

Imbibe virtues of equity, justice, tolerance  
Page 6 - Speaker



**News:** Covid-19: Why Nigeria defied global predictions -Buhari Page 2

**Sports:** Nigeria's sports @62: Three steps forward, four backward Page 39

**Politics:** 62nd Independence: Lalong tasks politicians, citizens Page 2

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## FRONT PAGE COMMENT

Yesterday, Nigeria marked its 62<sup>nd</sup> independence anniversary. Considering the many problems that the country has been passing through, it would be appropriate to state that the journey to nationhood has been tortuous right from the start. Indeed, the pre-independence agitations were a signpost of what to expect when Nigeria finally became a sovereign nation.

Because the march to statehood began on a shaky and faulty foundation, the political gladiators, often referred to as founding fathers, were ill-prepared for the task of nation building. As a result, they were not able to galvanise the resources available for the growth and development of the country.

Sadly, those who fought for independence hoping to lay a path for a peaceful, united and prosperous Nigeria, (Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Sir Ahmadu Bello, Chief Obafemi Awolowo and many others) could not

achieve that dream as the 1<sup>st</sup> Republic collapsed immediately it took off. This happened because the so-called leaders instead of pursuing nationalistic and integrative goals decided to become ethnic and regional champions instigating unhealthy rivalry amongst the various regions.

## @62: Nigeria at crossroads



Unfortunately, the conflicts metamorphosed into full blown intra-party crisis within the main political parties such as Zik's NCNC with dominance in the South East, Awo's Action Group in the South West and Ahmadu Bello's NPC. The struggle to form government at the centre and at the regional level were largely responsible for the breakdown of law and order which culminated in the truncation of the dreams and promise heralded by the granting of independence. This was exemplified by the eruption of trouble in the South West between two rival interests, that of Awolowo and Akintola which led to a major civil unrest termed; "The wild, wild West."

Meanwhile, civil disobedience in form of political protests, thuggery, Turn to page two

# Nigeria at 62: Any cause for celebrations?

On 1st October 1960, Nigeria got her independence from the British colonial masters. This was the period when anti-colonial sentiments and agitations for self-rule swept all over the African continent. After Independence, enormous challenges were encountered. Sixty two (62) years after, VICTOR ALI examines some of the issues. Turn to pages 10, 31



**Strike: Please return to classrooms, Buhari begs ASUU** P2



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (left) yesterday at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos presenting trophy to the best in parade, St. Louis College, Jos during the Nigeria @62 celebration. Photo: DANLADI DUK

### Nigeria at crossroads @62

disagreements and suspicions even among the political actors became the order of the day across the three regions which led to the fall of the 1<sup>st</sup> Republic headed by the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and this opened the floodgate of the first and series of military coups and counter coups that happened in the country.

Although, the return to civilian rule in 1979, ushered in a new ray of hope for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic, again the old breed and new breed politicians aligned together under new registered political parties such as; the National party of Nigeria [NPN], Nigerian Peoples Party [NPP], Great Nigeria Peoples Party [GNPP], Unity Party of Nigeria [UPN], Peoples Redemption Party [PRP] and National Advanced Party [NAP].

These political parties like those before them, also came with the hangover of the 1<sup>st</sup> Republic and with varying ideological differences and went into the 1979 general elections carrying these baggages which ended in controversial circumstances. Litigations and claims by other parties over allegations of massive rigging in favour of the National Party of Nigeria [NPN] paved the way for Alhaji Shehu Shagari to become Nigeria's 2<sup>nd</sup> elected President.

However, the NPN led government could barely unite the country coupled with the administration's poor management of the economy and lack of vision to push for other sectoral reforms, ensure law and order and development. Within three years of its assumption of office, the Shagari administration ran into troubled waters with an unprecedented level of inflation which had triggered large scale unemployment and the disappearance of essential commodities from the markets leading to shortages of food, and basic healthcare amenities amidst high cost of living. The excesses of the government became so glaring as most political office holders became super rich as massive corruption became the norm while majority of Nigerians remained impoverished resulting to general infrastructural decay and discontent among the populace.

No doubt, the failure to address these challenges led to military coups and counter coups which lasted till 1999 when the military finally handed over power after the general elections that brought in the Chief Olusegun Obasanjo administration. His administration laid the foundation upon which the democratic culture has been built till date with the current President Muhammadu Buhari on the last lap of his tenure.

Sixty- two years down the line, our democratic experience has shown that despite the vast human and material resources at Nigeria's disposal, we are yet to make significant progress and take its rightful position in the comity of advanced nations.

Today however, the situation still remains almost the same if not worse than when we started from the onset at independence. It is a sad commentary that the Nigerian masses have been deprived of their right to growth and development for over 62 years by a few misled military opportunists and their civilian collaborators.

The real issue is that the state of the Nigerian nation now is that of hopelessness and is so monumental that majority of the citizens have even wondered whether the country is under a spell especially with the mirage of institutional decay and social ills ranging from corruption, cronyism, poverty, cultism, violent crimes, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping among other social menace in the society.

We now have a crop of ethnic bigots masquerading as leaders who have polarized the nation along sectional lines and interests while the society on a daily basis continues to disintegrate due to political, religious and ethnic cleavages.

It is also clear that our system has broken down as we are now faced with institutional crisis with evidence of collapse while our so- called elected leaders continue to feed fat from the state treasury at the expense of the tax payers.

Therefore, as Nigeria turns 62, we cannot afford to remain so backward and a laughing stock before the eyes of our contemporaries who have long made quantum leaps in the development of their economies. We do not have the luxury of time nor options than for Nigerians to wake up from their slumber and take back their country since the present crop of leaders have failed.

Above all, what is required is a leadership with integrity, candour, full of zest and panache that will not be bought by the spoils of office but selfless service and fear of God with a commitment to provide leadership by example and to build strong institutions that can galvanize patriotism and love for the country. As a matter of fact, we need leaders that will reclaim Nigeria.

### Strike: Please return to classrooms, Buhari begs ASUU

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari has said he is personally pained by the frequent closure of the nation's public universities.

Mr Buhari, who said this on Saturday during a media chat to mark Nigeria's 62nd independence anniversary, appealed to the striking Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to return to classrooms while negotiations on other unresolved issues on the union's demand list.

The president said: "I must confess that I am very pained by the recurring disruption to our tertiary education system and I am using this Independence Day celebration to re-iterate my call for the striking Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to return to the classroom while assuring them to deal with their contending issues within the limits of the scarce resources available."

Mr Buhari said his administration has made appreciable progress in redressing "these issues that have been lingering for over eleven years."

He said the government will continue to mobilise resources "both internationally and nationally towards funding education to ensure that our citizens are well



**Buhari**

educated and skilled in various vocations in view of the fact that education is a leading determinant of economic growth and employment generation."

**ASUU Strike**

The strike by ASUU has crippled all academic activities in all Nigerian public universities since 14 February.

The development has led to agitations among Nigerians and particularly students under the umbrella of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS).

The lecturers are demanding better pay, improved conditions of service as well better funding for the university system as contained in several agreements it has had with the government.

The failure of the government to implement the agreement led to ASUU to declare an initial four week strike and has continue to extend it until 29 August 29 when it extended it indefinitely following the lack of resolution after several meetings with the government.

The government referred the dispute to an Industrial court and filed an injunction for the lecturers to suspend its strike while the matter is being heard by the court.

The court granted the order and ordered ASUU to suspend the strike but the union has appealed the judgement the judgement applied for a stay of execution.

Meanwhile, the leadership of the House of Representatives has attempted to broker peace between the executive arm of government and ASUU.

At a meeting on Thursday, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, promised to forward details of the meetings to the President for a decision.

### 62nd Independence: Lalong tasks politicians, citizens

**By PALANG KASMI**

**G**overnor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State has tasked politicians and Nigerians to unite peacefully as the country transcends into the next democratic era.

He gave the charge yesterday while speaking as Special Guest of Honour during the celebrations of Nigeria's 62nd independence anniversary celebration at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos.

The Governor inspected the Guards of Honour and shortly after took the salute of military and paramilitary march pass including that of selected primary and secondary schools in the state.

Among dignitaries that graced the occasion were Speaker, Plateau House of Assembly, Hon. Yakubu Sanda, Chief Judge of Plateau State, Justice David Mann, heads of military and paramilitary agencies, commissioners, permanent secretaries and other top government functionaries of ministries, boards and parastatals.

Expressing delight on the country's independence celebrations, Lalong said it gives the nation and its citizens the opportunity to take stock and move forward.

He however, said a country full of great blessings and natural resources like Nigeria should utilise its diversity which should be major resource and strength.

"And these blessings have passed through different attempts to harvest them for the good of the citizens who are diverse in ethnic, religious, social, and politics orientations".

"Our diversity which in itself is a major resource has also put demands on managing our endowments to the point that many question whether it is a blessing or a curse".

"Therefore we should devote more time, energy, and resources on things that unite us than our differences of origin, which in most cases we have no control over" he said. Adding, "We should equally devote more energy towards ensuring that people are treated fairly, justly, and with dignity that is guaranteed in our constitution".

On the current political

dispensation and activities that will usher in a new crop of politicians in the 2023 elections, Lalong advised that "on a day such as this when we are commemorating the independence of our nation, and projecting into the future, we must reflect on the role that each of us must play towards ensuring that we consolidate on the peace, security, unity, and development of our dear state and nation at large.

"Let me therefore use this opportunity to call on all politicians to put the general interest above their personal or party interests before, during and after the elections".

"We should never do anything that will jeopardise the peace, security and unity in Plateau State and

Nigeria, just to win elections because without peace and stability, there will neither be democracy nor room for any politician to canvass for votes or aspire to lead".

He used the forum to further caution that all Nigerians must act with utmost responsibility despite their political differences and urged youths to shun all forms of actions like thuggery and violence that are inimical to the conduct of a peaceful elections in 2023.

The 2022 62nd Independence celebrations culminated with the presentation of gifts to the best secondary and primary schools that participated in the Match past.

### Covid-19: Why Nigeria defied global predictions -Buhari

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari on Saturday said Nigeria defied global predictions of the negative socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic because of the country's resilience in managing the pandemic.

Mr Buhari in his broadcast to mark Nigeria's 62nd Independence Anniversary said the commitment and passion exhibited in managing the pandemic contributed to the success recorded.

"As you are aware, Nigeria was one of the countries that defied global predictions of the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic because of our resilience, commitment, and passion with which we individually and collectively managed the pandemic," he said.

He also said the country's health facilities have greatly improved especially during and after the the COVID-19 pandemic.

This was an improvement which he said attracted commendation of the global community.

Saturday's broadcast is the last Mr Buhari will deliver as Nigeria's president with the country expected to elect a new president in February.

There were several predictions that the COVID-19 pandemic will wreak havoc on the African continent as compared to other parts of the world.

In early 2020, the World Health

Organisation (WHO) warned that nearly a quarter of a billion Africans would have contracted the virus by the end of the year, with between 150,000 and 190,000 of them dying.

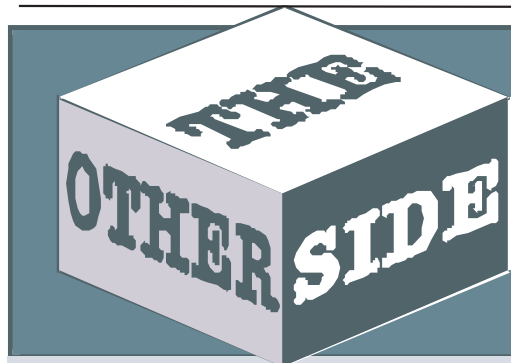
But as of November 3, the total infection on the continent stood at 1,784,083, less than one per cent of Africa's one billion population. At this time, about 42,000 people had died.

Although Nigeria appears to have moved at a snail-pace in its initial response to the pandemic, it has not been badly hit as compared to European and American countries. This is despite having advanced medical facilities and health experts which are unavailable in the African region.


A study published in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases explained the reason for the lower prevalence of the disease in sub-Saharan Africa compared to that in the US, Europe, and Asia.

Findings of the study show that there is a higher prevalence of cross-reactive antibodies against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV-2) in the blood samples collected from sub-Saharan African populations.

"The level of antibodies is probably because of African's prior exposure to other human coronaviruses," according to a report on news-medical.net.



With  
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On Sunday



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**"Now that he is a free man; even if you still call him names; it is for him to chart his course and remain relevant. Whether he will be a player in politics or not may be a matter of conjectures. Indeed, it is a known fact, that his capacity to direct the compass cannot be underestimated; despite his absence from the political scene".**

**T**HE last three weeks of September 2022 have been eventful in Plateau State, politically speaking that is. Whether it was the Labour Party's One Million Walk or the unveiling of the Director General for the APC Gubernatorial Candidate, Prof Sebastian Seddi Maimako, Wednesday, September 21, 2022, it was hectic for those involved.

At the end of the city where most political gatherings take place in the state, was for the home return of former Governor Joshua Chibi Dariye, easily referred to as the Head Boy of Plateau politics, also on the same date at the Langfield Resort. Whether it was seen as political or not, it sent one message: Being good has its rewards on a day when the chips are down.

The home return was long expected: He has been away from the state since 2018, having been jailed for complicity in using state funds when he served as governor of the state. He and his counterpart from Taraba State, Rev Jolly Nyame were released after they were pardoned by the Council of State. Sadly, they stayed for over four months at the Kuje Correctional Facility after receiving state pardon.

Their release is sequel to the receipt of the letter of clemency from the Presidential Prerogative of Mercy Committee by the Controlling General of Corrections, Haliru Nababa.

"The pardon which was granted earlier this year by President Muhammadu Buhari was done based on recommendations from the presidential prerogative of mercy committee who have interviewed all inmates based on deteriorating health status, age as well as good behaviour and industry during the period of serving their sentences".

The plan to receive him on return to the state was long drawn as soon as it became public that he had been pardoned by the state, and it was a matter of time before he returned home. I am sure that a lot of contacts were made to engage as many people, who bought the idea as was possible.

Truth is that former Governor Joshua Chibi Dariye has been a man of the people, even before serving the state. Hate or love it, stories are often told of how his magnanimity won admirers to him, long before he became governor. The stage gradually became saturated with calls from different quarters, groups and individuals for him to become governor of the state.

Therefore, it was fait accompli, when it was announced that he had joined the fray to become the Governor of Plateau State in 1998; those who have been helped in various ways through his benevolence often directed without counting the costs involved, became the first 'recruits' to prosecute the 'war' by electing to serve as his foot soldiers.

Stated in clearer terms, and as a

## Dariye: The return of the Head Boy



**Dariye**

younger person (only 42 then); there were a number of concerns about his 'qualifications' to contest as was debated in several quarters. Politics may not be mathematics where variables are added to get the expected answer to an equation; it is a different world when parties are engaged in choosing flag bearers for different positions; much more, that of the state governor where competing interests are brought into play. He laughed last.

Dariye's emergence may have surprised those who took his entrance into the murky political waters as a charade. Some had insinuated that his emergence was orchestrated by some forces working in the background to ensure he got the ticket; but come to think of it: He had deliberately wanted to be the dependable choice that he came to be. But it was in the choice of his deputy that the party wielded the big stick; insisting that the choice of the party should be respected; thereby given a voice to prevailing circumstances in the state.

It is on record that as soon as he emerged, Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye wanted and had even gone ahead to make public the name of Mr. Stephen Kibadau from Bassa as the one to deputize for him. No sooner had this announcement been made by the flag bearer, than it became public knowledge that it needed to be altered to satisfy certain political considerations in the state. It was indeed a hard decision to come to and be respected.

The party replaced Kibadau with Chief Michael Bot-Mang from Zawan in Jos South. Both are today deceased, even as it is on

record that they both played various roles and contributing to the development of the state. For instance, Chief Michael Bot-Mang later became governor when Dariye was impeached in a process that received federal backing.

It didn't last, for no sooner had Governor Joshua Chibi Dariye approached the courts than the process was described as a charade and he was returned as governor. The Head Boy's political foray has taken him from the Peoples Democratic Party to Labour Party and All Progressives Party to seek political relevance. In all of these parties, the Khawung Mushere has a number of followers, even despite his long absence from the political scene. It is these groups that stayed around to welcome him back to the state a couple of days ago to Jos.

When the presidential elections were held on February 27, 1999, they were the first since the 1993 military coup; and indeed also the first elections of the fourth republic. The 1999 general election in Plateau State was a straight battle between PDP's Joshua Chibi Dariye and Yohanna Dalyop's APP. Dariye won with 484,280 votes. The total number of registered voters in the state was 1,313,603, while the total number of votes cast was 753,717, as number of valid votes was 734,741. Total votes rejected were 18,976.

Dariye was 're-elected' for another four-year term starting in May 2003, having spent his first tenure and was impeached in November 2006 though the impeachment was nullified by the Nigerian Appeal Court on March 27, 2007, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court the following

month effectively returning Dariye to office for the remainder of his tenure'. Like the typical Nigerian politician, he did not shy away from certain controversies while in office.

Perhaps, on account of the 'international' searchlight beamed on him 'as a result of his arrest for money laundering in Britain (that) made him an easy prey for the then presidency that had earlier sacked him in an unconstitutional manner to rely on a willing House of Assembly; which banked 'on allegations of financial impropriety against the governor' to impeach him. In fact, 'while few members of the Plateau State House of Assembly were intent on having him impeached others in the majority and stakeholders in the state were vehemently opposed to the move'.

'But in a manner depicting the disregard for the rule of law, which hallmarked that era, a five-man House of Assembly group impeached Dariye on November 13, 2006. But for the support of the Federal Government, the sack would not have been possible given that the number of those who impeached the Plateau governor fell short of the constitutional requirement'. That day, Khawung Mushere, it was said had sensed that he was going to be impeached given the influx of security men to the state.

In the course of Joshua Dariye's incarceration at Kuje, his father, Pa Defwan Dariye, 93 was abducted and killed after his abductors collected N10 million ransom; even after a protracted negotiation by his family in June 2020. He was expected to have been released, but, the killers were alleged to have confessed that they kidnapped the deceased because they wanted to make money from his son.

What pains could a man have gone through other than that? It is difficult to know if he has put all those behind; as he starts another phase of his life. Being the man that he has become, it is difficult for him to walk about with vendetta to settle scores with his perceived 'enemies' in the state.

There are reasons to doubt certain pronouncements which came in the wake of his return to the state. In a situation that is filled with bile, ostensibly on account of perceived ill treatment meted on Senator Joshua Dariye on the day of his return, a number of issues have been bandied by several people on different platforms alleging a cold war already in the air between Governor Simon Bako Lalong one side and the All Progressives Party on the other.

Whether the issues are such that should give anyone goose pimples, however, a closer look at these statements allegedly uttered by the Head Boy himself

could be reason to think that all may not be well; except if they were concocted to achieve a purpose and or create an imaginary unsavory enmity between several people in the state and the Khawung Mushere himself.

The words that went viral on several platforms in the state: 'You don't have the capacity to fight me. I have followers and I will teach you people lessons. Pay those who worked with me or I will show you why am the head boy. I was told that some of you wanted me dead now I can confirm. Why should you fix an APC event on the same day am to be received? You think you can diminish me? You don't have the capacity'. Unkind words; they say are like the political gun, once fired, they never return well.

It is a well known fact that the former, Senator Joshua Dariye on the day of his return expressed gratitude for the prayers and solidarity of everyone who worked for his pardon and subsequent release from the Kuje Correctional Center; insisting God may have disappointed those who tried to frustrate his return to the state.

