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Sunday Standard



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thenigeriastandard@yahoo.com

Oil theft:



Discovery of illegal pipeline, any conspiracy?

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Oil theft in Nigeria has been a recurring decimal in the petroleum industry for over 22 years. But lately, this phenomenon has reached an unprecedented scale especially with the latest discovery of an illegal 4 kilometre (km) crude pipeline that had operated undetected for nine years.

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Re-emerging fuel scarcity and oil theft

The challenges bedeviling Nigeria on all fronts today seem to be waxing on unabated, even with the assurances by those in authority that they are on top of the situation. One of such reoccurring challenges is the issue of fuel scarcity which appears to be a reoccurring decimal in our nation, always coming with its attendant consequences on the operations of other sectors and indeed the economic life of the common Nigerian. Fuel scarcity is no longer news in this part of the world as oil theft and bunkery is adding more harm that Nigerians are suffering as a result of this phenomenon.

Over the past few weeks, Nigerians woke up to witness the scarcity of fuel again in most filling stations, with the attendant long queues in some major cities and Jos among others. This has forced many Nigerians to ask this probing question as to whether the Nigerian government is not always speaking from both sides of its mouth when it says that government is on top of the situation, yet "the discovery of the illegal four kilometers pipeline through which crude oil was being siphoned showed that oil theft was being perpetrated by criminal mafias, with the connivance of some officials of the oil industry.

"It is dangerously incredible that crude oil theft, in spite of all the securities around, has assumed wider dimension to the extent that the quantity of crude oil we export today is less than the quantity being stolen by a gang of thieves of various designations." without any significant impact being felt by the masses of the people within the time given by the authorities.

Indeed, the Federal Government through the Minister of Information Lai Mohammed, had in a recent interview assured that the government had no plans to remove fuel subsidy because of the catastrophic consequences that may follow but yet, the supply of the product is epileptic and inadequate to this day for the consumption of Nigerians.

Worthy of note is the fact that even with the subsidy by government, things are not working well, will it then be available when it is removed, even as the products are not refined in Nigeria? Furthermore, who will be able to buy the product when subsidy is removed and left to be determined by the forces of demand and supply in the free market economy, with the current galloping inflation that is being experienced in the country? Only recently, the Managing Director of NNPC, had assured that the product will be available to Nigerians within one or so weeks, but to this day, this is appearing to be a repeat of such assurances that hardly see the light of the day.

From all indications, it is safe to say that the economic recession in Nigeria is far from being over. The economic indices are not confirming anything that is otherwise. The recession can only be said to be over when the common man on the street can be able to put food on his table with some level of ease. Since the activities of NNPC has multiplier effect on the performance of the entire economy, there is the need on the part of government to always put on the needed eagle eyes on their operations, as corruption is on the increase. If our refineries had been the economic challenges being experienced in the country would have been reduced.

It may interest those in authority to know that even when these products are supplied, the major marketers, same is being diverted and sold to smaller marketers who dispense them at very exorbitant rates to ordinary Nigerians. In view of this, government must act fast to save Nigerians from experiencing a re-emergence of another scarcity of fuel in the country as our challenges are too many, sending many of the less privileged to their early graves.

THE Federal government has assured that measures are being taken to reposition the nation's education system and save Nigerians from the unpalatable experience of incessant strikes in future.

Minister of Labour, Chris Ngige, made this known on Friday, while commending the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), for obeying the court order directing the union to suspend its eight-month-old strike.

A statement issued by the Ministry's Deputy Director, Press and Public Relations, Olajide Oshundun, on Friday, reads, "We particularly recognise the patriotic efforts of the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Saad Abubakar III, the former President of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev. Supo Ayokunle, all members of Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) and the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, whose wisdom and intervention raised a ray of hope while the strike was at infancy, but for ASUU's intransigence to negotiation.

"We were forced to migrate the matter to the National Industrial

FG sets to reposition tertiary education

Court of Nigeria (NICN) created by the 1999 Constitution as amended, for the settlement of industrial disputes because every channel of negotiation including the tripartite plus, in which eminent Nigerians participated failed. We were left with no other option than to trigger Section 17 of the Trade Disputes Act, CAP T8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, on dispute resolution mechanisms in seeking the intervention of the National Industrial Court.

Now that ASUU has decided to obey the judgement of the National Industrial Court by calling off the devastating action, we apologise to all students and parents, of which the Honourable Minister is one, for this unduly prolonged strike, which is unwarranted ab initio.

"We wish to assure that with the decision, steps and measures being taken by the current administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, in the holistic repositioning of higher education, groundwork is being laid, of which we are confident, will save

Nigerians, this unpalatable experience of incessant strike in future.

"It is verily our hope that now that the strike has been called off, the National Industrial Court will deal with the substantive issues as contained in the referral letter by the Honourable Minister.

"This is to ensure that justice is given to all parties including ASUU and their employers - the Federal Ministry of Education, which acts on behalf of the Federal Government.

"The Ministry will continue to cooperate with both parties in finding an amicable solution to other issues not placed before the industrial court, in finding a lasting solution to the instability in the university system.

"We certainly can't be less grateful to the judiciary for deepening our labour jurisprudence in upholding the essence of the 3rd alteration of the 1999 Constitution, especially as it relates to Sections 243 and 254A."

PenCom set to commence verification exercise for retirees

THE National Pension Commission (PenCom) has announced the commencement of 2023 online Verification and Enrolment Exercise for retirees/prospective retirees of Federal Government Treasury-Funded Ministries, Departments and Agencies. PenCom said this in a statement on its Website.

It said the verification and enrolment exercise would commence on Monday, October 17, 2022

The commission said, those eligible for the 2023 verification and enrolment exercise are employees of Federal Government Treasury-Funded MDAs scheduled to retire in 2023; and employees of Federal Government Treasury-funded MDAs who missed the enrolment exercises in previous

years. It said, prior to enrollment, all retirees/prospective retirees are required to visit their Pension Fund Administrators to undergo the data recapture exercise.

"The data recapture exercise entails retirees/prospective retirees providing their Retirement Savings Account (RSA) Registration details, Personal Identification Number (PIN) and their National Identity Number (NIN).

"Retirees/Prospective retirees who had undergone the data recapture exercise earlier are not required to repeat it", it said.

The enrolment options, according to the commission, are self-assisted where retirees/prospective retirees are required to visit PenCom's website (www.pencom.com.ng)

and upload their employment details as well as scanned copies of required documents before proceeding to their respective PFAs for physical verification and enrolment.

The step-by-step procedure for the Online Enrolment is hosted on the PenCom website.

The second option is the Pension Desk Officer/PFA-Assisted which requires retirees/prospective retirees who are unable to complete the online registration for any reason to approach the Pension Desk Officer of their respective MDAs or visit their PFAs for assistance.

"Please note that Verification and Enrolment by all concerned must be completed on or before 31 December, 2022", PenCom said.

Kidnapping: Mangu residents cry out to FG

By PETER TITLE
THE rising trend of kidnappings and robbery cases within Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State have become worrisome to all and sundry thereby making the people to live in palpable fear as they do not know who the next victim would be.

As a result of these unfortunate cases, the people of the area are calling on the Federal Government to come to their aid by deploying more security personnel's to help curb the incessant attacks being meted on innocent citizens.

An investigation carried out by the **SUNDAY STANDARD** Newspaper revealed that the people of the local government area no longer sleep with their eyes closed due to unprovoked attacks always unleashed on them yet nothing seemed to be done by the security agency's saddled with the responsibility of protecting lives and property.

According to investigations by our correspondent, sophisticated weapons used by these culprits to perpetrate these heinous acts have become a matter of great concern to them which they posited if nothing was done, the consequences on the people would be beyond human comprehension.

Robbery incidences according to our Reporter in the area have become a child's play where the robbers operate by robbing at any time they so wished and vanished into thin air without confrontation from any quarter.

Investigations revealed that traditional rulers were also a prey when in December, 2021, the Sum Pyem, HRH Mato Dakat was kidnapped, followed by the District Head of Pushit, HRH Diket Gupiya and the District Head of Panyam, HRH, Engr. Aminu Derwam.

According to our investigations the daughter and wife of the former Commissioner for Commerce and Industries, Idi Bamaiyi were kidnapped apart from that of Aircraft Engineer Gershon and Elder Simon all in the local government area.

Our man reports that these are very few names mentioned from the many who have fallen victims in the hands of the dare devils.

Few people who spoke to our correspondent said the activities of the kidnappers has become a night mare and urged security at all levels to work in synergy to nib their activities in the bud.

They said the Chairman of Mangu Local Government Council, Hon. Minister Daput is insensitive to the plight of the people and cannot

defend or protect their interest in whatever.

A Human Rights Activist, Jerry Datim who spoke bitterly revealed the rate of kidnappings and robbery cases are on the surge and that if nothing is done business men would have to relocate for the fear of the unknown.

Mr Datim lamented that it was unfair for a culprit who was said to have been arrested be seen the following day walking on the street free as an innocent person.


Our correspondent who was in the Local Government Council Headquarter to have a chat with the Chairman, Honourable Minister Daput could not yield any result as he was said not to be indisposed.

At the Divisional Police Headquarters, Mangu, the Divisional Police Officer, (DPO) was not in but an officer who confided in our correspondent said, the police was doing everything within its power to ensure kidnappings and robbery cases were curtailed.

According to the officer who pleaded for anonymity said, as a result of the fight against criminal and criminality, the Divisional Police in Mangu loss two of his gallant officers as result promising to do more despite the lost of lives.



With
**Katdapba
Y. Gobum
On Sunday**



gobum_katt@yahoo.co.uk 07037977744 (sms)

"The young man may have gone to the world beyond, the lessons of his life are too numerous to be discounted. If, as it has been observed variously by his peers; that he has helped shaped the society, those who remember what he stood for should be able to keep his memory incandescent by following the path he had embarked upon."

HERE comes a time in the life of a people that young people are appreciated for being consistent and dedicated to what they find doing. There are several of such examples, for which we may be witnesses of their sterling contributions, and who, when they are no longer alive; their contributions may be subject of concern, as long as they are not be left wasted.

Bangs: A rising star cut short

Whatever you read here below are snippets of what I have gleaned from a myriad of comments made on the death of one of Nigeria's talented music producers on the Plateau: Bangs Wuripba. The tangents he had affected are too nuanced that they remain a point of reference to other young people.

What sort of person was he that he made people like him easily? I have been informed of his easy disposition; having realized quite early that life was like the philosophy of the toad; you give and you take. Early in life, he knew what he wanted to become, therefore, he 'didn't wait for anyone to define his destiny but took control of it' without delay and ran with it.

Being 'a talented singer', it was easy for him 'to thrive in his career, it was easy to become popular amongst' his peers, and for all intent and purposes, it enabled him and others formed a group to be able to exploit those potentials in them. As has been stated, 'he was on top of his game and a star waiting to shine so brightly', for others to comprehend the essence of life.

I must confess that as a younger person, I may not have met him, however, for me, wherever a talent exists; I have always responded with a celebration of such talents, perhaps, they may serve as a springboard for many to want to climb up using the success of the person in question. That his death trended for weeks running, is enough evidence to appreciate the essence of his service.

In the week, I tried to ask around to know what happened to him, and four persons: Jiritmwa M Goyit, Mullengdang K Linus, Wuripba Ebenezer Chinang, Darshak Simon Gobum, and Mwarap Rinret, all his friends spoke glowingly of his antecedence while wondering why good persons often leave the stage when they were most needed. His case was a perfect example; serving for others to pick a lesson.

That is how God works; he does what he wants to do at the time that is right for him. Therefore, it is not out of place to state that Bangs Wuripba's sojourn on earth was for the number of years, touching lives in more ways than one. Those who may have benefited from his entertainment prowess are indebted to those God-given



Bangs

talents.

The death of Mr. Bangs (as he was popularly called) was in many respects felt by the younger persons he might have come in contact with over the years. He related well with them mostly using his talents and he fitted well with them largely through the expression of his musical talent.

Perhaps you may have listened to One Voice Plateau which was sung by a group of Plateau artists recently. Yours sincerely did and repeatedly was largely educated on the essence of the initiative. He was the lead singer of that effort, combining with many other artists from various local government areas to preach peace and togetherness.

In the effort, they sang for the people of Plateau to be united despite efforts to divide them through various means. Anyone who has listened to it cannot but help reflect on the divisive tendencies that have held the state to its present station. Yet, for the group, hope is not lost: as the potentials of the state are too numerous and important to be wasted. What can bring the people of the together is to accept one another and live in peace.

The areas that are mentioned in One Voice Plateau are too familiar to be ignored by anyone. In the danceable Plateau Unity Song, Mr. Bangs, Solomon Damulak, Sarah Auta, Collins, Zabiya Caro, Brando Moses, Debbie Lex, Ezra Jinang and other artists could be heard eulogizing why the tribes on the Plateau have reason to come together for the progress and peace in the state and by

extension, that of Nigeria. What better song could there be than this, celebrating a theme that is lacking in Nigeria? If we could hear them and key into the lyrics, what better state can there be for all, realistically.

Therefore, it is understandable why on the eve of his funeral service, during the candlelight procession on October 6, 2022, the venue of the event at Lamingo roundabout adjacent to Plateau Private was without space for his friends; what more, the next day at the Champion Royal Christian Centre (Solid Rock Ministry) Tudun Wada, Jos, the show of love for him manifested in the number and caliber of sympathizers present to pay their last respect.

If the large coterie of mostly youth at the two events were not convincing evidence of what he has become to them, what would one describe their presence several kilometers away from Jos? That same presence witnessed again at Nemel, in Kanke his local government area was indeed instructive of how much they love him. And are surely going to miss him in death.

This one cannot be an exception, so long as the lessons are elaborate enough for others to pick to run with. I have several reasons to believe that in the 33 years that he walked the earth, if anyone thought he came to just pass through without any impact, such a person may not have met or heard about him and indeed what he stood for while he lived.

Four days into the month (October 4, 2022) of his birth, he lost the struggle for his life after

tragedy had struck a few days before. His house had caught fire and he was burnt in the cruelest manner that it would have only taken the grace of God to come back to his feet. The picture of him on the hospital bed was of a young man struggling between pains and hope towards regaining his life. As a result of the burns, he was in the hospital for some two weeks. How sad that could be.

When I read the post by Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, the All Progressives Party gubernatorial candidates for Plateau State after his death was announced, it was apparent that the loss was significantly felt by him. And it was not just ordinary, given the passion he has devoted to the development of the youth in the state as the campaign to the Government House in Rayfield progressed.

He had written: 'I will never get used to death and yours is one of my worst'. Sure, it was given the circumstances surrounding his demise. However, the avalanche of sympathy messages that flooded the new media space got me thinking: Could this have just come from people who are going to feel his absence? It surely shows and the emotions were indeed palpable from what they either said or wrote. In his case, it was obvious; there were a lot of things he and others had planned to finish before long; depending on how much he may have affected such people's lives in the course of life's journey.

It was for me a sad development, considering the myriad of comments on him necessitating yours sincerely to want to know who the young man Bangs Wuripba was, and why he was popular among the generality of young men and women cutting across ethnic and religious divides.

An occurrence which had the same colour had taken place about three years ago when another young person, Beka D Michael died on November 8, 2019 died, and was celebrated in the same fashion. He was popular with his peers; the young people, who mourned his death as has been demonstrated in the case of others in such similar fashion on several occasions; particularly those whose passage meant that the person means a lot to them was involved. It was a testimony that such a person was going to be missed.

I had written then that a person must not be celebrated only when such a one is old; younger persons could be so long as they have impacted well on their peers as well s the society. I am aware that there are enough Bekas and Bangs out there

walking the streets and sowing seeds of love and charity on the way. They may not be easily and soon forgotten.

There are many other such young men and women out there daily working to change people's perception about them. If he came to earth only on October 10, 1989 having been born at Ajikamai and has transformed himself into what he was before he died, pray, say what he would have become had he survived. Only God has the answer.

I have heard stories of who he was and what he meant to such groups as Area Gospel Music Artists, Shikrotkhinen Network and One Voice Plateau. They had written about his commitment to worship and a dedication to God and serving as an example. He had three albums to his credit, and what more; he had produced many music gospel ministers.

Life can be good or bad; depending on how one chooses; they say, and rightly so, 'death doesn't allow us to bid farewell to our loved ones'. That fateful day, he may have been engrossed on an effort when the inferno that engulfed his house rendered him cheap; leaving him writhing in pains.

The young man may have gone to the world beyond, the lessons of his life are too numerous to be discounted. If, as it has been observed variously by his peers; that he has helped shaped the society, those who remember what he stood for should be able to keep his memory incandescent by following the path he had embarked upon.

Of potholes and sanity of Plateau

It is no longer new that roads all over the federation have become eyesore and needing to be quickly fixed. It is also no longer news that Nigerians have cried to high heavens asking government to fix them without delay.

Of concern, however, are the potholes on the streets of Jos. There is virtually no street that has not been affected.

While they cause delay in vehicular movement, they nonetheless bring distortion in business. But it is the discomfort on citizens that should disturb all of us. About two years ago, the Plateau State Government launched the Operation Zero Pothole in the state. it succeeded largely and the effort was eulogized.

About two years down the line, we are back to where we were. The ferocity with which they returned, one would imagine that the last may not have been heard.

Meanwhile, we are waiting on the government; for it is its responsibility to put the roads into best shape.



Leading them on the wrong path

DO as I say, implying not as I do, is a very popular saying well accepted in schools, homes and even religious settings. In Nigerian schools where hierarchy is well established, the seniors are usually above the law when they are not within the watchful eyes of the school authority. However, they will mercilessly punish any junior student that breaks the law.

In the religious setting, it is referred to as hypocrisy. Surprisingly, it is a common practice very much practiced by those at the helm of affairs. I have witnessed where a pastor's son was getting married, and the couple was exempted from the mandatory tests that were required before the knot was tied to verify if everything was okay.

Unfortunately, the oversight exposed the church to shame. Barely 8 months later, the pastor's daughter in-law gave birth. Their biased attitude was exposed and the pastor could not sweep the shame under the carpet.

Some years back, a marriage almost ended when the children made a discovery. The kids had observed that for days their dad was obsessed with his phone. He would sit and be watching a particular video on the phone full of excitement.

Curiosity got the better of them, so late one night, they got hold of their dad's phone and went straight to the videos. Most of the videos revealed to them their father's sexual appetite. However, what threw them overboard was a sex video of their father, the pious Alhaji and their housemaid. It was so ugly.

Full of wisdom, their mother did not confront their father. But took the housemaid for shopping before quietly sending her to her village.

In a similar situation, this time the marriage went on the rocks when a woman discovered that her husband had a secret life he had hidden behind the facade of godliness. This woman loved and respected her husband. She assumed that the feeling was mutual.

She was the model Christian woman. Any time she collected her salary, the moment she came home, she would kneel down and present it to her husband. She went like this: "Daddy, here is my salary". Her husband would take the lion share and hand her the rest which she would receive with thanks.

Apart from being a salary earner, she was very enterprising and was a very successful business woman. Thanks to this woman, they bought a car, built a house and were living well.

However, their boat was rocked on the day that the father was forced by NEPA's erratic nature to leave a video cassette he was watching late the previous night in the video player.

It is usually said: 99 days for the thief, one day for the owner. That was exactly what played out. Just as the children were getting dressed to go to

school, power was restored and the video cassette immediately continued playing (it was not switched from the wall). The kids were shocked to see their father being portrayed as a father of twins with a strange woman by his side with whom he wore asho- ebi. The children must have thought their father had an acting career, so they called the attention of their mother.

The woman said she looked and refused to believe that her holier than thou husband, the man who shared tracts every time was the same man she was seeing as a husband to another woman and father of twins. As she watched, she saw some of her in-laws enjoying themselves at the naming ceremony. She said she was very hurt.

Unfortunately, that was when the man of the house got wind of what was happening. He came out thinking it was going to be business as usual but his submissive wife grabbed his shirt by the neck in an iron grip. It took several neighbours to loose the grip.

That day, Mr high and mighty came down from his high horse. It was discovered that he had been keeping a secret family in a satellite town in Abuja not too far from his home. His family members knew about it and a few trusted friends. His wife was the last person to know.

How did he succeed in keeping two families? Every month he used to tell his wife he was going on official duty to Lagos. The wife used to see him off and would make sure he was seated in the bus before he would send her back home in tears. Sitting in the luxurious bus until he sent her home was the closest he went to Lagos. Immediately she left, he would come out of the bus and go to his concubine's house, his second home.

In the office, his colleagues used to refer to him as pastor because he was always distributing tracts which spoke about salvation, sinful habits etc. When the wife informed the office, they could not reconcile his two identities.

The wife felt cheated because she believed he was using her money to take care of his second home. And true to her word, that was the case. In a twinkle of an eye, love turned to hatred especially when the wife discovered all the lies her husband used to tell her about official duty (he was never sent on any, he was a junior staff) and the issue of non payment of salary.

As it stands now, the man can't feel, free at home. His children are hurt and disappointed in him. He has lost his respect at home, office, community, the church. And has lost both families. His wife would have nothing to do with him. Concubine could not take the heat, so she took the twins and ran off. He is now back to square one.

Who said one can eat his cake and have it?

NEWS

Royal father tasks on skills acquisition

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria have been tasked to re-design their curricular to have a high content of skills acquisition and make it compulsory for all its student instead of certification with a view to produce students that would be self-reliant or self-employed on graduation.

The District Head of Anjida in Akwange Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Mr. Benjamin S Waziri made the case while speaking with newsmen after holding a security meeting held in the area which also discussed other developmental challenges facing the area in recent times.

He observed that the production of grandauntes with skills acquisition on their hands would among other things reduce the scramble for government employments, enhance their socio-economic fortunes since they already have the means of becoming self-reliant and self-employed as well as reduce the current security challenges bedeviling the country.

"Infect, graduates with skills on their hands are adequately prepared to take up jobs as such various tertiary institutions in the country should immediately key into it. This is in view to salvage the country's youth from their present state of joblessness and socio-economic doldrums" he applied.

The traditional ruler who expressed his concern over the rate of unemployment youths in the country attributed such negative trend to their lack of skills to make them not only self-employed but rather the employers of labour or job creators.

He contended that since the only viable remedy to such situation is the acquisition of skills by the youths, efforts must



Adamu

be directed towards such as giving emphasis on that area would not only make the youths useful and productive but would keep them away from all other forms of vices or indulging in crimes.

"Curricular of our tertiary institutions must be re-designed in such a way that the students must undergo a compulsory skill acquisition programmes so as to become self-reliant on graduation" he emphasized.

The Royal Father who also identified unemployment as one of the root causes of insecurity and social vices, lamented that many graduates with the absence of skills have taken the advantage of their jobless situations that is quite frustrating to indulge in various forms of crimes a situation that is very

unfortunate and could only be remedied through skills acquisition.

He further stated that since gone were the days when the government can provide jobs for all its citizen and such is not even obtained in all parts of the world, the best solution to the current state of unemployment in the country is skills acquisition to make youth relevant and major contributors to the country's socio-economic wellbeing.

Speaking about the forthcoming general elections in the country, the traditional ruler tasked the people of Akwanga Local Government Area to endeavor to obtain their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) before the closing date by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) so as to vote for the candidates of their choice

Women leader seeks support of for Obi...

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, the National Women Leader of the Labour Party has sought the support of women in Gombe State to ensure it's Presidential candidate, Peter Obi, emerges as Nigeria's next President.

The women who gathered in their numbers from all parts of the state, hosted the National Women Leader in a meeting where she told them that a vote for Peter Obi is a vote to turn away from the past and bring in a new Nigeria.

She told our correspondent shortly after the meeting that meeting the women in Gombe State has given her much hope that the chances of Peter Obi becoming President after next year's elections are higher than currently expected.

When asked to rate the chances of Peter Obi winning the elections considering the presence of two old forces in the race, she said people should rather be asking about the current insecurity, inflation, dwindling economy and many other socioeconomic woes bedeviling the country, which is enough reason to make

Nigerians to try something new.

She said, "if Peter Obi had not presented himself, we would have been left with death on each side, but we now have the option of something that we've not seen before. A party that has never fielded a Presidential candidate with such large followership.

"Most of us are coming out of the PDP or APC. We've had it, looked at them, everybody is disappointed and in disarray. Let's try something new, somebody new, new face, new man. He did it in Anambra, we trust he will do it for Nigeria. He is not going to do it alone but with all Nigerians", she stressed.

Countering the the notion that the Peter Obi movement is only on social media, Dudu Manuga, a known civil society activist sai. "We're not only a social media buzz, that is why we have come out to the streets in millions recently doing rallies.

