded beyond narrowly defined development issues to include political activism" (Worthington, 2003). Maathai believed renewing the balance of nature contributes to creating conditions for democracy and peace (UNEP, 2011). Her activism brought attention to the interconnection between environmental and social injustices.

From the late 1980s through 2002, Maathai vociferously criticized Kenya's then president, Daniel arap Moi, who feared her green initiatives so much he called her "a threat to the order and security" of Kenya (as quoted in Goodman, 2005, p. 203). Until arap Moi's exit from power, Maathai suffered beatings, jailings, and every other form of government intimidation. Undeterred, she emerged from decades of struggle as a world-revered figure for environmental justice Rhodes (2011). After serving in Kenya's Parliament, in 2003, Maathai helped to lead the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Wildlife in Kenya's new government. Today,



Wangari with former US President Obama

Maathai's legacy features the GBM and her life of activism in environmental and social politics (Kiama, 2011; UNEP, 2011). Maathai traveled worldwide speaking on environmental and economic empowerment issues, until her death, she continued to write prodigiously on a wide array of subjects for both expert and layperson audiences.

This article offers new insights into how Wangari Maathai's rhetoric of emplacement may be productively understood as a growing form of what Shome (2002) and Schlimm (2010) identify as postcolonial communication, which is amenable to criticism and theory-building in rhetorical studies. As this case study of Maathai's texts demonstrates, her communication not only featured resistance to postcolonial oppression, it also emphasized peacebuilding (Kiama, 2011). ER is a form of postcolonial symbolic and discursive message-making found in a variety of communication contexts, often political, intercultural and international exchanges about the environment. Prevailing literature on environmental

communication features rhetoric that relates to colonial caused inequities, but little has been discussed in terms of connecting peacebuilding rhetoric of African women's leadership to environmental sustainability. Moreover, as this study shows, ER may function as a heuristic move to restore agency, interconnection and wholeness of sentient beings and ecosystems within the postcolonial context; it is the peacebuilder's transcendence over dominant discourses that normalize displacement and fragmentation. This rhetorical analysis of recent texts of Maathai as a major peacebuilder in environmental and social justice activism serves as an antidote to the gap in contemporary criticism of postcolonial and environmental confluences in communication.

This analysis covers Maathai's suasive argumentation created for divergent audiences in Africa and beyond. Chief among her communication successes was her ability to navigate challenging limitations placed on women rhetors, made all the more, so since she underscored intersections between

environmental and social justice for peacebuilding. Maathai's contributions to communicating for environmental and social change featured her "persistence" in public protests for locally based environmental preservation and her "wisdom" in promoting peacebuilding while addressing local, regional, global, and multicultural audiences.

This article offers ER as a theoretically productive construct for assessing environmental rhetorics. Maathai was a rhetor and African peacebuilding leader who directly wielded global influence on environmental politics. Through her speeches, writings, activism, and the GBM, Maathai's strong voice for environmental justice will continue to be amplified and heard for years to come (Kiama, 2011; Straziuso & Odula, 2011). Specifically, I survey Maathai's ER, focusing on two recent texts where she describes her public campaigns from the late 1980s to 2006. Maathai's texts that are analyzed here are *Unbowed*: and her 88th Commencement Address at Connecticut College.

Clearly, not all of Maathai's communication constitutes ER. However, I contend ER is a noteworthy feature in contemporary environmental communication in postcolonial contexts, and that it is prominent in Maathai's writings, speeches, and activism advancing ecological wellbeing and human rights. ER is evident in her most famous protests in Kenya to save park and forestlands from development, as conveyed in the passages from *Unbowed* that are explored here. This case study appreciates how Maathai used ER as a culture-bound and locale-situated approach to furthering modern social justice appeals within activist rhetoric about environmental sustainability. After surveying communication research on postcolonial environmental justice, ER is defined. I then analyze Maathai's eco-activism texts as discursive and symbolic examples of Maathai's uses of ER.

The Peacebuilding Turn in Environmental Politics: Communication Studies in Socio-Ecological Justice Vital scholarship exists linking environmental discourse to implications for change, including political-economic and social transformations. "The

language of sustainable development, which attempts to balance interests of economic development with environmental wellbeing," has been analyzed in case studies of practices in business communication have analyzed environmental issues in postcolonial development, highlighting structural violence inherent in "modern" economic, agricultural, or scientific practices. Ostrom (1990) and Wright (2010) reviewed literature decrying cultural and institutional harms as forms of violence constituting "negative peace" in environmental practices. Still, comparatively fewer researchers consider practices to constructively overturn past environmental violence thereby creating conditions for peace, a peacebuilding process of "positive peace." In short, presently connections among rhetoric, environmental activism, and peacebuilding lag in the literature, especially when it comes to focusing on Africa (Vital, 2008). Further, in appreciating the rhetoric of black African women, even fewer studies exist (Wu, 2002). Wu asserts theory-building does not only happen on the level of heuristics. Theory is also deeply imbricated with what is deemed as subjects worthy of study. Wu maintains "dominant interpretive frameworks" largely omit women in developing nations from rhetorical studies.

Rhetorical analysis benefits from theoretical approaches of peace and justice studies. In researching social justice rhetoric, Cavin (1994) suggested "studying the rhetoric of peace speakers" as a fruitful approach to better understanding non-violent forms of communication (p. 292). Killingsworth and Palmer (1992) identified non-violent activist traditions from the Quakers to civil rights, among other peace movements, which influenced agitation for change in American environmental justice. DeLuca (2007) studied environmental justice and human social justice activism as complementary rhetorical forms. Weik (2011), Williams and James studied African American environmental communication, and Cox (2010) covered minority rhetoric for environmental justice.

To be continued