It was hectic controlling those who had come out to welcome him; whether it was at the Yakubu Gowon Airport, Heipang to the palace of the Gbong Gwom Jos, Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, JNI, Government House to the Langfield Event Centre, he had a message that kept resonating: Continue to work to ensure a better Plateau State.

His word, "We are here to rejoice, this is the day God has made, let me thank President Muhammadu Buhari, he was so magnanimous and gracious in granting us this pardon, myself and Nyame are co-beneficiaries of this gesture. That is why I am here to say thank you. If not for your prayers, collective solidarity, and determination, I will not have been here.

'Some people wanted to block the wheel of progress, I would have been languishing somewhere in Gwagwalada but God has disappointed them so that His name will be glorified. Plateau will continue to go forward and never backward again'.

It was at this point that Dariye stopped to ask those who had gathered at the Langfield Resort: I hope you have your PVC? Why was that necessary, you might want to find? He knows that it is time for politics and it would be hard to divorce people from voting.

Now that he is a free man; even if you still call him names; it is for him to chart his course and remain relevant. Whether he will be a player in politics or not may be a matter of conjectures. Indeed, it is a known fact, that his capacity to direct the compass cannot be underestimated; despite his absence from the political scene.



## Counting Nigeria's blessings

**N**OTHING we see in nature that is ours', one line in William worthworth's poem, The world is too much with us, reads. In our own case, nothing we see in Nigeria that is ours. We are very good at enumerating Nigeria's woes that we close our eyes to our numerous blessings.

One of Nigeria's blessings is something that we all take for granted, its fertile soil. Nigeria is so richly blessed that almost any type of crop can be planted on it, be it cash crop or economic crop, grains, root crops, vegetables, fruits, tree crops, root crops, etc. Our problem is that we don't put much value on any thing found or grown in our climate.

Do you know that I was shocked when I realised that yam is a scarce commodity in United Kingdom. You can't imagine how shocked I was when I discovered that mango does not grow in some countries. And that it is expensive in such countries. Just as apple is scarce and expensive in some parts of Nigeria.

However, we have moved from not appreciating what we have to using what we have to exploit our fellow Nigerians. For example, Nigerian rice has assumed a new status since the ban on imported rice. It has proved beyond any reasonable doubt that our farmers' sweat is too expensive. So many Nigerians are saying that government should lift the ban on imported rice if that will make Nigeria's staple food affordable.

One can't blame them. Foreign rice that used to go for N400 now goes for N1200 per measure. That is a 300 per cent increase which is very unreasonable. What has happened to all the rice pyramids, and or all government's effort to make rice affordable to the common man? To crown it up, Nigerian rice sells for N900 and N1,000.

Education has become very attractive to Nigerians. It is now very clear that it opens up windows of opportunities. Unfortunately, it has become a viable market for kidnappers and abductors and students have become a bait for not only kidnappers but lecturers.

For more than 6 months, students of federal government universities have been at home, their education put on hold because ASUU is pressing home its demands and government claims to have provided at least 80 percent of ASUU's demands. They both refuse to compromise at the detriment of the common Nigerian.

We all know that the children of our politicians are not schooling in public universities. That is where we missed it. Some of our lecturers have their children too in private universities. We can only bring sanity to the system only when government officials and lecturers are mandated to enroll their

children in public universities.

Thank God the students have not allowed themselves to be idle. Most of them are acquiring skills and making themselves self-reliant. By the time they go back to school, university students will provide for themselves essential services like hairdressing, barbering, catering, weavon making, bag making, etc. My prayer is that they will still have zeal for education.

Nigeria has so many brains but due to saturated labour market, our best brains are going to other countries to enrich them with their service. Take for instance the medical line. Our medical personnel have left the country in droves to developed climes where the working condition is better and their pay ten or more times better. Sadly, our heavyweights now embark on medical tourism at the slightest health challenge. And for most of them, they end up being treated by Nigerian doctors or nurses. There was a case of a Nigerian that insisted on travelling abroad to be treated for a health challenge even when his doctor told him he could take care of it.

This man travelled abroad and he was booked to see the specialist that could handle his case in 2 weeks. Lo and behold, after the 2 weeks elapsed, the specialist he went to see was the same doctor he refused to be attended to in Nigeria. His shame knew no bounds. Not in his wildest imagination would he have imagined it. His own fellow man was the respected specialist that he had to wait for 2 weeks to see. A prophet is not respected among his kinsmen.

Security challenge has always been Nigeria's bane. This has led to the emergence of neighbourhood security outfit. And recently, our governors are contemplating revisiting the issue of state police.

Activities of kidnappers, abductors have however put a halt to late meetings of politicians which had made politics an exclusive reserve of the menfolk. The meetings are now held during the day because no one wants to end in the hands of kidnappers.

In like manner, crises that ravaged Jos from 2001 to 2010 have come with some good aspects. Prior to the crises, Plateau citizens in the civil service used to serve their state and retire without owning a house. But lessons learnt during the crises forced most civil servants to look for areas friendly to their religion, and build their houses.

As it stands now with the setting up of co-operative societies, where members pool their resources together and give it out as loan, charging a little interest, the narrative changed. Everyone wants to own a house. Pooling our resources together enables one take loan and build house or buy car.

## NEWS

### Elite have great role to play

**T**HE Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed says the elite have great role to play in safeguarding the Nigerian nation, given the restoration of peace in parts of the country.

Mohammed said this in Abuja on Thursday, in his welcome address at the 62 years Independence Public Lecture.

The lecture, organised by the Inter-Ministerial Committee of the Federal Government on Nigeria at 62 Independence has "Elites And National Unity" as the topic.

Mohammed said President Muhammadu Buhari has consistently spoken on the important role of the elite in fostering national unity and development.

According to him, Buhari believes very strongly that the elite constitute a powerful and influential block, hence their voices must be heard on national issues.

"Mr President believes that the elites will build up their exposure and their placement in the society in forging national unity and contribute to national issues," Mohammed said.

He said the administration of Buhari had been able to change the unpleasant narratives and situations on insecurity from what it met in 2015.

"What the administration met on ground in 2015 and what it has been able to do to solve the insecurity especially in the face of insurgency in the North - East.

"When the administration



Mohammed

came into office, most parts of the north-east were inaccessible due to the activities of the Boko Haram terrorists, who occupied territory, schools, finance houses, business were shot, the roads were inaccessible, today the situation has changed to the better," he said.

He said that with the

purposeful leadership of Buhari and the increasing capacity of the Armed forces, Nigeria was getting better and stronger, as one indivisible nation and would continue to forge ahead.

"But we all as Nigerians and the elite in particular have a great job today, to safeguard our nation," Mohammed said.

### Wife secures divorce over domestic violence

**A**N Area Court sitting in Ilorin on Thursday dissolved an Islamic marriage between Mariam AbdulAzeez and AbdulAzeez Alade.

The presiding Judge, AbdulQodir Ahmed, gave the order on the request of the wife's insistence, saying that there is no more love in their marriage and the husband's constant beating.

Mariam had explained that the beating started since her husband got

married to another woman, saying that everything changed and she seems not to do things right again.

Ahmed said that the husband consented to the dissolution of the marriage.

The court however told the woman to observe three months Iddah period as prescribed by the Shariah before marrying another man.

### Import dependence worsening food crisis -IMF

**T**HE International Monetary Fund has said that the food crisis currently ravaging Nigeria and other sub-Saharan countries has been exacerbated by over-reliance on imported foods.

In a new report titled, "Africa food prices are soaring amid high import Reliance," the Washington-based lender said staple food prices in sub-Saharan Africa surged by an average 23.9 per cent in 2020 to 22—the most since the 2008 global financial crisis.

According to the report, the increase was commensurate to an 8.5 per cent rise in the cost of a typical food consumption basket (beyond generalised price increases).

The report said that global factors were partly to

blame because of the region's imports of top staple foods, noting that the pass-through from global to local food prices was significant.

It noted that in Nigeria, the prices of both cassava and maize more than doubled, even though they were mainly produced locally.

The report read in part, "We estimate that a 1 per cent increase in the consumption share of a staple food raises the local price by an average 0.7 per cent. The effect is even bigger when a staple is mostly imported, raising the price by about 1.2 per cent. When a country's net import dependence increases by 1 per cent, the local real cost of a highly imported

staple is expected to increase by an additional 0.2 per cent.

"The relative strength of a country's currency is another driver as it affects the costs of imported food items. We find that a 1 per cent depreciation in real effective exchange rates increases the price of highly imported staples by an average 0.3 per cent."

According to the IMF, staple food prices in sub-Saharan Africa were also impacted by natural disasters and wars, rising by an average 4 percent in the wake of wars and 1.8 percent after natural disasters, depending on the magnitude, frequency, duration, and location of events.

# SUNDAY POLITICS

## PDP advised to ignore Wike, others to succeed

From  
**MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI,**  
Keffi

**T**HE National Leadership of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) has been advised to turn its face away from the antics of Governor Nyeson Wike of Rivers State and his cohorts in order to move forward in its efforts to regain its lost glory.

This according to a Chieftain of the Party in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Alhaji Mohammed Naseer KB has become imperative in order to enable the Party face the challenges of the forthcoming campaign and general elections.

Speaking with newsmen in Keffi, KB observed that paying much attention to Wike and his cohorts amounts to stopping and listening to every dog that barks along the road as such the journey would be distracted and would also not go as far as expected.

"Stopping to give undue attention to Wike and his Collaborators that vehemently refused to submit themselves to the wills of the Party clearly to take the centre stage in a journey that is crucial



Ayu

especially at this material time," he observed. He stated that having made repeated efforts to pacify him to no avail, the Party should zero its mind and move ahead with what it has in its kitty and strive hard to woo-in other members that are willing to work with it.

"The Party should be prepared to move ahead and strive to woo-in more members because Wike alone cannot continue to be a stumbling block. After all, more would be coming to the fold of the Party because

the beautiful ones are not yet born," he stressed.

KB who lamented that Wike that is even being tipped to succeed the current Presidential candidate of the Party Atiku Abubakar has unfortunately shot himself at the foot, as such the Party should not devote much of its energies and time in a venture that would not yield the desired dividends to it.

## 'We must be united to fight and win'

**A**LHAJI Atiku Abubakar, the Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has said the party must be united to fight and win the 2023 general elections.

Abubakar said this on Wednesday in Abuja at the presentation of books in his honour, marking the party's presidential campaign and inauguration of the Presidential Campaign Council (PCC).

He noted that the task before the party was to come together and rebuild the nation, adding that it was a task that must be

done. "But to rescue our nation, we must take over the mantle of leadership, from the leadership that has gotten us into this mess.

"We must therefore be united and come together to fight and win all the elections next year.

"We must rescue this nation for the sake of us, the sake of our children, and for the sake of generation yet unborn," he said.

He also noted that the PCC was not just a campaign council, but a general election council, which would ensure sweeping victory for all candidates of the party come 2023.

He further said that as seasoned politicians, their job is to navigate the "muddy waters" of politics and to campaign for and win elections.

Similarly, Dr Ifeanyi Okowa, Delta Governor and Vice Presidential candidate of the party said "Our product is a good product, and our candidate has promised a lot.

"Thank God we have a man who already has a document and covenant with Nigerians.

"I challenge all other presidential candidates to

**T**HE Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees

present to Nigerians their documents.

"It is not enough to appear on television. They must submit to Nigerians what they want to do, so they can be judged by it.

"My covenant with Nigerians is to work with a government that has a roadmap to our success story," he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that three books chronicling the life and some contributions to national development of the PDP presidential candidate were presented.

The books are: The Story of Atiku Abubakar, Landmark Constitutional Law Cases on Nigeria (2004- 2007) and Restructuring As Pathway to Unity and Development.

Recall that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced Sept. 28 as official date for the commencement of campaigns by political parties.

Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, Chairman, INEC had during the announcement said that this was in line with the provision of Session 94(1) of the Electoral Act 2022.

Nigeria's Labour Party (LP) Presidential Candidate, Mr. Peter Obi, has promised to not follow the path of excuses and blame games respective administrations have embraced as their leadership styles, but that his government would be government of actions when elected.

He stated recently, while speaking at the Middle Belt Unveiling of his official campaign, held at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos, the Plateau State capital, where a mammoth crowd trooped in to demonstrate their allegiances to the OBIDATTI 2023 ticket.

The Presidential Candidate, said it was their time to take over Nigeria come 2023, urging his supporters to keep praying for Nigeria and Nigerians because of the suffering they have gone through in the past eight years due to how shameless leaders stole their money and still give it back to them as gifts.

According to him, "we will use Nigeria's money and rebuild Nigeria and also provide security to Nigerians for them to be able to go to farm without any attack by terrorists or bandits so that, we will not go looking for loans to feed Nigerians if I become the President of Nigeria.

"When elected as Nigeria's President, my government is not going to be a government of excuses, but action government. My government

## My government will not be government of excuses

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

-Obi

will not be a government of blame, blame and blame government, but will ensure that our youths are out of poverty by creating employment opportunities for them", Obi said.

He expressed concern over the long stay of University students at home and described the present administration as not being sensitive to education that is why students have been at home for eight (8) months and no reasonable action has been taken.

Earlier, the President Middle Belt Forum and the Convener, Middle Belt for OBIDATTI

2023, Dr. Pogu Bitrus, said they have had serious considerations about the situation in the country and the Middle Belt was fully in support of Obi/Datti ticket because they wanted equity and justice and decided to chose Obi as their candidate.

The popular dogged man of God leading Ebomi Ministry, Prophet Isah El-buba, said, "we are taking what belongs to us, we are taking over our inheritance because some people have made human sacrifices and stolen our resources. We need freedom! We need freedom! Go and get your PVCs ready for the show!".



Obi

## 'I step aside for peace to reign'

From  
**MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI,**  
Keffi

(BoT) of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Senator Walid Jibrin has stated that his utmost desire towards ensuring the survival and peace within his party informed his decision to make the sacrifice of honorable resignation of his position.

Speaking with newsmen in Keffi, Senator Jibrin stated that his burning desire to salvage the Party from the crisis made it imperative for him to step aside in order to allow for peace and orderliness to reign.

"Infact my strong desire to allow for peace and orderliness to reign in our great party informed my decision to step aside and happily enough such decision and sacrifice was highly greeted with applause from all quarters within and

even outside the party," he stated.

I'm also happy to note that most of the people within and outside the party are looking and portraying me as man of peace and unity and such has really shown that my decision to honourably resign my position is the best thing that is worth taking as such there is no regret whatsoever," he further stated.

He stated that with the present development a new person from the south Eastern part of the country who happened to be has deputy Senator Adolpus Wabara was appointed in an acting capacity pending the election of a substantive chairman to lead the BoT of the party.

He therefore expressed the hope that his action would calm down all frayed nerves and pacify all aggrieved parties

or persons to chart the path of peace and reconciliation to enable the party achieve its desire of emerging victorious in the forth coming elections in the country.

Jibrin who stressed his determinations to continue to remain in the PDP and work tirelessly for its electoral victories at all levels, stated that no amount of sacrifice or contribution towards the peace, unity and development of the party is to great.

For me I want to assure everyone that I will continue to remain and work for the enhancement of electoral functions of the PDP as such I see that no amount of contributions in that regards is too much," he re-assured.

Speaking about the candidature of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar the Presidential flag bearer of the party the former BoT Chairman expressed optimism that at the end of the day he would emerge as the winner at the end of the contest in view of his general acceptance by the majority of Nigerians whom he said were craving for a positive and reliable change which he believes he has the capacity and where-withal to provide the qualitative leadership needed to take Nigeria to the path of prosperity.

Jibrin therefore solicited the support and cooperation of Nigerians for the PDP come the 2023 general elections assuring that it is the pathway towards the restoration of the country's lost glory in the areas of the economy, peace, security, among others.



Atiku



Jibrin

# SUNDAY POLITICS

## IG, SSS warn political class in Sokoto

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

WITH the commencement of the 2023 campaigns recently across the country, the Nigerian Police Force, Sokoto State command, has warned the political class in the state against hate speech or spreading of fake news.

Commissioner of Police, Muhammed Usaini Gumel, stated this while delivering his speech at the election and security management colloquium on the security of the upcoming campaigns and the general election with all critical stakeholders in the state.

Gumel disclosed that the Nigerian Police, in order to maintain law and order during the electioneering period, have grouped its responsibilities into four different groups.

The responsibilities, according to the Commissioner, include: "ensuring the safety and security of all persons and property that will be involved in the electoral process without bias.

Strict enforcement of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Penal Code as well as electoral laws without fear or favour." security, traffic and crowd management at venues of Political party campaigns, rallies and other activities relating to the elections.

The security of the public space towards guaranteeing a crime-free and enabling environment



Alkali

for the political campaigns and other components of the electoral processes to thrive."

The CP further called on political parties especially, politicians to always resort to legal justice channels in order to address any grievances as prescribed by the law.

He called on traditional rulers, religious leaders and civil societies to maintain their neutrality and act as link between politicians and the general public.

Also, speaking, the Director, Department of State Security Service, Sokoto State, Yahaya Hassan, urged the political class to have a closer relationship with the security agencies. He called on stakeholders and religious leaders to always send the right messages to the general public, saying no one political ambition

was worth the blood of anyone.

On behalf of the the political parties in the state, the chairman of Inter Party Advisory Council, Alhaji Abba Sidi, assured the gathering that political parties in the state would adhere strictly to the provisions of the electoral act

## Council boss hosts APC governorship candidate

By DANLADI DUK

AT THE HEAD of the APC Governorship campaigns kick-off for Plateau State, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe's embark on consultation tour across the seventeen Local Government Areas of the State.

The APC Governorship candidate, accompanied by his campaign council and party supporters were at Ayo Kehinde Multi-purpose Hall,

THE Director General of the Muhammed Baba Shehu Campaign organization for the Keffi Local Governments Chairmanship position Alhaji Muhammed Kabere Abubakar has expressed the delight that the Chairman has lived up to the expectations of both the Campaign organization and the people of the area.

Speaking with newsmen after a ceremony at the Keffi Local Government Secretariat, the campaign DG expressed satisfaction that the Chairman is not only working hard to justify the confidence reposed on him but consulting widely with all the relevant stakeholders on how best to take the local government to the next level.

"The Chairman is not only working hard to justify the confidence reposed on him but he is consulting widely with all stakeholders and elders on how best to bring about meaningful peace, unity and development in the local government area," he stressed.

He cited an example of the repair of the Keffi slaughter slab or abattoir which was in a filthy state and he promised more development to make all the animal products produced in that place healthy for human consumption.

The Director General who is a onetime Commissioner of

## Chairman has lived up to expectations-DG

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

Works and Finance during the administration of Governor Abdullahi Adamu expressed optimism that the chairman would take the Local Government to higher heights in view of his determination and commitment to engrave his name in Gold.

"Given the determinations of the chairman to justify the

confidence reposed on him by the electorates in Keffi Local Government Area one can say without fear of contradictions that the chairman is here to serve the people diligently and honestly to the best of his ability," he affirmed.

While wishing the Chairman the best in his endeavours to make the local government great, he assured him of the support and co-operation of stakeholders to enable him succeed in the task ahead.



Shehu

## Council boss hosts APC governorship candidate

ambassador Gideon Dandereng thanked the Governorship hopeful, Dr. Yilwatda and entourage He assured the mammoth crowd of the massive support the good people of Jos South Local Government Area have for Nentawe/Bot-Mang team.

He attested to the fact that the ruling party has fielded credible and competent candidates who are prepared for the enormous task of salvaging the land.

Dandereng however advises candidates and card carrying members of the APC to unite and shun politics of self centeredness in other to have a smooth transition to the seat of power.

The chairman who was represented by his deputy, Ayuba Jagaba, urged citizens of the area who are willing to join the party to do so without fear of any intimidation, as equal opportunity will be accorded.