"People are tired, they

want change, a new beginning, we want a Nigeria that is working again. The youths are now taking their destiny in their hands.

" They are saying, no, don't spoil our tomorrow, we the mothers are also saying no, the future of our children should not be destroyed. So, we have a chance of making it to the Presidency next year". She boasted.

She assured that it is already a done deal with Peter Obi to give no fewer than 35 percent appointment to women after winning the election.

"While in Anambra, it was 40 percent appointment for women and not only that, it was strong positions that were restricted to men such as Chief of Staff, Accountant General, Commissioner for Finance, Head of Service among others.

"This was because of his belief in women and what they can do. He believes they are committed and can deliver. He has not changed. He believes in what women can do especially when it concerns governance", she stated.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Senate to investigate 252 MDAs

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Senate has resolved to carry out investigation on 252 government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs that benefitted from the N5trillion Service Wide Votes, SWV from 2017 to 2021.

The decision followed the discovery that many agencies collected funds from the SWV without notifying the National Assembly panels that are mandated by law to oversight the agencies.

SWV which is also known as the Consolidated Revenue Fund Charge, is more or less the country's contingency fund in the annual budget.

Addressing journalists in Abuja, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Public Accounts, Senator Mathew Urhoghide (PDP Edo South), explained that the investigation has to do with disbursement of SWV between 2017 and 2021, adding that the votes have become major components of the nation's budget considering the amount budgeted annually for it in the proposals.

Senator Urhoghide said the committee wanted to know how the money collected from Service Wide Votes is being expended, alleging confusion in the approval of the votes.

"We want to see how this money is being expended. There is confusion on approval, we want to really get to know what is going on," he stressed.

He warned that the committee will not hesitate to



Lawan

issue a warrant of arrest on the head of any agency who fails to appear before it, "because it has been discovered that many agencies collected this fund without informing the National Assembly committee saddled with the responsibility to oversight them."

According to him, the committee will not tolerate the absence of Galaxy Backbone, Ministry of Interior, Budget Office, State House, NBET who are scheduled to appear before the committee.

He added that Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs collected N180 billion from the

votes, NBET collected N2.9 billion and Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs received N445 billion from the Votes.

Among the 252 Ministries, Departments and Agencies that are expected to appear in the ongoing investigation of Service Wide Votes from 2017 to 2021 are Ministry of Information and Culture, Defence, NHIS, Police, Ministry of Power, Bank of Industry, Water Resources, National Assembly, Public Complaints Commission, Department of State Services and the Presidential Amnesty Programme.

Mukhtar promises purposeful representatives

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

A Nasarawa State House of Assembly candidate under the platform of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) for Keffi West Constituency Hon. Mohammed Mukhtar has stated that his strong desire to serve the people of his constituency through a purposeful representation in the state lawmaking body informed his decision to make

himself available for the contest in 2023.

Speaking with newsmen in Keffi recently Hon Mukhtar further explained that the clarion call from the people of the constituency on the need to make himself available for the contest also compelled him to join the race.

Mukhtar who is a onetime Chancellor and later the Executive Chairman of Keffi Local Government Council pledged to bring forth his wealth of experience to bear

in the discharge of his duties in the state House of Assembly if elected.

He stated that he would focus his attention in the initiation of people oriented laws and services especially those that would create significant impact on the lives of his people especially the youths and women who constitutes the greater majority.

The Nasarawa State House of Assembly hopeful particularly assured that he would focus his attention towards the development of youths and women in such a way that they would be empowered through skill acquisition, education and other human capital developments in order to make them self-reliant or self-employed to be able to become useful members of the society.

He further assured his determination towards ensuring that the people of his constituency get their deserve shares in terms of infrastructural development, opportunities and resource allocation from both the state government and all other agencies.



Alkali

A Head of the 2023 presidential elections in the country, the senator representing Plateau South Senatorial District in the National Assembly, Senator Nora Daduut has endorsed and adopted Bola Ahmed Tinubu/Shettima for the presidential election.

Senator Daduut in a press statement made available to newsmen in Abuja threw her weight behind Tinubu because he is reliable and credible and has been tested and trusted.

She described the two term Governor of Lagos state as a national and continental asset a financial surgeon, a consummate politician, an astute administrator, a tolerant leader, experienced tutor and competent mentor and a man of foresight, among others.

According to the Legislator, Bola Tinubu is capable of turning around the country's economy, employing the youth, agricultural innovation and protection of lives and property among others.

Senator Daduut who is a member, strategic committee of the women wing of Bola Tinubu/Shettima Campaign team further stated that the presidential candidate of the APC made his debut in politics as APC made his debut in politics as an activist in the pro-democracy agitations of

Daduut endorses Tinubu/Shettima for presidency

From JIDAUNA YANUNG & DORCAS PANKYES Abuja

the National Democrats coalition (NADECO) in the early 1990s.

She added that with his emergence as the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential candidates, Tinubu has unveiled his

agenda which will positively impact all Nigerians.

To this end, the senator called on Nigerian women to stand up and support the candidature of Bola Ahmed Tinubu so as to move the country forward.



Daduut

'I have accepted reconciliatory outcome'

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

A House of Representatives Aspirant for Karu, Keffi and Kokona Federal Constituency Hon, Jibrin Sulaiman Dahiru has stated

that his decision to accept the outcome of the reconciliatory efforts put in place by the state Governor and the party was in good faith and for peace and victory to reign in the party.

Speaking with newsmen after attending the reconciliatory meeting headed by a prominent lawyer Barrister Hassan Liman (SAN) at the VIP Government lodge Keffi Dahiru stated that he has no any objection about the outcome of the process.

"Infact I want to assure you and indeed all the parties concerned that I have accepted the outcome of the reconciliatory process and also declare my readiness to support and work for the success of the party within all possible means" he assured.

Dahiru who was a Special aide to the former Governor Umaru Tanko Al-makura stated that since electoral contest to him is not a do or die affair or a must win, he is

prepared to accept its outcomes in good faith as a believer of God and in the demonstration of the spirit of sportsmanship.

The former SA further stated that since in the first place he contested for the election to enable him serve the people and he was not lucky to have it he has after accepting the outcome then shift his gear to provide other services to the people to the best of his ability.

While commending the state Governor Engineer Abdullahi Sule and the APC for setting up the reconciliation committee, he appealed to all aggrieved members of the party to sheathe their swords and be on the reconciliation table so as to move forward especially that the future is looking very bright and assuring.

To the reconciliation committee, Dahiru commended for a job well done and tasked them to produce a report that would help in healing wounds so the party will move forward.



Sule

SUNDAY POLITICS

Lalong: The man wearing four caps

If it were in the military, Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State would have been decorated with the rank of a four-star General owing to not just how he is holding four strategic leadership positions but how he is giving good account of himself in all respects. This is quite a positive development to Plateau State given the image of the state in the past as crises ridden and prone to violence, writes YAKUBU DATI.

FOR the over seven years that Lalong has been governor, the negative image Plateau has acquired has been banished and now, the rest of the country is seeing Plateau in a new light as the Governor is bringing out positive vibes from the state with his imminent decoration as Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) and the task he has been given of returning his party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) to the seat of power in 2023.

If it were in the past, many would have asked how a governor who could not keep his state secured and free of violence would be so decorated and trusted to sell his party to the rest of the country. But with Lalong, many have realised that Plateau is donating to the APC and to Nigeria a new type of leader.

Someone mentioned recently that Lalong is emerging as one of the most outstanding leaders of his time due to his adroitness in leadership, strategic planning, sense of organisation and clinical execution of projects.

In civil parlance, he could be described as a man wearing four caps while making each to sit well on his head.

As governor of Plateau State, Lalong has done so well not just in ending crises and violence in the state but has introduced a new template of leadership that gives all a sense of belonging.

He has also fared well in terms of infrastructural development in the state under his legacy projects initiative which invested heavily in health, education, agriculture among many other facilities.

His concern for the welfare



Lalong

of citizens has made him see to it that workers on the state pay roll receive their wages promptly which gave rise to his nickname 'Governor Alert'.

Recognizing his leadership qualities, his colleague governors in the northern part of the country made him the chairman of the Northern States Governors Forum. Following a seamless transition from Kashim Shetima, his predecessor and Vice Presidential candidate of the APC, Gov. Lalong went on to strengthen the mechanism put in place to address myriad of challenges facing the region through a united front.

Governor Lalong provided an all-inclusive platform that unified the region such that the north is today speaking with one voice on issues.

As a good party man, passionate about leadership, Governor Lalong also submitted himself for election in the party primary and has been returned as the APC flag bearer for Plateau South senatorial zone.

This is also because the party recognised his ability to not only win in the general elections but also offer the good people of the state quality representation as a senator.

This is owing to the much he had achieved when he was a state legislator where he rose to become Speaker of the state Assembly and chairman, Conference of Nigerian Speakers.

With the myriad of successes recorded and to cap it all, he has been appointed the Director General of the Tinubu/Shettima APC presidential Campaign Council.

Thinking that all these enormous responsibilities would weigh him down, many were surprised that not only did Lalong hit the ground running but has been able to add value to the campaign.

No sooner had he resumed on his desk than the all the attacks on the APC presidential ticket on account of religious factors began to die down.

By accepting to serve as the DG of the campaign council, Gov. Lalong was able to elevate the discourse from sentimental to developmental issues by projecting his persona on the ticket.

Once his appointment as DG was announced, people stopped viewing the

Tinubu/Shettima ticket from the lens of religion as they were content that with Lalong, all the fears about a skewed ticket has been addressed.

References were being made to his leadership in Plateau State where he has treated people with fairness and justice regardless of faith or ethnicity.

The APC gained tremendously from his appointment as the fear that northern Muslims would be gravitated to vote for a northerner in another party in the presidential elections also died down as they viewed Lalong as deserving of their trust and confidence. His appointment as DG also watered down the attempt by some aggrieved party leaders to blackmail the party on religious ground.

Lalong's handling of the affairs of the campaign council made the council more robust and attractive that every party member desired to be listed to contribute his quota unlike the other parties where people even picked quarrels for being named into their campaign councils.

Since his appointment, Lalong has provided the needed leadership to carry everyone along such that even when an issue arose with the NWC of the party, he went to work and all the aggrieved calmed down.

Many have wondered how Lalong is able to combine these caps and still look good. They forget that this is not the first time that the governor is multi-tasking on issues of leadership.

It was while serving as governor that he was for instance appointed to head the 49 member campaign committee for Ondo State and he duly returned the APC candidate as governor. Before that, while serving as member representing Shendam State

Constituency, he became speaker and then chairman of Conference of Speakers and he performed well.

The presidency must have noted these sterling qualities in him and have decided to honour him with a CON. What a great way to honour a man with so many caps.

"As governor of Plateau State, Lalong has done so well not just in ending crises and violence in the state but has introduced a new template of leadership that gives all a sense of belonging. He has also fared well in terms of infrastructural development in the state under his legacy projects initiative which invested heavily in health, education, agriculture among many other facilities. His concern for the welfare of citizens has made him see to it that workers on the state pay roll receive their wages promptly which gave rise to his nickname 'Governor Alert'".

SUNDAY POLITICS

'Don't lose hope, better days, years still ahead'

Honourable Simon Mwakwon is the member representing Riyom/ Barkin Ladi in the House of Representatives. He spoke to JIDAUNA YANUNG & DORCAS PANKYES on Nigeria at 62 and other national issues. EXCERPTS:

NIGERIA has just celebrated its 62 years of independence, as a lawmaker of the federal republic, how would you described the journey so far?

Well, the Journey has been very rough, There is nothing smooth. 62 years is not 62 months. is not 62 days and we seem not to have made progress. That is the truth because if you compare Nigeria with countries that got independence almost at the same time, you will find out that we have not progressed. We are still far behind in comparison with other countries, Nigeria seems to be, not stagnated, but it seems to have been in a reverse order compared to countries like Singapore, Brazil and others. If you look at the level of development in such countries, you will discover that, or you will find out that, we have not done well.

So the Journey so far like I said has been rough. Poverty has become the order of the day in Nigeria today and Nigeria by world standards has been described as the poverty or capital of the world. A lot of our people cannot afford 3 square meals a day, while some do not even have access to a single meal in a whole day. They just live on the good will of other people. So most people do not have the basic necessities of life, that is: shelter, clothing and food. You wake up in the morning each day and the first thing that comes to your mind is where do I get water, power is not there, how do I get generator or a generating set or where do I get mobility to take my children to school, like in other countries where all these things are there. In Nigeria today, education has become very expensive, the infrastructure in the education sector today are already decaying, ASUU has been on strike for over eight months now, nothing seems to be working or happening in the education sector and there is a serious brain drain in Nigeria today. Most of the professionals in Nigeria today are leaving for other countries, for greener pastures, so the journey so far has been very, very, rough, look at the issue of Boko haram, kidnapping, raping and other forms of criminality in the country.

It is very unfortunate that some people have constituted themselves into a group and call themselves, foreign Fulanis, and yet government sometimes protect these people and other foreigners who come to kill Nigerians. So I emphasise that the journey so far has been rough because the unity that was in Nigeria before 1960, is not there again, the country has been polarised along ethnics and religious lines. It looks like everybody is living in his own



Mwakwon

world, nothing seems to be working right for citizens of this country but then, we still have hope that one day, a true leader will emerge in this country that will have the country at heart and protect the interest of all, where our dignity will be restored.

Today, at the parallel market, a dollar is seven hundred and fifty naira per dollar, which is a very serious and sad issue. It is against the promise of this administration when they were campaigning that one naira will be equal to one dollar.

So, again as I said the journey so far has not been easy, instead for us to progress, is like we are retrogressing, it is just clear we are retrogressing. Cost of production has become high, there is absolute reliance on oil and gas, meanwhile, the whole world is having a paradigm shift, developed countries now have electronic machines, electronic house, electronic dams, electronic diesel, but Nigeria is still depending on oil and gas, while others are talking about alternative sources of energy, that is solar and electronic energy, but we in Nigeria are still relying on oil and gas which is a serious and dangerous trend. Time will even come when nobody will buy the oil we are depending on and producing today, but people will have alternative sources of energy. So the Journey so far has not been good in my assessment, as corruption has become the order of the day, we are aware that animals have suddenly become thieves in Nigeria, with snakes

swallowing money or some termites eating money and so many other funny stories. So nothing seems to be working, it is very, very, unfortunate so we are praying that God will do something, so that Nigeria can be more serious and move forward.

Can we now say the country has lived up to the expectations of its founding fathers?

No, no, no not at all. I believe that if people like Chief Obafemi Owolowo, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Tafawa Balewa were alive today and see what is happening in the country, they will weep with blood not tears. Nigeria has not lived up to the dreams of our fore fathers. Before now, these sharp divisions in religious, ethnic groups, states, regions, were not there, we were all one. Most of them in power today did not pay a kobo for their education in those days because there was a scholarship for them, they have everything at their disposal then like electricity, water and others. They had virtually everything at their disposal. So again if our founding fathers come back today and see Nigeria today they will weep with blood, they will hate all that is happening so we have not live according to what they want, the standard of education in Nigeria today is nothing to write home about, most graduates will not even recite the National Anthem, some don't even know the meaning of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

So things are getting worse everyday and all hands must be

on deck to correct this ugly situation. Leaders in Nigeria today are just being recycled President is eighty years, the ministers are also very old people there is need for us to shift to allow the youths to come in but today it is only children of the rich that can contest election because of the financial implications, where do you expect a graduate to get #1 million and above to buy a form or nomination form? That is why the leadership keep recycling within the rich, only the rich people who have stolen money will afford 1 million to obtain form of Political parties in Nigeria.

How then would you assess Nigeria's past leaders since independence?

Well, the past administrations have not been so bad like that of the present administration of President Muhammedu Buhari. The administration came in with a mandate of change and today we have seen the change. There is change in the pump price of petrol from 87 naira to 250 naira, there is change in security, It was Boko Haram in Borno State and today it is a national problem. Rice used to be 8,000 today it is 35,000. so at least there has been change but the change has been a negative One, we were thinking It is going to be change for good but today it is change for the worse this present administration to me is not easy, easy in the sense of changing every day. You buy Something today for one thousand tomorrow you will buy that same thing for one thousand five hundred or

even more than one five hundred or even more.

In fact we in the National Assembly have not helped issues. because of tribalism or religious background or region, that is to say, if the National Assembly wants to take steps to correct the leader of the administration, some sections the leader came from will not allow it they will Protect him or her, as the result of protection the executive does anything they feel like doing because no body will say anything. The executives supposed to be checked by the Legislators but reverse is the case.

Accessing this government under Buhari is not easy because one the economy is at ground zero, the level of Borrowing that has taken place under this administration is a serious matter of concern. This administration has borrowed too much that it can even affect our granting children and even unborn ones they will have loans on their head to pay. but yet the government has refused to accept that it has failed but the truth is that this government under President Buhari has failed.

This year's independence is coinciding with preparations for the 2023 general elections, what is your take on this?

Well, my take on this is that people should take advantage of the forth coming elections and vote out bad government. Nigerians should take advantage of the period and vote in good leaders who the interest of the country and its citizens similarly I want to urged Nigerians not to lose hope because better days and years are still ahead. We want to assure that we will continue to do our best by embarking on programmes and projects that will have direct bearing on the people.

“ So, again as I said the journey so far has not been easy, instead for us to progress, is like we are retrogressing, it is just clear we are retrogressing. Cost of production has become high, there is absolute reliance on oil and gas, meanwhile, the whole world is having a paradigm shift, developed countries now have electronic machines, electronic house, electronic dams, electronic diesel, but Nigeria is still depending on oil and gas, while others are talking about alternative sources of energy, that is solar and electronic energy, but we in Nigeria are still relying on oil and gas which is a serious and dangerous trend.

”

SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG AT CHIEF S.D. LAR FOUNDATION

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governor's Forum was chief host at the former Governor of Plateau State and National Chairman PDP, Chief Solomon Daushep Lar, the Walin Langtang, Foundation recently in Abuja



Governor Lalong, flanked by former Senate President, Sen. David Mark and former Director General, NOA, Chief Mike Omeri delivering his speech



Chairman of the occasion and former Nigeria's President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan (right) representative of President Buhari, Mr. Boss Mustapha, SGF (left) with other personalities unveiling the book



A cross section of important dignitaries listening to speeches at the Chief SD Lar Foundation



L-R: Sen. Jonah David Jang, Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State, wife of late Chief SD Lar, Prof. Mary Lar, Sen. Joshua Chibi Dariye and former Governor of old Anambra State, Chief Jim Nwobodo cutting the cake during the ceremony



Former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar (left) with the Governor of Benue State, Dr. Samuel Ortom



Prof. Mrs. Mary Lar, wife of late Chief Solomon Daushep Lar, (middle) her daughter, Hon. Beni Lar and former, vice President, Atiku Abubakar



PDP National Chairmam, Dr. Iyorchia Ayu (left) putting heads together with APC National Chairman, Sen. Abdullahi Adamu



Members of the high table cutting the cake with Prof. Mrs. Mary Lar

By **TIMOTHY TYEM**

THE Legislature, be it at the Local, State or Federal Government level, is an important Arm of government saddled constitutionally with the powers to make law, repeal existing ones, oversight both the Executive and the Judiciary and ensure checks and balances in governmental activities are rightly in place.

Other functions the Legislature performs include but not limited to representation, confirmation of Executive appointments, approval of government loan facilities, performance of quasi-judicial function and approval of government budgetary expenditures to Ministries, Departments and Agencies in every fiscal year.

The Legislature as it relates to Local Government system is a product of the State Legislature as the Constitution of the Federation does not direct specific responsibility to it, which is why Section Four mandates the State House of Assembly to make laws for peace, order and good governance of the State or any of its part.

Also, the repealed and amended Plateau State Local Government Act 2018 further accentuates the dominion of the Plateau State House of Assembly over the Seventeen Local Councils areas where it succinctly captured that where the House of Assembly is satisfied that any Local Government has defaulted in the performance of any functions conferred or imposed upon it, the House will make an order declaring the Local Government to be in default and may by the same or any other order for the purpose of removing the default, direct the Local Government to perform such functions in such manner and within such time as specified in the order. For the purpose of efficient service delivery and running of smooth governance at the third tier, the Local Government legislative Arm is empowered to make bylaws and raise motions particularly on phenomenon within its immediate jurisdiction which may include disaster, epidemic and on matters relating to maintenance of market, slaughter house, motor parks and public convenience among many others.

To improve the capacity of the Councillors, who are the legislators at the the Local Government level, the Plateau State House of Assembly working with the Association of Local Government of Nigeria, ALGON, Plateau State Chapter and the State Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs organized a team building and capacity training workshop drawing competent resource persons to treat practical and topical modules which will no doubt assist the Councillors in the performance of their legislative duty.

Designed with the sole objective to address legislative rascality, dishonourable conducts and abuse of ethical parliamentary standards among Councillors which has manifested in the Executive - Legislature imbroglio in some Local Government across the State, the capacity training focused on thematic areas such as legislative code of conduct and ethics, team building, legislative practice and procedure, Executive and Legislature relationship, insight on Section Seven of the 1999 Constitution as well as Community networking for quality representation to mention but a few.

Having spent one out of the three

year tenure without deliberate attempt to develop their capacity on the rudimentary aspect of the job, the councillors judging by the flagrant display of power have in one way or the other demonstrated attitudes which are not only unparliamentary but also unethical and unacceptable for lack of playing by the rules; a reason for the State Legislature intervention in some cases to douse tension and correct wrong misapplication of the spirit and letters of the law.

However, the training offered to the Councillors have besides educating them on their powers and functions exposed them also on the



On benefits of training workshop for councillors



Certificates being presented to some of the participants



A cross section of participants at the workshop



need for a unified team building spirit which is anchored on discipline, respect, helping one another, which multiplier effect is to achieve set goals as well as widen their horizon to a collaborative synergy with their counterpart in the State Assembly to make their work seamless.

Suffices to say that the capacity training to councillors is coming at a time when legislation is needed at the grassroot to address social concerns such as drug abuse, intake of illicit substance and other forms of social vices but making bylaws to mitigate these problems must be done in recognizance to established rules and business of standard legislative practice to gain legitimacy.

The councillors' capacity have now

been developed to integrate all forms of legislative activities into Council policy, strategies and planning as a result of acquiring training on their role in budgeting process, oversight and applying the instrumentality of lobbying to gain democratic dividends to the people.

Furthermore, additional knowledge on community networking is targeted at enlightening the councillors on the advantages of keeping a close relationship with their people, giving them useful information on Government policies and programs as well as generating feedbacks about their pulse to government. They have come to the realization that their job is like that of a liaison between government and the people.

Executive - Legislature relationship is encouraged at the local government level knowing that the two arms coexist in harmonious cordiality, as against antagonistic sentiments, to deploy democratic gains to citizens. In the perception of the crafters of democracy, the two arms enjoy operational Independence, though having mutual respect for each other, and connected by the function of checks and balances.

Granting that these values are assimilated and instilled into councillors across the state, citizenry will be expectant of result delivery from the Councils in terms of legislation, oversight, representation and above all working as a team of trained legislators for the common good of

all. Ostensibly, for the training to yield germane dividends at the third tier, a training which draws both Chairmen, that is the Executive, and Leaders of the Local Government Legislative Arm should be organized where robust interaction on their functions and limitations are discussed to avoid friction with concomitant effect on paralysing governance and abuse of legislative due process at the Third tier of government.

It is often said that to whom much is given, much is expected. Going forward, It is hoped that the investment made on councillors will reel out positive outcomes in our Local Government administration and safe the State the reins of Executive - Legislature fisticuffs.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Irabor



Kyari

Oil theft: Discovery of illegal pipeline, any conspiracy?

Oil theft in Nigeria has been a recurring decimal in the petroleum Industry for over 22 years. But lately, this phenomenon has reached an unprecedented scale especially with the latest discovery of an illegal 4-kilometre [km] crude pipeline that had operated undetected for nine years. Kenneth Dareng examines the situation.

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Company [NNPC], Group Chief Executive, Mele Kyari had recently disclosed to the Senate Joint Committees on petroleum [upstream and downstream], and gas that, the illegal pipeline had operated for nine years and ran through the Forcados terminal to the sea, also had a loading port without the knowledge of the authorities. He said the pipeline was found during a clampdown on theft in the past few weeks which according to him, "The Brass, Forcados and the Bonny terminals, are all practically doing zero production today, the combined effect is that you have lost 600,000 barrels per day when you do reality test. "As a result of oil theft, Nigeria loses about 600,000 barrels per day, which is not healthy for the nation's economy, and in particular, the legal operators in the field, which had led to a close down of some of their operational facilities.