Bukuru, Jos South LGA to thank the critical stakeholders of the Local Government Area and to also reconcile agrieved party men for a robust acceptance.

In a welcome speech at the occasion, the Executive Chairman of Jos South Local Government Council and APC candidate for Jos South/ Jos East Federal House of Representatives,

State APC Chairman Rufus Bature, challenged party faithful to work assiduously at the grassroots with more focus at the unit level.

Bature encouraged members to disassociate themselves with anti party involvement and support all candidates of the APC.

While addressing key components on the economic viability of Jos South, the gubernatorial Candidate, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda noted that the area will be made an industrialized base of Plateau State when elected into office, adding that the citizens have more to benefit.

He promised to re-echo the voices of the ethnic nationalities without any iota of bias.

Speaker after speaker all gave applause to the enlarged engagement parley discribing it as a stepping stone.

## Imbibe virtues of equity, justice and tolerance

By PAULINE DALLONG

THE Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA), Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda has charged citizens to always imbibe the virtues of equity, justice and tolerance while striving to give their best for the good of the nation.

He gave the charge while congratulating Nigerians on the occasion of the country's 62nd independence anniversary celebration.

According to him, the independence anniversary should be seen as a day of freedom which provides an opportunity to reflect on the country's progress, celebrate achievements and ponder over dreams yet to be fulfilled.

In his words: "We may have our hiccups as a people, with challenging times that might have



Sanda

stretched our resolve and determination to forge ahead, but we should not relent nor succumb to fear and discouragement from today's trials".

While describing our journey of nationhood as a

opportunity to renew our drive towards attaining greater heights.

The speaker assured that as a legislative arm of government, it has resolved to promote and provide a conducive legislative platform that would bring about policies and laws aimed at ensuring peaceful co-existence, security, unity and development of Plateau State.

He also promised that the Plateau State House of Assembly will continue to collaborate with other arms of government, traditional institutions and other stakeholders in upholding the legacies of the nation's founding fathers and that of Plateau in particular even as he enjoined all to see past successes and challenges as stepping stone towards a more prosperous future.

marathon which requires patience, resilience, tolerance and determination, he said as peace loving people of Plateau and Nigerians, this period offers us a new



Dandereng

## SUNDAY POLITICS

# Independence Day celebration and Nigerian politics

**Nigeria got her independence on October 1, 1960 after years of colonial rule. Although Nigeria gained independence from the United Kingdom on October 1, 1960, the nation retained the British monarch, Elizabeth II, as titular head of state until the adoption of a new constitution in 1963 declaring the nation a republic. It was after this that on October 1, 1963 that Nigeria severed its remaining ties to Britain, marking the birth of the Nigerian First Republic. LUCY CHINDABA writes.**

**F**ROM history we know that Azikiwe was made the governor while Tafawa Balewa served as prime minister which was before Nigeria became a republic in 1963. It however succumbed to military rule three years later, after a bloody coup d'etat. separatist movement later formed the Republic of Biafra in 1967, leading to the three year Nigerian Civil War. Nigeria became a republic again after a new constitution was written in 1979.

The first republic was the republican government of Nigeria between 1963 and 1966 governed by the first republican constitution. The country's government was based on a federal form of the Westminster system. The second Nigerian republic was a brief formation of the Nigerian state which succeeded the military government formed after the overthrow of the first republic. It lasted from 1979-1983.

The third republic (1990-1993) was an unsuccessful attempt to restore Nigeria to democracy. It was initiated by General Ibrahim Babangida. It was truncated by the annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential election on June 24, 1993 before a chain of events led to the inauguration of Chief ERNEST Shonekan-led interim national government which itself was toppled in a palace coup led by General Sani Abacha on November 17, 1993.

The fourth republic, mid-wived by General Abdulsalami Abubakar, is the current republican government of Nigeria since 1999 and has governed the country according to the fourth republican constitution.

Nigeria has since been in a democracy and has had over 22 years of uninterrupted democracy. It has held elections after every four years which makes a tenure for each administration. Over the years, one election after the other has been held with one problem or the other being experienced in the process of conducting such elections ranging from violence, over voting, ballot box snatching, vote buying, amongst others. Also the women and the youths have not really been carried along as they have been surcharged one way or the other in the politics of Nigeria, a very sad development given the fact that all over the world most countries have since the Beijing declaration made progress by ensuring that women are included in the scheme of things.

Over the years, a lot of election monitors have come from far and near and have given reports on the outcome and observations on the conduct of the elections thus far. The 2011 elections were seen by the US as being among the most credible and transparent elections since the country's independence.

As we draw closer to the 2023 general elections, activities have been heightened with political gladiators on their toes trying to



Tinubu

woo the electorate. Hitherto, political parties have had an unwritten arrangement to ensure that power rotates between the south, north and other parts for equity and fairness. Preparatory to the 2023 elections therefore, the major political parties are the All Progressive Congress, APC, People's Democratic Party, PDP, Labour Party, LB, New Nigeria People's Party, NNPP, Young People's Party, YPP, amongst others.

Nigeria's politics have long been complicated by an unwritten agreement among its elites that power should rotate between a figure from the Muslim-dominated north and the mainly Christian dominated south every two terms due to end in 2023. Experience from the past has shown that the rotation has so far been successfully done and it is expected that come 2023, power will then – in theory at least – rotate to the south.

However, although the likes of the APC, LB amongst others have their presidential candidates from the south, the Peoples Democratic Party have been embroiled in controversies even as the party did not zone the presidential ticket to the south but left it open and Atiku Abubakar from the north got the party's ticket.

This arrangement according to some political analysts, is that Nigeria's politics has been fractured with people exploiting ethnic and religious differences to give people answers that match questions in any part of Nigeria. According to a report by a news media recently, Leena Koni Hoffman, a research associate at the Chatham House thinktank and a member of the Nigeria diaspora, says ordinary Nigerians feel vulnerable and grim, suggesting that the rotational system of government may no longer be fit for purpose.



Atiku

According to her, she expressed concern that given the scale of the conflict and violence happening in Nigeria, and for a country that has not been at war since the Biafran war that ended in 1970, and in the middle of the longest stretch of civilian democracy, to be experiencing this scale of intense violence should be alarming.

This is just one out of the myriads of people who have been expressing concerns especially as the 2023 elections draws closer and closer. The political parties themselves have not helped matters as from what has been happening as a buildup to the 2023 general elections. The political parties themselves have been embroiled in one controversy or the other. The Independent National Commission had fixed September 28, 2022 as the date to kick-start public campaigns for the 2023 presidential campaigns. While the ruling All Progressive Congress, APC, announced a shift in the date for the flag-off of its campaigns as announced by the party, through Simon Lalong, the governor of Plateau State and Director-General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council. APC said the adjustment of the timetable and schedule of activities was to accommodate growing interests of various political tendencies in being part of the campaign council.

The statement read in part, "Recall that we had earlier earmarked a peace walk and prayers for Wednesday, September 28, 2022, to officially kick-off our campaigns for the 2023 Presidential Elections. We had also announced that the members of the Campaign Council report at the Campaign Headquarters on that day to collect their letters of appointments.

It maintained, "However, due to the expansion of the list to accommodate more stakeholders

and interests within the APC family, we have decided to adjust the timetable of these activities in order to ensure everyone is on board before activities officially commence. Consequently, the activities earlier announced for the 28th of September will no longer hold.

"As the ruling and most attractive party in Nigeria, we understand the sacrifices and understanding of our teeming members who are more than willing to volunteer themselves for this great task ahead. It also shows the enormous love that the party members have for our candidates. A new date and time-table of events will be announced soon," the statement read.

However, reports from the media indicate that all may not be well in the camp of the APC as a letter was purported to have been obtained as the National Working Committee is said to accuse the Presidential Candidate of breaching the agreement he had with the NWC as regards the composition of the campaign council. The presidential candidate is also said to have been working solo according to the letter and warned that winning elections is supposed to be a collaborative effort.

The main opposition party on the other hand has been going through series of problems and crises ever since the presidential primaries held in Abuja produced former vice president Abubakar Atiku as its flag bearer. The reason which is not farfetched hinged on the fact that going by the party's constitution and internal arrangement to ensure fairness and equity, the slot should have gone to the southern part of the country and not the north; an issue that has led to so much controversy. In line with this therefore, the party has been divided into camps with one being



Obi



Kwankwaso

headed by Governor of Rivers state, Nyesome Wike. This camp is now insisting that the National Chairman of the party Dr. Iyiorchia Ayu must resign and be replaced with someone from the south. As a buildup to the start of presidential campaigns therefore a list was released but few days to the kick-off the Wike group withdrew its support for the party's presidential candidate, but said they will still remain members of the party.

True to type therefore, the group was conspicuously absent from the official flag off of the PDP presidential campaigns.

The Labour Party (LP) and the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) on their part have had their flag-off without any wranglings.

From the foregoing, the 2023 general elections is just around the corner. And with the signs and happenings in the country at the moment, many people are expressing fears that the election may not go smoothly as is being expected. All hands therefore have to be on deck if Nigeria is to have a free and fair election come 2023.

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## 62ND NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE 2022

The 62nd Nigeria's Independence celebration held nationwide, in Jos, the celebration took place at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos, with parade reviewed by Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State



Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, Plateau State Governor, reviewing the parade



A cross section of Military, Police, Paramilitary and representative of the Gbong Gwom Jos, taking salute



Governor Lalong delivering his Independence speech at the celebration



Speaker, PLHA, Chief Judge, President, Customary Court of Appeal, SGS, CoS, HoCS, Jos North LGC Chairman, Clergymen, Commissioners and Politician at the celebration



Paramilitary Agencies parade at the 62nd Independence celebration



A cross section of foreigners watching march past by Police, Paramilitary, Primary and Secondary Schools.



Dr. Boniface Gwotbit, KSM, General manager, Plateau Publishing Corporation (right) an old student of St. Joseph Vom exchanging greetings with current students of the College at the Independence celebration



Governor Lalong (left) presenting trophy to the best in parade, St. Louis College, Jos

Photos: DANLADI DUK



## PLATEAU STATE GOVERNMENT

### *62nd Independence Celebration Felicitation*

**T**he Plateau State Governor, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG** and Chairman, Northern States Governors' Forum, on behalf of himself, family and the people of the state, hereby felicitates with His Excellency, **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the 62nd anniversary of its statehood.

We are grateful to God for leading the nation thus far.

This is an opportunity to enjoin Nigerians to continue to have faith and believe in the country as well as they pray for its leadership.

Let us deepen our resolve for the unity, oneness, togetherness, brotherhood and the patriotism that will take the country to greater heights.

Long live Plateau State! Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

Signed:



**Dan Manjang, mnipr  
Honourable Commissioner,  
Information and Communication,  
Plateau State.**



**Gov. Lalong**



**Dan Manjang**

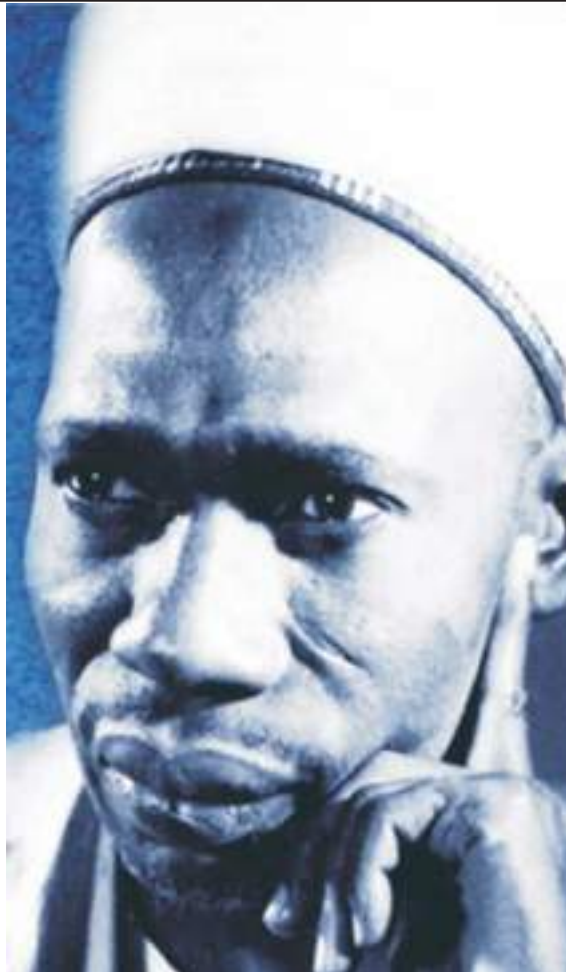


**President Buhari**

# SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Balewa



Azikwe

## Nigeria at 62: Any cause for celebrations?

**On 1st October 1960, Nigeria got her Independence from the British Colonial masters. This was the period when anti-colonial sentiments and agitation for self-rule swept all over the African continent. After Independence, enormous challenges were encountered. Sixty two(62) years after, . VICTOR ALI examines some of the issues.**

**Y**ESTERDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2022, Nigeria marked its sixty two (62) years independence anniversary from British colonial rule. The Berlin Conference of 1884 was a defining moment for especially the African continent. It was at this Conference that the African continent was Balkanized and shared among the big powers of Yore-Britain, France, Germany, Portugal and Italy. What latter became known as Nigeria fell under the control of Britain hence, became a possession of the British Empire.

Other modern African countries equally fell under the control of different colonial masters. Several decades down the lane, the indigenous people of Africa became restive and started agitating for self-rule. The decolonization movement took a life of its own and was spontaneous. In some instances where peaceful demand for decolonization becomes difficult, demand through violence becomes inevitable. Examples of such abound, but two can suffice here-Kenya and Algeria amongst others are classic cases.

Nigeria berths its independence on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1960 when the British

Union Jack flag was lowered and the Green-white-Green Nigeria's flag hoisted, thereby, signaling the birth of a new nation. Some political pundits are of the opinion that after all, Nigeria got her independence on a platter of Gold. This is uncharitable. It is on record that there were intense negotiations by the founding fathers of Nigeria and the British colonial masters through conferences both here in Nigeria and in London for the same purpose of Independence. That in itself amounted to struggle.

After sixty two (62) years of Independence, how has Nigeria fared? Has the country performed as envisaged by the founding fathers? Are Nigerians happy sixty two years of independence? In comparative terms, have the Nigerian political class, including the military surpass outperformed the colonial masters? So many questions to answer and this is the fulcrum of this piece.

Education as it is often said, is the bedrock for development of any and every society. It's importance therefore, cannot be over-emphasized, hence, post-independent Nigeria leaders took cognizance of this and did the needful.

There were three (3) premier quality universities, one in each of the then three (3) regions. They are now renamed after the founding fathers. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. These premier Universities were University in the true sense of the word.

These aforementioned universities as at that time, can compete favourably well with any university in the world in terms of standard and quality. The crop of Nigerian leaders now bureaucrats, businessmen and women, diplomats and even the military who passed through the furnace of these universities then, are clear testimony of hard work, dedication and excellence. But what is obtainable now?

With over one hundred (100) universities in the country, (both government and private), now education at that level has simply collapsed. The quality of the education at 62, is abysmally low. Infact, it won't be out of place to say they are glorified colleges as the death nail on Universities have been sounded since the early 1990's. How can you have quality education and

performing students when the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) would down tools for over seven months, because of government's non-implementation of its (ASUU) demands?

The educational system particularly at the university level, has been rendered prostrate. Tell me how a student who has been home for over seven months redundant or indulging in crimes and criminalities will be able to meet up when ASUU decides to suspend the strike? It is definitely going to be a Herculean task for majority of the students except for the few exceptional ones. No doubt, Nigeria has lost a generation of intellectuals with the comatose state of education.

After 1960, what has been the state of the economy? The post-colonial government had a fair idea of how the economy should be, hence its reliance on agriculture and mining. With cocoa, groundnut, palm oil, tin and columbite among other agricultural commodities and mineral resources, Nigeria was able to build a sustainable and vibrant economy that subsequently became the moving engine for development in the country. However, with the discovery of the "blackgold" (crude) oil in commercial quantity on Sunday 15th January 1956 by Shell Darcy at Oloibiri in Nigeria's Bayelsa State the Nigeria economic narrative changed? Nigeria suddenly became a mono cultural economy with heavy dependence on oil.

This has often led to the dislocation of the economy as the vulnerability of crude oil prices in the international market often affects budgets and its implementations. While the discovery of oil was supposed to be a blessing, over-reliance on it has become one of Nigeria's greatest undoing. The repercussions of the non performance of the economy is all too obvious. Unemployment is one. It has been revealed that, the Nigerian National

Bureau of Statistics puts the rate of youth under or unemployed at 45.66%. This has obvious implications as it hinders productivity and growth and also contributes to crime, violence and unrest.

In his book, **Facts versus fiction**, Reno Omokri, asserted that, "the problem of Nigeria's unemployed youth is well known. With 190 million people and yearly population growth rate of almost 3%, Nigeria has by far the fastest growing population of the world's most populous nations. The Nigerian economy needs to grow rapidly to maintain its population's current standard of living and find jobs for almost 2 million new job seekers a year." He went further to state that, "in this context, small entrepreneurial firms have emerged as an important economic contributor and vehicle for productively engaging Nigeria's youth.

"However, most entrepreneurs find it difficult to grow their firms in a size where they can begin to employ others. World Bank survey data shows that in 2014, 99.6% of Nigerian firm had fewer than 10 workers and the modal firm size in most developing countries remains just one person, the owner". Indeed, in the past decades, the Nigeria economy has been unstable. Today it records positive signal and next time it's the direct opposite. It is either the right policies are not executed at the right time or there are policy summersault.

To a large extent, the health of the economy of a nation goes a long way to determine the health of the nation. With abundant mineral and agricultural resources, Nigeria has no business with poverty. However, after sixty two (62) years of independence, squalor, hunger, wants, deprivation, penury have become the lot of majority of Nigerians, it is no exaggeration to say that at present, majority of Nigerians cannot feed twice a day. In a land flowing with milk

**"However, most entrepreneurs find it difficult to grow their firms in a size where they can begin to employ others. World Bank survey data shows that in 2014, 99.6% of Nigerian firm had fewer than 10 workers and the modal firm size in most developing countries remains just one person, the owner". Indeed, in the past decades, the Nigeria economy has been unstable. Today it records positive signal and next time it's the direct opposite. It is either the right policies are not executed at the right time or there are policy summersault. To a large extent, the health of the economy of a nation goes a long way to determine the health of the nation. With abundant mineral and agricultural resources, Nigeria has no business with poverty. However, after sixty two (62) years of independence, squalor, hunger, wants, deprivation, penury have become the lot of majority of Nigerians, it is no exaggeration to say that at present, majority of Nigerians cannot feed twice a day. In a land flowing with milk and honey, this is terrible and therefore unacceptable.**

Continued on page 31

**I**T is said that the legislature is the breathe of life that sustains the survival and growth of democracy in any society, while positioning it on the path to law and order. This is to help avert lawlessness and anarchy. However, the many years of military rule destroyed the very essence of this institution as an arm of government. But things turned for the better in 1999, leading to the rebirth of the legislature. With the many years of democracy, the legislature is said to have evolved and is still evolving despite the myriad of challenges, complexities and intrigues of governance inherent in a developing country like Nigeria.

For better understanding, there is a power backing the legislature and it is derived from Section 4(6) of the 1999 Constitution which states that 'the legislative powers of a state of the federation shall be vested in the House of Assembly of the state'. The Constitution further empowers the state legislature to make laws for peace, order and good governance of the state or any part thereof, with oversight, representation and the legitimization of its powers to screen and confirm certain political appointees of government as other functions.

In order to be able to provide the desired dividends of democracy, the legislator must be a good representative of his people. In fact good representation is said to be the most critical function of the legislator. Do not forget that the key to becoming a member of any legislative assembly lies in the hands of the electorate. Without being elected by members of his constituency at any general elections, there won't be that opportunity anyway. Therefore, every legislator must strive to remain relevant by visiting his constituency from time to time. No doubt, having a functional constituency office will enhance interaction with the people.

To ensure an effective and efficient legislative arm, the Plateau State House of Assembly in collaboration with Plateau ALGON and the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs held a team building retreat and capacity building workshop for the local government councillors in the state. The objectives of the retreat are to steer collaborative approach and build on the synergy between the legislative and the executive arms of government; to understand the role and process of the legislature; have a clear and better understanding of Section 7 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Altered) and the Plateau State Local Government Law.

Others are to gain an insight into community networking for quality ward representation, while introducing major framework for accelerated growth of the local government council; maximize the delivery of democracy dividends to the citizens of Plateau State in all the seventeen local government areas; to demonstrate current work and thinking on legislative activities among councillors; to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of councillors to integrate all forms of legislative activities into council policies, strategies and planning.

Presenting his goodwill message while declaring the workshop open, the Speaker Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda who was represented by the Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong disclosed that the workshop and exercise was the brainchild of the ninth assembly under the present leadership. He stated that over the years, the local government legislative arm has been marred with irregularities and uncertainties which needs to be corrected. This development prompted the need to educate and enlighten the legislators on their responsibilities as stated in the

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He did not mince words by describing learning as an ongoing process where no knowledge gained is a waste. He reiterated the need for good governance at the local government level, adding that the legislators must understand their duties and cooperate with the executive as it is the only way of ensuring the delivery of good services to the people. On his expectations from the councillors at the end of the workshop, he hoped and prayed that when they get back to their respective chambers they should be able to properly represent and make laws that will be



## Towards ensuring an effective local govt legislature



**Yipmong**

meaningful and beneficial to their people.

Speaking on the topic 'Team work and Team Building', one of the resource persons Dr. Patrick Okechukwu described teamwork as a concept of people working together to achieve a common goal while team building on the other hand refers to the process of establishing and developing a greater sense of collaboration and trust between members. He opined that when councillors use their skills and share knowledge together, the result is a stronger local government council that can fulfill its mission. In other words when councillors who are grassroots representatives, as eyes and ears of the government work together in mobilising members of their communities, a lot will be achieved.

In his presentation, Hon. Daniel Nanbol Listick while giving an insight on Section 7 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Altered) and Plateau State Local Government Law, enumerated some functions of a local government council to include consideration and the making of recommendations to a state commission on economic planning or any similar body; collection of rates, radio and television licenses; establishment and the maintenance of cemeteries, burial grounds and homes for destitutes; construction of and maintenance of roads, streets, street lightings, drainages, and other public highways, parks, gardens, open spaces or such public facilities as may be prescribed from time to time by the state House of Assembly.

It also includes the participation of such local government council in the government of the state in respect to



**Tapgun**



**Cross section of Local Government Councillors at the workshop**

the provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education, the development of agriculture and natural resources, other than the exploitation of minerals; the provision and maintenance of health services including such other functions as may be conferred on the local government council by the state House of Assembly. It will interest you to know that the (fifth alteration) empowered a bill for an act to alter the provision of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to establish the local government councils as a tier of government while also guaranteeing

their democratic existence, tenure and for related matters.

The exercise brought to the fore, the code of conduct by which the local government legislative arm should be governed by and adhered to. These are rules that stipulate the bounds of either prohibited or prescriptive behaviour or both. Some of which are not smoking, chewing or drinking on the floor of the chamber; during setting, councillors must remain silent but may confer only on low tones; they must attend sittings properly dressed; no councillor is allowed to interrupt the other while he is speaking, disturb or make noise.

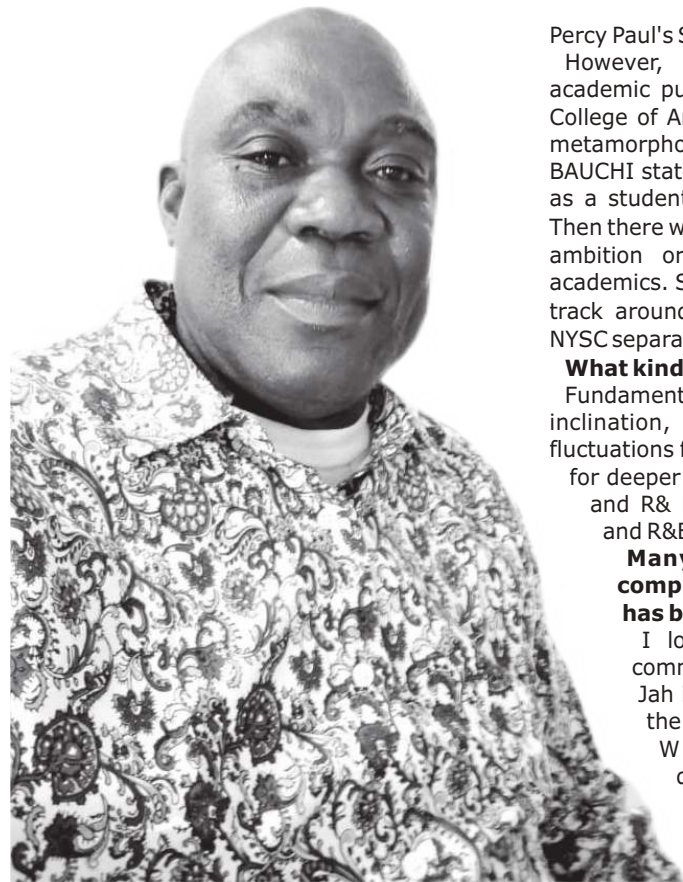
Also, councillors are not allowed to read newspapers or magazines while in session but may read such books and letters as may be connected with the business being considered by the House; the use of insulting or offensive language including making unparliamentary remarks by any councillor will not be tolerated; every councillor shall make obeisance to the chair in passing or obeisance to the chair from his seat; while the leader is putting a question, no councillor is allowed to walk out or cross the floor of the chamber; while all councillors must enter and leave the chamber with decorum.



With **BULUS GAMBO**



# 'Love for money has taken over true love'



Percy Paul's Studio.

However, my passionate crave or zeal for academic pursuits took me to the then BAUCHI College of Arts and Science (BACAS) which later metamorphosed into or was later upgraded to BAUCHI state polytechnic and then bounced back as a student in the renowned University of Jos. Then there was this heightened competing desires, ambition or passionate drive for music and academics. So, I was off and on. We still recorded a track around 1991 while in the University, then NYSC separated us again now, solo.

### What kind of music are you into?

Fundamentally, Reggae forms the base of inclination, however there are intermittent fluctuations from Kilimanjaro vibes - African beats for deeper identify or affirmation of one's Roots and R& B. So basically, Reggae, Kilimanjaro and R&B

### Many gospel artists are always complaining of lack of support, what has been your experience?

I look unto the hills where my help commeth from. Men can be so Mighty but Jah is the Almighty for He makes ways in the Wilderness and rivers in the deserts. With this paradigm, I'm not disappointed.

### What kind of support does a musician like you needs?

Divine connection, supernatural Grace and favour. I depend on promises, prophecies and then

### Can you introduce yourself sir?

This is Roots Africa. Roots Africa is philosophical, appreciation, publicity and promotion can fall in ideological, motivational. It's an identity, shape. For instance, meeting with you is a divine consciousness towards the emancipation of intervention.

### Are there special moments you fellowship with God to help you lead His people?

mankind from political, ideological, religious, material, mental poverty. Roots Africa is officially/ originally known as CALVIN NGUSHA All the time-. continually!! Any slight moment is a AKAAGERGER, an officer with the Federal Road Safety Corps.

### When did you start your music career?

Gospel is the truth, a belief, a credo, a testament, unconditional/unreserved love for Him would a conviction, a practice etc. This truth or reality was naturally or spontaneously lead expand His embraced, imbibed or internalized, nurtured and vineyard - lead people to Him because " by their developed to maturity and manifestation. fruits ye shall know them" Meanwhile, one must

That's while my music transmit several messages deliberately create time consistently for adoration on my faith as Christian, Road Safety that connectivity must yield divine anointing. Consciousness/ ideals, Social realities etc.

### Are you working on anything new?

Right here in Jos, in 1987, we formed a group Well, at the pinnacle or Zenith of one's music known as The Casters comprising of Jamil Adams (a career something unique, an extravaganza, soldier), Tom Agile and my humble self. Jamil and I fascinating music, motivational, educative, did a duo recording titled " Don't Give up at Panam

Continued on page 18



# Hollywood rising young stars

## Rachel Zegler and Madelyn Cline



### Rachel Zegler and Madelyn Cline

From Daphne Bridgerton to "The Iceberg that Sank the Titanic," these 16 rising stars are behind the characters that entertained audiences through lockdowns and stay-at-home orders. Looking forward, they are fronting the titles that will bring audiences back to the multiplex.

Some talent, like *Bridgerton's* Phoebe Dynevor and Nicola Coughlan, had their break-out moments in the middle of the pandemic, while others like *West Side Story's* Rachel Zegler are still waiting for their delayed big breaks to hit reopened movie theaters. From breaking barriers in the superhero space, like *Batgirl* star Leslie Grace, to breathing new life into established franchises (see: Dominique Fishback, who will lead the new *Transformers*), this year's class will continue to play major roles in studio and streamer slates.

They join a list that, in years past, has included now-established stars like *Midsommar* actress Florence Pugh, *Atlanta's* LaKeith Stanfield and *Shang-Chi's* Simu Liu. All of them navigating an industry that is rapidly changing around them. As *Cobra Kai's* Xolo Maridueña puts it: "I don't have the handbook or 'Acting in Your Early 20s for Dummies' book just yet."

## Simone Ashley



Growth is something Ashley relishes about being an actress, which is good being that the British up-and-comer, who is of Indian heritage, is on the rise. A bit part in Warner Bros. feature Detective Pikachu and a cadre of episodes in U.K. series like *Casualty* and *Broadchurch*, predated a recurring role in Netflix's *Sex Education*. The latter, which has been a

recurring fixture in Netflix's Top 10 over its three seasons, offered a "confidence boost," says the actress. Next up is an almost assured breakout role as the female lead in the second season of the streamer's global hit *Bridgerton*, an experience that Ashley says has her already feeling "like a different person."

## Ronny Chieng



Chieng exemplifies Hollywood's growing commitment to a sense of authenticity, or what the actor calls the "street test": "Does what we see onscreen reflect what we see on the street?" Chieng was born in Malaysia and grew up between the U.K., U.S. and Singapore before heading to university in Melbourne, where he began performing stand-up comedy. A personal commitment to

AAP representation is evident in his growing list of credits: *Shang-Chi*, *Crazy Rich Asians* and Disney+ series *Doogie Kamealoha, M.D.*. Next up — when he's not taking on Asian stereotypes and racism in his Netflix comedy special and viral segments as a *Daily Show* correspondent — is a martial arts action-comedy for Sony and Blumhouse horror *M3GAN*.

## Harris Dickinson



The British actor, raised by a hairdresser and a social worker, once considered joining the Royal Marines before a drama teacher talked him out of it. The decision to focus on acting paid off, with Dickinson earning acclaim (including a Film Independent Spirit Award nomination) for 2017 Sundance drama *Beach Rats* and turning heads as Prince Phillip in Disney's *Maleficent*. He steps into his biggest roles yet with long-delayed *The King's Man*

from filmmaker Matthew Vaughn, whose previous discoveries include Taron Egerton and Aaron Taylor-Johnson. After that, it's Sony's adaptation of best-seller *Where the Crawdads Sing* and the Sam Rockwell-Saoirse Ronan murder mystery *See How They Run*, both due out in 2022.

Continued on page 25

**PROBATE NOTICE**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA  
PROBATE DIVISION**

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.  
AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column here onto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (2) days from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Atawu Ajina Jonah late of Plateau state. died on the 17th May, 2022 at Bassa, Bassa LGA, Plateau State.	Annah Emmanuel & Itara Titus Ajinah of ECWA Egbak Akoh Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful grand son/son of the said	Sunday Naomi Dalyop late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th June, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Emmanuel Wetlaham Dams of Bwai Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Nkem Vongsing Dombin late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th March, 2022 at General Hospital, Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	Nkem Nanpyal Nehemiah & Nkem Manko Vongsing Shishiri Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow/son of the said deceased.
Isa Yahaya Wase late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th October, 2022 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Mahmood Yahaya Isa of No. 2 Dogon Karfe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Ibrahim Haruna late of Plateau State. Died on the 3rd January, 2022 at Keffi, Nasarawa State.	Rukaiya Salihu & Aliyu Ibrahim of Nyanya Gandara Nasarawa State. The lawful widow/both of the said	Gomwai Patrick Dungrit late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th August, 2022 at Amper, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	Bawa Ezra Danladi of Mado Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Isaac Oyebamiji late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th February, 2022 at USA, Minnesota State.	Olutoyin Adetoun Oyebamiji of Ewagul Opp. ITF Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>Signed</b> <b>(ANDREW IS MAIKAI)</b> <b>AG: PROBATE REGISTRAR</b> <b>PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</b>		<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>	

**CHANGE OF NAMES**

MALONG	GOKE	DABONG	WALBE	ADENIYI	MABAS
I, formerly known as <b>MALONG FAVOUR YAKSUK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MALONG YAKSUK MARK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>QUINTIN GOKE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GOKE QUINTIN MORGAK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MOHORRET PRINGKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DABONG MOHORRET PRINGKA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>WALBE GERZAK MITCHELL SETKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>WALBE GERZAK SETKA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ADENIYI TUNJI JAMES</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADENIYI TUNJI GABRIEL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>PATRICIA JONAH</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MABAS PATRICIA JONAH</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

SAMUEL	MADUGU	ZAKARIYYA	HABILA	AKPA	SUNDAY
I, <b>SAMUEL MAYAKI MAITALA</b> wish to state that my Correct date of birth is March 31 1976 not March 31, 1967. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MARTHA CHOLLOM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MADUGU MARTHA CHOLLOM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ZAKARIYA KHALID</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ZAKARIYYA KHALID KHALID</b> . My correct date of birth is <b>11-06-2000</b> not <b>01-01-1992</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>POFI TONGRIYANG WILLIAMS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HABILA TONGRIYANG LOIS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AKPA, EMMAMUEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AKPA SUNDAY IMMANUEL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY DACHOMO MAGAJI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SUNDAY DACHOMO BADUNG</b> . All former documents remain valid. GTB/UBA. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

AUGUSTINA	GUNEN	DENAN	DARENG	DAMAR	TOMA
I, formerly known as <b>AUGUSTINA ROMATU OCHEME</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AUGUSTINA OMALE OCHEME</b> . Correct date of birth is August, 1 1968 not October 1, 1966. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DACHEN DANRIANG HOSEA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GUNEN DANGRIANG SOLOMON</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TULA NANBAM CLEMENT</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DENAN NANBAM AMOS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JOSEPH MATHEW</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DARENG JOSEPH MATHEW</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DAMAR ZUMSUK MOSES</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAMAR MOSES</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DOMINIC TOMA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GOBONJI DOMINIC</b> . Correct date of birth is 02/02/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADAMU	LONGZAKKAH	SILAS	MAIMUNA	DAYYABU	
I, formerly known as <b>HUNAIYU ADAM GARBA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAMU HUNAIYU ABUBAKAR</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>LONGZAKAH KEFAS KASSEM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LONGZAKKAH KEFAS KASSEM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YAKUBU BANG BLESSING</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SILAS BLESSING BANG</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MAIMUNA ABDULLAHI</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MAIMUNA IBRAHIM GANGAI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>UMAR DAIYABU</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UMAR DAYYABU ABDULLAHI</b> . All former documents remain valid. FCMB, all concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	<b>SPACE FO SALE</b>

**SPACE FOR SALE**

**I**t is Nigeria 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Nigerian Public workers (not civil servants) retires at 60. When a Nigerian Public worker retires, it means that he has reached the peak of his career and he or she has recorded some big strides and achievements. This is not the time for celebration for Nigeria. 60 years in the life of a human being is a lot. In the life of a country, we can say that we are still growing but that is not an excuse.

Growth is important depending on the direction of growth. As Nigeria's age increases, the direction of her growth continues southwards. Things are going from bad to worse in every sector of our economy. It appears that no one can bell the cat. This is not the time for celebration.

This is the time for reflection and introspection both collectively and individually. Anyone who is planning to eat pepper soup and drink beer with his friends on this Independence Day is an apology. Yes!.. While drinking that beer, ask yourself, what is there to celebrate *sef*? Are you even safe where you are sitting down. Look around you. Someone may be waiting to escort you home to kidnap you in front of your own house. So, what are you drinking and celebrating over? Or is it the bad road that you had to drive on to come to the beer parlour? How about the fact that you have heat rashes all over your face and chest due to the heat and bacterial growth because the Power Taking Company (PTCN) no send you, no give you light. Is it the one that you cannot even save food in your refrigerator in these hard times? How about the cost of petrol and light? What are you really celebrating? This is just you as an individual with your beer drinking friends...cheers any way. Look out. "You cannot come and go and ki yasef" as we say in naija.

Now lets us talk about companies who cannot export their products because they produce them at very high costs due to the high cost of energy or power and other factors of production. They have to reflect this in the prices of their products and transfer it to the customer. This is why life is hard in Nigeria. What are they going to celebrate? The same soap produced in Ghana is cheaper such that many companies have moved to Ghana and those in Nigeria cannot compete in the international market comfortably and profitably. Let MAN come and tell us about its woes while we are celebrating, and we will see that there is nothing to celebrate. When the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria is limping, when will full-fledged industrialization take place in Nigeria? All because of energy and a business environment steeped in insecurity.

I had two experiences recently. I went to Benin Republic last month on a business trip after six years and I was lost. I could not believe the infrastructural changes. I had the very rear privilege of meeting the upper crust of the government and what one of them said in his impeccable English to us is "Cotonou is now the place to be". I agreed.

I asked a Beninois what resources they have apart from revenue from their ports and he told me that the main export product they have is cotton...Full stop. Compare that to the resources that we have that can fill up this page. By the way, there were no fuel queues... As I was saying, He told me that they import their fuel from Angola and Algeria, and I said to myself "why not from Nigeria". Look at what we are losing? We have lost so many markets including our own. Why should we import fuel and why can Nigeria not sell fuel to Benin Republic? The bye products of crude oil alone are enough to generate ten types of jobs. Why can we not massively invest in refineries and build them across the country instead of importing.?