"But in rising to the highly disturbing challenge, NNPC has in recent times in collaboration with relevant security agencies, clamped down on the economic

saboteurs. "In the cause of the recent clampdown, 395 illegal refineries have been deactivated, 274 reservoirs destroyed, 1,561 metal tanks destroyed, 49 trucks were seized." Kyari said. Speaking on the current development, Pa Edwin Clark, an Ijaw national leader, said the lingering oil theft in the Niger Delta has been going on even beyond 20 years, saying; "My attention and that of the entire country have been drawn to the recent discovery of a large scale sophisticated oil theft machinery going on in the deep swamps at Yokri close to the Forcados terminal in Delta state. "The discovery of the illegal four kilometers pipeline through which crude oil was being siphoned showed that oil theft was being perpetrated by criminal mafias, with the connivance of some officials of the oil Industry.

"It is dangerously incredible that crude oil theft, in spite of all the securities around, has assumed wider dimension to the extent that the quantity of crude oil we export today is less than the quantity being

stolen by a gang of thieves of various designations." Clark said. Also expressing his reaction on the matter, Mr Isaac Gbam, a Jos based public commentator said, "These must be interesting times for our country, otherwise, how can someone explain with the level of intelligence gathering and sharing within all security agencies and sophistication in such operations like that of crude, it beats my imagination that it took nine good years to detect such an illegality. "I suspect this must be an inside job from within the NNPC and perhaps in collaboration with some highly influential personalities within the corridors of power. The truth must be told, this is not a job for the boys, it is a multi-million dollar venture that can only be executed by a team with a high technical background and with a strong security support." He added. Also in a chat with **SUNDAY STANDARD**, Mr Ray Nwankwo, a resident of Jos North said, "It cannot be surprising to see such things happening. This goes to show the rot in our security system

which has led to the present security challenges which may be either due to lack of loyalty and love for the country that some people have decided to look the other way while our commonwealth is being hijacked by some few unpatriotic elements in our country." Nwankwo stressed. Paul Chuks, a businessman also in Jos was quick to point out that for the fact that the illegal pipeline had been operational for nine solid years, means that this very episode must have begun right from the previous Government headed by Goodluck Jonathan. He further said, "Let the Federal Government launch a serious probe on the matter with a view to getting to the bottom of it and unravel those behind it. This country needs to get more serious with economic saboteurs by bringing those found wanting to face the full wrath of the law." Chuks noted. However, with the rampant cases of oil theft in the country's Niger Delta region, the NNPC CEO, Kyari said, in order to address the menace, NNPC carried out aerial surveillance of the affected

areas and saw economic saboteurs carrying out their activities unchallenged. He noted that, the level of oil theft at hand, poses a blend of both social and security problems. "It is not normal to involve non-state actors for the protection of oil pipelines and other critical infrastructure as done in Cambodia and Mexico which produced results." **SUNDAY STANDARD** findings indicate that the Federal Government right from 1999 had running battles with youths in the Niger Delta who in order to ventilate their frustrations over what they called total neglect by exploration companies and the destruction of the land due to oil spillage and other forms of environmental degradation. After years of open confrontation between the growing number of militant groups from that region, the Umaru Yar'Adua Administration opted for dialogue with the Niger Delta militants in exchange for amnesty and with the promise to address all fundamental concerns of the people of that region which to a large extend

Continue on page 31

Office of the Secretary to the Government of the State



Felicitations On National Honour Awards

On behalf of the entire staff of the office of the Secretary to the Government of the State, I **Prof Danladi Atu** wish to congratulate the people's Governor, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong** the Executive Governor of Plateau State and Chairman Northern Governors' Forum who is also the DG Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council on the conferment of National Merit of Honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger, (CON), by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, President **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**.

It is also with great pride that we celebrate other sons and daughters of the State who were also conferred with the National Merit of Honour.

Mr. Governor sir, we commend your efforts towards creating an enabling environment for harmonious co-existence within Plateau and Nigeria which was recognized by Mr. President, an indication of greater things to come.

Once more, congratulations and may the Lord give you more wisdom, good health and protection for the good of humanity.

Signed:
Prof Danladi Atu
Secretary to the Government of the State

SUNDAY PEOPLE

NATIONAL HONORS RECIPIENTS 2022

Plateau State Governor, Director General, Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong was among other Nigerians presented with National Honors at the International Conference Centre, Abuja by President Muhammadu Buhari



Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State (left) receiving his CON certificate from President Buhari



Former President Goodluck Jonathan (left) congratulating Tony Elumelu CFR (middle) and former, Minister of Transport, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi



L-R: Amb. James Dimka, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase, Governor Simon Bako Lalong, Prof. Mrs. Mary Lar, Prof. Decent Doknan Shenii and Prof. Sebastian Maimako all recipients from Plateau State in a photograph



Plateau State First Lady, Mrs. Regina Lalong (left) with Kyennan Mizim of Plateau State Disability Rights Commission at the ceremony



His Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, Gbong Gwom Jos (middle) with Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem, President, Court of Appeal, Nigeria (right) and Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase, Deputy Speaker, House of Reps.



Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala GCON, Director General WTO (right) being congratulated by Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, former President (left)



Governor Lalong CON (left) with Imam Abdullahi Abubakar (MFR) of Barkin Ladi LGA



APC, Plateau State Governorship candidate, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe (left) congratulating Governor Simon Bako Lalong, CON

SUNDAY FEATURE

Gunmen killings cause apprehension in the country

The activities of unknown gunmen who have terrorized Some States in Nigeria claiming innocent lives and rendering hundreds of families helpless have caused a lot of concerns for Nigerians as even the security agencies are yet to unravel those behind such mayhem and bring the perpetrators to book. The killings by gunmen have caused apprehension in the country. JWANTU MATHEW writes.

WILLIAM E. Gladstone was famous across the globe for his quotable quote. "Justice delayed," according to the Liberalist who died on May 19, 1809, "is justice denied." This dictum seems to have found a comfortable accommodation in the Nigerian system where Justice seems to be an alien.

In the North-west, most killings are attributed to bandits; in the north-east to Boko Haram; in the North-central and South-west, to killer herdsmen; and in the South-east, to unknown gunmen.

While some Nigerians believe the killer armed bandits are milking the citizenry by either killing some of their victims or collecting huge sum of money as ransoms to enrich themselves, the unknown gunmen who carry out assassinations may have been birthed out of cultism and cultists doing the bidding of their pay masters.

In 2021, four prominent Nigerians were murdered by unknown gunmen. First, former special adviser on politics to President Goodluck Jonathan, Ahmed Gulak, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Owerri, Imo state while on his way to Sam Mbakwe International Cargo Airport.

Also, the former judge of the Enugu state high court, Justice Stanley Nnaji, was dragged out of his car by unknown gunmen and shot three times. Similarly, a businessman, popularly known as Linus Owuamanam was killed by unknown gunmen along Premier Hotel-Sango Road in Ibadan, Oyo state. Chief provost of the Nigerian Immigration Service in Imo, Okiemute Mrere was killed along Owerri-Port Harcourt Road in Owerri, and his remains discovered in a bush.

In March 2021, the Niger state Command Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Wasiu Abiodun confirmed the assassination of former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman of Tafa local government area in Niger state, Sule Ishaya who was murdered by unknown gunmen, adding that the Police is still investigating the matter.

Also, a middle-aged businessman, Salau Taiwo Hussein was said to have been whisked away from his resident around Brighter Road in Minna, the Niger state capital by unknown gunmen who stormed the area in their numbers heavily armed, as they were said to engage



the local vigilantes in the area in a sporadic gun shots to achieve their aim.

Our reporter gathered that the security operatives comprising the police, local vigilantes, and operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) were already assessing the situation and are still trailing the unknown gunmen.

An independent study launched into the activities of dissident groups in parts of the country especially the Southeast region of Nigeria, particularly between 2021 and 2022, revealed that about 83 civilians and 36 security personnel were sent to their early graves by non-State Armed Groups, labeled as "unknown gunmen" and are yet to be brought to book.

In the independent study, data gleaned from Nextier SPD Violent Conflict Database also revealed that at least three civilians and one security personnel die weekly due to the activities of unknown gunmen in the Southeast region.

This was as some whistleblowers were subjected to threats of life, harassment and victimization by their employers and colleagues for

daring to expose corrupt practices.

It should be noted that over six years after the Nigerian government introduced the whistleblower policy to help combat corruption in the country, Nigerians are now reluctant to report incidences of corruption following cases of threats and killings by unknown gunmen and lack of protection on the whistleblowers.

In 2021, the Executive Secretary, Presidential Advisory Committee on Anti-Corruption PACAC, Prof. Sadiq Isah Raddah, stated at the public presentation of the report of a survey on five years of whistle-blowing policy in Nigeria which was undertaken by the African Centre for Media and Information Literacy, (AFRICMIL) in Abuja that an overwhelming majority (98.2%) of Nigerians perceived corruption as a serious problem and menace in the country.

He said "although, majority of Nigerians are aware of the whistleblowing policy, one quarter of the respondents are unwilling to report any form of corrupt practices while 3 of every 4 respondents have stopped reporting cases of looted funds for fear of being killed".

Since 2018, killers of a young man identified as Kingsley Ekene Iwuoha who was attacked and shot dead by suspected gunmen in Owerri, Imo State capital are yet to be identified and arrested.

Families and friends have wept bitterly since Kingsley, popularly known as Don King was murdered and are seeking for justice.

While some of his friends claimed he must have been assassinated by those who envied his success growth, his relatives claimed he was murdered for being a whistleblower.

Kingsley's sister, Helena Iwuoha while lamenting that after four years the Police is yet to make any arrest claimed that, before he was murdered, there were death threats because he (Kingsley) tried to expose corruption. "Kingsley's death is not unconnected with his being a whistleblower".

Accordingly, she said "Kingsley was a whistleblower and he was killed by suspected cultists working on the perceived orders of highly placed individuals for exposing corruption in the oil sector.

"I know about this because prior to his killing, Kingsley had complained to me concerning death threats he was getting. My brother had to leave Lagos State and ran to Imo state where he was eventually traced and killed."

Reports have it that Kingsley was murdered on the 10th of September 2018 in Owerri after he moved from Lagos a few months earlier because of continuous death threats he was getting from cultists.

One of his friends, Ajuonuma Wilson who spoke to our Correspondent in Minna, lamented the delay in apprehending killers of innocent Nigerians by the security agencies in the country.

According to him "Kingsley was my best friend. He was a very promising young man who was murdered by unknown gunmen. The matter was since reported and till date no arrests have been made by the Police.

"He told me then that his life was in danger for exposing corruption. He left Lagos for Imo State and was murdered. Obviously, the protection of our lives cannot be guaranteed by security agencies".

Reports have it that, beyond the death recorded, hundreds of people were said to have been kidnapped in the Southeast within the same period under review thereby creating more apprehension amongst residents.

It should be noted that the policy in theory states that whistleblowers' "confidentiality will be maintained to the fullest extent possible within the limitations of the law."

The policy offers protection for any whistleblower "who has made a genuine disclosure" in good faith, and promises that "restitution shall be made to the whistle-blower for any loss suffered" as a result of harassment, intimidation or victimization. But the case of Kingsley was not so, as over four years, his killers are yet to be apprehended.

No doubt, our security forces are trying to save the day, but the truth be told, the security situation in the country has overwhelmed them.

"In the North-west, most killings are attributed to bandits; in the north-east to Boko Haram; in the North-central and South-west, to killer herdsmen; and in the South-east, to unknown gunmen. While some Nigerians believe the killer armed bandits are milking the citizenry by either killing some of their victims or collecting huge sum of money as ransoms to enrich themselves, the unknown gunmen who carry out assassinations may have been birthed out of cultism and cultists doing the bidding of their pay masters."



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE, PLATEAU STATE

Goodwill Message

On behalf of the entire Civil Servants of Plateau State, I bring warm and heartfelt congratulations to the Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governor's Forum, who also is the DG, Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. Dr. Simon Bako Lalong** on this auspicious occasion of the bestowment of the National Merit of Honour of The Commander of The Order of The Niger, (CON).

This indeed is a well deserved award and quite befitting of the tireless services you have rendered to the state and humanity as a whole.

I wish to also congratulate all other Plateau sons and daughters who were conferred with the National Merits of Honour by our President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President **Muhammadu Buhari**, GCFR.

We rejoice with our amiable Governor and pray that the Almighty God continue taking you higher in life's endeavours and be gracious to you.

Once more, congratulations!

Signed:
Engr. Sunday C. Hyat, Mni.



WHOSE words are you going to believe? When you believe Satan's words, his lies and intimidation, then you shut the door for God's power to operate. What does God say? He says do not be afraid. You may be tempted to, it may look hopeless and it may look like there is no way out but remember; there is nothing that earth has to offer you that heaven cannot beat a thousand times over.

So, how do we hook up to God's provision, protection, preservation and divine interventions? The basis on which we hook up to God is by believing His word. Amos 3:3 says it this way; can two walk together, except they be agreed? God's words are superior than the devil's word just as God's power is superior to the devil's power. God himself is superior to the devil and that superiority manifests itself in the fact that when God's power is at work, it cancels, neutralizes and uproots anything that the devil is doing.

There is no disease that God cannot heal, no situation God cannot rectify. There is no situation so dark or hopeless that the power of God cannot get involved in and change. The thing is understanding the spirituality of life and how that life is governed by words and as you hook up to the right words which are God's word, you open the door for that divine power to begin to flow in your circumstance and you will see before your eyes, natural human impossibilities, turned around to become divine possibilities.

Getting God to be involved in your life is not as hard as many people think it to be. Make your choice to day between trusting God and being afraid.

Isaiah 12:2 says, Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. God is my salvation, He is my deliverance, my welfare, my rescue, my safety, my protection, my preservation and the timely help that I need. Now whatever your circumstance, the scriptures say; see that God is the solution that you need.

The ord salvation is the Hebrew word, Yeshua. This is the title that Jesus occupies in his Messianic office as redeemer and saviour. So literarily the scripture is saying, look and see the salvation that God has made available to you is only found

in Yeshua; the Lord Jesus Christ. This verse goes further to say; I will trust and not be afraid. That means that the only way I can defeat the fear of whatever it is that I am faced with is to trust in the salvation made available through Yeshua, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus came to the earth, died and was raised

I believe with the whole of my heart that Isaiah 12:2 will be your testimony as you refuse to be afraid and choose rather to channel your energies toward trusting God. When you trust God, you will see the marvelous power of God come to your rescue again and again; He will deliver you and put a testimony and



Fear not trust God (28)



from the dead victorious, that was the only thing that broke the devil's power. There is no force on earth that can contend with the devil's and defeat him outside of the power of God. However, the good news is that once you become a believer by giving your life to the Lord Jesus Christ; that same power that raised Jesus from the dead is made available to you.

Now there is no such thing as a disease that cannot be healed, a question in your life that cannot be answered or a need that cannot be met if you factor in the power of God.

Satan has broken forth upon the earth today bringing great cause for fear. There is almost no nation on the earth that is not going through one kind of crisis or the other. Human beings are at a loss for what to do and wondering about how life would go on a national and individual scale. But the bible says that the answer to any fear is putting faith and trust in the salvation that the Lord Jesus Christ has brought to this earth through His death and resurrection. Today, refuse to be afraid and choose to trust God.

a song upon your lips.

Now, by way of quick recap, we have established certain things about the spirit of fear. First of all, we said that fear is a spirit. 2nd Timothy 1:7 says For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Fear is not just a reaction you feel but a spirit and it began to operate in this world when Adam sinned and the curse and death came into this world.

Secondly, we established that Satan can do nothing outside the operation of the spirit of fear. This is why the Bible encourages us to refuse to be afraid but trust God because as we trust him, we shut down the operation of the spirit of fear and Satan is literarily

stripped of any ability he may have to inflict harm in our lives.

Thirdly, we established that fear manifests itself in the life of a human being through thoughts, suggestions and ideas. Fear operates as we wrongly interpret our circumstance and attempt to get help for our lives without God. Proverbs 3:5-6 makes it very clear. It says; trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. If you would trust Him with all your heart; acknowledge Him or consider how mighty He is and consider how He has been your deliverance in the

past, then His power will be deployed in our circumstance to make a way for you where there seemed to be no way.

I am reminded of the children of Israel when they were delivered from Egypt and were face to face with the red sea. They cried to Moses saying you should have left us to die in the hands of the Egyptians. Sometimes, when you are faced with circumstances and there seems to be no way out, remember that God saw a path in the sea and knew exactly what He was going to do. Where the Israelites did not see a way out, God saw a way out and a path in the mighty waters.

As Moses trusted in God's direction and instructions, God's power was deployed to do something that had never been done before on the earth. That was the first time in man's recorded history that the power of God parted a massive sea and allowed the children of Israel to pass through on dry ground.

I tell you the truth; God has not forgotten how to part red seas. Just remember that only the power of God, not man's reasoning can do that. Whenever you are faced with a situation you have never been faced with, you are about to see a deliverance you have never seen before.

As you choose to trust God today, that red sea will part. You will see the marvels and the wonders of Almighty God. Not only will He deliver you, but God will promote you and put a new song of victory upon your lips. Find out today from God's word what he has said about your circumstance and believe it and chose not to fear.

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INTERNATIONAL

Turkey to study Putin's gas hub proposal

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says his government and that of Russia have instructed their respective energy authorities to immediately begin technical studies on a Russian proposal that would turn Turkey into a gas hub for Europe.

Russian President Vladimir Putin this week floated the idea of exporting more gas through the TurkStream gas pipeline running beneath the Black Sea to Turkey after gas deliveries to Germany through the Baltic Sea's Nord Stream pipeline were halted.

Erdogansaid Russian and Turkish energy authorities would work together to designate the best location for a gas distribution centre, adding that Turkey's Thrace region, bordering Greece and Bulgaria, appeared to be the best spot.

"Together with Mr Putin, we have instructed our Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the relevant institution on the Russian side to work together," said Erdogan, who on Thursday met the Russian president on the sidelines of a summit in Kazakhstan's capital, Astana.

"They will conduct this study. Wherever the most appropriate place is, we will hopefully establish this distribution centre there."

This was Erdogan's first public statement on the Russian proposal, reflecting Turkey's long-voiced desire to become an energy hub.

"There will be no waiting," Erdogan was quoted as saying.

On Friday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the Russian proposal needs "to be studied well".

"There are investments that need to be made, they need to be examined," he said during a joint news conference with his Qatari counterpart.

"This is a matter of supply and demand. How much of Europe ... is ready to buy gas from such a project? This needs to be worked out together."

Cavusoglu added that Turkey wanted to alleviate Europe's energy crisis.

"The weakening of Europe in all aspects is not in Turkey's interest. On the contrary, it is against [Turkey's interests],"



Erdogan says Russian and Turkish energy authorities would work together to designate the best location for a gas distribution centre in Turkey

Cavusoglu said.

Energy analysts have, however, questioned the likelihood of the proposal to ship gas to Europe via Turkey getting off the ground. European leaders have criticised Russia's reliability as an energy supplier, calling Russia's cuts in natural gas a political bid to divide them over their support for Ukraine after Moscow's invasion.

Germany this week rejected another proposal by Putin to

step up gas flows to Europe via a link of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline under the Baltic Sea – a pipeline that has never been operational. Moscow cut off the parallel Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline over what it claimed were technical problems.

Asked to comment on an assertion by Putin that Russia had foiled an attack on the TurkStream gas pipeline, Erdogan said Turkey was taking every step necessary to secure the pipeline.

Mexico Congress votes to keep military on streets

TROOPS have been carrying out public security duties for years as part of Mexico's war against drugs and the gangs which control their trade.

But critics say extending the military's duties for another four years further militarises the country.

Rights groups say the militarisation of police duties has led to human rights abuses and further violence. But members of the president's party argued that if the army were to be taken off the streets, Mexico's population would be left at the mercy of organised crime gangs.

The bill was passed after a marathon session in the Chamber of Deputies with 339 votes in favour and 155 against.

It will still have to be passed by the legislatures of 31 states and the capital, Mexico City, to come into law, but the big hurdle was getting it approved in Congress.

The move has the backing of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Before coming to office, Mr López Obrador was an opponent of having troops on the streets, and he campaigned on a promise to return them to their barracks. Once in office, he created a new civilian-led force, the Guardia Nacional (National Guard), to replace the federal police and to boost security in areas wracked by cartel violence.

But he then pushed for the National Guard to come under the control of the army, a move which was approved by Congress last month.

The president argued that having the 115,000-strong force under the control of the military would prevent corruption.

However, the United Nations called it a "setback to public security grounded in human rights", arguing there would be no civilian oversight of the National Guard.

Members of Congress who voted against both bills

THE United Nations Security Council is considering creating a sanctions regimen to impose an asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo on anyone who threatens the peace, security or stability of Haiti, according to a draft resolution reported by several news agencies.

The first person to be sanctioned would be Jimmy Cherizier, who goes by the nickname "Barbecue" and is described in the United States and Mexico-drafted resolution as one of Haiti's most influential gang leaders.

"Cherizier and his G9 gang confederation are actively blocking the free movement of fuel from the Varreux fuel terminal," the text says. "His actions have directly contributed to the economic paralysis and humanitarian crisis in Haiti."

Gangs last month blocked the entrance to Varreux to protest against a government announcement of a cut in fuel subsidies. Fuel supplies dried up and Haitians also face a shortage of drinking water amid a deadly outbreak of cholera.

"One of the challenges in effectively dealing with insecurity is the nexus between the gangs and some of the elites in Haiti and

UN considers Haiti sanctions targeting gang leader 'Barbecue'



Jimmy Cherizier aka 'Barbecue' is the leader of the 'G9 Famil' gang in Haiti

outside of Haiti who are supporting them and directing them for their own purposes," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in Washington on Thursday.

"So we've been working together at the United Nations ... to impose sanctions on those who are actually taking actions that support violence and support gangs," he said at a joint news conference with visiting Mexican officials.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has proposed that one or several

countries send "a rapid action force" to help Haiti's police remove a threat posed by armed gangs, according to a letter to the Security Council, seen by Reuters news agency on Sunday.

In July, the council threatened targeted sanctions against criminal gangs and human rights abusers in Haiti and called on countries to stop a flow of guns to the Caribbean country.

The US State Department this week announced visa sanctions against those who support Haitian gangs, responding to the humanitarian crisis created by the gang blockade.

US Assistant Secretary of State Brian Nichols, who is leading a delegation of officials to the Caribbean nations, said in an interview with a local television station that Barbecue and the G9 gangs are directly contributing to the deaths of Haitians.

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

"Yesterday, the United States designated 11 individuals for visa sanctions," Nichols said, adding that he could not name the individuals per US policy.

He said 1.2 million people in Haiti are at risk for cholera. Health experts say the gang blockade is making it more difficult to control the outbreak, which was announced this month.

The 15-member Security Council could vote as early as Monday on the draft sanctions resolution, diplomats said. To be adopted a resolution needs nine votes in favour and no vetoes by Russia, China, the US, France or Britain.

China has been pushing for the Security Council to impose an arms embargo on criminal gangs in Haiti.

A UN mission in Haiti works with the government to strengthen political stability and good governance, rights protection and justice reform and to help with organising free and fair elections.

UN peacekeepers were deployed to Haiti in 2004 after a rebellion led to the removal and exile of then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Peacekeeping troops left in 2017 and were replaced by

accuse the president of giving the military, which has been accused of widespread abuses, more power.

Accusations of human rights abuses by the military hit the headlines again last month when a retired general and two other members of the army were arrested over their alleged links to the

disappearance of 43 students in 2014.

President López Obrador has remained defiant in the face of the criticism, insisting his plan "isn't to militarise or move towards authoritarianism, but to guide - under the defence ministry's oversight - the healthy growth of what should be the main public security institution in the country".



Obrador

UK's Truss has fired Kwarteng –BBC

BRITISH Prime Minister Liz Truss fired her finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng on Friday, the BBC reported, shortly before she is expected to scrap parts of his economic package in a bid to survive the market and political turmoil gripping the country.

Downing Street confirmed that Truss, in power for only 37 days, would hold a press conference later on Friday after Kwarteng was forced to rush back to London from IMF meetings in Washington.

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continue

The BBC said Kwarteng had been sacked. Downing Street declined to comment.

If confirmed, Kwarteng would become Britain's shortest serving chancellor since 1970, and his successor would be the country's fourth finance minister in as many months.