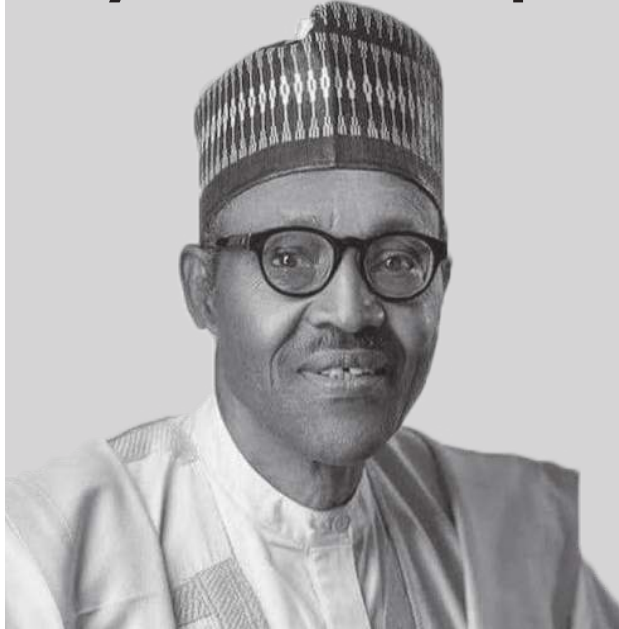
The deregulation of the oil sector should be complete, down to the building of private refineries all over the country, not a few modular refineries but many safe and secure refineries in every state. Why can we not have state-owned refineries? Plateau State can own its own refinery. This state can just buy its crude oil and refine it right hear and create jobs with the bye products, build roads, produce petroleum jelly for our harmattan weather with our made in Jos Petroleum Jelly etc. What shall we call it? "JTown Harmattan Petroleum Jelly Rub"-proudly made in Jos. We have a huge local market for petroleum jelly, considering how much Vaseline we buy during harmattan for dry skin. Vaseline is not a local brand. JTown Petroleum Jelly will create jobs for our young graduates in the manufacturing sector. Nationwide fuel scarcity will be a thing of the past. These state-owned refineries across Nigeria could be PPP Projects. I pray for

Nigeria to grow in the right direction.

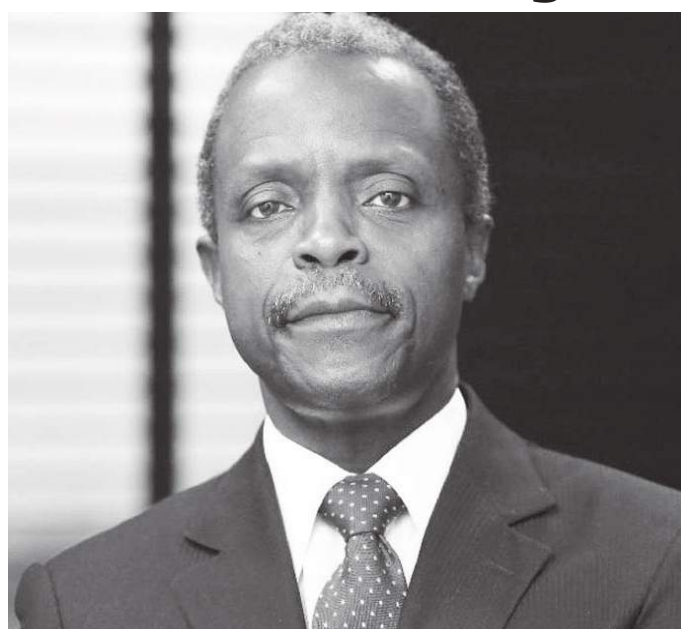
The second experience I had was talking business with an Indian Businessman who wants to do Business in West Africa. We met to discuss. As a bilingual International Business Consultant, I gave him the very best advice I could with my country's interest in mind. I told him to produce and sell in Nigeria and he said that he could not invest that way, because it is cheaper for him to import his products from India directly into the Nigerian market. I drew his attention to the fact that having a company in Nigeria, where production will take place will provide jobs for our young graduates. He has not replied yet. If he replies in the affirmative, it means that the cost of production will be high for him in Nigeria and if that happens, his products will become more expensive for consumers and his profit margin



## 62 years of independence: Whither Nigeria



**Buhari**



**Osinbajo**

may below. However, if he imports, it means that he may even sell below the prices of similar products, or the same type of product produced in Nigeria. At the end of the day, because our factors of production are expensive, we lose out on the job creation that a direct investment into our economy would bring. I did not blame this Businessman. He did not want to talk much. I am sure that he would have mentioned "a hostile business environment due to insecurity".

When we steal... sorry, embezzle money and take it outside to invest in the economy of other countries, we cheat our own country and create jobs for other countries. While others are running away from producing here, we are embezzling borrowed money and running away to invest in the economy of other nations, creating jobs for them. Where is our shame? Who will salvage this country? Who will bell the cat? We need to stop this. Our country is growing backwards. Wake up and be concerned.

So, why is it that we cannot solve this hydra headed problem that affects every area of our being? Why is it that smaller countries are doing themselves proud and we are here doing the same thing day in day out and expecting the same result? On my trip to Cotonou, I was with a Guinean colleague who kept on telling me "can you see Cotonou now, can you see? You people think that you are the giant of Africa. Let me tell you, smaller countries are growing, and they will soon overtake you people". I said nothing. Wetin I go talk? Na Business trip. Na me go come dey fight for Business trip? Abi na lie im talk?

We need to do a retreat. We have found ourselves moving in the wrong direction and moving backwards. What is there to do? A townhall meeting. A retreat across this country starting with the village level up to the states and all the way to the federal level. In fact, let us start from the family level. Bring in the politicians who will contest next year too. Bring in all our representatives, bring in our leaders of thought. Let us tell each other the truth. Na we go soon carry last if we no stop am!

This Independence Day is for reflection and introspection and discussion. Not for partying and acting the fool like the Americans would say. Let us tell ourselves the truth. We need to revisit many things so that real change can come starting with our philosophy of live as individuals and as a nation. Collins dictionary describes this as "any philosophical view or

vision of the nature or purpose of life or of the way that life should be lived". Our way of life. We need to change it. Our believes. We need to change them. Our lack of patriotism and nationalism. We need to change that. Our value system. We need to overhaul it.

Let us take just one example: Our worship of money. We woosorship money! Money is GOD in Nigeria. It has killed our collective conscience and crippled us. Even though we are known for our hard work, we make money to show off not to leave and afford modest lifestyles. We make money to show off and oppress others! We can do anything for money Why? Because we simply worship money. We make poverty a curse. When a man is rich, he oppresses the poor until the poor man goes into crime to become rich, until the Nigerian girl who wants to pull her poor family out of poverty and become a big girl goes to Dubai to feed on Arabian excrement, until the hopeful jobless young graduate turns to drug trafficking to survive. Our value system does not question the source of wealth anymore. Money justifies all means. This is the crux of the matter. The heart of our problem. The Average politician is not joining to serve but to empty our treasury and then carry all the roads and bridges and hospitals and jobs the money could have fetched us into foreign bank accounts and foreign economies.

If we want a better nation, it starts with creating a social welfare system that addresses poverty and a security system that stops embezzlement in its tracks. If poor people have free health care, education and security in old age such as old people's home, the need to make money at all costs will reduce. If the military man will not have his wife and children sent away from their accommodation when he dies, he focuses better on guarding the territorial integrity of the nation. If the civil servant does not worry about paying school fees and hospital bill, he will give the politician better advice on contract awards. This one problem of the worship of money and criminality will be addressed through a social welfare system, and this would engender the spirit of patriotism in the citizen.

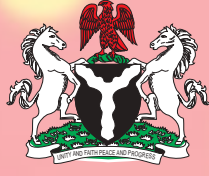
If the average politician runs for a political seat, it is not because he wants to serve. It is because he wants to recoup what he has spent in ten folds. Politics is now a form of investment. Money meant for roads, hospitals and power is spent privately or siphoned into foreign accounts and this money is eventually

invested into the foreign economy at the detriment of the nation. We take, not only for our pockets but for the pockets of our great great grandchildren. The funny part is we are quick to run out of this country for sundry services abroad. Our own is not good enough. Who will fix it for us? Other countries look at our stupendous wealth that does not finish in spite of the stealing and laugh at us. Why? Can we not be ashamed. Can we not learn to be patriotic? Can we not put our country first?

When taxpayers pay tax, we do not really understand? Everybody is waiting for federal allocation before anything happens. Let us have this town hall meetings. In these town hall meetings, we should charge ourselves. We shall brainstorm and think and come up with great ideas on how to generate growth and development in each state. Let us micromanage this process. Let us address our poor value system. Every state must start producing its own "federal allocation" because this federal allocation has atrophied our imagination in the area of productive revenue generation. It has atrophied our productivity. It is causing a lot of inertia while the locality where the federal allocation comes from is groaning.

Let us talk about nationalism and patriotism. What makes a great nation is nationalism. When we watch action movies and see American soldiers going to rescue America citizens, we often think that it is film trick. A year or two ago, such a rescue mission was said to have happened in Nigeria. Can Nigeria do this for her citizens? We don chop finish? It is when a country is ready to lay down her life for her citizens that her citizens will be ready to lay down their lives for her. Our doctors and best brains are leaving because they are not being treated well. They are going to enrich the polity and economy of other nations and we say that we are celebrating Nigeria at 62. Wetin she don for us?

On the other hand, Nigerians need to show more love for our country, no worry o. Naija na Mama wey sabi break her pikin heart but na di only Mama wey we get even if dem dey laugh us. E go beta! We all need to practice patriotism and nationalism by focusing on what the consequences of our indented action will be. It is a boomerang. This is because we are Nigeria, collectively and individually. Let us grow our country forward or remain collectively backward.



# Felicitations Message

from

**Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA)**



**Rt. Hon. YAKUBU YACKSON SANDA**  
Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly

**Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda**, Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA), on behalf of the Members, Management and Staff heartily felicitates with the President and Commander - in - Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**, the Vice President, **Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, GCON**, the Senate President, **Senator Ahmad Lawan**, Speaker of the House of Representatives, **Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila**, the Executive Governor of Plateau State and Captain of the Rescue Administration, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. Barr. Simon Bako Lalong** and indeed all Nigerians on this occasion of our 62nd Independence Anniversary.

As we celebrate this auspicious occasion, may we continue to pray for the peace and unity of our dear country Nigeria, especially as we begin the count down to the 2023 general elections.

Happy Independence Anniversary!

Long Live Nigeria!!

Long Live Plateau State!!!

Long Live Plateau State House of Assembly!!!!

**Signed:**

**Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda,**  
**Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA).**

# Goodwill Message

From

## Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs

The Commissioner, Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, **Hon. Sylvanus D. Tapgun, mni**, the Permanent Secretary, Management and the entire Staff of the Ministry, wish to facilitate with the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**, the Vice President, **Prof. Yemi Osinbajo**, the Senate President, **Sen. Ahmed Lawal** and members of the National Assembly, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, **Hon. Justice Olukayode Ariwoola**, our amiable Governor of Plateau State and the Leader of the Rescue Administration, **Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG**, his Deputy, **Prof. Sonni G. Tyoden**, The Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly, **Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda**, The Chief Judge of Plateau State, **Hon. Justice David Mann** and indeed all Nigerians on the occasion of the Nation's 62nd Independence Anniversary.

As we rejoice on this auspicious day, we salute the resilience of the Leader of the Rescue Administration for standing with the ideals and philosophy of our National Heroes past, that **"our diversity is our strength"**.

While we ponder, we pray the Almighty God to continue to fortify our leaders as well as the citizens aright and also inspire us to do more towards building a united peaceful and progressive nation.

Once more, happy independence day celebration, Nigeria.

Signed:

**S. D. Tapgun, mni.**

**Honourable Commissioner,  
Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs**



SIMON BAKO LALONG

SYLVANUS D. TAPGUN (mni)

Muhammadu Buhari



# INTERNATIONAL

**Nigeria since independence has lacked a coherent and well thought - out national identity with which the interest of the country could be identified and pursued at all times. Writes ISRAEL NANJUL LAR.**

**F**ROM time would boost the economic foundation and the implementation of foreign policy share mostly the attributes of domestic decision making process and the success of a country's policy which is often impeded by some circumstances within the domestic environment. Such impediments may arise out of the character of the political and economic institutions as structures operating within the country.

Foreign policy is often regarded as the basis upon which all international relations are conducted. It is usually formulated to meet the goals of national interest which in a real sense relates to those interests that are basic to the all round development, politically, economically, socio-culturally and psychologically of a particular country.

On the other hand, this could be viewed as the law to professed rules guiding the decision and action of the state or its government in relating with other states in the international system. They also include the philosophy underlying a country's foreign policy which guides her decision and action in pursuit of national interest in its current external relations with comity of nations.

However, a holistic review of Nigeria's foreign policy during the cold war era principles in line with the current realities at the domestic and international levels, have a lot to be desired considering areas of foreign engagements that

Challenges of Nigeria's foreign policy includes



**Guterres**

amongst others: security threats, unstable economy, political fragility, poverty, insufficient food security and varying and historical traditions.

This has led to a chronic inability to provide a base for Nigeria's foreign policy as was the case in other countries of the world.

As a result, the personal values, prejudices and judgment of individual values and cliques as subjective as

they may be, tend to influence on national interest and critical issues of coherence, consistency, dynamism and continuity.

In the same vein, Nigeria has continued to bear the problem of Africa without commensurate rewards, hence majority of her citizens experience on a daily basis poverty, disease, hunger, starvation and death.

Foreign policies of nations are not made in states in isolation. There are several factors, issues and events which determine the substance of a nation's foreign policy. This issues may be related events taking place in a remote part of the world but which may have resounding effect elsewhere. This is because of the interconnecting or interdependent nature of the global community. Furthermore, through bilateral and multilateral agreement with other nations within the region as well beyond, Nigeria was able to contribute immensely to Africa.



**Onyeama**

**Foreign policy is often regarded as the basis upon which all international relations are conducted. It is usually formulated to meet the goals of national interest which in a real sense relates to those interests that are basic to the all round development, politically, economically, socio-culturally and psychologically of a particular country.**

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**However, a holistic review of Nigeria's foreign policy principles in line with the current realities at the domestic and international levels, have a lot to be desired considering areas of foreign engagements that would boost the economic future of the country. Instead of focusing on Africa, Nigeria should place more emphasis on the welfare of its citizens.**



With **BULUS GAMBO**



# 'Love for money has taken over true love'

Continued from page 18

informative, entertaining, sensitizing, edifying, inspiring, illuminating and classic music is expected. Some tracks are already completed while still working on some hits.

### What are some of the challenges facing you at the moment?

The Love for money has taken over true Love, the love for a fellow man, even the love for God and the fear of God.

Go to a church that has a good studio and say you want to record gospel music and hear the charges.

The impression that many people have about music is that of rascality, womanizing, alcoholic /drug addiction, smoking and other related social vices

Many hardly believe that God can give anyone multiple talents. Most Christians forget that King David was a King-president,

musician and a warrior so how can you be uniform personnel and be a musician? Lovers of music still place less value on music.

Many people only promote where they can be glorified or gain directly. Call Him Jah and a fellow Christian does not believe that there's Jah in psalm 68.

Holier than Holiness or Holier than thou attitude.

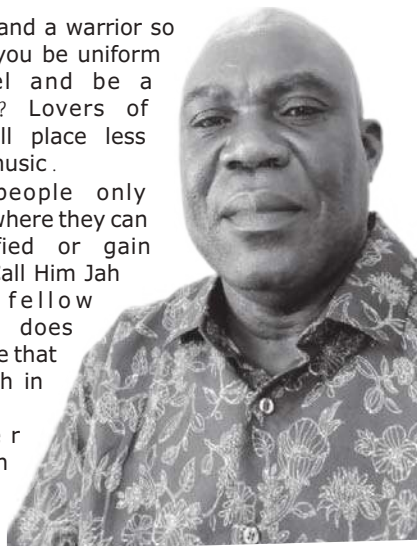
### Any advice for your colleagues in the industry?

It is not by power, not by might but by the Spirit, says the Lord. Make extensive research about the genre of your talent.

Listen to Great artists, you must be mentored by one or two, have a focus, faith and belief that at the appropriate time, you will hit the charts. Don't be in a hurry to release any track always bring out the best. Some artist depend on their producers, they get to studio and under thirty minutes or one hour, the music is done! Help and love one another's progress, no jealousy...Moreso, try to be original, be yourself, have a message for messages last longer than mere instrumentation, marry the two your successive tracks should be better than when you started...consistency.

### Any message for your fans?

Fans all over the world, have confidence in the music and expect something extraordinary. This is a message of Love, peace, hope, emancipation, consciousness, unification, transformation, discovery. The music is for all. Black, white, Red are just identities, descriptions or classifications. If you were born here or there you could have been speaking this or that language and vice versa. In the beginning one man was created before multiplications into men and women, so one Love, One heart, One blood, one God. God chooses to use a vessel to pass his messages. Everything has an origin when it spreads it becomes universal or globalized. I love you all, I appreciate you all. Let Jah be praised.



# Hollywood rising young stars

Continued from page 16

### Ariana DeBose



Moving to New York City from North Carolina at 19, DeBose's Broadway debut came in 2011's *Bring It On: The Musical*, which featured lyrics from Lin-Manuel Miranda, who would later tap DeBose for early workshops of *Hamilton*. "To see the fruits of your hard work, become an international phenomenon, I don't think you can ever fully process it," says the actress, who remembers helping Daveed Diggs escape a mob of fans during a lunch

break as the show was gaining popularity. It was in the middle of her Tony-nominated run as Donna Summer in the musical *Summer* that DeBose was called in to audition for Spielberg's *West Side Story*, eventually landing the part of Anita, originally made famous by Rita Moreno. Ahead of filming, Moreno offered the actress some advice: "Lean into everything that makes you special." DeBose surmises, "She basically was like, 'Don't get in my shadow.'"

### Phoebe Dynevor



A week after Dynevor wrapped filming on the six-month shoot for Netflix's *Bridgerton*, the quarantine began. "I went from one intense thing into another," says the actress, who only recently grasped the reach of the pandemic's biggest breakout: "It wasn't until the world has gone back to normal that I have realized the enormity of the show." The English Dynevor, who has been performing for over a decade and was previously best known stateside for TV Land-turned-Paramount+ darling *Younger*, is set for Amazon's U.K. remake of French series *Call My Agent* and Sony feature *I Heart Murder*. And, of course, there is *Bridgerton's* much anticipated second season. Dynevor is happy to be back at work, noting, "The noise that comes after what we do for a living is a whole separate thing."

### Chloe Fineman



On SNL, Fineman has impersonated everyone from Drew Barrymore to Timothée Chalamet. She was upped to repertory status this season and is also making the jump to the big screen this year with Warner Bros.' *Father of the Bride* remake, where she will take on Martin Short's wacky wedding planner role, minus the signature accent. "I felt like it was too much if I was German," she teases. "Now I'm the out-of-touch but likable white girl." And, in a more dramatic turn, Fineman will appear

opposite Brad Pitt and Margot Robbie in Damien Chazelle's Hollywood epic *Babylon*. The goal for the NYU grad is to straddle the worlds of both comedy and drama, while also eyeing a future in producing. She explains, "The more hands-on I get to be, the more I enjoy it."

### Dominique Fishback



When Fishback was working a retail job at New York's famed Drama Book Shop, she found out that the pilot she filmed titled *The Deuce* had been picked up to series by HBO. She kept signing up for shifts. "I still wanted to be grounded and wanted to be with everyone," says the East New York, Brooklyn, native of the decision. "Then my schedule got too busy and I had to give all of my shifts away." Her schedule has stayed busy with a variety of high-concept features (Project Power), Oscar-nominated titles

(*Judas and the Black Messiah*), and prestige television (Apple's *The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey*). Now, she has just wrapped filming on Paramount's next *Transformers* movie, which she co-leads with fellow Brooklynite Anthony Ramos.

### Leslie Grace



"It's something that I was itching for — to be able to play a role that didn't necessarily have anything to do with music," says Grace of her latest role in the highly anticipated DC feature *Batgirl*. The three-time Latin Grammy nominee made her onscreen debut earlier this summer in Lin-Manuel Miranda's NYC-set musical *In the Heights*, but is currently in training in London to play the superhero and alter

ego Barbra Gordon ("I am stretching for fun now"). *Batgirl* is only the second onscreen role for the Bronx-born and Florida-raised actress, and her first time on the top of the call sheet. But Grace is no stranger to performing, having started her career as a singer-songwriter when she was 16 years old. She says, "I use all of that experience in one way or another to fuel all the things that I'm doing now."

Source Hollywood Reporter

# THE WIFE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

## The struggle for equality continues

**W**E must lead with the power of our womanly knowingness and let new careers take shape around it" -Marianne Williamson".

Women are the taste buds that make society run smoothly and organised instruments worthy of being celebrated. As mother's, wives, sisters etc, they are found in every strata of human existence. The success stories or failures in every home is often attributed to the role of the woman or mother in family.

The fact that the woman is expected to take responsibility shows that they are embedded with wisdom, tact and strength to take charge. Unfortunately in the African setting, little or no opportunity is given to women to hold leadership or significant roles in nation building or governance. The arrogance of the men folk relegates women to the background as only men often take decisions on behalf of families, societies, or the nation at large.

The break away over time saw unique women breaking forth to become voices and role models to other women that need to be liberated from the premodial ways of doing things. These women in the likes of Fumilayo Ransome-Kuti, Margaret Ekpo, Gambo sawaba and several others have sacrificed for freedom



and democracy in order to give women a voice. In spite of all these sacrifices, Nigerian women to date are still struggling for relevance and representation in governance and nation building. They are still faced with socio-cultural, religious and ethnic norms that try to suppress the voice of Libration and the Lamentations of gender equality. With persistence

and agitations, the voices of women rose to demand gender equality from a world governed by men. The Beijing conference highlighted that women should demand equality and participation in positions of leadership politically, professionally and in anyway that will increase their relevance. But the question asked is "are women in Nigeria properly

represented and are legislative decisions made to protect or suppress them?" Is she given relevant political positions in governance? These are questions that need answers.

It should be recalled that the 35% affirmative action hinges on increase in political and leadership involvement in governance whether in states or the nation at large. It clearly gave rise to women by appointed or elected into political offices with the hope that this feat will increase to the point of equality. Unfortunately the present administration has not done well to encourage or ensure women are given their rights in political and leadership inclusion.

Recently the decision of the National Assembly to reduce the percentage of women holding political offices in Nigeria and also not to give advantage to the woman as regards representation through spouse indigenization or parental indigenization has further marginalised women in Nigeria. This has actually demoralised Nigerian women.

As against time past, the electioneering year is here and no woman has dared to vye for the presidential seat in

any of the political parties. Yet their counterparts in other countries have and still rule their nation in the highest political office and are not being challenged but encouraged. The likes of Sylvie Kiningi of Burundi, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Ivy Matsepe Cassaburi of South Africa have held leadership positions in their countries without being discriminated.

As Nigeria celebrates its 62nd year of gaining independence, we must take stock of where we are coming from and give the womenfolk the opportunity to contribute their own quota to governance and nation building. Nigerian men should give women a chance by ensuring that the affirmative action is fully applied at all levels of governance.

It is the earnest desire of women that all impediments limiting women vying for political positions are removed especially the high cost of forms, party antagonism, violence, insecurity etc. Woman

crave a society devoid of cultural norms that will bring liberation and not only give her a voice but an active one that allows for equal rights with her male counterpart.



# THE SLOW WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

## Health

### Activated charcoal for health and beauty benefits

**Y**OUR backyard barbeque might be the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word charcoal, but activated charcoal is actually quite different than what you use to cook a steak on a hot summer day.

It can be made from a variety of sources, but typically the activated charcoal that comes from coconut shells is ideal. When the material it's made from is heated to a very high temperature, its composition changes and is similar to charcoal except that it's much more porous.

Many think that activated charcoal works like a sponge, absorbing everything in the body that it comes into contact with. After all, it's used when someone ingests poison, so it makes sense. However, activated charcoal is a bit more nuanced, and uses a negative charge to attract toxins to it. Here are the top ways you can use this amazing substance:

**Emergency toxin removal**

This is the main reason we've all heard of activated charcoal at some point in our lives, as the substance is touted by Poison Control as an emergency treatment for toxins. Not only is it beneficial for the accidental ingestion of substances like bleach or pesticides, but it can help to counteract the effects of a drug overdose as well.

**Full body anti-aging**

Rather than using products that claim anti-aging benefits which simply target your physical appearance, activated charcoal has the necessary components to keep your entire body fresh and alive!



Working to eliminate toxins and chemicals that linger in our bodies, taking a few capsules of activated charcoal per day can flush your system. This can help to improve mental clarity, support a healthy digestive system, and can even reduce kidney and liver problems.

**Cleaner drinking water**

Sadly, most places in America are not fortunate to have healthy and

delicious tap water. Many cities find their drinking water contains chemicals including fluoride, solvents, and toxins. Using an activated charcoal water filter to carbon filter your water will help to clean up your tap and provide you with great tasting water!

**Helping with a hangover**

Activated charcoal is also reported

to help reduce or even completely prevent a hangover if taken while drinking alcohol. The ability of this substance to adsorb toxins and prevent alcohol from getting into your bloodstream sounds like nothing short of a miracle.

**Whitens your teeth**

If you browse through social media you'll no doubt see people using activated charcoal to whiten their teeth. For the most part, it works wonderfully to latch onto the tiny particles that cause stains, yet it may not work if you have crowns or veneers. Remember, brushing with activated charcoal is not intended to replace your normal oral care routine and should only be done a few times a week to see results.

**Helps to relieve gas and bloating**

Many individuals suffer from digestive problems including gas and bloating after meals. If this is a common occurrence and becomes problematic, try using activated charcoal after eating. It works to bind together the elements in your meal that cause gas and bloating and helps you to eliminate them in the bathroom. Make sure to drink plenty of water with the activated charcoal and right after taking it to help get it into your system for quick relief.

**Detoxing from mold**

We tend to think of mold as a substance that lives outside of our bodies, but if we're frequently in an environment where mold is present, quite the opposite might be true.

**Acting as a general beauty aid**

It makes sense that activated charcoal can be used for a variety of treatments, as its powerful ability to eliminate toxins has been proven time and time again. Use it on your skin to tighten pores, treat acne,

heal bug bites and cuts, and balance oily skin. Rather than ingesting activated charcoal like so many other instances call for, using it as a skin mask or a topical treatment can yield fast results.

**Cleanse your digestive system**

You don't need to be hungover or have bloating to take advantage of the benefits of activated charcoal in your system. Many people integrate it as part of their daily routine and couple it with plenty of water and a healthy diet.

**Lower your high cholesterol**

Attaching itself to cholesterol and bile acids in our digestive system, activated charcoal can help prevent these compounds from moving into the bloodstream. As with all other instances of taking this amazing substance, the elements that it binds to will pass through your body when you defecate.

**Tips For Taking Activated Charcoal**

While it sounds like a miracle powder, activated charcoal is actually readily available and easy to find. Many places are featuring it as a healthy drink option in place of freshly squeezed juice, and capsules filled with the powder are sold at pharmacies. Keep in mind that dosages of activated charcoal will vary depending on your use, so speak with a physician before taking it for any reason.

Ingesting activated charcoal has a drying effect on the body, so stay hydrated as you take it. It's not uncommon for anywhere between 12 and 16 cups of water to be recommended as you take advantage of its cleansing properties. People on certain medications may also want to use caution as it can prevent the absorption of these pharmaceuticals into your bloodstream.

Source: Helloglow.com





# Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi  
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## Are elderly people 'use and dump' citizens?

**A**FTER spending most of their lives investing in their children and families, age eventually catches up with them.

With age, they start witnessing a transition in their lives, their level of productivity and activeness starts reducing.

They start retiring gradually because its a natural phenomenon, some begin to come down with one form of ill-health and the other, with many managing ailments like high or low blood pressure, diabetes, ulcers, dementia, back, ankle or leg pains, arthritis, or other terminal health conditions.

What is of great concern is how many aged people sometimes get abandoned and neglected by their children, family members, employers, government, and society. After investing their productive years to their families and society, watching the aged fade and suffer neglect is a common occurrence in the country.

Those of them who commit their life-span to work for private organisations hardly get pensions and those who work for government agencies and retire face a lot of challenges with many retiring and living for years without getting their gratuities, rights, and other entitlements or benefits accrued to them. Those in the Federal Civil Service are usually made to travel far distances to designated points across the country or to the Federal Capital Territory for unending pension screenings under harsh and unbearable conditions, those who are sick and bedridden are carried to such screening points because the organisers do not conduct such screenings by proxy. Sadly some of the pensioners who cannot afford accommodation sleep outside the screening venues. There are sad reports of how some of them gave up the ghost and died, slumped or fainted due the inability to cope with the stress.

In Nigeria some old helpless people face harmful traditional cultural discriminatory actions and are called 'witches' or 'wizards' in their communities due to poverty and how worn out their appearance has become due to age. Some of such communities have cast them out to the streets or even attempted to burn them alive to get rid of them. Sadly some children get



brainwashed into believing their old-tired and helpless parents or grandparents are evil, witches, or wizards.

But we cannot do without the aged population in a society. They are identified and regarded as the most experienced personalities who ate the custodians of culture and history.

Because of the importance of the elderly to society, the United Nations (UN) has mapped out October 1 as a special day for marking the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) by encouraging countries to draw attention to and challenge negative stereotypes and misconceptions about older persons and ageing, and to enable older persons to realize their potential.

The theme for the 2022 IDOP is "Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World", with the UN targeting women.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities, with the past three years intensifying the socioeconomic, environmental, health and climate related impacts on the lives of older persons, especially older women who constitute the majority of older

persons", says the UN.

"While older women continue to meaningfully contribute to their political, civil, economic, social and cultural lives; their contributions and experiences remain largely invisible and disregarded, limited by gendered disadvantages accumulated throughout the life course. The intersection between discrimination based on age and gender compounds new and existing inequalities, including negative stereotypes that combine ageism and sexism".

The theme according to the UN serves as a hallmark and reminder of the significant role older women play in traversing global challenges and contributing to their solutions with resilience and fortitude.

Therefore recognizing the vital contributions of older women and promoting the inclusion of their voices, perspectives and needs are critical to creating meaningful policies to enhance a holistic response to local, national, and global challenges and catastrophes.

The day therefore should be used by stakeholders to call to action and opportunity aimed to embrace the voices of older women and

showcase their resilience and contributions in society, while promoting policy dialogues to enhance the protection of older persons human rights and recognize their contributions to sustainable development, highlight the resilience of older women in the face of environmental, social, economic and lifelong inequalities, raise awareness of the importance of improved world-wide data collection, disaggregated by age and gender, call on member states, UN entities, UN Women, and civil society to include older women in the center of all policies, ensuring gender equality as described in the UN Secretary-General's report, "Our Common Agenda".

"Over the next three decades, the number of older persons worldwide is projected to more than double, reaching more than 1.5 billion persons in 2050. All regions will see an increase in the size of the older population between 2019 and 2050. The largest increase (312 million) is projected to occur in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, growing from 261 million in 2019 to 573 million in 2050. The fastest increase in the number of older persons is expected in Northern Africa and Western Asia, rising from 29 million in 2019 to 96 million in 2050 (an increase of 226 per cent). The second fastest increase is projected for sub-Saharan Africa, where the population aged 65 or over could grow from 32 million in 2019 to 101 million in 2050 (218 per cent). By contrast, the increase is expected to be relatively small in Australia and New Zealand (84 per cent) and in Europe and Northern America (48%), regions where the population is already significantly older than in other parts of the world".

Among development groups, less developed countries excluding the least developed countries will be home to more than two-thirds of the world's older population (1.1 billion) in 2050. Yet the fastest increase is projected to take place in the least developed countries, where the number of persons aged 65 or over could rise from 37 million in 2019 to

120 million in 2050 (225%)".

Change the way you think about the aged

Older people need to be celebrated for sacrificing to secure the next generation. They should be appreciated for contributing their own quota to society.

The present generation of youths should realise that they are reaping from the structures on ground because of the hard work of the older generation.

Therefore from children, to families, communities, society and governments, older people should be respected, revered and given support to flourish.

According to the UN by 2020, the number of people aged 60 years and older will outnumber children younger than 5 years.

Over the next three decades, the number of older persons worldwide is projected to more than double, reaching more than 1.5 billion persons in 2050 and 80% of them will be living in low- and middle-income countries. Prevalence figures based on a survey of 83,034 people in 57 countries found one in every two people held moderately or highly ageist attitudes like stereotypes and prejudice.

A longer life brings with it opportunities, not only for older people and their families, but also for societies as a whole. Additional years provide the chance to pursue new activities such as further education, a new career or pursuing a long neglected passion. Older people also contribute in many ways to their families and communities. Yet the extent of these opportunities and contributions depends heavily on one factor: health.

The UN projects the Decade of Healthy Ageing from year 2021-2030 to be an opportunity to bring together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector for ten years of concerted, catalytic and collaborative action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Globally, the ageing population is poised to become one of the most significant social transformations of the twenty-first century, with implications for nearly all sectors of society, including labour and financial markets, the demand for goods and services, such as housing, transportation and social protection, as well as family structures and intergenerational ties.

As Nigeria celebrates its 62nd independence, it is important to remember that aside individual and society efforts, the Nigerian government should ensure older people do not become 'use and dump' citizens after rendering their service to the country and their families during their prime. There should be personal efforts by families and communities towards creating rewarding and standard policies to look after them.

Children, families, communities and governments can put them on monthly stipends or allowances or create platforms to support them with food, healthcare, and other social, psychological, spiritual and physical incentives to make them enjoy their old-age gloriously.



# EYE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

## Living

### The disadvantaged position of Nigerian Women in politics

**A**NOTHER electioneering season is here and it will be incomplete without x-raying and mentioning the participation of women in politics and the diverse challenges faced by this gender in the political arena in Nigeria.

The statistics of women in politics in Nigeria has been incredibly low compared to their male counterparts and the ratio has continued to be alarming and signals a great danger to the issue of gender equality as one of the sustainable development goals. If Nigeria is to achieve the sustainable development goal of ensuring gender equality in the political arena, there is a lot of work to be done.

Low percentage of women no doubt puts other women at disadvantage because the voice that needs to be heard in representation of other women folks is over shadowed and extinguished by the presence of a more dominant male in Nigerian political leadership.

The low participation of women in these positions affects their progress in improving the legal and regulatory framework for promoting gender equality since very few women are influencing the legislative process that promotes aspects that has to do with the women folk. Statistics have it that women make up 49 percent of the Nigerian



population but only 4 out of this percentage are lawmakers. In 2021, statistics show that there are currently 7 women out of the 109 senators, with only 22 women out of the 360 House of Representatives members. The percentage of women in local government seats ranges from a high 33

percent to a low of 2 percent. Nigeria has the lowest number of female parliamentarians in sub-Saharan Africa and ranks 133rd in the world for female political participation. Women's political participation in Nigeria remains at 6.7 percent in elective and appointive positions.

These statistics speak of a

looming disadvantaged position for the Nigerian woman in political and leadership realities. Women have been hampered by a lot of factors, contributing to their poor representation in politics and leadership positions.

Amongst these factors are the huge amounts pecked on nomination forms for elective positions, poor education,

weighed down with a lot of burdens and home front responsibilities, cultural norms, poor media coverage compared to their male counterparts, gender stereotype and gender related electoral violence, threats and hate speech. These issues can be tackled when legislations are put in place to give women level playing ground to compete favorably with others. Drastic change must take place if we are to have women occupying electoral positions. We can learn from countries like Rwanda that has become the only country in sub-Saharan Africa to have the highest number of female representatives as at 2020 with 6.25 percent of women in legislative positions.

Rwanda could achieve this feat because, it was deliberate about its development, knowing that women play a major role in the development of any nation if given the opportunity to serve. And so they chose the quota system and legislated it and which has worked well for them as a nation.



BUSINESS WORLD

# Implications of oil theft on the economy

*Though it is not a new thing it has been on for a very long time without a statistics. But the statistics obtained recently from experts in the oil business regarding oil thief and it implications to the nations economy as a major income earner is very alarming and can easily ground the economy of the most populated nation in Africa. CELESTINE ATTSAR writes.*



**F**ROM the records, past months have seen a more dangerous and massive decline in the volume of crude oil export from Nigeria, statistics have it that in June Nigeria produced 1.238 million bpd in July dropped it 1.083 million bpd and it dropped to all time low to 972,394bpd in August which is said to be lowest in the past 20 years. Crude oil theft is said to be old as the industry itself but why has the government not fund a solution to this unending ugly development that has eaten the resources that is meant for the development of the country?

Now that demand for crude oil is high in international market and Nigeria can't meet up with its quota as stipulated by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This is a serious embarrassment.

The revenue from gas export as obtained from Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited (NLNG) website indicated that in the first quarter of 2022 (Q1'22), it surpassed that of crude export by 259.4 percent under the same period. The revenue is said to have the potentials of reaching 300 million per quarter. Plus future investment in gas growth venture is threatened by massive insecurely and pipeline vandalism.

The development has a lot of negative impact on investment in the oil sector as this has forced some companies to shut down production or sell off their assets. Shell, Chevron, Mobil and other international oil companies have given up hope in the countries oil industry as a result of this unending crude theft.

The activities of these criminals have affected the micro and macro-economy of Nigeria with oil theft and illegal bunkering taking as much as 200,000 to 400,000 barrel per day of the country's oil production as

reported in the media. It means our fiscal stability is in peril and that can lead to the collapse of the entire economy.

After many years of insurgency by the militants in the Niger Delta resulted in a serious confrontation with the non-state actor and the state actors which came to a stop as a result of the amnesty programme that was facilitated by the government of late Musa Yar'Adua, is it expected that the Nigerian military have by now developed a master plan to protect these facilities that are the life line of the country's economy. It is funny that big ocean liners used to lift crude oil that is stolen move freely within our territorial waters and succeed without detection from all the security agencies and government officials working daily and earning fat salaries and allowances. If nothing serious is done it will spell doom to our economy which is already limping. Disturbed by this increasing cases of oil theft in the country, the managing Director of Nigeria National Petroleum Cooperation, (NNPC) Mele Kyar, during ministerial briefing sparked controversy when he said thieves from all levels of society were stealing over 200,000 barrel of crude oil per day. He accused Churches and Mosques for keeping stolen fuel, an allegation religious groups rejected. He added that up to 95% percent of Nigeria's oil produced at the Bonny Terminal was being stolen. He cited one oil company and said 295 illegal connection had been attached along its 200 kilometer course.

The NNPC boss explained that the dirty job is done by organized groups in collaboration with communities that these pipelines passed through. It is expected that these communities should be the second eyes of the government apart from the security operatives that are

deployed to guard the oil installations. In August, Nigeria oil officials launched an online portal to track oil theft and promised to reward whistle blowers handsomely when they report any incident of oil theft.

The initiative is a welcome development, if it can be implemented to the letter, as that will go a long way in addressing the crime.

In the latest move to address issues of oil theft, the Nigerian government has contracted pipeline protection to non state actors in response to this leakage in the economy. The latest award of a N48 billion a year contract to the former warlord of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) Government Ekpemupolo alias Tompolo which has generated applause and apposition. Government claimed that the former militant has knowledge of all the creeks and water ways inside out, so he can police oil theft in the area. It also claimed that Tompolo's performance stood out in the contract awarded to him between 2014 and 2015, leading to a tremendous increase in NIMASA revenue.

The alleged involvement of security operatives in criminal sabotage and illegal bunkering is more puzzling. A few week ago, a 3million capacity super tanker. Mr Heroic Idun: illegally loaded crude oil in the Niger Delta and sneaked into the nations territorial waters escaping the Nigerian Navy's surveillance eyes only to be arrested by the Navy of Equatorial Guinea. Occasionally, members of the security agencies arrest some locals and parade them to the public but the big oil thieves often curiously escape their grips. Oil theft engenders several implications for Nigeria. Beside

those killed in the act of siphoning oil from active pipelines or the inferno that often accompanies the sabotage; the negative environmental impact of the crime is enormous.