The finance minister with the shortest tenure died.

British government bonds rallied further, adding to their partial recovery since Truss's government started looking for ways to balance the books after her

unfunded tax cuts crushed UK asset values and drew international censure.

Kwarteng had announced a new fiscal policy on Sept. 23, delivering Truss's vision for vast tax cuts and deregulation to try to shock the economy out of years of stagnant growth.

But the response from markets was so ferocious that the Bank of England had to intervene to prevent pension funds from being caught up in the chaos, as borrowing and mortgage costs surged.

The duo have since been under mounting pressure to

reverse course, as polls showed support for their Conservative Party had collapsed, prompting colleagues to openly discuss whether they should be replaced.

Having triggered a market rout, Truss now runs the risk of bringing the government down if she cannot find a package of public spending cuts and tax rises that can appease investors and get through any parliamentary vote in the House of Commons.

Her search for savings will be made harder by the fact the government has been

INTERNATIONAL

Risk, exploitation facing Nigeria's doctors in Britain

Doctors recruited from some of the world's poorest countries to work in UK hospitals say they're being exploited - and believe they're so overworked they fear putting patient's health at risk. writes Paul Kenyon & Anna Meisel

AN investigation has found evidence that doctors from Nigeria are being recruited by a British healthcare company and expected to work in private hospitals under conditions not allowed in the National Health Service.

The British Medical Association (BMA) has described the situation as "shocking" and says the sector needs to be brought in line with NHS working practices.

A young Nigerian doctor who worked at the private Nuffield Health Leeds Hospital in 2021.

Augustine Enekeuchi says his hours were extreme - on-call 24 hours a day for a week at a time - and that he was unable to leave the hospital grounds. He says working there felt like being in "a prison".

The tiredness was so intense, he says, there were times he worried he couldn't properly function.

"I knew that working tired puts the patients at risk and puts myself also at risk, as well for litigation," he says. "I felt powerless... helpless, you know, constant stress and thinking something could go wrong."

Nuffield Health disputes those working hours, saying its doctors are offered regular breaks, time off between shifts, and the ability to swap shifts if needed. The company adds that "the



Hunt

health and wellbeing of patients and hospital team members" is its priority.

Augustine was hired out to the Nuffield Health Leeds Hospital from a private company - NES Healthcare. It specialises in employing doctors from overseas, many from Nigeria, and using them as Resident Medical Officers, or RMOs - live-in doctors found mainly in the private sector.

Augustine says he was so excited to be offered a job that he barely looked at the NES contract. In fact it opted him out of legislation that protects UK workers from excessive working hours - the Working Time Directive - and left him vulnerable to a range of punishing salary deductions.

Paul Kenyon investigates the 'brain drain' of doctors from developing countries



Onyeama

to work in the UK

Augustine is far from alone. The BMA and the front line lobbying group the Doctors' Association has given the BBC's File on 4 and Newsnight exclusive access to the findings of a questionnaire put to 188 Resident Medical Officers. Most of the doctors were employed by NES but some were with other employers.

It found that 92% had been recruited from Africa and most - 81% - were from Nigeria. The majority complained about excessive working hours and unfair salary deductions.

For years now, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned against the "active recruitment" of doctors and nurses from developing countries with severe shortages of medical personnel. The WHO has compiled a list of 47 such countries - most of them in Africa. The UK government has incorporated that list into

its own code of practice - calling it the "red list". In effect, it makes Nigeria a no-go destination for British medical recruiters.

So how did the doctors come to be working in the UK in the first place? We travelled to Nigeria and witnessed another troubling side to this story.

In an exam hall in Lagos, the country's biggest city, we found hundreds of doctors queuing to take what's called a Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board test - or PLAB 1. The paper is set by the General Medical Council in London and is the first step required by the British medical authorities to secure a licence to work in the UK.

The doctors we spoke to said they were attracted by the potential of higher salaries and better working conditions. The event was being overseen by staff from the British Council - an organisation sponsored by the Foreign Office.

Source: BBC News.

"AN investigation has found evidence that doctors from Nigeria are being recruited by a British healthcare company and expected to work in private hospitals under conditions not allowed in the National Health Service. The British Medical Association (BMA) has described the situation as "shocking" and says the sector needs to be brought in line with NHS working practices."



With **BULUS GAMBO**



Wow! meet 4 Nigerian celebrities who owns a private jet

You are humbly welcome to this channel. Today, in this article, I will be sharing with you some popular Nigerian celebrities who owns a private jet.

Nigerian Celebrities most especially the musicians are one of the talented musicians in Ghana and when talking about wealth, most of them are included in the list of richest musicians in Africa and so acquiring a private jet is just not a surprise. There are some popular Nigerian celebrities who owns a private jet, let's dig into them.

Below Shows Some Popular Nigerian Celebrities Who Owns A Private Jet



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Below Shows Some Popular Nigerian Celebrities Who Owns A Private Jet



The popular Nigerian musician and the "assurance" hit maker Davido is one of the popular Nigerian celebrities who owns a private jet. It's not surprising Davido could afford a private because aside his hardwork in the music industry that fetch him more money, he is the son of a billionaire Adedeji Adeleke.

Continued on page 26

Where do the richest Americans live?



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Bill GatesWorth: \$81 billion Home: Medina, Washington

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



Jeff BezosWorth: \$67 billion Home: Medina, Washington

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

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THE SLOW WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Eight benefits of glycerine for skin care

USES of glycerine for skin care

Glycerine is found in many moisturizing skin care products and soaps. Glycerine is well-loved as a lotion and soap ingredient because it's a humectant. A humectant is a substance that pulls water from the second layer of the skin and brings it to the top layer of the skin. If the humidity is high, humectants also draw moisture from the air. As a result, glycerine hydrates skin, helps you shed dead skin cells and gives your skin a smooth, youthful glow.

Due to its gentle, moisturizing qualities, glycerine is a preferred soap ingredient for individuals with sensitive skin. Pure glycerine soap will not dry out the skin or make it itchy and irritated like harsh soaps with fragrances and various chemicals. Strong soap can wash away the skin's natural oils and dry out the skin, which can lead to a range of issues. Glycerine, on the other hand, keeps skin moist and soft while gently cleaning the skin. Because glycerine is so effective as a skin moisturizer, you can find it in products such as:

- **Cleansers:** Glycerine won't add oil to the skin or clog pores, making it an excellent cleanser for individuals who have acne-prone skin.
- **Toners:** Toners containing glycerine are a great way to freshen the skin without making skin feel sticky or greasy. Glycerine toners allow individuals with naturally oily skin to hydrate their skin with a light, refreshing mist.
- **Sunscreen:** Sunscreen helps guard the skin against damaging UV rays. Glycerine can be found in some sunscreens as a natural



moisturizer and to help make the sunscreen more spreadable.

- **Moisturizers:** Glycerine's most impressive feature is its moisturizing capabilities. As a humectant, glycerine can be found in many moisturizing products like face creams and hand and foot lotions — just to name a few.

- **Face Masks:** Some face masks contain glycerine to brighten and moisturize skin. You can use a glycerine face mask for fast hydration and immediate age-defying results.

- **Soaps:** Glycerine is commonly found in many different types of soaps and body washes. Because glycerine is gentle and won't dry out the skin, it is also a common ingredient in baby skin products.

Glycerine benefits for skin

There are many benefits of glycerine in skin care, whether you have oily skin, sensitive skin or dry skin. All-natural, pure glycerine skin care products also have no harmful impact on the environment. If you choose

vegetable glycerine, you can also feel good about using products that did not involve animal harm.

Keeps Skin Young

Applying glycerine to your skin traps moisture in your skin and gives it a youthful, healthy glow. By drawing moisture to the top layer of skin, glycerine helps reduce the appearance of wrinkles and keeps skin looking soft and smooth.

Glycerine also improves skin function to slow down aging. Glycerine helps guide young skin cells from the deepest layers to the surface to form the skin's protective barrier. As a result, glycerine makes skin look, feel and function better overall.

Reduces Acne

Some ingredients commonly found in cleansers and moisturizers for acne are actually too harsh for the skin. Strong skin care products can make acne worse for some individuals by causing

inflammation and irritation. Glycerine, however, can be used to beautify your skin without the side effects of harsher products.

Also, glycerine is oil-free and non-comedogenic, meaning it won't clog your pores. Clogged pores lead to breakouts, so glycerine for oily skin may be the right solution.

It's safe

When it comes to choosing skin care ingredients, you'll want to consider safety above all else. Your skin plays a critical role in protecting your body by keeping fluids in, keeping harmful bacteria and viruses out and regulating your body temperature even. Therefore, you'll want to use safe products that promote healthy skin.

It's Gentle

Gentle cleansers and moisturizers are important for keeping skin comfortable and healthy, especially for individuals who are prone to acne. Acne-prone individuals are often told to use exfoliators

to remove dead skin cells.

Glycerine offers a gentle way to exfoliate, clean and moisturize skin without causing irritation. Individuals with acne want to remove dirt and oil when cleaning their skin, but they also want to make sure they're gentle with the outer layer of skin. Gentle cleansers that include glycerine are ideal for individuals with dry skin, as well. It's important for all skin types to treat their skin gently and prevent irritation.

Heals skin

Where the skin is dry, damaged and cracked, glycerine can come to the rescue and increase skin hydration. Glycerine may be used to help skin conditions like eczema or psoriasis and to help heal wounds resulting from cracked skin.

Moisturizes skin

Glycerine acts like a sponge and draws more moisture to itself. It also helps slow down the evaporation of water from the skin, which can help keep skin moist and hydrated in the middle of winter.

Protects Skin

During the winter, humidity levels drop outside, and cold air causes moisture in your skin to evaporate quickly. As a result, winter air can make skin dry, cracked and flaky. When skin breaks down, it becomes more susceptible to wounds and infection. A moisturizing lotion containing glycerine locks moisture in your skin and can be especially helpful in protecting hands, feet, elbows, knees and other parts of the body that typically get dry. Glycerine can also help protect skin from the effects of wind or dry indoor air.

To further protect your skin, it's a good idea to apply skin-moisturizing glycerine after showering. Glycerine will help hold moisture in your skin after you wash the natural oils away from your body. You might choose glycerine soap rather than soaps that contain harsh detergents to keep skin soft, smooth and protected. You can incorporate glycerine in your routine every day to benefit from its hydrating qualities year-round.

Preserves other ingredients

If you create your own glycerine skin care products for consumers or personal use, you'll be pleased to know that glycerine acts as a preservative in addition to all of its other health benefits. Glycerine has outstanding antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral properties. It's both a solvent and preservative in skin care products that contain herbal extracts.



THE SLOW WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Health

Cinnamon and clove tea benefits

THIS clove and cinnamon tea is a tasty and healthy combination. Cinnamon has somewhat sweet tones while clove has a great spicy and pungent flavor.

They form a winning mix that spells blockbusters. Spices are also a rich source of antioxidants. Antioxidants combat free radical activity, which has been linked to decreased immunity.

Cloves have antiseptic, antiviral, and antibacterial effects as well. Anti-inflammatory chemicals may aid in the treatment of sore throats, colds and coughs, and headaches.

In this post, we will look at the benefits of clove and cinnamon tea, notably their capacity to decrease stress, remove congestion, aid digestion, and much more.

Cloves and cinnamon are two of the most commonly used spices in our daily cooking. These spices have a calming impact on both our minds and bodies.

Cloves and cinnamon offer



several health benefits as well. Tea made with this spice can help you relieve allergies, and inflammation, and lose weight.

The cloves also give this tea a gentle aphrodisiac vitality.

How to Make Clove and Cinnamon Tea:
Ingredients:

- 1 tsp of cloves

- 1 small bark of the cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon of ginger powder
- 1 cup of water

Method:

1. Firstly, take a vessel, pour a cup of water, and bring it to a boil.

2. Then, add clove, cinnamon, and ginger powder to the water and allow it to seep for 3-4 minutes.

3. Turn off the heat. Strain the tea and serve.

·Ginger or lemon juice can be added if you so wish

·A teaspoon of honey to sweeten the tea (optional). Honey is loaded with antiviral properties. But ensure you do not boil honey with the tea; add it later when the tea is boiled.

·Weight loss: Add cinnamon, and clove to your green tea and get a toned belly in no time

·Clove, Cinnamon, and Cumin Seed Helps To Improve Digestion

How to Drink Cloves and Cinnamon Tea/Water

Consume 1 glass cup in the morning and 1 cup at night before bedtime.

Impressive Health Benefits of Cinnamon Tea

·Loaded with antioxidants

·Lowers inflammation and may improve heart health

·May help reduce blood sugar

·May promote weight loss

·Fights off bacteria and fungi

·May reduce menstrual cramps and other PMS symptoms

Other potential benefits

Health benefits of Cinnamon tea includes:

May help with skin aging. Cinnamon has been shown in studies to boost collagen synthesis, as well as increase skin elasticity and moisture.

It could have anti-cancer qualities. Cinnamon extracts have been shown in tests to help

destroy specific types of cancer cells, including skin cancer cells.

3. May aid in the preservation of brain function. Cinnamon may protect brain cells from Alzheimer's disease and improve motor function in people with Parkinson's disease, according to in vitro and animal studies.

4. Could aid in HIV prevention. According to animal research, cinnamon extracts may help combat the most common type of HIV virus in humans.

5. Acne may be reduced. Cinnamon extracts have been shown in tests to treat acne-causing germs.

Health Benefits of Drinking Clove Tea

·Enhance the liver's performance

·Promote good oral and bone health

·Reduces the likelihood of inflammation

·Improves vision and eye health

·Reduces the risk of stomach ulcers

·Prevents skin issues

·Control Blood Sugar

·Aid in preventing cough, common illnesses, and colds

·Reduces the risk of cancer, diabetes, and heart disease

Cinnamon and Clove tea side effects

Although spices are generally safe to eat, there are a few common side effects that can arise if you consume too much of them.

Although in certain people, clove oil may trigger allergies

People also ask about Clove Cinnamon Tea Benefits

What is the function of clove and cinnamon tea?

The tea can help you get rid of phlegm and mucus in your

lungs, tone your intestines, reduce gas, and stimulate your digestive system.

The cloves also give this tea a gentle aphrodisiac vitality

Can I combine clove and cinnamon?

Cinnamon has somewhat sweet tones while clove has a great spicy and pungent flavor. They form a winning mix that spells blockbusters.

Spices are also a rich source of antioxidants. Antioxidants combat free radical activity, which has been linked to decreased immunity.

Is cinnamon and clove tea useful for losing weight?

Clove includes the active chemical eugenol, which aids in digestion; excellent digestion is seen as a vital aspect of the weight loss process.

Cinnamon and clove tea for weight loss

Here's How You Can Add Cinnamon And Cloves To Green Tea for Weight Loss:

·Firstly, bring 1.5 cups of water to a boil with the cloves and cinnamon.

·Then, turn off the flame. After that, add the green tea and let it infuse for 3-4 minutes.

Although this cinnamon research is interesting, there is currently no evidence that drinking cinnamon tea will give these advantages.

More study is required before firm conclusions can be drawn.

Cinnamon and cloves benefit sexually

Cinnamon, like other warming plants such as ginger, cloves, and nutmeg, boosts blood flow and raises body temperature.

When applied to the nether regions, cinnamon oil is said to be a powerful sexual stimulant.

Benefits of cinnamon water before bed

Drinking cinnamon tea before bedtime is supposed to help relax tired muscles, strengthen immunity, promote metabolism, and aid digestion of meals eaten throughout the day – all while you sleep blissfully!

Try drinking cinnamon tea as part of your weight loss journey to a healthier, new you.

Cinnamon tea benefits sexually

For starters, it contains manganese, a mineral necessary for sexual health with recognized aphrodisiac properties.

But it isn't all. Cinnamon, like other warming plants such as ginger, cloves, and nutmeg, boosts blood flow and raises body temperature.





Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi
 peekembo@yahoo.com
 08036417305, 08095322786

Walk away when is not working

AFTER the demise of popular Nigerian Gospel Musician 'Osinachi', there has been debates and arguments based on cultural, social and religious points of view on whether it is proper to walk away from a toxic marriage.

Recently, after trying to overcome the traumatic dehumanising death Osinachi faced in the hands of her abusive husband, another sad news broke from Plateau state and we woke up to reports of another death of Mrs. Mercy Samuel as a result of staying in a toxic marriage.

She was reportedly stabbed by her husband who ripped open her stomach leaving her intestines outside and she was rushed to hospital but didn't survive it. It might be time to leave.

The involvement of abuse in the relationship is a surefire sign of walking away. It is tough to break ties with someone you love, but for the sake of your peace of mind and self-respect, you should know when to walk away from a relationship. We all need to make some tough calls to lead a better life. One should never compromise on peace and dignity.

Being in an unhappy relationship will make you feel miserable, incomplete, lonely, and constantly disappointed, they say.

With the increasing rate of injuries and record of deaths caused by domestic abuse and violence, it is okay to walk away from a toxic marriage because from many happenings we are witnessing in the country, tolerating such toxic actions in marriage has eventually become brutal, in some cases leading to loss of life.



Relationships thrive when you honor your commitments, keep your promises, spend quality time with each other, and share responsibilities. However, when you have put in all the effort that you possibly could into your relationship, but your partner does not reciprocate, it might be time you call it quits and move on to find your happiness, say Psychologists and relationship experts.

According to Shreshtha Dhar, a licensed Clinical Psychologist, if you notice these signs, it might be time to walk away from a relationship:- They do not respect you.

Respect is the essence of any successful relationship, and when there's a lack of respect in

a relationship, it indicates an imbalanced partnership. If you feel your partner doesn't respect your feelings, thoughts, goals, and needs, you should be concerned. A disrespectful partner will disapprove your opinions and decisions, look down upon you, and neglect your efforts to make your relationship happy. If your partner manifests all these signs of disrespect, it might be time for you to walk away.- There's no trust between youIf there is no trust between you two, your relationship is bound to crumble. When your partner knows about your insecurities but still does not feel the need to resolve them and gain your

trust, and if their actions and words do not merit your confidence, it is time to walk away from the relationship.- They do not value you.

Love blooms when you value each other and care for each other. A partner who values you will ask for your opinion on important matters, give you space to take up your hobbies and interests, and do everything they possibly can to keep you happy. If you feel that none of these are happening and your relationship has become one-sided, you should rethink if you should be in this relationship.- There is abuse involved The relationship should be ended the moment abuse begins.

Physical abuse is not the only kind of abuse you should be worried about.

Verbal abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and any form of abuse should not be tolerated.

Abuse majorly impacts your self-esteem, sense of identity, and confidence, and may even lead to depression.

If there is abuse involved, you should walk away without giving your partner a second chance.- The relationship has become toxic When partners do not support each other in any situation, are in constant conflict, jealousy, competition, and dishonesty creep in, the relationship has become toxic.

If this is the case in your relationship, it can take a toll on your physical health and emotional health, and thus, you should walk away from the relationship.- They have cheatedIf you have enough proofs that your partner has

cheated or is cheating on you, but they deny it or don't seem to regret their act, you should be parting ways with them.

The very fact that they are not remorseful is a clear indication that they would do it again, and you do not want to be with such a person.- Communication between you two has broken downGood communication is vital to any healthy relationship. If you are unable to communicate with each other, your relationship cannot survive. When you are not able to communicate, have meaningful conversations, or develop a deep intimacy, misunderstandings become common.

An irremovable communication gap is an alarming sign that you might need to walk away from your relationship.- They are selfishIt is hard to be around a selfish partner. When your partner is focused on themselves, doesn't take an interest in your interests, manipulates you with tactics like guilt-tripping, and has a dominating behavior that you can't stand anymore, you should consider walking away from such a relationship.- They take you for granted When your partner takes you for granted, it signifies that they no longer care for you. If you feel you are being taken for granted, it's time to act for yourself.

Try to solve this issue by making your partner aware of the situation. And even after constantly emphasizing how you feel neglected, if they are unwilling to work on it, you have the option to walk away.- They do not have a sense of responsibility.

To be Continue next week



EVIE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Relationship

Dealing with fear of being cheated again

By *RITA HANSEN*

WE have all likely heard the phrase "once a cheater, always a cheater". If this is true, then if one chooses to stay with a spouse who has been unfaithful, one would feel justified in expecting them to cheat again. But it seems that most partners who don't call it quits after there has been infidelity are not signing up for the lack of monogamy to continue; rather they are expecting and hoping that their spouse will refrain from future affairs. Despite their best wishes, it is fairly common for the betrayed spouse to have strong doubts that the cheating will resume.

Quite often these fears are going to be heavily influenced by the behavior of the betrayer. If the behaviors are such that suggest they are not changing or taking the violation of trust seriously, then the insecurity may be more valid. The rest of this article will focus on circumstances where there seems to be reason to think the marriage can survive and perhaps end up stronger in the end. In some situations, it would not be advised that the spouse remain, such as the betrayer refuses to end affair/commit to monogamy.

One takes a risk anytime an intimate relationship is entered into, as one can never know for sure the other will be or remain trustworthy. This risk is greater when the trust has been broken in such a devastating way as happens with an affair. Despite there being some promising signs that the cheating is over, one can never know for sure, and staying with the betrayer can produce a variety of emotions. To make matters more complicated, the betrayed may not have the support of family and friends, as



these individuals may have advised the betrayed to leave the relationship. This creates a lot of internal and external pressure to make the marriage work and avoid possible scrutiny of others. Despite there being some promising signs that the cheating is over, one can never know for sure, and staying with the betrayer can produce a variety of emotions. To make matters more complicated, the betrayed may not have the support of family and friends, as these individuals may have advised the betrayed to leave the relationship. This

creates a lot of internal and external pressure to make the marriage work and avoid possible scrutiny of others.

There are some things the betrayed might try to attempt to quiet the fears (of being cheated on again) that they experience.

1. Look for signs that the betrayer is working to prevent the cheating and associated behavior

One major factor is how sincerely willing the betrayer is to acknowledge the pain and destruction caused by their behavior. It can be a good sign when they demonstrate willingness to take the time to understand how their actions were wrong and do not attempt to avoid the topic or sweep it under the rug and easily move on. Taking responsibility for their choices rather than blaming the betrayed is typically healthy.

2. Place trust where it is deserved

This goes beyond allowing trust in the betrayer to be rebuilt and also includes being able to trust oneself and listen to one's gut. Chances are there may have been red flags the betrayed chose to overlook. At this point it is best to forgive oneself for misjudging the situation. Being trusting is a good quality; it may be helpful to work on finding the right balance of trusting others without having blinders on to what is really going on.

3. Seek help

One may be tempted to go overboard in making sure to not

miss warning signs and become overly suspicious, reading too much into things. Reaching out to a professional who can be objective and point out

unreasonable conclusions may be the most beneficial, particularly if family and friends are too involved or opinionated about the situation.

The betrayed spouse is entitled to doubts and fears; it is important to determine if their thoughts are becoming

problematic and resulting in avoidable suffering. Working on and addressing these fears in either individual or couples counseling is recommended rather than hoping they will get better with time.

thoughts are becoming problematic and resulting in avoidable suffering. Working on and addressing these fears in either individual or couples counseling is recommended rather than hoping they will get better with time.



BUSINESS WORLD

Collaborative, innovative enterprises as Nigeria's new normal

Innovation is the engine of economic growth and the transformation of society. It helps society advance, evolve, and improve the way people live and do things. Innovation delivers economic growth, increased well-being and communication, educational accessibility, and environmental sustainability among others to any environment. Because innovation engenders improvement, no society can thrive without constantly upgrading or re-imagining an existing system. Writes INYENE IBANGA.

IT is globally known that innovation brings an economic uplift. The annual Global Innovation Index (GII) published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), ranks economically developed countries and emerging ones as those countries with the highest capacity for and success in innovation. This means there is a link between a country's economic growth and development and its capacity for and performance of innovation.

Having recognized this reality, the Nigerian government has embarked on several actions to empower the citizens, especially the teeming youths, in ways that enable them to harness their creativity and innovative potential. The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), a national regulator and developer of the Information Technology (IT) sector, is leading the crusade for the digital transformation of Nigeria's economy. The Agency relentlessly promotes skills acquisition and development of capacity as key to innovating progressively and profitably.

Buoyed by the support of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, NITDA has continued to design and execute programs to advance the tech innovation ecosystem in Nigeria. In conformity with the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS), the Agency has implemented initiatives and programmes through its Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2021-2024). Thus, it facilitated the creation of an enabling environment to help indigenous talents transform their ideas into innovative solutions, products, and services to advance the tech innovation and entrepreneurship sectors.