From all indications, the locals give support to those involved in the oil theft or participate directly. Looking at it from all standard, after many years of negligence by the political class who do not have their people at heart, it is seen as a reaction to how the state and the political class treated them that made these locals be partners in this crime. By addressing some of their challenges and a educating them on the danger of oil theft to their communities lots will be achieved. Neglecting the oil communities give room to criminal groups to reinvent themselves because the core concern of the

communities is neglect by government and political leaders. One other way government can act is to facilitate stakeholders engagements with community leaders.

Implement partnership agreement with oil companies and to further discuss the best way to end oil theft.

As it is now very obvious that Nigeria is losing lots from the activities of oil theft which has drastically reduced its main source of revenue. It is important for the government to take all the necessary measures by all means to stamp out this criminal activity that is about to put a stop to the development of our country in all spheres of life. All those involved and are caught should be treated as if saboteurs of the nation and should be treated as the law stipulates.



# BUSINESS WORLD

## Nigeria-Saudi Chamber of Commerce to reduce trust deficit

-FG

**T**HE Federal Government says the approval of the Nigeria-Saudi Arabia Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NSCCIMA), will increase trade volume between both countries and reduce trust deficit.

The Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed said this recently in Abuja, when the President of the Chamber, Alhaji Ibrahim Usman paid him a courtesy visit.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Usman presented a copy of the Certificate of Registration of the Chamber to the minister.

Mohammed hailed the registration of the Chambers after 11 years, adding that it would improve the volume of trade between both countries, currently put at about five million dollars.

He said the Chamber will also become a clearing house for businesses and investments, thereby, reducing trust deficit between business men from both countries.

According to the minister, the Chambers is the beginning of a new relationship between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, though both countries have cordial relations.

"It will change the narrative that relationship between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia is from the narrow perspective of religion and pilgrimage.

"It will create a bridge for better cooperations between the two important nation's in the areas of petroleum industry, cottage industry, IT, Power, and creative industry.

"It is, therefore, not a coincidence that Nigeria will soon be receiving 60 inter-ministerial delegation from



Mohammed

Saudi Arabia," he said.

The minister charged Nigerian business community to take the opportunity of the Chamber to increase the trade volume between both countries.

He also corrected the erroneous impression that non-Moslem cannot invest in Saudi Arabia, saying that America is Saudi's biggest trading partner.

The minister thanked the president of the Chamber for his vision and resilience.

Earlier, the president of the Chamber said in spite of the large number of Nigerians flooding Saudi for Umrah and Hajj, the official volume of trade between both oil rich countries was at least disappointing.

He said Nigerians had not taken the advantage of Saudi magnanimity by creating excellent windows of assistance through bilateral cooperations.

"For instance, whereas 46 countries including Egypt,

Pakistan, Sudan, Kenya, Ghana have been enjoying billions of dollars in soft loans and trade related soft term facilities under the Saudi Export Programme, no single dollar of facility was advanced to any business in Nigeria."

He said that Nigeria had a lot to learn from Saudi Arabia which has over the years built fantastic industrial estates in all their key cities.

Usman also corroborated the minister that religion would not be a barrier to investors because Saudi Arabia was opening up its immigration and economic policies based on its 2030 Vision.

He said Saudi recently opened its visa policy to investors and visitors entering any part of the country, except Mecca and Medina.

Usman said such visitors and investors irrespective of their religion, would be given visa on arrival, if they have a valid U.S. or UK visa. (NAN)

## FG securities provides rare investment opportunity for Nigerians- DMO

**T**HE Debt Management Office (DMO) says FGN Securities provides a rare opportunity for ordinary Nigerians to invest and earn regular income.

Director-General of the DMO, Patience Oniha, said this recently at FGN Securities Issuance Awareness Programme in Umuahia, Abia.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the awareness programme is a collaborative effort by the DMO and CSL Stockbrokers Ltd., the stockbroking firm of the Federal Government.

Oniha, who was represented by Mr Joe Ugoala, DMO's Director, Organisational Resources Department, said the risk-free nature of FGN securities made them particularly attractive to the common people.

She urged residents of Umuahia to take full advantage of the opportunity to diversify their investments, while also supporting the Federal Government to raise revenue for infrastructural projects.

She said that investors could access their funds anytime they liked as "government cannot default in payment".

"FGN securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government, and that greatly reduces risk of loss of capital," Oniha said.

Earlier, Ifeoma Ukwunna, Lead, Retail Business, CSL Stockbrokers Ltd., said investment in FGN securities would give Nigerians the opportunity to earn passive income from their idle funds.

Ukwunna said that the security instruments provided opportunity for investors to diversify their investment portfolios across asset classes, thereby reducing risk of loss of investment.

"They are very liquid, almost as good as cash, and can be sellable anytime the investor wants," she said.

She said particularly, the FGN Savings Bond had incentive for retail investors.

"With as low as N5,000 Nigerians can invest in the FGN savings bond designed to accommodate the common

man in the financial market, and encourage financial inclusion," she said.

Ukwunna urged interested investors to contact their stockbrokers or banks for further information. (NAN)

National Assembly leadership meets Finance ministers over 2023 budget proposals

The meeting was a follow-up to previous ones held to fine-tune the preparation of the budget ahead of the presentation to a special joint session of the National Assembly by the president next month.

The leadership of the National Assembly on Thursday met with the two ministers in the Finance Ministry, Zainab Ahmed and Clement Agba, and other top officials of the ministry.

The two groups met in preparation for the presentation of the 2023 budget proposals.

Leaders of the National Assembly present at the meeting were Senate President, Ahmad Lawan, and

**T**HE Central Bank of Nigeria has ordered Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) across Nigeria to increase interest on customers' savings.

The apex bank directed banks to pay 4.65 per cent interest on savings deposit accounts, an increase of 4.2 per cent earlier. The directive is due to the 150 basis point addition in monetary policy rates to 15.5 per cent from 14 per cent.

The CBN's decision came from an increase in the interest rates on savings deposits, which could mop up excess liquidity in the system.

Recall that, the CBN governor, Godwin Emefiele, announced the MPC changes on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at its MPC meeting. The Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) is the rate at which the apex bank lends money to banks.

It is a benchmark rate for lending in the financial services industry. Savings deposit rates are rates that

## CBN directs banks to increase interest

banks pay customers for the MPR at 14 per cent, keeping their money in the meaning a 30 per cent increase to 4.2 per cent.



Emefiele

## All-commodity group import index increases by 0.07% - NBS

**T**HE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) says the All-commodity group import index on average increased by 0.07 per cent, with the highest increase recorded by "Vehicles, aircraft and parts."

This is according to the NBS Commodity Price Indices for Q2 of 2022 released in Abuja recently.

The report said this is followed by products of the chemical and allied

industries" and "Live animals; animal products".

The NBS said the All-commodity group export price index on average also increased by 0.18 per cent in Q2 2022.

It said the increase was majorly attributed to an increase in the prices of "wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal and articles", "paper making material; paper and

paperboard, articles", and "plastic, rubber and articles thereof".

The report said the All products Terms Of Trade (TOT) index on average increased by 0.11 per cent.

"This was as a result of increases in the prices of "wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal and articles", "paper making material; paper and paperboard", and "miscellaneous manufactured articles."

The TOT represents the ratio between a country's export prices and its import prices.

The NBS said the All-region group export index also increased by 0.18 per cent mainly due to rise in prices of export to all regions except America.

The report said the All-region group import index increased by 0.07 per cent due to changes in import prices to some of the regions.

It said the All-region terms of trade on average increased by 0.11 per cent due to the rise in export prices to all the regions compared to the rise in import prices from all the regions.

The report said the major export and import markets of Nigeria in Q2, 2022 were India, Spain, The Netherlands, The United States of America, Indonesia and China. (NAN)

Already, the federal government plans to spend N18.6 billion daily on PMS. The two proposals have budget deficits far above the stipulated threshold in the Fiscal Responsibility Act.





## Plateau State Internal Revenue Service

### GOODWILL MESSAGE

**T**he Executive Chairman Plateau State Internal Revenue Service, **Mr. Arlat Dashe, fcti fcna**, Board, Management and the entire Staff of the Service, felicitate with the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**, the Vice President, **Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, GCON**, our indefatigable leader and Governor of Plateau State, Chairman Northern Governor's Forum and Chairman Plateau State Revenue Council, **Rt. Hon. Dr. Simon Bako Lalong KSGG**, his Deputy, **Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden**, the Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly, **Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda**, the Chief Judge, Plateau State, **Justice David Gwong Mann** and indeed all Nigerians on the occasion marking the 62nd Independence Day celebration of our dear Nation.

The Service is elated with the notable transformational achievements of the Federal, State, and the Local Governments.

To our leader the Rescue Governor of Plateau state, your pragmatic efforts at restoring peace to our state, providing the basic needs of the people in every facet is highly commendable and deeply appreciated by all and sundry.

We at the Revenue Service wish to put on record your untiring efforts to ensure that we uplift the Revenue profile of the state to the NEXT LEVEL. We assure you of our support and hard work towards the actualization of Economic rebirth and sustainable development which is one of the cardinal thrusts of your second term in office.

As we celebrate the Independence Day, may the patriotic determination and resilience exhibited by our heroes past permeate our minds and propel us towards the attainment of permanent peace and progress.

Long Live Nigeria!  
Long Live Plateau State!!  
Long Live Plateau State Internal Revenue Service!!!

**Dashe Arlat Dasogot Fcti, Fcna**  
**Executive Chairman, PSIRS**



**Dashe Arlat Dasogot Fcti, Fcna**  
Executive Chairman, PSIRS



**President Muhammadu Buhari**

**Gov. Simon Bako Lalong**

# Independence Goodwill Message

From

## Local Government Service Commission

**A**s we celebrate Nigeria's nationhood which journey begun sixty two years ago through the pragmatic, collaborative and resilient effort of our founding fathers, whose passion for an indivisible and amiable Republic came to fruition on the first of October nineteen sixty.

In commemorating this noble feat, the Chairman Plateau State Local Government Service Commission, Chief Barrister, **Robert Andrew Taple (Wazirin Mupun)** on behalf of Commissioners, Permanent Secretary and staff of the seventeen Local Government Councils, felicitate with the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, **President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR**, his Vice, **Professor Yemi Osinbajo GCON**, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, their Deputies and all members of the National Assembly as well as members of the Federal Executive Council on this auspicious occasion of the commemoration of Independence.

We in the same vein, join citizens of Plateau to profoundly rejoice with the Captain of the Rescue Administration, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon Simon Bako Lalong KSGG**, Chairman Northern Governors Forum and his Deputy, **Professor Sonni Tyoden**, the Speaker, **Rt. Hon Yakubu Sanda**, Deputy Speaker and members of Plateau State House of Assembly, Chief Judge, **Justice David Mann** as well as the Chairman and members of Plateau State Council of Chiefs and Emirs on this auspicious occasion where we recount and gauge the level of our commitment to Nigeria's growth and development in line with the heroic values set by pioneers.

Mr. Governor, your administration is a pillar and factor of reckoning in all the gains and achievements attained by the Local Government Service Commission.

The Commission has quantifiably broken records and positively impacting on staff via your approval for the release of their promotions, conversions, appointments, transfers as well as training and retraining which are among its cardinal objectives.

These have placed Local Government Employees at the vantage to deliver on their statutory responsibility of providing service to the grassroots and in turn yield growth and development.

As the Nation continues on the path of sovereignty laid through the vision of our heroes past, the Commission shall assiduously do its bidding in conformity with the values of unity, peace and progress upon which this struggle was hatched.

Congratulations and Happy Independence.

**Aminchi K. Joshua.**  
**Information Officer**

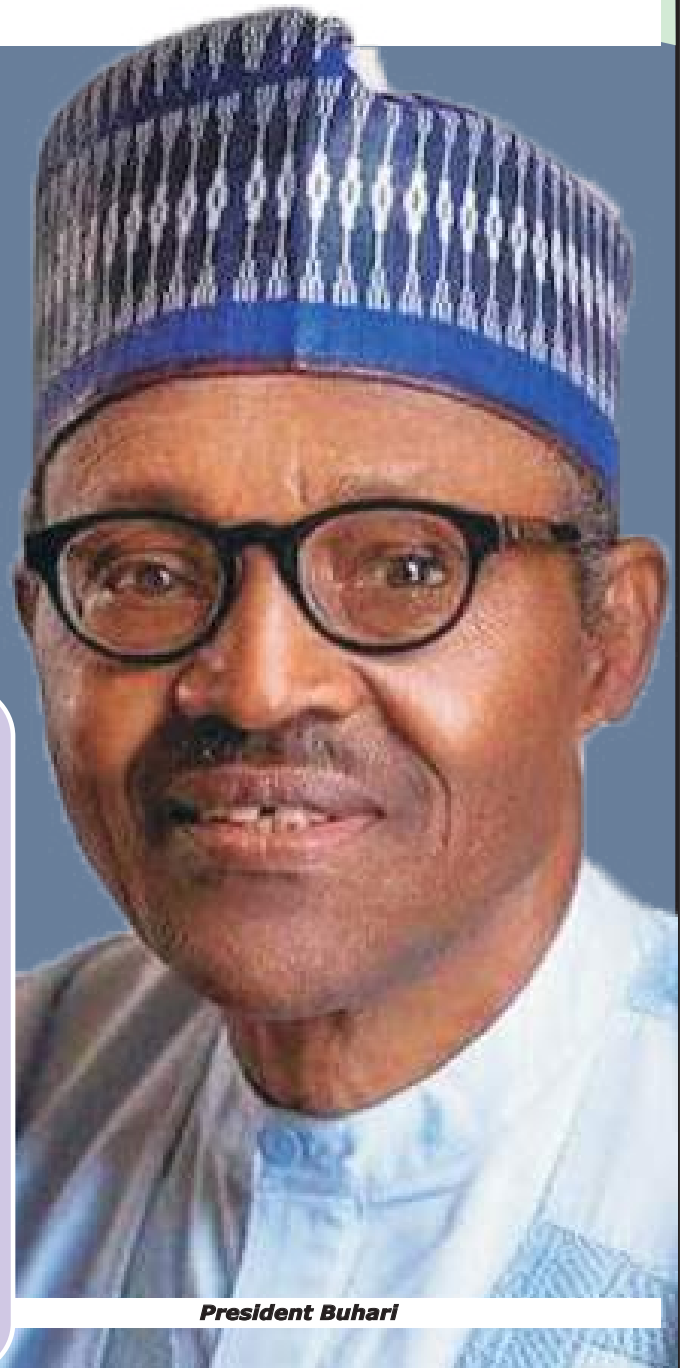
**For: Chairman Local Government Service Commission**



**Governor Lalong**



**Chief Robert Taple**



**President Buhari**

**PROBATE NOTICE**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA  
PROBATE DIVISION**

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.  
AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column here onto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (2) days from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Selbol Emmanuel Sohnan late of Plateau state. Died on the 1st January, 2022 at General Hospital Pankshin.	Sohnan Lohcit Shendam of Opposite Prison Service Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Ibrahim Joseph late of Plateau State. Died on the 2nd August, 2022 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	ictor Ibrahim & Precious rahim of ECWA Staff chool Jos North LGA, lateau State. Lawful on/daughter of the said eceased.	Usman Shaibu late of Kogi State. Died on the 9th September, 2021 at Benue State.	Usman Abubakar Sadiq of Close to Water Board Byazhi Abuja. The lawful son of the said Deceased.
INSP. Emmanuel Ayuba late of Kaduna State. Died on the 17th August, 2021 at Akwa Ibom.	David Stephen & John Emmanuel of Bege Baptist Church Agwan Barde Sabon Tasha Kaduna State. The lawful sons of the said deceased.	Dabuet, Theresa David late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th January, 2019 at PSSH, Jos.	Dabuet Peter David of ECWA 2 Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Anne Garos Ohunyon late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th May, 2022 at Jos, Plateau state.	Pius Ohunyon of Gut Village Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful husband of the said deceased.
Edet Etim late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th May, 2022 at Bassa LGA, Plateau State.	Emmanuel Edet Opposite Cottage Hospital, Bassa LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Datiyi David Nyango late of Plateau State. Died on the 20th March, 2022 at Gazok Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Rhoda Kangyang Pam & George Gwong Datiyi all of Opposite COCIN LCC Gazok Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	Robert Amos Dumarwa late of Yola Adamawa State. Died on the 10th September, 2021 at MMSH Kano State.	Emmanuel Robert Amos & Lydia Robert Amos of Chalawa, Kano State. The lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.
Gaiyus Dogara late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th August, 2022 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Dogara Gentleman Gaiyus of House No. 3 Irigwe Road Utan Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Rhoda Yaro late of Plateau State. Died on the 11th January, 2022 at New Fobur, Jos East LGA, Plateau State.	Musa Azi Abok of Baptist Church New Fobur, Jos East LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Martha Rwang late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th August, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Geoffrey Sunday of ECWA Church Jenta Mangoro Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
John Nwosu late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th April, 2019 at Ugbolafo Enugu State.	Peter Nwosu of Angwan Soya, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Luka Godfey late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th April, 2019 at PSSH, Jos.	Luka Godfrey Manko of JMDB Quarters Tudun Wada Jos Noth LGA, Plateau State. The lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Musa Balarabe Akku (Alh) late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th January, 2013 at Jos, Plateau State.	Abubakar Balarabe Sadiq of No. 24 Tudun Wada Ring Road, Jos Noth LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Solomon Abanga Mangai late of Plateau State. died on the 28th May, 2022 at Bokkos, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State.	Solomon Dauda of COCIN Church New Layout Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Peter Achir late of Benue State. Died on the 25th May, 2022 at Jato-Aka Benue State.	Akombo Tersoo Mark of Jenta Adamu, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Shehu Mohammed Gwandu late of Plateau State. Died on the 2nd December, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Usman Muhammad Gwandu No. 3 Bauchi Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Philomena Sani late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th May, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Habiba Gladys Sani of Sabon Barki Behind Zumji Event Enterp, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Stephen Dung late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th February, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Joseph Stephen Dung of Diye Kyeng Vera Zawan Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Musa Jubril late of Abuja FCT. Died on the 25th June, 2013 at Zuba Abuja FCT.	Jubril Musa of Ali Kazaure, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Joel Dayil James late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th March, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Juliana James Dayil & Nantap Dayil James of Mado Village, Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow/daughte of the said deceased.	Nuhu Panti late of Plateau State. Died on the 12th December, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Nuhu Amar Abubakar of Gangare, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Ndam Mamfa Shehu late of Plateau State. died on the 9th April, 2019 at JUTH, Zamko Langtang South LGA, Plateau State.	Ponfa Ndam & Nimkur Ndam Shehu of Mabudi Langtang South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful sons of the said deceased.
Anthony Juliana late of Nasarawa State. Died on the 24th June, 2021 at Auta Balaifi Nasarawa State.	Kefas Chullu James & Isreal Yakubu of New Layout Jebu Bassa LGA, Plateau State. The lawful sons of the said deceased.	<b>Signed (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) AG: PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</b>		Datong Dakogol John late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th January, 2020 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Naanman Dakogol John & Dakogol Jeremiah Kaamul of Jenta Adamu, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.

NEWS

# Tanker explosion claims lives in Kogi

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**M**ANY persons were said to have been burnt to death when a tanker with full load of PMS, (petrol) lost control due to break failure and fell on the bridge of Maboro river in Ankpa, the headquarters of Ankpa local government in Kogi State.