Through its subsidiaries – the Office for Nigerian Digital Innovation (ONDI) and the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR) – the Agency has been implementing programmes in collaboration with like-minded local and international organizations.

ONDI's mandate areas include implementing innovation policies and guidelines; strategic human capacity development; catalyzing funding and ecosystem support; research and insight; monitoring and compliance; and Partnerships. Each focus area aligns with the seven pillars of the NITDA-SRAP 2021 – 2024 document.

In September, ONDI organized the Demo Day to mark the completion of Cohort 1 of the iHatch (Idea Hatch) Startup Incubation programme in



Pantami



Kashifu

partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). SolutionMed; e-Dokta; Authentic QR Tech; EveryFarmer; XTID Network; Afrinet Powertech; BetaLife; and Xolani Health emerged as the finalists after five weeks of intensive training on business idea refinement by tested ecosystem players and lecturers.

The eight finalists in Cohort 1 used the occasion to pitch their business ideas/solutions to the public and also interacted with ecosystem stakeholders who graced the event. After the pitch deck before a panel of expert judges, Xolani Health, Every Farmer, and BetaLife were awarded a prize of \$15,000 each after clinching the first, second, and third positions, respectively.

The Director-General of NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa, is optimistic that the programme would assist Nigeria's youths with the entrepreneurial skills and resources to launch more innovation-driven enterprises (IDEs) for the growth of the digital economy.

"Let me express our appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Professor Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami), for facilitating this partnership between the Japanese and Nigerian governments and making it become a reality for increasing the number of Innovation-Driven Enterprises (IDEs) by Nigerian youths, and serving as one of the sustainable pillars to position Nigeria as a leading entrepreneurial hub in Africa. It is noteworthy that we have agreed with our partners,

JICA, to extend the third cohort across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. This will be done at the end of the Second Cohort, five months from now".

Accordingly, the ONDI has commenced implementation of Cohort 2 of the programme with eight startups nominated, from over 1163 initial applications, after a rigorous selection process. They are Gifty Shop (E-Commerce); Information Database (GovTech); MetaAfrica (Fintech); Fundus AI (HealthTech); Reno (HealthTech); Agrovesto Enterprises (Agritech); Farmie (AgriTech); and TopCity Agrihub (AgriTech).

These startups are currently undergoing a free intensive incubation programme organized and executed by ONDI within the

premises of NCAIR for the next five months. The startups will receive free offline/online interactive lectures with experienced mentors, free workspace, and mentorship meetings with tech professionals on pitch deck enhancement and networking opportunities. They will go through a series of coaching, lectures, and bootcamps to generate adaptable company models to refine their business ideas into market-ready products and services.

Indeed, this programme further consolidates NITDA's commitment to sustaining the promotion and growth of Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a pillar in its SRAP document. It is also creating the enabling framework

for the profitable adoption of home-grown innovation to accelerate the progress of our digital economy. From all indications, NITDA has consistently transformed the frontiers of profitable engagement with relevant stakeholders and partners in implementing programmes and initiatives that will accelerate innovation and provide much-needed jobs for our teeming youths.

At this juncture, one hopes that the Agency will continue to support and empower its subsidiaries to deliver on their mandate of nurturing the entrepreneurial zeal of citizens while also catalyzing Nigeria's digital economy to greater heights of prosperity.

Source: Economic Confidential

"Buoyed by the support of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, NITDA has continued to design and execute programs to advance the tech innovation ecosystem in Nigeria. In conformity with the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS), the Agency has implemented initiatives and programmes through its Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2021-2024). Thus, it facilitated the creation of an enabling environment to help indigenous talents transform their ideas into innovative solutions, products, and services to advance the tech innovation and entrepreneurship sectors."

BUSINESS WORLD

DMO counters bloomberg on Nigeria's debt restructuring

THE Debt Management Office (DMO), says contrary to reports by U.S. based financial, software, data and media company, Bloomberg, Nigeria has no plans to restructure its debt.

The DMO said this in a statement recently, against the backdrop of recent reports by Bloomberg that Nigeria was considering restructuring its debt and extending the repayment period of its credit obligations.

The report had quoted Nigeria's Finance Minister, Mrs Zainab Ahmed, as saying that Nigeria had appointed consultants to advise the government as it faced a rising debt-service burden.

The DMO said that the minister's statement was taken out of context.

"Over the years, Nigeria's Debt Management Strategy has always highlighted the need to utilise appropriate debt management tools to streamline the cost and risk profile in the debt portfolio.



Oniha

"Toward implementation of these strategies, Nigeria has typically availed itself of concessional loans, the spreading out of debt maturities to avoid bouncing, and re-profiling of debt maturities by refinancing short-term debt using long-term debt instruments.

"All these, non of which constitute debt restructuring,

are already being implemented," the DMO said.

It said that the Nigerian government was also looking forward to exploring other appropriate debt liability management options such as "bond- buy back" and "bond exchanges".

"We want to assure local and international investors and creditors that Nigeria remains committed and will meet all its debt obligations," the DMO said.

NNPC, PTI to deploy anti-theft systems

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited and the Petroleum Training Institute are to install anti-theft integrated monitoring systems on pipelines to monitor the facilities against crude oil theft.

Nigeria has been losing billions of dollars for several years due to the activities of pipeline vandals who steal the country's crude massively.

Speaking in Abuja at the Petroleum Training Institute's 50th Anniversary, the Principal/Chief Executive, PTI, Henry Adimula, said that institute had developed an oil anti-theft integrated monitoring system to effectively monitor pipelines.

Adimula, who said this was one of the recent innovations of the PTI, stated, "We've produced an oil anti-theft integrated monitoring system for pipeline monitoring, and an air quality monitoring systems.

"We have AI's and have

developed a corrosion robot for early detection of localised corrosion and prevent loss of integrity of the facilities, among others."

Reacting to this while delivering his address at the event, the Group Chief Executive Officer, NNPC, Mele Kyari, said the oil company was pleased to hear what the institute had done in terms of

pipeline monitoring.

He then told the PTI that NNPC would work with the institute to deploy the technology to further boost the monitoring of NNPC's pipelines with a view to addressing crude oil theft in Nigeria.

Kyari said, "We need to produce oil and gas. We are trying to address the massive

IMF, World Bank to assess Nigeria's debt sustainability

THE President of the World Bank Group, David Malpass, has said that the bank will work with the International Monetary Fund to assess Nigeria's debt sustainability.

Malpass said this during the 2022 annual meetings opening press conference in Washington, D.C. on Thursday.

He said, "We will work with the IMF on an assessment of the debt sustainability of Nigeria but it will be up to

Nigeria itself to interact with the various creditors, which include bond holders, official creditors, that are engaged in Nigeria."

Earlier, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Zainab Ahmed, had disclosed that the Nigerian government was in talks with the IMF and the World Bank to restructure the country's debts.

She said: "It is a fact that Nigeria's debt has increased over the last three to four years and this increase in debt

THE Minister of State for Mines and Steel Development, Sen. Gbemisola Saraki, says the vision of the ministry is to make the mining sector attractive to foreign investors.

Saraki said this on Wednesday in Abuja, at the Nigerian Society of Mining Engineers 21st Annual General Meeting.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the theme of the meeting is "Sustainable Mining in Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges".

According to the minister, the theme is appropriate at a time when sustainable mining practice is a challenge in the country.

She said that the ministry was working to transform the Nigeria Minerals and Metals sector into an irresistible mining destination for global capital, attracting foreign direct investments to grow the sector to optimum level.

"Our confidence on the realisation of the above vision is predicated on Nigeria's position as one of the largest economy in Africa.

"With a Gross Domestic

'FG working to make Nigeria irresistible mining destination'



Adegbite

Product (GDP) of 514.05 dollars, a population of over 213 million people, over 57 per cent economically active population is endowed with over 44 different minerals resources in commercial quantities," she said.

She said that the Federal Government strategic policy direction on mining, focused on the some key priority areas, like:

"Streamlining application processes and significantly increasing private sector investment in mining,

"Ensuring orderly and efficient mining of the seven priority minerals in the mining roadmap (Coal, Bitumen, Limestone, Iron Ore, Barites, Gold and Lead/Zinc Ore and now Lithium)

"Strengthening collaboration with state governments and

relevant security agencies to ensure sustainable security and safety of mining areas.

"Introducing incentives to improve the investment climate for mining activities, stamping out illegal mining and formalising artisanal and small-scale mining activities across the country.

"Collaboration with the private sector to create a large number of well-paying jobs for Nigerian youths," she said.

Saraki said that the expectation of President Muhammadu Buhari from the ministry included diversification of the economy with a target of five per cent contribution to GDP, creating an industry worth 27 billion dollars.

"There is also expectation of job creation with a target of additional new five million jobs, industrialisation of Nigerian economy with the mineral sector as a major input raw material," she said.

According to her, the ministry is also expected to achieve export of value added minerals, and poverty reduction and wealth creation, adding the expectations have made the ministry to pursue some critical initiatives for the promotion of mining activities in Nigeria.

She listed the initiatives as bitumen block auctioning, barite mining and processing and bulk mineral haulage and mineral buying centre operations in Nigeria.

She said that there was the need for strict observance of all necessary procedures to protect the miner, host community and the environment while harnessing the resources beneath the earth.

"As members of the global mining community, we must put in place necessary framework in line with international best practice to promote sustainable mining in Nigeria.

"There are referenced standards acceptable globally like the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) which focuses on people, process and product.

"Other referenced global framework like Responsible Gold Mining principles (RGMP) articulated by the World Gold Council for responsible gold sourcing should be domesticated.



Ahmed

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

Supply chain analysis of AfCFTA and entrepreneurship

Free trade is an economic and trade policy that removes restrictions and barriers to imports and exports. Creating free trade systems dates back to sixteenth-century Spain, but it wasn't until 1860 that the first free trade agreement (FTA) called the Cobden-Chevalier Treaty was signed between Britain and France. Over the years, free trade agreements have become one of the effective policies for driving international trade and developing emerging economies. ADEBAYO ADELEKE writes

Two centuries after the first FTA was signed, many countries have signed either a bilateral, regional, or continental trade agreement with one another. In 2018, forty-four African nations signed the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, which was launched in 2021 to facilitate trade in goods, services, and movement of the people.

Modelled after the European Union (EU), the AfCFTA is an ambitious continental union that offers jobs and business opportunities through the entire supply chain, can reduce poverty, and improve consumers' living standards.

Global supply chain and African trade

Despite seeing its fastest growth in the last decade, African countries account for just 3 percent of global trade in goods and services. When you think about the tremendous resources on the continent, you'll understand how hard this is to believe. Intra-African trade, which is around 13 percent compared to approximately 60, 40, and 30 percent of intra-regional trade achieved by Europe, North America, and ASEAN, is also meager.

The pyramids in Egypt didn't just get there. The stones and all the logistical components that helped shape that masterpiece of architecture is all supply chain-related.

Africa is a resource-rich continent. It has 40 percent of the world's gold and 90 percent of its chromium and platinum. We have the world's largest cobalt reserves, diamonds, platinum, and uranium. Africa holds 65 percent of the world's arable land and 10 percent of the planet's internal renewable fresh water source, agricultural products such as coffee, tea,



and cocoa beans. That's not all because I haven't even mentioned petroleum or other rare metals.

With all these resources, imagine if Africa could increase its share of world trade from 2 to 10 percent in the next ten years and improve intra-African trade to about 25 percent. That would be an incredible source of income for the continent. I believe this is part of what the AfCFTA hopes to achieve, but something is missing in the puzzle.

It appears that stakeholders and advocates of free trade are looking at trade alone, leaving the supply chain management that underpins it, which would cause issues because trade alone does not move the needle. In trade, the supply chain is the executioner. Without it, trade is just a theory.

It will be hard to look into African trade without its supply chain. Many people have forgotten that Africa's strength is trade. Our first interaction with the explorers was through trade, and the supply chain has always been in the DNA of African trade. Unfortunately, we never really look at it from that

standpoint.

The pyramids in Egypt didn't just get there. The stones and all the logistical components that helped shape that masterpiece of architecture is all supply chain-related. Yet, everyone is so focused on trade today because of the AfCFTA that they have neglected the supply chain that makes it happen. For this reason, we must run a supply chain analysis of the African free trade agreement.

Supply chain analysis of the AfCFTA

To make the AfCFTA work for the benefit of Africa and the global economy, we need to revamp the African supply chains that drive goods outside the continent to the supply chain that looks inward. An African supply chain that makes it difficult to move goods by water from Cameroon to Nigeria but easy to move goods from Cameroon to China and other countries is a threat to the regional integration plan.

The adoption and effective implementation of the continental trade agreement will create a regional value chain that would enable African

countries to develop economies of scale using their comparative advantages to serve the over 1.4 billion people on the continent. But to achieve this goal, we must restructure the supply chain infrastructure. And how can we do that?

Read also: Achieving prosperity in Africa through supply chain management

Restructuring of supply chain infrastructure is necessary

Infrastructure is critical to the smooth running of supply chains. This could mean the physical and informational assets required to run a supply chain. When we think of a supply chain, it is easy to think about the processes and activities taken to move goods from suppliers to customers.

The supply chain infrastructure involves transportation, communication, utilities, and technology. As a matter of fact, there are tangents and essential issues that accompany those basic elements. These include security, risks, value, legal considerations, contracts, insurance, customs, and payment. For the AfCFTA to excel, Africa must rejig its infrastructural issues to aid logistics, purchasing, operations, and market channels.

Synchronize supply chain and logistical corridors by land, water, rail, and air

Africa is the continent with the most landlocked countries. For instance, it can take up to 60 days to import goods into Burundi from other East African countries. This highlights the need for investment in creating more transportation networks.

The lack of suitable transport infrastructure and alternative routes like good roads and rail networks put pressure on

African seaports. An example of the required infrastructure is the Maradi rail line the Nigerian government is constructing to connect Nigeria from Kano to the Niger republic. This could be instrumental in facilitating trade routes between the two countries.

The Logistics Performance Index, which measures the ease, speed, and simplicity of moving goods and services across the continent, ranked African countries between 1.77 and 3.38 out of 5. The lack of road networks hinders intra-African trade, but with the AfCFTA, African leaders can tackle the 53 percent of unpaved African roads. They will require public-private partnership (PPP) agreements to achieve this goal because many African governments still struggle to get funds for critical infrastructure.

Besides the inadequate transportation infrastructure and investment needed, African countries must adopt technology to aid logistics within the regional value chain and regulate cross-border customs clearance.

Adjudicate the implementation of a continent-wide supply chain system.

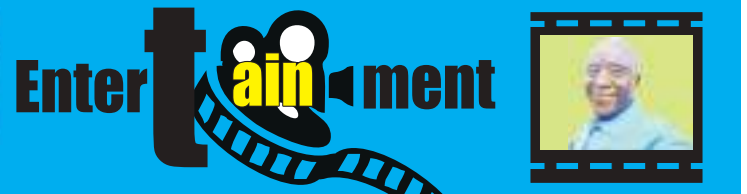
A single African market is a lofty goal that can transform the continent. For this reason, we must analyse the value chain of the free trade area to see the problems, identify the opportunities it presents, and push the conversations about what should be improved.

Creating a borderless Africa is ambitious, and it is incredibly possible. However, to avoid having a cog in the wheel of our expectations, we need the professionalisation of supply chain in Africa. This means the AfCFTA regulator and government should use policymaking to institutionalise a body that will ensure the implementation of a continent-wide supply chain system. Of course, there's an enormous investment required for that, but we understand that an efficient supply chain infrastructure is the backbone of prosperous free trade areas.

Africa is creating a solid regional value chain that can easily fit and boost the global supply chain. Still, we must ensure that we do this correctly because Africa is the new frontier, and the world is waiting for us to get it right.

Source: Business Day

"A single African market is a lofty goal that can transform the continent. For this reason, we must analyse the value chain of the free trade area to see the problems, identify the opportunities it presents, and push the conversations about what should be improved. Creating a borderless Africa is ambitious, and it is incredibly possible. However, to avoid having a cog in the wheel of our expectations, we need the professionalisation of supply chain in Africa. This means the AfCFTA regulator and government should use policymaking to institutionalise a body that will ensure the implementation of a continent-wide supply chain system. Of course, there's an enormous investment required for that, but we understand that an efficient supply chain infrastructure is the backbone of prosperous free trade areas."



Wow! meet 4 Nigerian celebrities who owns a private jet

Continued from page 18



Ayodeji Ibrahim Balogun popularly known as WIZKID or Starboy is a popular Nigerian musician, stage performer, and songwriter. He is also another celebrity who owns a private jet in Nigeria. The popular musician is one of the richest musicians in Nigeria with an estimated net worth of 7.5 billion Naira and so affording a private jet is just not a big deal.



Tiwah Savage is a famous Nigerian female musician who has a lot of fan base. There is no doubt she is one of the wealthiest female musicians in Nigeria. The famous musician Tiwah Savage is one of the few female musicians who really compete with the male musician. Tiwah Savage also owns a private jet like Wizkid and Davido.

DJ cuppy

Florence Ifeoluwa Otedola, professionally known as DJ Cuppy is a Nigerian disc jockey and producer. DJ Cuppy made it big in the entertainment industry at a very young age. The popular DJ is also another celebrity who has a private jet.

Where do the richest Americans live?

Continued from page 18

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

Source: Mansion Global

All Progressive Congress (APC) Plateau State

Congratulation

OUR HEROS

The Chairman All Progressive Congress (APC) Plateau State, **Hon. Rufus Bature** on behalf of party members congratulates our amiable Governor, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong** on the conferment of the National Merit of Honours of the Commander of the Order of the Niger, (CON), on him by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Nigeria, President **Muhammadi Buhari, GCON**.

The Party in the State is not surprised over the recognition accorded our Governor, considering his political trajectory and service to the Country. Having risen as a private legal practitioner, state legislator, the longest serving speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, two-term Governor, currently Chairman of the Northern Governor's forum and now the Director General of Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council, are certainly achievements which deserves recognition by all.

The APC family in the state is elated and proud of Governor Lalong over his honour and recognition by the Federal Government.

We also congratulate other illustrious sons and daughters of the State who were recipients of various National Merit Awards.

They include:

1. **Hon. Justice Monica Dongban- Mensem**, President, Court of Appeal, (CFR).
2. His Majesty, **Da Jacob Gyang Buba**, Gbong Gwom Jos, (CFR).
3. **Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase**, Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, (CON).
4. **Prof. Seddi Sebastian Maimako**, former VC, University of Jos, (OON).
5. **Amb. Prof. Mary Lar**, Educationist/ former Diplomat, (OON).
6. **Amb. James Gotuwan Dimka**, Veteran Journalist/ former Diplomat, (OON).
7. **Prof. Decent Doknan Danjuma Sheni**, former VC, PLASU (OON).
8. **Imam Abdullahi Abubakar**, Islamic cleric, (MON).
9. **Dr. Attia Nasreddin**, Chairman, NASCO Group of Companies, (OFR)
10. **Jummai Kizito Gukas**, Office of the Secretary to Government of the Federation (FRM 1).

We convey our sincere appreciation to Mr. President for the honour done our illustrious citizens of the state.

Once more, congratulations.

SIGNED:
HON. RUFUS BATURE,
APC CHAIRMAN, PLATEAU STATE



NEWS

FRSC commences ember months campaign

From Dorcas Pankyes,
Abuja

As a measure to reduce road crashes and fatality to the barest minimum on the highways during these ember months, the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC has commenced sensitization programme in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT to educate the motoring public on how to use the road.

The FCT Sector Commander, Ochi Ogar Samuel has said that the need for the FRSC to sensitize and educate drivers at this period in time to be cautious while driving on the highways across the country cannot be underestimated.

C.C. Ochi while addressing drivers during the FRSC ember months flag off on Wednesday, 12 October, 2022 at Benue Link Park, Area 1, Abuja, urged motorists to obey the traffic rules and regulations, as well as put their vehicles in good condition before embarking on any journey.

Having stated the role tyre plays in safety on the highways, the Sector Commander advised motorists to always go for brand new tyres instead of buying Tokumbo tyre that will not last long.

He said, "ember months are the last four months of the year characterized with a lot of movements across the cities and across the country. This period, we also have higher numbers of traffic crashes and fatalities which must be avoided.

"That is why public enlightenment and sensitization is very necessary to be done across the cities because, that is the only way we can get the road users saved. In FCT, we are going to all nooks and crannies to



Biu

ensure that Nigerians are patient enough during these ember months and to avoid road traffic crashes.

"Tyre plays a very important role in safety on the highways. We encourage that people should buy new tyres and make sure that the lifespan of tyre is indicated. Of course, we know the lifespan is four years, and after the expiring date, even if the tyre looks good, discard it and go for a new one. Especially now that we are in the rainy season, if tyres are not in a good shape, you are going to have some difficulties on the highway."

The Unit Commander, Central Business District, CBD Abuja, Assistant C.C. Imrana Ibrahim Lamba, said the sensitization of motoring public is part of the FRSC management's resolution for the purpose of saving lives.

"What we are doing here is part of the management's resolve, the FRSC management towards the end of every year. We do reach out to sensitize the public on how

to drive safely during the ember months. This is because, the ember months are characterized with activities coupled with accidents. We have to come out enmass to sensitize the public on how to make the best use of the roads," he said.

He enjoined motorists to shun over speeding, dangerous overtaking, overloading and the use of expired tyre. He added that the message will be passed to the people, especially drivers.

Area Commander, GRTS Office, Area 1, Abuja, Mohammed Biu said that substantial number of vehicles plying the highways are not in good order, advising drivers to put their vehicles in good shape before embarking on any journey.

"Tokumbo tyres have caused a lot of road crashes on our highways and that is why we keep saying that drivers should stop patronizing them. Get new tyres that will last long instead of going for used ones. Remember that life has no duplicate," he warned.

By DUMAH RANDONG

THE Primate of the Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion, the Most Rev Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba has blamed the persistent crises on the failure of government to rise to its responsibility of protecting the people and prosecuting the perpetrators of violence in the country.

Ndukuba said the response of the church and Christian organizations in Nigeria to the prevalent violence and insecurity in the country has been prayers, noting that government must demonstrate the political will to deal with the situation head on.

The Primate stated this in a keynote address at the Maiden Re-Union Conference of the Alumni Association of the Theological College of Northern Nigeria, TCNN, Bukuru, Jos-South LGA, yesterday.

Speaking on the theme "Theology in Times of Crisis: The Nigerian Context," Ndukuba urged Christians to stand-up in defense of their faith and advocated for a spiritual approach to security

Church leader blames crises on government's failure

crisis in Nigeria in line with the church.

Provost, TCNN, Rev Prof Samuel Ango commended the alumni for impacting positively on the college. He urged them to continue to support the institution in its quest to produce men and women for the expansion of the gospel of God.

Governor Simon Lalong while declaring the conference open, described the theme of the conference as apt and appropriate for the moment.

He noted that the ongoing crises in Nigeria were self-inflicted by either sin of commission or omission. Lalong acknowledged the role of alumni to the development of its alma-mater and commended the TCNN Alumni for re-energizing the union's contribution which if it had been sustained since the establishment of the institution, 65 years ago would have translated the development of the institution better than what it is today.

The governor advised Christians to avoid lamentation and be active in politics, noting that the days of lamentation were gone. He stated that power is not given to anybody but you struggle for it. He also called for unity in

the church. President of the alumni association, Professor Lazarus Tekdek said the purpose of the association was to support a network of graduates who in turn help to raise the profile of the college.

A strategic plan has been developed to among others, build the association's secretariat, assist students who were unable to pay school fees as well as staff in need. He pointed that they had embarked on a number of projects since rebirth of the alumni.

THE SUNDAY STANDARD reports that awards were given to some deserving graduates of the college from inception in 1961 with some of them posthumously

12 member court marshal inaugurated

From ANENE AIKE,
Sokoto

GENERAL Officer Commanding, 8 Division of the Nigerian Army, Sokoto, Major General U.U. Bassey has inaugurated a 12 member General Court Marshal for the trial of 68 officers and soldiers accused for various offences during Operation Hadarin Daji with a call on the Court to ensure truth prevailed in the principles of fair hearing based on merit.

The 12 members Court Marshal are Col. Clement Iyere as its President. General Bassey stressed that

the Court must ensure that truth prevailed by evaluating all evidences on their merits.

According to the GOC during the inauguration its the newly commissioned Lt. General T.Y. Buratai Giginya Barracks Auditorium, Sokoto those for the trial were serving personnel and should be treated with every sense of decorum and fairness.

He assured that the Court Marshal would be guided by the principles of natural justice as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution as amended and in accordance with extant laws which will be free from external influence

or interference. According to him," the proceedings would be in accordance with the cardinal principles of criminal justice.

General Bassey who is the Commander of the Northwest Operation Hadarin Daji JTF further urged the Court to ensure speedy trial and justice was achieved while appealing to defence counsel to avoid unnecessary spilling of adjournment in order to avoid delay. He added that justice delayed, is justice denied.

Meanwhile, the defence counsel Barrister Godwin Uwadiae said he was confident that the Court will do justice to the accused." From the inaugural speech of the GOC, I am hopeful of a fair trial.

"Although, my worries are that a lot of them over stayed in detention without trial. Some 18 months, 7 months, even some 2 years which our constitution forbids. They should have been moved to their respective units on bail. Except for those who commit homicide or armed robbery offences which is punishable by death. Anyway, I will make efforts to see the GOC who is the convener for some clarifications", he said.

Irigwe community honours GOC for peace initiative

From Dorcas Pankyes,
Abujas

THE Irigwe Chiefdom in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State has honoured the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Division Nigerian Army (NA) and Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH), Major General Ibrahim Ali for his selfless service and untiring efforts that have brought peace on

the Plateau. Major Ishaku Takwa, Acting Director Army Public Relations 3 Division disclosed this to news men in Abuja recently.

The statement said the award was given by the leadership of the socio-cultural group, the Irigwe Development Association (IDA), during the annual Irigwe cultural day celebration, the Otu Rigwe

2022 held in Jos.

Speaking before the award presentation, the Chairman, IDA, Prince Robert Ashi Dodo said the award was to appreciate the GOC/Commander OPSH and his troops for their immense contributions to the restoration of peace, unity and harmony among diverse communities in the state. He revealed that the activities of the OPSH had drastically ended the incessant attacks and criminalities carried out on innocent citizens. He noted that the wrong impression the people of Irigwe had had about Major General Ibrahim Ali has been eroded by his pragmatic leadership style and uncommon peace initiative.

Prince Dodo noted the remarkable commitment of the GOC/Commander OPSH to unite the diverse ethnic groups leading to peaceful coexistence now enjoyed by all, adding that the award was necessary to celebrate the icon of peace and development in Irigwe Chiefdom and indeed Plateau State.

Prince Dodo further commended the GOC/Commander OPSH for providing relief materials and approving solar borehole to

victims of attacks.

Receiving the honour, the GOC and Commander OPSH, Major General Ibrahim Ali reiterated his commitment to discharging his duties professionally and in compliance with his oath of allegiance. He resonated his stance and leadership style of equality, justice and fairness for all devoid of any primordial sentiments.

The event which was graced by the Executive Governor Plateau State, His Excellency

Rt Hon Simon Bako Lalong, was chaired by the former Chief of Defence Staff, General Luther Martin Agwai (retired) and attended by members of the National and state House of Assembly, traditional rulers as well as heads of security agencies and religious leaders.

Highlight of the event were the display by diverse Irigwe cultural troupes and fund raising to support displaced communities in Irigwe chiefdom.

'Declaring state of emergency on education is useless'

From Dorcas Pankyes,
Abuja

THE Secretary General of Plateau Indigenes Forum in the National Assembly (PIFNASS)

Mr Augustine Nyam has urged the Federal Government not to waste time in declaring state of emergency on the education sector.

Speaking with **SUNDAY STANDARD** correspondents in his office, Mr Nyam explained that the call became necessary in view of current strike embarked upon by the Academic Staff

Union of Universities (Asuu) which has left learning activities in the nation's tertiary institutions paralyzed for the past seven months.

Nyam who is a staff of the National Assembly working with the Committee on Appropriation said declaring state of emergency in the sector will ultimately end the incessant disruption to the academic calendar which has a situation where students spend 6 years for a 4 year course.

Nyam urged President Buhari led federal Government to

quickly resolve the lingering face off between the federal government and the lecturers. Similarly, he also called on well meaning Nigerians to prevail on the federal government to sheath its ego and salvage the education sector before it consumes our youths".

Augustine also said that "we need a leader that will put this country in a good shape. President Muhammadu Buhari has tried for us. I believe that our hope is not lost completely. Therefore, we should put our trust in God who is the Alpha and the Omega."



Gen. Ali

NEWS

Bauchi Governor assents bill on public complaints

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

A bill for the establishment of Bauchi State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission was recently, assented to by Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed. The bill is aimed at entrenching transparency and accountability in governance in the state.

Assenting the bill, the Governor regretted that the state government had a case with the EFCC for the past five years after the state monies were taken away for and the government knew the perpetrators of the act, the case is still lingering with the commission.

The Governor explained that the state government was not pursuing anybody, but it would make sure that there is accountability and the public are not short-changed, pointing out, "We too are going to be accountable to that."

"I'm telling you it is not something that we should be happy about. We in the administration, it is something that we are doing against ourselves, because we want quick dispensation of justice. We want an accelerated process of investigations and prosecution, so we are not going to use it against anybody. It is going to be a watchdog for the state against corrupt elements."

He explained that President Buhari has been doing that with such law, but has never asked anybody to be pursued on political grounds, hence the state anti-graft commission is going to be a watchdog for the state, complementing other agencies that are already dispensing similar cases being backed up by law.

Bala Mohammed further explained that the government would make sure that it would not be subjective or arbitrary in the way and manner the commission is going to do its work, hence it is going to be very independent, and as independent as it could be.

The Governor revealed that the composition of the commission is like any other agency or body relevant to investigation and prosecution as embodied in the law establishing it with administrative and operational structures, while the law has given it freedom and independence, as it commences operations with immediate effect after its assent. Mohammed explained that the



Mohammed

establishment of the Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission was part of his administration's efforts to take advantage of federal structure of the country as enshrined in the Constitution which gives the state the latitude to replicate functions being performed by federal agencies.

He cited examples of such agencies to include NEMA - SEMA, UBEB - SUBEB, PenCom and the State Contributory Pension Scheme, among others saying the replication in the state of agencies that also exist at the federal level would reduce the burden on the federal agencies thereby making them more effective and efficient.

The Governor also observed that the state agencies having been closer to the people and more conversant with the local culture, tradition and terrain, are in a better place to handle local issues, especially in the areas of security, investigation and prosecution of offenders.

Mohammed further explained that the establishment of the anti-graft agency in Bauchi would provide employment opportunities for the youths, thereby addressing security challenges, and indeed tackling immediate issues arising thereof.

According to him, so many states in the federation have domiciled this important law in order to ensure that the administration of justice, especially in the areas of making sure that our governance are free from corrupt manifestations.

The Governor also hold the view that the state anti-graft agency

would handle sleeps cases at state level due to the size of the country, and unburden the EFCC and other federal agencies of cases that mostly remained uninvestigated and unpunished.

"We have so many cases that we have submitted, and some public spirited individuals, agencies and other individuals who have done that, but still have not been investigated, and we have not gotten anything out there to date due to the fact that there are so many cases with the ICPC, EFCC and the rest of the investigations agencies."

Senator Bala noted that with the establishment of the anti-graft agency in Bauchi, no case of corruption would be overlooked at the state and local government levels, saying they have agreed at the Governors Forum that such thing should be done at state level to bring enforcement and fight corruption in consonance with the drive of the present administration.

Governor Bala Mohammed concluded, "Our state House of Assembly has been very proactive, and we would continue to give it the legal framework, as well as administrative framework for us to be able to govern by universal and established conventions."

The bill which went through third reading with the state legislature was earlier presented to the Governor by the Deputy Speaker, Hon Danlami Ahmed Kawule who said that it was initially committed to the House Public Complaints Committee and subsequently public hearings before it was passed into law.

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

GOVERNOR Abdullahi A. Sule of Nasarawa State alongside the Chief Judge of the state, Justice Aisha Bashir Aliyu and the Commissioner of Justice and Attorney General of the state, Barrister Abdulkarim Kana have doffed their hats for the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) Keffi Branch for their efforts towards the commencement of building a befitting secretariat complex of the association in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Speaking separately during the official foundation laying ceremony of the secretariat within the premises of High Court, Keffi in Nasarawa State during the week, the Governor, Engr. Abdullahi Sule who was represented by his Deputy Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Akabe and the representative of the Chief Judge, Justice Samuel A. Ayiwulu expressed delight that the Keffi branch of the NBA has set a legacy worthy to be praised and emulated by their contemporaries within the state and the nation at large.

According to them, they would do everything humanly possible to ensure that the project is completed within a short period of time.

"Projects like this are the things that his Excellency, the governor of our dear state, Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule likes to do and encourage because they are developments coming to the state no matter how small it is as it would later develop into big ones. And that is the governor's passion and goal," Dr. Akabe stated.

On his part, the Commissioner of Justice and Attorney General of the state, Barr. Abdulkarim Kana said, "Barr. Moses Ade the branch

Governor, others, doff hat for Keffi NBA

chairman, since the day that he was Inaugurated two years ago, he told me that one of his dreams is to see that he embarks on this project and I also resolved to see that his dream has been achieved.

"With the support of the governor of the state, my Lord the Chief Judge and other justices of the state and the privileges of my office, we ensure that a land was allocated for this purpose.

It will also interest this gathering to know that there are many branches of NBA across the country that have not been able to achieve this feat. For this project, I will say kudos to both the chairman NBA Keffi branch and his executives," The commissioner said.

Earlier in his opening speech, the branch chairman of the said branch, Barr. Moses Ade

said the NBA Keffi branch remains eternally grateful to the Chief Judge of the state, Justin Aisha Bashir Aliyu who gifted the project land to them as well as the Commissioner of Justice and Attorney General of the state, Professor Abdulkarim Kana who made the relationship between the Bar Bench and Executive arm of government very cordial in the state.

He then disclosed that to him, the NBA Keffi branch is made up of all the legal practitioners carrying out their practice in Keffi, Karu, Kokona, Nasarawa and Toto Local Government Areas of Nasarawa State

Highlight of the occasion was the official ground breaking ceremony of the project which was done by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Akabe.



Sule

NNPC slams Kaduna Gov over oil comment

Nigerian National Petroleum Company, NNPC, Limited has countered the claims made by Governor Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State regarding the performance of the oil firm.

Gov. El-Rufai was quoted in the media to have described

NNPC Limited as a failure, stating that whatever the Nigerian government manages fails. He also called for the exit of NNPC in the oil and gas sector

According to El-Rufai, the NNPC has failed to remit even N20,000 to the federation account since the year. He said the government should treat the oil sector as it did with the telecommunications industry, where private investors are allowed to manage the industry.

This year, NNPC has not brought N20,000 to the federation account. We are living on taxes. It is PPTs, royalties, income tax and VAT that is keeping this country going because NNPC claims that subsidy has taken all the oil revenues. I don't believe it," El-Rufai said.

The governor further stated, "Nothing has changed, it's just a change in name with limited at the end. Nothing has changed, they are still taking our money, declaring profit that we don't see the dividends.

Responding to El-Rufai's claim, the Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs Division of NNPC, Garba Muhammad, said, the governor of Kaduna is confused

"He said NNPC has not been making remittance to FAAC and yet in the same breath, he said it is income from PPT, royalty and income tax that is keeping this country.

"The confusion is where do the PPT, royalty and income tax come from? The PPT is the petroleum profit tax, have you seen anybody pay profit tax without making profit? Or pay Royalty without production?"

"These things don't just fall from the sky. These payments are possible because somebody is working hard to make it possible." Muhammad said.



Kyari

37 contestants qualify for Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria pageant

THIRTY-SEVEN successful contestants have qualified for the finals of the 34th edition of the Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria (MBGN) pageant.

The President, Silverbird Group,

Guy Murray-Bruce, disclosed this to newsmen at the Galleria, Cinema floor, on Friday, in Lagos.

According to him, the contestants had gone through thorough preparations before

being presented to the public.

"Silverbird Group, organisers of the Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria (MBGN) unveils 37 beautiful contestants in the 34th edition of the pageant.

"The contestants went through a series of activities and preparations to keep them in good shape for the competition.

"The 37 contestants will be representing all the states in Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja

"They were screened out of the hundreds of entries that were submitted during the preliminary stage," he said.

He added that the contestants were camped during the preparation where they were trained to become "Beauty Ambassadors".

"They were trained on confidence building, catwalk, choreography, etiquette, eloquence, grooming and several educative extraordinary skills.

"Some of our sponsors include: Eko Hotel and Suites, Waw Detergents, The Colonades Hotel, Studio 24, Malta Guinness, Zaron

Cosmetics and many others.

"The grand finale comes up on Oct. 21 at Eko Hotel and Suites," he said.

Speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), the outgoing queen, Oluchi Madubuikwe, said the pageantry improved her personality in various ways.

"MBGN has really impacted in my life in several ways, it has exposed me to the world, made me a more positive and resourceful entrepreneur.

"There are lots of gains in participating in pageantry so I encourage more girls to key into it because it brings out the beauty internally and externally," she said.

Also speaking with one of the successful contestants, 23-year-old Enenma Ibekwe, said the selection process exposed her to beautiful cultures in Nigeria, especially Adamawa.

"The selection process exposed me to the aesthetics of Nigerian culture, especially Adamawa, which is land of beauty, I discovered several beautiful histories I never knew," she said.



Murray-Bruce

Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning, Jos

Heartly Felicitations
On your National Honour Awards

On behalf of Management and Staff of the Ministry of Lands Survey and Town Planning, Jos, I **Hon. Barr. Tehlkuk Naanlep Pingwai**, heartily congratulate the Executive Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. Barr. Simon Bako Lalong**, Chairman Northern Governor's Forum and DG, Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Council on the conferment of the National Merit of Honour of the Commander of the Order of the Niger, (CON) by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**.

This honour did not come to us as a surprise considering your outstanding leadership qualities and unwavering commitment to the development of Plateau State.

We are proud to be associated with you and wish you many more years of service to Plateau State and Nigeria at large.

We use this opportunity to also congratulate other illustrious sons and daughters who were also conferred with various Merit Awards. These are well deserved honours as you all represent true ambassadors of the State with your years of sacrifice and service to humanity.

Once more, congratulations!

Signed:

Hon. Barr. Tehlkuk Naanlep Pingwai,
Commissioner Ministry of Lands, Survey and
Town Planning, Jos.



SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Oil theft: Discovery of illegal pipeline, any conspiracy?

Continued from Page 10

has calmed a lot of nerves especially with the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission [NDDC], to spearhead projects that would impact positively on their people.

It was also in the same vein that the Federal Government went a step further especially with the action of the present Muhammadu Buhari Administration, in a bid to safeguard the pipelines from vandalisation and coupled with the rise in crude oil bunkering lately, the Government had to do a U-turn by re-awarding a pipeline surveillance contract to an ex-militant named Government Tompolo, who was alleged to have once stolen oil and vandalized pipelines.

The move to award the contract to Tompolo was criticized by most citizens, but officials in the sector defended the action saying, the former militant's expertise will help prevent the theft. Meanwhile, raids in late August led to the arrest of more than 100 oil thieves and

the recovery of millions of litres of crude oil and diesel.

The surge in illegal oil activities within the past three years has further affected Nigeria's oil out-put and serious decline of its oil revenues and the resultant effect is that Nigeria has dropped from being the number one largest oil producing nation in Africa to the fourth, behind Angola, Algeria and Libya.

According to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC] latest ranking report, monthly oil market report for August, 2022, showed Nigeria's oil production stood at 980,000 barrels a day, a decline of more than 100,000 barrels per day compared to July.

The drop further indicate that such figure coming from Nigeria is about 50 percent of OPEC's target for the month of August. Again, Mr. Isaac Gbam in sharing his opinion with **SUNDAY STANDARD** expressed concern that as a mono-economy, Nigeria should have before now, mapped out long term strategies of laying a solid foundation for its upstream

and downstream sectors. Rather, corruption and maladministration has crippled the whole industry. "Look at what has happened to our refineries, none is working, we are now depending on refined products and at the mercy of importers and those stealing from pipelines. Sadly, we cannot even meet our local demands. The empty filling stations and the long queues speak volumes of what Nigeria has become. It is unthinkable that we are dropping below a war torn country like Libya." Gbam said.

Kevin Hart, a post graduate student of Management studies at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University [ATBU], Bauchi, told **SUNDAY STANDARD** that; "I was shocked to watch the report about the discovery of illegal pipeline that ran for many years undetected. It sounds like a tale out of moon light of those good old days. But outside these whole mess, the Government can as well approve license for business entrepreneurs to invest in modular refineries. What is required is for government to

set up the conditions and standards and we can gain from it rather than the practice of importation and subsidy which has become controversial and even a scam."

For decades, Nigeria has been Africa's largest oil producer. But in recent years, theft and sabotage at production sites have hampered out-put. And Petroleum authorities have said more than 200,000 barrels are lost daily and that the trend is costing the country millions of dollars in revenue.

According to an oil and gas expert, Emmanuel Afimia, said the current situation in the sector is disturbing. "At this particular point in time when oil prices are rising, Nigeria is supposed to sit back and be enjoying revenue inflows of foreign exchange through sales and export of crude oil but the reverse is the case. So it is really a negative thing for the country falling from the top largest oil producer, Nigeria will be slowly losing its influence in the global oil market." Afimia said.

Oil was once Nigeria's

biggest earner and contributor to its national GDP, but latest data shows information and communication technology and trade contributed more in the second quarter of this year. Meanwhile, Nigerian authorities are also raising concerns as President Muhammadu Buhari was quoted as saying that the situation was putting the economy in a precarious situation. However, with the recent clampdown on crude oil vandals by NNPC in collaboration with security agencies, for now the results being realized suggests that it is still work in progress.

And on the larger scale, many citizens now expect the Federal Government to commence investigation to uncover all government officials involved in the illegal operation at the Forcados oil pipelines, including top officials of the NNPC and their collaborators, especially for the harm done to the nation. Such may be the only assurance that would convince Nigerians that the authorities are serious in bringing the ugly trend of oil theft to an end.

METRO-FOCUS

Menace of uncompleted buildings to the society

By JIDAUNA DARING,
DAUDA GUSNUNG
& RAMATU I. MAGAJI

UNCOMPLETED buildings are structures that are erected by some developers right from the foundation level, but unfortunately, some of these projects are sometimes stopped either as a result of financial challenges or due to some personal reasons that are best known to the developers.

What is more worrisome about the existence of some of these abandoned uncompleted buildings in our communities is the fact that such structures have become a meeting point or hideout for criminal elements. And or meeting points for delinquents, drugs addicts.

It is also observed that some of these abandoned uncompleted structures even have been in that condition for more than 10 years. Some of the developers sometimes stop work on site even when they have reached an advanced level of the work. A handful to take precautionary measures have been completed but waiting for roofing while some have been abandoned immediately after the roofing of such structures.

In the same vein, such abandoned structures have not only become dangerous for the activities of our young ones who have become wayward in the society. Snakes also take advantage of such buildings to stay inside and hatch. This has posed a serious threat to the life of the people who live around or close to such structures.

Since snakes are nobody's friend, it would be wise for any developer who had abandoned a site for some time, and later before resuming work on that same site to as a matter of urgency and safety. Ensure that the site is fumigated to drive away reptiles.

This is necessary because some developers did not take into cognizance the issue of fumigation against snake. It has obviously been observed that because of the available cracks on the wall of some of these abandoned structures, snakes gained access into the cracked walls and even some available hole and remain in hiding. After the completion, such snakes can strike on the occupants because it was not fumigated.

In this regard, it is very necessary for anyone who leaves a building uncompleted, to take measures against snakes. People are advised to plant lemon grasses around such building. Something about the grass repel them and will keep the property safe from them.

It is against this background that a resident of Agingi in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State, Mr. Plangnan John Christopher who spoke with **SUNDAY STANDARD** said abandoned uncompleted structures are littered around in the communities because of various challenges. Some developers will start the building process and then, at a point stop the work.

Mr. Christopher pointed out that such structures pose a lot of danger to the people living within the community. He said that criminals



also use such structures to perpetrate whatever evil they want to do particularly against passers-by.

"In fact, there are those that you see them hanging around, and stalking unsuspecting people. when you come to enter your house, they stop you by your door or gate and collect your belongings. I must say again that such abandoned buildings pose a lot of dangers to the inhabitants of the communities".

He called on government to take proactive measures on abandoned buildings. He pointed out that Jos Metropolitan Development Board (JMDB) is the agency that is responsibly to get in touch with owners of abandoned buildings.

Mr. Christopher maintained that the board should as a matter of fact address this issue by specify a period of time within which the structures should be completed so as to reduce the increase number of abandoned buildings in the communities.

He added that JMDB should on its part roll out measures that would help the board to monitor people who are developing their personal structures to know that they have been given a specific period of time to complete work on site.

Also speaking separately with our correspondent, Wunuken Obed and Idris Isa Magaji both of Wukari in Taraba State said that such buildings serve as a point where nefarious and immoral activities like smoking of dangerous substance, rape,

prostitution and kidnapping are carried out. They also serve as temporary hide out to hard criminals.

It is also glaring that such buildings make an area ugly and unkempt. Most of them are over grown with grasses and shrubs and the owners only attain to them when they resume work.





WE CELEBRATE YOUR
NATIONAL HONOUR

Awards

I, **Dr. (Prince) Francis Isah Fwangje**, Provost of the Plateau State College of Health Technology, Pankshin, on behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students hereby congratulate the Executive Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG**, Chairman Northern Governor's Forum who is also the DG, Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council on the conferment on him of National Merit of Honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger, (CON) by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**.

We also want to celebrate the following eminent sons and daughters of the state who were equally honoured during this epoch making event:

1. **Hon. Justice Monica Dongban- Mensem**, President, Court of Appeal, (CFR).
2. His Majesty, **Da Jacob Gyang Buba**, Gbong Gwom Jos, (CFR).
3. **Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase**, Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, (CON).
4. **Prof. Seddi Sebastian Maimako**, former VC, University of Jos, (OON).
5. **Amb. Prof. Mary Lar**, Educationist/ former Diplomat, (OON).
6. **Amb. James Gotuwan Dimka**, Veteran Journalist/ former Diplomat, (OON).
7. **Prof. Decent Doknan Danjuma Sheni**, former VC, PLASU (OON).
8. **Imam Abdullahi Abubakar**, Islamic cleric, (MON).
9. **Dr. Attia Nasreddin**, Chairman, NASCO Group of Companies, (OFR).

We are proud to be associated with you on this conspicuous recognition that brings pride and excitement to our hearts.

Congratulations!

Signed:
Dr. (Prince) Francis Isah Fwangje.
Provost,
Plateau College of Health Technology, Pankshin.



Road Runner
 Michael Agada
 magada122@gmail.com
 +234 803 333 5313
SAFER TOGETHER

NEWS

I dedicate national award to Plateau citizens - Gov. Lalong

PLATEAU State Governor Simon Bako Lalong has dedicated the recent National Merit of Honour bestowed on him by President Muhammadu Buhari to the people of the state.

He said his reason for dedicating it to them was because; they have continued to sustain the legacy of peace, unity and hospitality that is a hallmark of the state.

Governor Lalong stated this while speaking at a reception organised in honour of the awardees in Abuja, shortly after receiving the awards.

"The awards bestowed on us is as a result of the opportunities that the state and nation has given us to serve in different capacities".

"The recognition symbolises the appreciation of the role that Plateau State has played in the development of Nigeria through its many sons and daughters who have distinguished themselves in different fields", he said.

While thanking President Buhari for the honour, Lalong said, apart from the Awardees from Plateau, there are many others who associate with Plateau during the awards because of the fact that they were either born or raised in Plateau State or had their professional breakthroughs in Jos at different times.

He assured that the awards will spur them to do more and continue to make sacrifices for the advancement of the lives of the people.

Deputy Speaker House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Idris Wase who was among the awardees appreciated the reception held in their honour and expressed their commitment to always work with the Governor in charting a new course for Plateau State in line with its diversity, accommodating spirit and hospitality.

Wase commended the



Lalong

people of Plateau State for supporting the Rescue Administration and its policies which are inclusive, visionary and proactive.

Another Plateau Awardee, the Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba in his remarks reminded all citizens of Plateau State that the nation relies on them to show the example of versatility, hardwork and accommodation particularly at challenging times.

Speaking on behalf of Plateau Elders Arch. Pam Dung Gyang congratulated all the recipients and urged them to continue to give their best in the service of Plateau State and Nigeria.

Other speakers including PIDAN President Prof. Aboi Madaki, CAN Chairman Plateau State Rev. Fr. Polycarp Lubo, Sum Pyem HRH Charles

Mato Dakat all thanked God for the awards and prayed God to continue to lift Plateau State to greater heights.

Apart from the Governor, other awardees from Plateau State include:

Hon. Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem, President, Court of Appeal (CFR), HRM Jacob Gyang Buba, Gbong Gwom Jos (CFR), Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase, Deputy Speaker House of Representatives (CON), Prof. Seddi Sebastian Maimako, Former VC, Unijos (OON), Ambassador Mary Lar, Educationist/former Diplomat (OON), Amb. James Gotuwan Dimka, Veteran Journalist/former Diplomat (OON), Prof. Dognan Danjuma Sheni, former VC, PLASU (OON), Imam Abdullahi Abubakar, Islamic Cleric (MON), and Dr. Attia Nasreddin, Chairman, NASCO Group of Companies (OFR)

Key to safe driving skills

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to change attitude is difficult because the evidence is statistical and most people trust their own experiences rather than statistics on pages. If you are a fast or aggressive driver, you may not make the connection between your attitude and the way you drive even if you had had a crash before. Research has shown that drivers have a strong tendency to blame road conditions or other drivers rather than themselves for the crashes they cause. This explains why there is a strong tendency for drivers to repeatedly make the same mistakes and become involved in the same kinds of crashes.

A fully professional approach to driving requires taking an objective look at the facts, being prepared and where there is evidence, discarding inappropriate attitudes and developing a critical awareness of your own attitudes and capabilities.

These are the key steps to achieving this critical self-awareness:

Acknowledge that attitudes affect driving performance

Be aware of your own attitudes and recognize that they affect your risk of having a crash

Recognize that you are vulnerable

Make safety your primary concern in all your driving decisions

Consider your own experience of near misses or crashes and what you have learnt from them

Carry through changes in

attitude to your driving performance by applying them in every driving situation

Concentration and alertness

These are also key mental aspects of driving skill. What are the factors that can hinder concentration and alertness?

Our ability to handle information about the environment is limited. We handle this by giving more attention and concentration to some parts of the environment than others (selective process theory). This is important in driving because we react most quickly to things happening in the part of the environment in which we are concentrating.

One way of seeing this is to imagine your field of view as a picture -you can see the whole picture but you can only concentrate on one part of it at a time. If you concentrate your vision on a small area you are less aware of the whole picture. If you scan different areas of the environment in turn, you become more aware of the picture as a whole.

Scanning the environment

Drivers who can rapidly scan the whole environment looking for different kinds of hazards have a lower risk of crash than those who concentrate on one area. There are several ways you can develop your ability to do this:

Move your eyes around

Look for hazard in any shape or size and from any direction

Develop your sensitivity to the variety of possible hazards in different driving situations-this depends on learning, experience and a commitment to developing this awareness.

Looking but not seeing.

Whatever we see depends to a large extent on what we expect to see. You may have experienced at one time or the other, a situation where you pull out and narrowly miss a bicycle coming from the direction in which you just looked. Errors of this nature are commonplace because drivers are generally looking out for cars and lorries rather than other road users smaller in size such as bicycles, motorcycles, pedestrians, animals, hence they fail to see them. When we concentrate, we do not just look at a particular part of a scene, we look rather for a particular type of objects that we expect to see and react quickly to them. Conversely, we often fail to see objects that we do not expect to see. In looking out for cars and lorries, drivers can become blind to smaller and less expected road users. This explains why road traffic authorities and professionals insist that smaller and more vulnerable road users go extra mile to make themselves visible to drivers by adorning themselves with bright and reflective attires. A group of pedestrians strolling at night should ensure they carry white lights in front and red light behind. These are measures to promote visibility and prevent road traffic crashes.



JUTH celebrates WMHD, cautions on mental awareness

OVER bearing society ills, stress and poverty are said to be the major causes of mental illnesses in our society today, says Dr. Maigari Yusuf Taru, a Consultant of Psychiatry Department with the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH).

He stated this recently while delivering a lecture on the occasion marking World Mental Health Day held at the new Psychiatric Complex Lamingo, Jos-North Local Government Area of Plateau State where Medical Students came to celebrate the day.

The Consultant said, "the knowledge about the cause of mental illness in our environment is quite scanty and not enough. People know nothing about it most especially, in the developing world like ours which we tend to attribute the causes cohesion to what we call supernatural causes.

"The over bearing societal ills, stress and poverty can also make an individual to break down and everybody can be at high risk of developing mental illness, because it is an illness that has to do with the brain. And we do have brain, so, everybody with brain is at the risk of developing mental illness.

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

"The causes of mental health are vast because it can come from the individual, the kind of person you are and how you are able to contain issues. We call it personality, that is, if somebody is prompt to worry about over trivial issues, a restless kind of person and a moody kind of person he or she can be at risks of developing mental issues or Mental disorder", he highlighted.

Taru disclosed that it was for these reasons that the World Health Organisation (WHO) in collaboration with other bodies

in mental health fields came together and set aside the 10th of every October to commemorate World Mental Health Day right from 1992 to create awareness looking at the global burden for mental illnesses generally.

He, therefore called on people to check their children's excesses and treat them decently because most mental health issues are caused by how careless we are and the treatment we give to people who are frustrated and poor in our society.



Ehanire

WE continue on the biographies of great women in Plateau politics.

Hannatu Chollom: A Political Amazon Gone Home, Fri. 13, Nov 2015, 19:59:54 GMT.

In her last moments on the hospital bed where she layed for 12 days, Ngo Yop Hannatu Chollom was still breathing social justice. She still spewed fire against corruption in leadership and spoke much about the balance between leaders and the led, her eldest daughter said.

"She likened the delicate balance to a seesaw, with the people on one end, and the leader at the other. The leader is on the top because the people have held down their own end of the teeterboard. When they decide to rise, the leader goes down," Mrs. Fauziya Yankat Bala, the daughter told Daily Trust during a visit to the residence of one of Northern Nigeria's leading political figures, philanthropist, and an elder states woman, who died on the eve of Independence Day – September 29, 2015.

"She talked much, kicking against bullying. She said the people are the ladder and must not be bullied by the leader by way of stealing their resources. She insisted the people must be pampered with good leadership because they have held down themselves to raise the leader," Mrs. Bala added. Hannatu, a tough talking anti-corruption crusader and advocate of social justice died at the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) at the age of 72, after a prolonged battle with kidney failure.

The daughter, who was one of the peoples with her in her last moments, said the leading Plateau women leader died peacefully, after days of speaking for the people. No 1, Hannatu Chollom Road, Rayfield, the Jos residence of the deceased was still filled to capacity on the fourth day of her death. Sympathisers trooped in from across the country, to condole with the family.

Daily Trust went through the condolence register, to stumble on big names. Governor Simon Bako Lalong was there with the opening of the register. His wife, Mrs. Regina visited later. The state deputy governor, Professor Sonni Tyoden and his wife were there, as former governors, and now senators, Jonah Jang, and Joshua Dariye, as well as Jerry Useni were early to condole with the family. No. 1 Hannatu Chollom Road became a melting point for politicians, including those on different paths.

A young lady – not too long from the classroom – the late Hannatu made a courageous foray into politics in 1977, only a year after Nigerian women got the franchise to vote in an election. Two years later, with the lifting of the ban on political campaigns in what would later emerge as Nigeria's Second Republic; Hannatu picked the nomination form for House of Representatives and went on to campaign as an aspirant on the platform of the defunct Nigerian People's Party (NPP).

That she did not make it to the general elections in 1979 did not hold her back; she went fully into the national convention of the NPP, to emerge as the party's national deputy chairman, same election year. Later, Hannatu went into the contest, to win the position of national women leader of the then main opposition party which produced the government in the old Plateau state. She was on that seat between 1979 and December 31, 1983 when the Second Republic was truncated by the military.

Her great political exploits led her into the defunct National Republican Convention (NRC) governorship primary election in 1991, with the return of politics during the regime of military president General Ibrahim Babangida.

She was candidate, senatorial primary elections, Plateau-North on the platform of the NRC in 1992, candidate, senatorial primary elections, Plateau-North, United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP) in 1998, aspirant, senatorial primary elections, Plateau-North, People's Democratic Party (PDP) in 1999, aspirant, senatorial primary elections, Plateau-North, Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD)/Action Congress (AC) in 2007, assistant organising secretary (North-Central Zone), PDP in 2001.

She left footprints especially in the areas of women mobilisation. Additionally, she was a member of the Arewa Elders Forum and was one of the few politicians who famously challenged ex-president Olusegun Obasanjo on his alleged third term bid.

Born on November 11, 1943 in the small village of Du in Jos South local government area of Plateau State, Hannatu was one of five children in a value-based family of Chollom Tikas, who worked as a miner with the Amalgamated Tin Mining of Nigeria (ATMN) in Jos.

Young Yop, as she was fondly called then, was a staunch believer in achievements in life, which she demonstrated early in her life when she went beyond secondary school education in a place where women of her time had limits.

She attended the Native Authority School Du, 1946 to 1953; post-primary education at Gindiri Girls Boarding School, 1954 to 1955; Queen

Elizabeth Secondary School, Ilorin, 1955 to 1959 and later Federal Training Centre Kaduna, 1965 to 1966.

Young Yop believed that the best one could achieve in life would necessarily come through sound education. Thus, in her pursuit of educational excellence, she sojourned abroad in France where she attended a Bi-lingual secondary school at the Ecole Remington, Paris, from 1973 to 1976. She also attended the World Conference, Nairobi-Kenya (1985) and the Beijing-China World Conference on Women (1995); to mention but a few of the very many national and international training courses, seminars and conferences which this indefatigable educationist, frontline politician and industrialist had meritoriously attended.

The untiring efforts and contributions of Ngu Hannatu Chollom to her state of origin in particular and national development were

Plateau women in politics (II)



amply recognised when she was awarded in 1999, the honorary Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Business Administration by the Pacific Christian University, Glendale-California, USA.

Young Yop began her working career with Nigerian Tobacco Company (NTC) as personal assistant to the company's general manager from 1967 to 1970. Thereafter, she was the acting area manager of West Africa Provincial Insurance (1971-1972) before she proceeded (naturally for greener pasture) to the Premier Tin Mining Company in Nigeria then known as ATMN, where she worked as personal assistant to the firm's chairman from 1976 to 1979.

In recognition of the sterling qualities and industriousness of Ngo Yop Hannatu Chollom, a titan of a woman in Nigeria; the Plateau State government appointed her to the esteemed positions of chairman, Plateau Hotels, Jos (1980-1981), chairman, Plateau State Water Board (1981-1983), and chairman, Plateau State Express Services Ltd, 2006-2007.

In a message of condolence, the House of Representatives member for Riyom/Barkin Ladi, Mr. Istifanus Gyang, recalled Hannatu's days: "We are comforted that Ngo left an enviable legacy of a dogged fighter for social justice, with immense capacity for political sagacity and bridge building, compassion for the less privileged and passionate service to humanity."

He added that: "I recall that she was appointed by ex-president Jonathan to serve as a member of the Presidential Committee on Jos crisis which was headed by the late elder statesman Chief S.D. Lar with my humble self, as the secretary."

The federal lawmaker added that: "I join Nigerians in paying special tribute to our beloved Ngo Hannatu as one that had the courage to express and stand by her convictions, an outspoken woman politician who exuded boldness and confidence in an era that women were to be seen and not heard. As she has transitioned into eternity, her bravery, activism and pragmatic leadership style qualify her for a place in

Her Excellency, Dame Pauline Kedem Tallen hails from Shendam Local Government Area of Plateau State, Nigeria. She is a devout Christian and happily married with children. She studied at the University of Jos where she bagged a Bachelor of Science in Sociology in 1982 and later headed to Harvard University USA for a Programme in Strategic Public Sector Negotiations. She also attended John F. N. Kennedy School of Government, among others.

Dame Pauline has enjoyed a fulfilled life and career with a barrage of sterling achievements in various parlances of her interest, including but not limited to education, politics, administration, peace and development. From 1994 to 1996, Dame Pauline served as



National Council of Women Societies Abuja, for Outstanding contribution to the Development of Women in Nigeria – 1996

Merit Award by the National Association of Plateau State Students Bauchi Federal Polytechnic for contributions towards the development of Education and Health Care in the State – 1996

National Merit Award Honours in Science and Technology by the Executive Council of the Nigerian Engineering Scientific Forum – 1st July 2002.

Merit Award in recognition on contributions to the development of womanhood in our great Nation, Nigeria and also in appreciation of her support for the sustenance of NCWS activities nationwide – 14th July 2001

Plateau State Youth Council Merit Award in recognition of contribution to the growth and development of Youths in Plateau State Nigeria – 8th December 2002.

Intra-Continental Media Network, ECOWAS DISTINGUISHED CORPORATE AWARD achievers Gold Award for unparalleled and imperishable contributions to the overall development of Nigeria and the Sub-region in both areas of economy and business. Having left an indelible legacy worthy of emulation by all and sundry.

Award as Ambassador of National Assignment by the National Unity, Peace and Patriotic Ambassadors Foundation (NUPPAF).

Award by the Nigerian Community in the U.S.A. for her Tremendous contribution towards the development of Science and Technology in Nigeria – May 2002

NBRI Award in appreciation and recognition of service rendered towards the growth and development of Science and Technology in general and Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute in particular- 24 March 2004.

Award of Excellence by the National Association of Zumunta USA Inc. Washington D.C – January 2000.

Award as Model of Peace – Presented by Maryann Music Word Ministries Jos – 2007.

Crime Fighter Award 2006/2007-The People Police Award of The Nigerian Police Force.

Award of Excellence as Pride of Mothers by Catholic Women of Nigeria, Abuja- 23rd August, 2014.

African Icon of Our Generation Award 2015 (Woman of the Year Award) Presented by International Center for Comparative Leadership for Africans and Blacks in Diaspora and Accolade Communications Limited.

Being the International Human Rights Day. Award of Ambassador of "My Body, My Right" (Cervical Cancer Campaign) (NCWS) Nigeria in Collaboration with (1 Ykw Global Foundation) Certificate of Merit National Award of Excellence on Service to Humanity. 22nd November 2016.

20th of January 2017 by Nigerian Role Models (A Compendium of distinguished Nigeria) Merit Award. The Most Valuable Quintessential Ambassador of the Year Award in our 9th African Leader Par Excellence Award 2016, which was held on the 15th of December 2016 at Excellence Hotel, Ogba Lagos.

By Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) Feb. 2017. Nelson Mandela's Africa Patriots Award, as African Patriotic Leader.

Some of her hobbies are mobilizing people for self-help projects, especially women, Politics, gardening, meeting people, discussing on rural development, singing, football and volleyball.

The forgoing are excerpts. We salute our mothers, and we hope to learn and work in their footsteps and those of other women of greatness on the Plateau by studying them in their biographies and through their mentorship. Other women we can learn from are H.E Margeret Thatcher, H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Senator Ita Giwa, Her Royal Highness Queen Amina of Zazzau and Senator Nancy Pelosi. The list is endless..

Merit Award by the National body of the

Change of Name

DATONG	IBRAHIM	ALI	ABUBAKAR	FELIX	ANNA
I, formerly known as THOMAS JANET , now wish to be known and addressed as DATONG, JANET THOMAS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM HARAJA , now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM HAJARA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as SUNDAY LITINI TINI now wish to be known and addressed as ALI LITINI TINA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR JAAFARU , now wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR JAFAR IDRIS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as NANWOR WUYEP , now wish to be known and addressed as FELIX NANWOR MANKO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as YAGA ANNA MAINA , now wish to be known and addressed as ANNA DAVID EMMANUEL ATOYEBI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
TIALOBI	CHARITY	JOAN	PATIENCE	TAIWO	ISRAEL
I, formerly known as AKPOR IDRIS TIALOBI , now wish to be known and addressed as TIALOBI AKPOR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as CHARITY NALE ANTHONY , now wish to be known and addressed as CHARITY MONDAY NALE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as JOAN KATO JOCK , now wish to be known and addressed as JOAN ABWO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PATIENCE BALA , now wish to be known and addressed as PATIENCE BALA MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as EKUNDAYO GRACE TEMITAYO , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. TAIWO GRACE TEMITAYO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ADI VIVIAN KWALLAT , now wish to be known and addressed as ISRAEL VIVIAN KWALLAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
GYANG	GERLONG	HASSAN	HAIJJO	ALI	AUGUSTINE
I, formerly known as JOHN GLORIA KIM , now wish to be known and addressed as GYANG GLORIA KIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as GULONG BLESSING DANJUMA , now wish to be known and addressed as GERLONG BLESSING DANJUMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as HASSAN ZAINAB SAGIRU , now wish to be known and addressed as HASSAN ZAINAB MUHAMMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DAVID IGRI HAIJJO , now wish to be known and addressed as HAIJJO IGRI DAVID . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MUSTAPHA ALI AKAR , now wish to be known and addressed as ALI AKAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as AUGUSTINE CHINENYE , now wish to be known and addressed as AUGUSTINE CHINENYE GRACE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
NIMMYEL	OBED	ISA	MAIMUNA	OLORUNFEMI	RHODA
I, formerly known as EMMANUEL AGNES DINCHI , now wish to be known and addressed as NIMMYEL DINCHI EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, OBED MOSES MAMUDA wish to state that my correct date of birth is 15/5/2004. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ISA SHEHU , now wish to be known and addressed as ISA SHEHU HARUNA . My correct date of birth is 22/10/1977 not 22/8/1974. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MAIMUNA ABDULLAHI , now wish to be known and addressed as MAIMUNA GANGAI IBRAHIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as BOLA YAKUBU DELE , now wish to be known and addressed as OLORUNFEMI ESTHER DUPE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as RHODA EM KAMO , now wish to be known and addressed as RHODA MAHANAN KAMO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
BASHIRU	GRACE	AJADI	DASOM	DUNG	NWANKWO
I, formerly known as SHITTU AMINA BASHIRU , now wish to be known and addressed as BASHIRU AMINA ZARAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as SAMUEL GRACE CHUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as GRACE SIMON SAMUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as OGUNIRAN FUNMILAYO , now wish to be known and addressed as AJADI GRACE ABOSEDE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as LINDA DASON AYUBA , now wish to be known and addressed as DASOM LINDA AYUBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PWOL CHRISTIANA DUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNG CHRISTIANA KANGYANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as NWANKWO KINGSLEY , now wish to be known and addressed as NWANKWO EZEWA KINGSLEY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
DAVID	RAWAYA	AHMAD	MRS. LYNDA	RHODA	OLADEJO
I, formerly known as SAMSON GWAKBOL DAVID , now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID SAMSON LAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ANITA RAWAYA , now wish to be known and addressed as RAWAYA ANITA AKUBEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as AHMAD LABARAN AHMAD & AHMAD AHMAD LABARAN , now wish to be known and addressed as AHMAD AYYOUB LABARAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as LYNDA HENNANG BARAU , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. LYNDA HENNANG ALHAMDU KASHALLA . All former documents remain valid. National Directorate of Employment. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as RHODA RUTH MAIRIGA , now wish to be known and addressed as RHODA RUTH KUDARU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as AYENI CHRISTY BIMBOLA , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OLADEJO BIMBOLA CHRISTIANA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
ADAMU	UZOMA	GAYA	MUTLEK	DAZOK	DUNG
I, formerly known as ADAMU BAKO LABARAN , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU BAKO ABK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as FERDINAND ROSE ECHEFU , now wish to be known and addressed as UZOMA ROSE CHINYERE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as FELIX NANMAN ALEXANDER , now wish to be known and addressed as GAYA NANMAN ALEXANDER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as JAMES KINGSLEY , now wish to be known and addressed as MUTLEK KINGSLEY JAMES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DAZOK NOEL DAYYONG , now wish to be known and addressed as DAZOK NOEL DATONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as BADUNG NUHU DUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNG LUCKY NUHU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
DAGARI	MUHAMMAD	WABA	DANLADI	MOHAMMAD	UMAR
I, formerly known as JOEL JEHNUM BAMANJA , now wish to be known and addressed as DAGARI JOEL BAMANJA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MOHAMMAD JAAFARU , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD JAAFARU BAKO . Correct date of birth is 26/06/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as WABA SHAIBU , now wish to be known and addressed as WAFIADA SHAIBU WABA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DANLADI NANMI , now wish to be known and addressed as DANLADI NANMI MWANBONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MAHAMAD IBN NUHU , now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMAD MAHAMOOD NUHU . Correct date of birth is 14/03/1988 not 14/02/1982. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as UMAR HAFSA MUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as UMAR HAFSATU MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
LUCY	CHARITY	ALIYU	MRS. TANBYEN	PUBLIC NOTICE	
I, formerly known as SATI LYOP LUCY , now wish to be known and addressed as LUCY LYOP PWAJOK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as CHARITY MUTIHIR CHETDEN , now wish to be known and addressed as CHARITY DANLADI MUTIHIR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ALIYU BILAL , now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU BILAL HARUNA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS TANBYEN SELFA DONPAR , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. TANBYEN LUGARD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	<p>NEXT OF KIN DECLARATION/DEATH NOTICE</p> <p>This is to inform the general public that I, BENEDICT IDI SABO OF GYEL, JOS SOUTH LGA is the son as well as the NEXT OF KIN to late IDI SABO ALI who died on the 09/08/2014 and has since been buried. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SIGNED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BENEDICT IDI SABO</p>	
DAGIN	KUSA	ONYINYECHI	MULYA		
I, formerly known as LUCY MANJI WAPNAN now wish to be known and addressed as DAGIN LUCY KEFAS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ANAJA ASABE , now wish to be known and addressed as KUSA ASABE ANAJA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as GODGIFT RICHARD , now wish to be known and addressed as ONYINYECHI RICHARD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MULYA CHANGTIM , now wish to be known and addressed as MULYA LONGJHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.		

NEWS

Gombe to enjoy 4G transmission capacity

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

MORE investment opportunities have started flowing into Gombe State as Galaxy Backbone is set to launch a 4G capacity transmission in the State in less than two weeks, precisely THE 25 of October 2023.

This may be seen as fallout of the just concluded maiden edition of Gombe State Investments Summit held from 12th to 14th October, 2022 at the International Conference Centre, Gombe, Gombe State.

Group Head, Regional Offices for Galaxy Backbone, Abdulmalik Suleiman, told journalists shortly before the close of the three day event that all arrangement have been concluded to commence operations in their northeast regional office in Gombe.

According to him, "when services commence from 25th Oct, 2022, Gombe will have additional 4G transmission capacity. We are also preparing metro fibre to other areas of need".

Galaxy Backbone, a Federal Government fully owned ICT company, was among many others that participated in the maiden edition of Gombe State Investment Summit where it showcased its products and services.



Adebayo

Mr. Abdulmalik also said, with Gombe State rated as number one in the ease of doing business, "we are working with the State Government to compliment its efforts already achieved by having ICT facilities in such a way that technology can continue to be used to curb criminality.

"Gombe safe city is one and God's willing, before the end of the year, we should be able to complete it", he revealed.

He described the summit as a step in the right direction, stressing that "because of the nature of Gombe and the hospitality of the people, there is no reason why Gombe should not be an investment hub".

"What this has done, even by attendance, it has opened our eyes to a lot of possibilities that we never knew before and I see it getting better", he emphasize

He however pointed out that there was need for improvement in all spheres "There should be more use of technology to aid investments. Security is good but it could be better. That is why the collaboration with stakeholders, especially in the State administration, is ensuring that the safe city project is a success".

Galaxy Backbone provides services to private and public sectors in the area of connectivity, enabling the public to have internet, data service centre among others.

Form SHEHU DANJUMA, Katsina

Katsina State Judiciary has procured 27 vehicles for police and judges to ensure quick investigations and effective justice delivery in the state.

The Chief Judge of the state, Justice Musa Danladi-Abubakar disclosed this to newsmen on the sidelines of the 2022 legal year celebration on Thursday.

Abubakar explained that two Hilux vehicles were provided to the Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID), to enable it have access to easy investigations in all nooks and crannies of the state.

According to him, victims of rape, robbery, theft and other criminalities turn out to be the ones to provide vehicles, fuelling and and papers for police to write statements during investigations.

"Hence, we feel this is not proper. We therefore synergised and provided the vehicles for the CID to complement their efforts to always swing to action whenever a case is reported to them"

Abubakar said that quick investigation into cases would pave way for quick dispensation of Justice.

"It is in view of the above, that the Judiciary donated the two vehicles to the Crimibal Investigation Department to effectively carry out its statutory duty," the CJ added.

He said that that 25 vehicles were also provided to 25 judges as official cars for their movements.

Katsina procures vehicles for police, judges

Abubakar noted that the cars would ease the movements of the judges as well as shield them from the risk of being attacked by criminals standing trial in court.

"It doesn't augur well for judges to be boarding public transport because they don't know those they are boarding the cabs with".

"I believe the provision of

official vehicles would go a long way to uphold the integrity and credibility of the judges".

"This is because judges stand the risk of being attacked by insurgents, bandits, armed robbers and other criminal elements in the situation we are in now in the state", the CJ added".



Arioola

Adamawa SEC approves N140bn as 2023 budget

From GYANG PAM, Yola

ADAMAWA State Executive Council on Wednesday approved a total sum of N140 billion for the 2023 fiscal year during the council's tenth meeting.

Presided over by Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, it says this was in line with the medium term expenditure framework, economic and fiscal update.

According to the Honourable Commissioner of Information and Strategy, Dr. Umar Garba Pella, the budget proposal has N91 billion and N49 billion for the recurrent and capital expenditures representing 65% and 35% respectively.

Describing the budget as realistic, he says government was serious and committed to making sacrifices despite stringent resources by assuring that expenditures are matched with revenues.

The SEC equally approved varmint of over N20 billion representing 3.1% of the initial budget of N163.6 billion for the year 2022.

He adds that after evaluating the entire performance of the 2022 budget, it found that funds

were exhausted in certain areas with others having surplus.

In a new development, government has approved the construction of 3.6km bole road extension in Yola South at a cost of N1.9 billion.

According to the Commissioner of Information, a variation of N1.3 billion has been approved for Manpaya road in Uba town in Hong LGA to Triacta Nigeria Ltd and City International Dimension Nigeria Ltd with a time frame of twelve months.

Government according to Umar Pella has equally terminated the contract for the construction of the 39.5 kilometer Maiha – Fulbere – Zhedinya – Mararraba Pella road awarded in 2007.

This follows the failure of the contracting firm A.G. Vision Construction Ltd to execute the project within these conditions in the contract agreement.

Clarifying further, the commissioner said the contract was first reviewed in 2007, 2011 and in 2017 with the contractor having collected N5.5 billion before the third variation.

...assures investors of safety

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

INVESTORS that attended the opening ceremony of the maiden edition of the Gombe State Investment Summit have been assured of their safety by Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya.

He stated while declaring the summit open that his administration has accorded great priority to security of lives and property.

He said the efforts of the Government has been recognised by the recent rating of Gombe as the safest state in the North-east by the Nigeria

Security Tracker as well as the major security agencies.

With the theme, "Industrialization: the Pathway to Innovation, Transformation and Development of Gombe" Governor Inuwa said, in addition to its numerous empowerment programmes for SMEs, "we are partnering with local and international stakeholders to provide cheap and affordable financing for our entrepreneurs".

According to him, "Gombe has remained remarkably peaceful in spite the Boko

Haram insurgency and other security challenges bedeviling our subregion.

"Let me further assure you that your investment and personnel are safe in Gombe", he stressed

Speaking further on how his administration is working on creating a conducive environment for investors Governor Inuwa said, "we are investing strongly in energy infrastructure in order to put Gombe on strong industrial foundation.

"In addition to the 40MW Dadin Kowa hydroelectric power plant, we are also working on a 250MW solar power plant in partnership with the Niger Delta Power Holding Company, and another 100MW power plant under the Northern States Governors Forum renewable energy initiative", he assured.

With many open doors for investment in the Muhammad Buhari Industrial Park, Dadin Kowa, Cham and Balanga dams, Mega Motor Park, technology driven innovative solutions among many others, Governor Inuwa concluded that, "It is expected to help consolidate Gombe's position as the industrial hub of the North-east subregion".

In her remarks, the Special Adviser to the President on the Ease of Doing Business, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, praised the innovations and determination of the Inuwa Yahaya

administration which resulted in the State earning the number one spot in the ease of doing business.

She said, Gombe earned the spot not because of geographical location or any other consideration, but by what is being done, strong leadership and cohesion in managerial circle which brought positive results.

Earlier in his welcoming address, chairman of the steering committee of the Gombe State Investment Summit and Deputy Governor, Manasseh Daniel Jatau, said the success of the summit was highly associated with the desire of the state to develop (improved standard of living) quite beyond mere economic growth, which is what the nation seems to have witnessed since independence.

He said, the State Government had considered it apt and necessary to organize the Gombe Investment Summit to showcase and highlight all the potentials and opportunities that abound to investors and convince them to come and invest.

He appealed to the Federal Government, Investors and all Stakeholders to, " dip your buckets where you are" to ensure the success of this Summit, that is very crucial for the progressive change in the lives of residents in Gombe, the North East Geopolitical Zone and by implication our dear country Nigeria".



Yahaya



Fintiri

SUNDAY SPORTS

Nigeria faces ban for pulling out of Beach Soccer

NEW board of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), led by Ibrahim Gusau may have started on a bad note as the country's National Beach Soccer team will not be taking part in the African Championship due to lack of funds.

Newsnow said that, the African Beach Soccer Championship will begin on October 21 in Mozambique, but the Sand Eagles of Nigeria will not participate. And for failing to turn up for the 2022 African Beach Football Championship, Nigeria will be fined by the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF). Nigeria also faces ban from the 2024 edition of the Championship.

The town of Vilankulos in Mozambique will host the Beach Soccer Africa Cup of Nations, tagged Mozambique 2022, which will kick off on October 21, 2022.

CAF has released a revised



Nigerian Beach Soccer team

fixture for the competition following the withdrawal of Nigeria, which will now see seven teams compete for the ultimate prize at the fifth edition tournament.

Hosts Mozambique, Malawi and Morocco are the three (3) teams in Group A, while four teams make up Group B. They

are Senegal, Uganda, Madagascar and Egypt.

The 2022 Beach Soccer Africa Cup of Nations will kick off at Vilankulos Arena, with hosts, Mozambique, 2021 AFCON runners-up, facing debutant, Malawi.

The final will take place on October 28.

LATE Super Eagles forward Rashidi Yekini has been given a posthumous national award ten years after his demise.

Newsnow said that, Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari, on Tuesday evening, conferred the national title of the Member of the Order of the Niger (MON) on Yekini.

Governor of Kwara State Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq revealed the development on his Twitter page.

Gov. Abdulrazaq also appreciated President Buhari for honouring the late football star.

Yekini is the Nigerian national team's all-time leading scorer with 37 goals in 62 goals.

The former Shooting Stars striker was named the African Footballer of the Year in 1993 and helped Nigeria win the Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Tunisia the following year.

Yekini netted Nigeria's first-

Yekini gets national posthumous award



The most prolific striker in Nigeria's football history died on May 4, 2012, aged only 48

ever goal at the FIFA World Cup in 1994 and also represented the African giants at the 1998 World Cup in France.

During his playing days, Yekini played for clubs in Portugal, Greece, Spain, and Switzerland.

Meanwhile, Nigerian

parents have been called upon to allow their children to participate in sporting activities alongside their academic programmes.

Newsnow said that, co-founder of Giants of Africa Foundation, Godwin Owinje, made the plea during the unveiling ceremony of a modern basketball court donated by the organisation to the Abesan Estate Community in Lagos. Owinje, who is a former D'Tigers power forward, expressed disappointment over the nonchalant attitude of some parents and guardians when it comes to children and sports.

He said the idea that pupils that combined academics with sports donor excel has been proved wrong over time.

Owinje revealed that there were always abundant opportunities for children doing sports while also achieving so much with their education.

He said: "Apart from the physical therapy one gets from sports, it also helps reduce crime rates in the society as well as providing scholarship and employment."

The new basketball court located inside the Abesan Mini Stadium is the court number 28 built across Africa within one year.

He gave kudos to his fellow co-founder, Masai Ujiri and other partners for the funding of the project which is aimed at improving basketball, education and life goals of the young ones in each of the countries.

All the participants were presented with brand new basketball kits which include brand new balls for each of the 50 players selected from within the zone, brand new Nike shoes and bags.

Yemi Babalola, the CEO of Webber Engineering whose company constructed facility assured that the court could last for 25 years when put to proper use. He further revealed that majority of materials used were locally sourced.

The Abesan court was the last of the series for this period. The unveiling event started October 10 in Gaskiya College, Ijora Badiya and moved the following to Egan Senior Secondary School in Igando and Ejigbo Mini Stadium on the same day.

Maradona's 'hand of God' ball set for auction

THE ball used by Diego Maradona to score two of the most famous goals in football history is to go on auction.

The match ball used in the famous 1986 World Cup quarter final between England and Argentina carries an estimated price of £2.5million to £3million.

It is being sold by Ali Bin Nasser, the Tunisian referee who allowed Maradona's 'Hand of God' goal during the game.

Bin Nasser said: "This ball is part of football history - it is the right time to be sharing it with the world."

The ball was used for the full 90 minutes of the match,

which remains one of the most defining and controversial contests in World Cup history.

Maradona scored the opener by punching the ball past England goalkeeper Peter Shilton.

Bin Nasser did not spot the handball and allowed the goal to stand, with the player later

describing it as being "a little with the head of Maradona and a little with the hand of God".

Maradona's second strike of the match has become known as the 'goal of the century', where he dribbled past five England outfield players and slotted past Shilton. Argentina

went on to win the match 2-1 and eventually won the World Cup in Mexico.

The ball is being sold at auction on 16 November as part of a World Cup special event. It will be streamed live and prospective buyers can register their bids online from 28 October.



Maradona

FIFA to pay £190m for players involved in 2022 World Cup

FIFA has announced it will pay almost £190m to clubs around the world with players at the World Cup, as part of its Club Benefits Programme.

Goal said that, FIFA has announced it will distribute a total of nearly £190 million to clubs around the world whose players will be competing in the 2022 Qatar World Cup, using its Club Benefits Programme.

A statement read: "As part of its commitment to recognise the contribution that football clubs make to the successful staging of the FIFA World Cup,



FIFA World Cup

today FIFA started the application process for its Club Benefits Programme that will see USD 209 million

distributed to clubs across the world."

They state that clubs will be able to receive around USD 10,000 for each one of the days the relevant player remains with his national team during the FIFA World Cup 2022 and the official preparation period, which equates to just under £9,000 at the time of writing. All clubs a player has played for in the two years prior to the tournament will be compensated.

Osimhen is not fit, says Spalletti

NAPOLI Manager Luciano Spalletti has stated Nigeria's forward Victor Osimhen missed an easy goal against Ajax on Wednesday.

Goal said that, after being sidelined for six weeks with an injury, Osimhen returned for the Naples-based club and scored - his first Champions League goal of the season - as the Serie A club emerged as 4-2 winners against the Dutch side.

The Super Eagle was introduced in the 50th minute when he replaced Giacomo Raspadori and scored in the first minute of added time.

In his assessment of how Napoli performed in the group match, Luciano said the Nigerian missed an easy goal.

"We didn't know where Osimhen was (in terms of readiness), as he did a few training (sessions) with us, so it was unknown. He didn't work for the team on defence because he was not in condition," the Italian tactician

said. "I had to lift the team physically and then start again from the middle of the pitch. It took the legs of someone with this characteristic."

"He has to play more with the team. He missed an easy goal, but this is one. He is not very good at dribbling with his teammates, but for us, he is an important player, and 50 minutes is a lot."

"The boys have done an immense thing and have brought the pride of an entire people, like the Neapolitan one, into the field."

"Ajax showed what level of football they are playing. It's not that we lowered the level or were spectators given the results."

Napoli - who are in impressive form both in Serie A and in the European competition so far and are unbeaten in their last nine games - qualified for the Champions League knockout stage after the win over Ajax.

With Osimhen back in the

fold, the attacking department is reinforced as the Champions League is set to enter the crucial stage.

The Nigerian is hopeful his first goal will open the

floodgates as the campaign gathers speed.

The focus now shifts to the domestic league, with a match against Bologna lined up on October 16.



Osimhen

SUNDAY SPORTS

Liverpool: Scoring less, conceding more

As the October rains fall, the sunny days of July feel very far away. For Liverpool supporters, they have seemed particularly distant.

On 30 July, Liverpool beat Manchester City 3-1 in the Community Shield. Darwin Nunez scored on his debut. Mohamed Salah tucked away a penalty. Erling Haaland missed a hatful of chances.

It was a game to fill all Reds fans with optimism. Yet, with Liverpool and City to meet on Sunday for the first time since that game, the optimism has taken a hammering.

Some positivity has returned following the 7-1 thrashing of Rangers at Ibrox which has put Liverpool in clear sight of the Champions League round of 16. Beating City on Sunday would almost fully restore it.

Yet while Manchester City - and Haaland in particular - have picked up momentum as the season has progressed, Liverpool have largely gone backwards.

Liverpool were two wins from a historic quadruple in 2021-22. They were an Ilkay Gundogan double and a sliding Vinicius Junior from being the first English men's team to lift all four major trophies available.

To come so close to immortality and fall just short would create a hangover for any team. But the dip Liverpool have suffered in the Premier League has been quite striking.

According to Opta, Liverpool's shots per game in the league is down from 19.2 last season to 17.5 this term, while their xG (expected goals) per game has also dropped, from 2.6 to 1.8.

Yet it is not that their attack has been completely neutered - their average number of touches in the opposition box has gone up from 38.9 to 42.1 and the number of open-play crosses per game is also up from 15.6 to 16.4.

This comes from an attack that was once so settled, but now showing signs of breaking apart piece by piece.

Sadio Mane departed for Bayern Munich. Salah, six-minute hat-trick in Glasgow aside, has not found the form of recent campaigns. Nunez is only now starting to settle since his debut goal, a red card against Crystal Palace not helping matters.

That flux in midfield and attack is the main cause of concern for Chris Sutton, who feels the loss of key players, the arrival of new faces and a drop in form for the stars who remain has all combined to create a perfect storm of problems for Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

Speaking on the Monday Night Club on BBC Radio 5 Live, Sutton said: "A lot of things are the problem at this moment in time. A lot of players have been simply out of form. Look at team selections as well, they have chopped and changed."

"The chopping and changing is a massive issue. Harvey Elliott is a nice footballer but in the team at the wrong time. That is an issue, they haven't found continuity."

"They are looking for leadership and it just hasn't been there which is pretty remarkable. What is an acceptable finish for Liverpool? Because they aren't going to win the league."

An unsettled front line has crushed Liverpool's ability to create big chances this season - the team has 1.5 per match on average, according to Nielsen Gracenote.

Gracenote finds that in 2021-2022, Liverpool created an average of 3.75 big chances per match and in their title-winning season, 3.5 per match.



Defeat at Arsenal left Liverpool 14 points off the top of the Premier League

Things are not well at the other end of the field either. Trent Alexander-Arnold's form - or lack of it - has been a big subject of debate, while Virgil van Dijk hasn't been the same imposing figure at times this campaign. The average number of goals conceded per game has more than doubled, from 0.7 to 1.5.

Liverpool conceded 26 goals in the league in all of 2021-22 and have let in 12 already in 2022-23. They faced 111 shots on target in the Premier League all last season, and are up to 31 already this - 2.9 per game, up to 3.9 every match.

They have conceded the first goal in six of their eight Premier League matches this season. According to Gracenote, only Southampton, with seven, have conceded the opener more frequently - having played a game more than Liverpool.

This was an issue creeping in last season. Liverpool conceded goals in six of their last 14 Premier League games - including each of the last four - each time the opposition scored first. However, the Reds came back to claim 14 points in those six games.

This campaign, in the six games they have trailed, they have gone on to collect six points.

Are Liverpool at the end of a cycle?

The stats certainly tell a bleak tale for Liverpool but they cannot explain the whole story. Rather, they are the outcome of less quantifiable issues for Klopp's team.

There is a feeling that this Liverpool team has reached the end of a cycle. At over 28 years old, Liverpool's starters this season have been their oldest on average since Klopp became manager, with the third oldest average in the Premier League.

The core of the team has remained relatively unchanged over the past few seasons with the likes of Allison, Van Dijk, Jordan Henderson, Fabinho and Salah still being relied on week after week.

Gracenote finds that Manchester City's only Premier League finish outside the top two under Pep Guardiola was also when the team's starters became this old on average, and that every Premier League champion from the past six seasons has had a weighted average age between 26.61 and 27.67 for their starting players.

In 2017-18, Liverpool had the youngest average age of a squad in the top flight. When they won the league in 2019-20, they were still only the ninth oldest.

Of course, age is just a number and as a stat must be taken with a pinch of salt, as should the idea of Klopp suffering "seventh season syndrome" - he departed Mainz and Borussia Dortmund in his seventh

campaign, and is currently on year seven at Anfield.

However, an extended time at any football club brings tactical familiarity for your opponents and there is a fear that the rest of the Premier League have Liverpool all figured out.

As Aston Villa manager, Dean Smith beat Klopp's Liverpool 7-2 on 4 October 2020, having managed to work out where the Reds' defensive issues lay.

Smith told the Monday Night Club: "Our build-up to that game was to play in behind Liverpool; they do play a really high line. They counter press unbelievably, we felt the space was behind them and we needed to switch play and get runners behind them."

Haaland vs Nunez

The contrast between Liverpool and Manchester City this season has been exemplified by the polar opposite campaigns of their flagship striker signings in the summer.

In the 97th minute of the Community Shield, shortly after Nunez had bagged Liverpool's third to make the trophy safe, Haaland struck the crossbar with the goal gaping after Adrian spilled a shot.

The City fans clutched their heads, the Liverpool supporters jeered, pundits pondered whether Pep had bought a pup.

Haaland has scored 20 goals in all competitions since then. Nunez four.

If there was a time for the Uruguayan to bring back a bit of that July sunshine and optimism for Liverpool, this Sunday would surely be it.



After scoring in the Community Shield, Darwin has netted only twice



October 16, 2022

Spurs beat Everton to close gap on Arsenal

HARRY Kane marked his 400th Tottenham appearance with the opening goal as Antonio Conte's side closed the gap on Premier League leaders Arsenal with victory over Everton.

Kane broke the Toffees' resistance from the penalty spot after being tripped in the area by England team-mate Jordan Pickford, who had failed to hold on to Matt Doherty's long-range effort.

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg added a second late on with a curling strike that took a slight deflection off Alex Iwobi on its way in.

Spurs dominated the early stages but the two best chances of the first half fell to the visitors, who will be disappointed not to have put away both opportunities.

Demarai Gray failed to hit the target after racing on to Conor Coady's long ball over the top of the Tottenham defence, before Amadou Onana blazed over the crossbar following Hojbjerg's poor touch.

Kane sent a rasping volley straight at Pickford early in the second half but there was nothing the Toffees keeper could do about the 29-year-old's spot-kick - his 14th goal in 15 Premier League appearances against Everton - or Hojbjerg's late finish.

The victory lifts Conte's team level on points with second-placed Manchester City and just a point behind north London rivals Arsenal, while Everton drop to 14th.

The victory lifts Spurs on to 23 points from 10 league matches - their highest tally



Harry Kane captain has found the net in five successive Premier League games for the first time in his career

at this stage of a Premier League season - while Kane has now scored in five successive top-flight games for the first time in his career.

It was a win the home side thoroughly deserved after a

dominant display, although they rode their luck in the first half and could have found themselves behind at half-time.

But Frank Lampard's team were no match for Spurs in the second half and it wasn't

long before Spurs' pressure told, Pickford bringing down England team-mate Kane inside the six-yard box with an outstretched arm.

Kane's penalty lifts him to within eight goals Jimmy Greaves' all-time

Tottenham record of 266.

Hojbjerg secured the win with five minutes remaining, collecting Rodrigo Bentancur's delivery before finding the far corner via a deflection off Iwobi.

The only sour note from

the hosts' perspective was a second-half injury to former Everton forward Richarlison, who went down clutching his left calf and was replaced by Yves Bissouma.

Haaland once caused Liverpool problems

ERLING Haaland once caused Liverpool so many problems that Virgil van Dijk walked out of an interview when asked about the young striker.

Haaland is expected to return to the Manchester City starting XI when Pep

Guardiola's side take on Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday. The striker sat out City's midweek draw in Copenhagen due to tiredness, but he should be all set to exact some revenge on Jurgen Klopp's side.

The 22-year-old has enjoyed a remarkable start to his City career, scoring 15 goals in just nine Premier League appearances. His first official outing for the Blues did not go so well though, as he struggled to make an impact during City's loss to Liverpool in the Community Shield back in August.

That wasn't the first time Haaland has faced Liverpool though. Back in October 2019 a 19-year-old Haaland came off the bench for RB Salzburg in a Champions League tie with Liverpool, scoring his side's equaliser to complete their comeback having trailed 0-3. Liverpool went on the win 4-3, but Van Dijk and the rest of the Liverpool defence were left shell-shocked by the youngster's cameo.

Van Dijk was left so annoyed and frustrated by events that according to Norwegian journalist and former Norway star Jan Aage Fjortoft he walked out of a post-match interview when asked about Haaland.

"The first time I saw him [Haaland] live was at Anfield when he came on and I was amazed that this young kid

created so much space," Fjortoft told the Blood Red podcast. "He scored one goal but he could have had three or four - he was unbelievable. I was amazed how he created space and how I define that is how his runs are wise and experienced."

"After the game, I interviewed Van Dijk, who I always like to interview

Greenwood charged with attempted rape and assault

THE 21-year-old, who has also played for England, was arrested in January

Manchester United footballer Mason Greenwood has been charged with attempted rape, engaging in controlling behaviour and assault.

The forward was arrested in January following allegations that emerged in images and videos posted online.

He was arrested again on Saturday for allegedly breaching his bail.

Prosecutors said the charges all related to the same female complainant. Mr Greenwood is due at Manchester and Salford Magistrates' Court on Monday.

The 21-year-old, who has made one appearance for the senior England men's team, has not played or trained with Manchester United since his arrest.

Nike also ended its sponsorship deal with him

because he is a gentleman, and I said 'I have to ask you about the Norwegian, Erling Haaland' and he just said: 'Well, we won the game'. So I said 'Yes, but what do you think about him?'

Van Dijk said: 'I didn't see a lot of him' and he was a bit angry because there was some mistakes done and I said 'It's a good sign for a striker when a defender says

he didn't see him!' - and then he just went away."

Haaland and City will be hoping that he can have a similar impact on his second visit to Anfield. City currently sit second in the Premier League standings, one point behind leaders Arsenal. They are already 13 points clear of Liverpool, although Klopp's side do have one game in hand.

She added: "The Crown Prosecution Service reminds all concerned that criminal proceedings against the defendant are active and that he has a right to a fair trial."

"It is extremely important that there should be no reporting, commentary or sharing of information online which could in any way prejudice those proceedings."

Janet Potter, from Crown Prosecution Service North West, said they had authorised Greater Manchester Police to charge Mr Greenwood with attempted rape, engaging in controlling and coercive behaviour, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

The alleged rape is said to have occurred on 22 October 2021, while the alleged assault is said to have taken place last December.

The charge of controlling and coercive behaviour relates to a period of time since November 2018. Ms Potter said the charges were made after specialist rape prosecutors reviewed of a file of evidence from police.



Greenwood

WORLD SEARCH Answer the clue and search for the word

B	U	H	J	I	N	I	K	E	Y	F	B	C
K	I	T	G	O	K	H	G	P	H	Q	I	I
B	A	R	S	H	I	M	W	D	E	H	R	D
L	L	F	F	R	Y	B	X	R	A	M	D	S
G	I	E	N	D	E	C	B	O	L	T	I	A
J	U	S	D	S	C	R	V	G	O	U	E	E
O	A	S	P	U	R	S	Z	B	C	Y	W	R
S	P	L	Z	O	X	W	E	A	H	T	L	E
H	Y	B	T	W	G	N	K	Z	B	F	J	R
U	V	I	E	R	R	A	M	N	Y	Q	V	F
A	O	M	E	A	J	K	D	X	X	S	V	N
U	L	P	T	Q	J	M	T	I	N	B	R	O
Z	S	X	U	R	P	E	O	I	V	W	A	B

- Mutaz Essu.....(7) Qatar high jumper
- Deji.....(4) former Nigerian sprinter
- Patrice.....(6) Crystal Palace Manager
- David.....(5) West Ham Manager
- Usein.....(4) Fomer Jamaican sprinter
- Didier.....(6) Former Chelsea striker
- George.....(4) The only world best footballer from Africa
- Anthony....(6) Nigerian/British boxer
- Golf Peg (3)
- Rashidi.....(6) Nigeria's first world cup scorer
-Jo (8) Former Super Eagle handler
- Two under Par in golf (6)
- San Antonion basketball team (5)

By IBRAHIM T. LOT