An eyewitness said the incident happened around 3.30pm on Wednesday .

He said, the situation was not clear as to the number of deaths saying, some were burnt beyond recognition and body parts and debris of cars are littered in the area.

"Nobody knows the number of dead people now. Many People were in the river doing one thing or the other when the tanker lost control, fell and exploded on the bridge. It's horrible. The most gory scene I have seen in my life", said Usman Ahmed from Ankpa.

Yet, another person from the town, who craved anonymity stated that "it's the



Biu

second major disaster in Ankpa within this month. This one is the most terrible and horrible . Over twenty persons were burnt to death, some beyond recognition".

He added many who were "crushed to death had their body parts scattered all over the place", adding that such " parts had to be picked in bits and pieces in body

bags".

The kogi State FRSC Sector Commander, Commander Stephen Dawulung confirmed the incident ,saying the number of casualty cannot be established for now.

"My boys are there, putting the pieces together. We don't know the number of dead yet. A tanker , one bus and three cars, three motorcycles were involved", he said.

**S**OKOTO Caliphate seeks the return of its looted historical artefacts by the colonial masters of France and the United Kingdom after decades of atrocities, enslavement, exploitation, and massacre committed against the people in 1903.

A concerned group under the Chairmanship of the Sokoto DNA project described the looted intellectual, literary works, artefacts, and relics as objects that were deeply rooted in the minds of the descendants of women, children, and wounded persons who were indiscriminately killed or executed for their resistance to the colonial invasion.

This was contained in a declaration statement on the looted relics, recently, copied to the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Lai Mohammed signed by a member of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Balarabe Shehu Kakale Shuni and leaders of five non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** correspondent in Sokoto.

According to the statement, the group requested the quick Intervention of the Minister to effect the return of the said historical objects. Adding that there was a deliberate colonial policy made to subvert and deny our people contextual

# Caliphate seeks looted artefacts return

From AIKE ANENE, Sokoto

functional education, healthcare, commerce, and housing as well as scanty employment opportunities through deliberate strangulation of the caliphate cottage industries.

The Sokoto DNA placed on notice the countries responsible for the invasion and in possession of the caliphate's intellectual, literary works, artifacts, and relics as the Republic of France and the United Kingdom (UK), and requested the unconditional return for restitution of all historical objects to their various original owners of the caliphate.

The letter also seeks an apology from the colonial masters for unwarranted and unjustifiable atrocities committed against the people of the Caliphate. "The literary works are our irrevocable, changeable and distinctive DNA, an important part of our past, our history, our heritage, our pride, and symbols of heroism and sacrifice of our forefathers and allowing them to relinquish in the museums of other nations robs us of our history, our pride and our divinity as a people.

"We are working with

partners and institutions to create a catalog of Sokoto Caliphate's cultural, literary, and religious red list that will contain all artifacts, relics and memorabilia looted from the Sokoto Caliphate and its Emirates during and after the illegal and unjustifiable invasion and colonialism. "Our resolved in launching this campaign is powered by the good people of the Caliphate and its Emirates and further strengthened by UNESCO and ECOWAS conventions"

The statement noted that the historical relics were at various points looted or seized in places like Sokoto, Gwandu, Sifawa, Argungu, Zazzau, Adamawa, Kano, Katsina, Gombe, Katagum, Binji, Kilgori, Yabo, and Rikina/Dabagin Ardon Shuni among many other libraries of the Caliphate.

"What is it worth to seek the search and return of Caliphate Flags, Symbols and other Insignia of the State Authority, Seals and Staff of office?"

"The answer is, they are priceless and timeless pieces of high intellects, science, technology, and Craftsmanship and advance social administrative and structure of governance of the people of the Caliphate, now and forever

# Gender violence, time bomb waiting to explode

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

**A**N intervention aimed at combating violence against women and girls in some communities in Gombe State has shown that urgent steps must be taken to avoid a complete loss of value on the women folk.

Some of these abuses as revealed by the girls themselves during a one day cross learning meeting for adolescents and youths on community organizing to address social norms that exacerbate violence against women and girls include early and forced marriage, taking girls as young as four and five years to work in farms for days and weeks popularly known as 'Barema', rampant rape cases among many others.

Others include, removing or not allowing girls to go to school, street hawking,

female genital mutilation, denying girls an inheritance and neglect by husbands to these young abused girls.

The meeting was organized by Faida Community Development Initiative with the support of ActionAid Nigeria.

Other stunning revelation during the meeting was the case of about 40 teenage girls being impregnated within a few months by some alleged trailer drivers in Toungo town.

The girls were said to be consistently sent by their parents to hawk at different times including evenings in Toungo community. The girls fell victims of the 'on the move' trailer drivers

who always take advantage of these girls and disappear.

Another case from Kwami LGA revealed by one of the girls was that some girls, students go as far as sleeping with NYSC members in their lodges just to meet some of their needs.

But speaking to our correspondent on the development and her intervention which was supported by ActionAid Nigeria, Executive Director, Faida Community Development Initiative, Maryam Simon 7, said it was a sympathetic situation hearing the children make stunning revelations.

She worked for the SLOC-VAWG project in six communities which included, Garko, Gona, Lawanti and Jalingo in Akko KGA as well as, Dukul and Malam Sidi in Kwamy LGA.

She explained that having heard first hand, the experiences of the girls, Government and all stakeholders must find a solution to these problems faced by the children saying, "if not addressed we will get into a fix, not knowing how to handle it when it gets out of hand".

However, according to Niri Goyit, Programme Manager for Women's Right Unit, ActionAid Nigeria, they have been doing a lot in responding to the myriad of challenges facing women in Gombe State.

She said the intervention was carried out in twelve

communities through organizations such as Faida, FOMWAN, Nightingale and Mother Hen.

She said also, " we have been doing a lot of work in responding to these cases but the SLOC-VAWG project is focused on addressing the root causes that women and girls go through.

"We have engaged thousands in capacity building in communities, we've reached about 1,500 to 2,000 women on peer education programme.

"It runs for 52 weeks and more. The women meet in their safe spaces every week, 25 to 30 women, taking topics that pertains their lives, personal hygiene, self esteem, vision for life, starting a trade, why a woman should go to school, how they can participate in community development", she added.

"The girls are beginning to rise up to say no to early marriage, some go back to school. We're making progress, we've also engaged these men and boys.

"For example, community leaders who used to cover perpetrators of rapes are now flushing them out to the law enforcement agencies.

"In Jalingo community, a traditional leader and his council and the community response team had been able to tackle 49 cases of GBV in the last one year, six perpetrators of rape have been sent to prison. The men are not taking it again with perpetrators of GBV", she stressed.



Abubakar

# Nasarawa university reopens

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

**M**ANAGEMENT of Nasarawa State University Keffi has announced the re-opening of the university.

In a press statement made available to newsmen in Keffi and signed by the Registrar of the institution, Malam Bala Ahmed II stated that the University was ready to commence the registration of all categories of staff on Monday 26th September 2022.

Similarly, the resumption of all categories of students for Second Semester is Wednesday 26th September 2020.

The statement added that the commencement of lectures for all students has been scheduled to start from 3rd October 2022.

It therefore advised Parents and guardians to take note accordingly.



Inuwa

NEWS

# Nigeria @ 62: A prosperous country is possible - Lalong

From PALANG KASMI

**P**LATEAU Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has expressed optimism that Nigeria will achieve greatness despite its current challenges.

Lalong expressed his optimism in a message to mark the 62nd Independence Anniversary of Nigeria.

The Governor said in the message: "A very prosperous Nigeria is possible if all citizens put aside their personal interests and work for the common good in a united manner".

"It is therefore important that we do not allow the challenges of the moment to stop us from highlighting and thanking God for the tremendous successes we have achieved over the years".

"In this regard, we pay special tribute to those who fought for our indigence, those who nurtured it and to all who are doing their best to sustain it", he said.

He advised Nigerians to continue to do their best to ensure that the sacrifices of heroes, men, women, youths, children and people of various backgrounds to the country does not go in vain".

According to the Governor, Nigeria is a great nation with abundant human and material



Lalong

resources comparable to only very few countries in the world and as such, there is the need to ensure that the resources of the nation are harvested and utilised efficiently for the good of all rather than for the benefit of a few.

He challenged those in power to always put the interest of the citizens first and shun any action that will dwindle hope, faith and patriotism among the followers, as it can lead to despondency and add to the problems militating against nation building.

While congratulating President Muhammadu Buhari and all Nigerians for commemorating another independence anniversary,

Lalong prayed that the forthcoming democratic transition will go smoothly and consolidate the nation's achievements in civilian rule.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**K**OGI State government on Tuesday said that it was taking proactive steps to ensure that flood victims in Lokoja and other parts of the state were temporarily accommodated.

Our correspondent reports that some houses, roads and farm lands in communities in the Confluence city like Adankolo, Ganaja, Kabawa and Gadumo, among others, have been submerged by floods.

The Commissioner of Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Wemi Jones, FCIB, and his counterpart in Ministry of Environment, Hon Victor Omofaiye, gave the assurance when they led a team to jointly inspect accommodation facilities at Saint Luke Model Schools Adankolo, Lokoja.

Also in the team was the Chairman of Kogi State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Mr Suleiman Ndalaye and some officials of the board.

Speaking to newsmen shortly after the facility tour, Jones said, the essence of the inspection was to ascertain the facilities in the schools

# Kogi to accommodate flood victims

that could temporarily accommodate flood victims. He said they wanted to ensure that the facilities were conducive for the expected Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and to also notify the schools' management and staff.

"The purpose of our coming is to get ready for incident of flood ravaging our city. We want to get ourselves ready to manage the crisis and prevent it from becoming a full scale disaster," Jones said. On his part, the Commissioner of Environment, said the inspection was the continuation of the facility assessment to ensure that places reserved for IDPs were safe to accommodate them. Omofaiye noted that necessary awareness campaign was earlier carried out on the event of flooding, warning people living in flood prone areas to relocate but many of them did not adhere.

"For now, we cannot ascertain the level of destructions, but I want to let you know that it is actually massive.

"Farm lands have been submerged and properties worth of millions of naira have been destroyed.

"We are just trying to see how federal and state governments and NGOs can come to the aid of these victims", he said.

He, therefore called on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Non-governmental organisations to come to the aid of flood victims by providing necessary palliatives to cushion its effects.

Also speaking, the SUBEB Chairman said, management and staff of the selected schools were prepared to receive the flood victims.

He stressed that the centers had been used in the previous events of flooding to accommodate affected persons in the state.

Ndalaye noted the centers have over fifty rooms to accommodate over 10,000 people, adding that security measures had been put in place to ensure safety of lives and property of the people.

# Unite, shun discrimination for development

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**A**TTAH Igala, His Royal Majesty, Dr Alaji Opaluwa Oguche Akpa, has urged all Igala people irrespective of their location to unite and shun discrimination to ensure rapid growth and development in the land.

Attah, who doubles as Chairman Igala Traditional Council gave the advice when the Movement for the Sustainable Development of Igala Land (MOSUDIL), paid him courtesy visit at his palace in Idah, Kogi. Attah noted that since he

ascended the throne, the issue of discrimination as he observed, had hitherto hindered smooth growth and development in Igala land, and had been stopped forthwith. According to him, the underdevelopment in Igala land was partly due to the people who have constituted themselves as clog in the wheel of progress.

Speaking on security, the monarch said a lot of strategies were being put in place to ensure that crime and criminality were

-Attah Igala



Bello

brought to zero level. Attah cautioned youth who were using social media platforms to castigate or demoralise the well-to-do Igala sons and daughters to desist henceforth.

He stressed that such act was not in any way promoting the good image of Igala land, and do not reflect the culture and tradition of Igala kingdom.

Attah commended the association for the visit and urged them to get more members into its fold, saying, 'the movement is an ideological one, which has penchant for the development of Igala Land'.

Earlier, the Chairman of MOSUDIL, Comrade Daniel Salifu, commended the royal father for bringing rays of hope to all Igala sons and daughters within a short time of ascending the throne. Salifu, who was represented by Comrade Innocent Idajili, explained that the Movement was established some years ago, to identify and support Igala people having the penchant track records for the development of Igala land. He added that the association was also aimed at uniting all sons and daughters at Igala towards

awareness, recognition, appreciation and encouraging accelerated development. Salifu proposed the establishment of Igala Cultural Tourism Conservation (ICTC) where tourists from within and outside the country, would have first class information on Igala kingdom's rich historical sites, monuments, cultural practices and events.

The Chairman bemoaned the litany of uncompleted and abandoned government projects in Igala land, saying their revitalization would promote socioeconomic activities and provide employment for teeming jobless youths.

He further called for the establishment of Multipurpose Skills' Acquisition Centre for the three axes of Idah, Ankpa and Dekina as an avenue to breeding business ideas among the youths.

The highlight of the visit was the presentation of a 10-page working document to the Attah for his necessary action.

The royal father promised to go through the document and digest the content with the intent to direct actions appropriately.

# Igbo community appreciates Sule for appointments

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

**I**GBO communities in Nasarawa State have expressed their gratitude to the Governor Abdullahi Sule led administration in the state for the appointment of two of its prominent sons and daughters as his Special Assistants.

The Eze-Igbo of Keffi, Igwe Celestine Mba made the commendation while reacting to the development in an interactive session with newsmen in Keffi during the weekend.

According to him, such appointment, to its people signifies that the state government has attached high

regards and recognition to the Igbo community as citizens of Nigeria and economic development of the state and the country as a whole.

The Eze-Igbo further disclosed that the appointment goes to show that Governor Abdullahi Sule and the state government truly believes in the spirit of one and indivisible Nigeria and the promotion of its peace, unity and prosperity.

"Infact these appointments among other forms of recognition and support signify that the Nasarawa State government truly believes in the spirit of one and indivisible Nigeria and the promotion of its peaceful co-existence, unity and prosperity for the

betterment of all and sundry," he stressed.

"On our part we will continue to do all what is humanity possible to contribute our own quota as part of our efforts towards reciprocating the gesture in all positive ways" he assured.

Speaking on the re-election bid of the Governor come 2023, the Igbo leader assured him of their support to enable him win the election and consolidate on the remarkable achievement so far recorded by his administration.

"Giving the significant amount of recognition given to the Igbo community in Nasarawa State, we are highly determined to give back to the state's government through our votes owing to the fact that to whom much is given much is

also expected as such we are assuring the governor of our support in that regard" he assured.

Mbah also assured that the Igbo community would continue to invest in the socio-economic development of the state so as to succeed in boosting the economy of the state, create job opportunities and wealth to the people among others.

While giving assurance of their determination to continue to live in peace with their host communities and all other Nigerians, he said that would pave ways for meaningful developmental projects and programmes to thrive successfully for the betterment of all and sundry.

# Custom impounds goods worth over N79million

From SHEHU DANJUMA, Katsina

**K**ATSINA Customs Area Command has seized goods worth N79,303,663.00 from August, 2022 to date.

The Controller of the Command, Alhaji Wada Chedi disclosed this while briefing newsmen on Wednesday in Katsina.

Chedi explained that 15 vehicles of different

models, were seized in the period under review.

He said, that among them were; one used Toyota Corola Car with registration number DRA 25 AA valued at N8,1million.

According to him, one Hilux, 2010 model with registration number El 159 St worth N9.450m was among the vehicles seized.

The Comptroller said that

foreign food items like rice, spaghetti, macaroni, vegetable oil were also confiscated.

He said these include 50g of 594 bags of rice valued at N17,641,800, 25kg of 56 bags, N831,600.

Others were 96 cartons of foreign macaroni, N576,000,00, keg of premium motor spirit, valued at

N2,227,913,00, used tyres among others.

Chedi said that the total value of seized vehicles is N35,945,000,00 while that of food items was N43,358,663,00

"With the figures above, we have sized goods worth N79,303,663,00 which were under investigation" Chedi said.

# NEWS

## World Rabies Day: 'Gombe records increasing cases'

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

FOLLOWING the increasing rate of rabies in dogs and humans in Gombe State, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development had decided to launch the flag off of the 2022 mass dog vaccination in Dukku Local Government Area of Gombe State.

Speaking at the occasion, the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria, Dr. Maimuna Abdullahi Habib, said there was need to sensitize the general public and create awareness on the danger and the impact of the disease on public health as well as prevention and control not only in Gombe but other States affected.

Recent reports in Gombe, had shown that rabies had killed four people in Dukku Local Government Area alone, thus resulting in the launch of the vaccination in the Area.

Also, there were reported cases of 41 dog bites in the month of April, May and August, 2022 while 95% of the dogs were found to be unvaccinated, thereby endangering the lives of victims of dog bites.

The Chief Veterinary Officer said this year's world day celebration in Gombe State was unique because it brought together collaborative MDA's under the One Health platform as well as development partners and other stakeholders.

She also stated that a national strategic plan for the control of rabies in Nigeria had been developed adding that the document outlines the strategies to be adopted in the prevention, control and eventual elimination of rabies in the country.

In his speech at the occasion, the minister of state for agriculture Mustapha Baba Shehuri explained that the exercise was part of activities commemorating the 2020



Ehanire

world rabies day organized by the federal ministry of agriculture and states ministries of agriculture in collaboration with USAID Breakthrough Action Nigeria.

He said rabies remains a global threat pointing out that it is responsible for the death of approximately 59, 000 people in the world every year.

"In Nigeria, rabies is responsible for the death of large number of persons annually. Most of these deaths occur amongst the rural dwellers.

"Generally, ignorance, poverty and lack of access to timely medical care largely contribute to the spread and impact of the disease in the country". He said.

Shehuri added that the theme of this year's commemoration is tagged "One Health Zero " and that the target is to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies globally by the year 2030.

He therefore advised those who own dogs to bring them for the vaccination so that they will not be infected with the disease and subsequently spread to other people.

Flagging off the vaccination, Gombe State Deputy Governor, Manasseh Daniel

Jatau, who represented Government Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya said controlling the spread of rabies has become very important since it threatens the existence of wildlife species, cause deaths of human beings and has become a great burden in animal species.

"This being the case, we are challenged to do all we can to stop it's transmission to human beings, other animals and even to the dogs themselves.

"We can achieve this through collaboration, partnership, political will and timely information sharing which were the events that saw the world in the successful control of covid-19 and it's various variants", he stressed.

EXECUTIVE Governor of Plateau State, Rt.Hon.Simon Bako Lalong has assured the National Population Commission(NPC), of his commitment to ensure that every citizen is counted in the right place, come 2023 general census.

He disclosed this during the Plateau State Stakeholders Summit for 2023 Population and Housing Census with the theme "Getting the people involved" at Jonggrand Hotel and Event Center in Jos, last Thursday. He said that NPC has the commitment and the capacity to deliver a credible, reliable census. Lalong applauded stakeholders for coming together to brainstorm and strategize on how to support the conduct of the next census, which is vital to our national development.

Lalong who was ably represented by the commissioner for special duties and intergovernmental Affairs, Hon.Jerry Werr, said that the goal of the summit was to strengthen collaboration with the stakeholders for the successful conduct of the 2023 census.

He added that it has become imperative to convene for the summit in order to promote a robust conversation on the process and procedures for the 2023 census, that was aimed to educate the citizens to submit themselves for enumeration during the census.

Werr stressed that population data is critical for development planning and Government is desirous to achieve development strides through providing the basic social amenities to its citizens

In a speech by the Federal Commissioner, Population and Housing Census, representing Plateau State, Hon.Mrs.Cecilia Dapoet, said that the commission has marked another milestone towards the ever digital census in the country.

She expressed her appreciation to the Governor of Plateau State for his support extended to the commission in the preparatory activities carried out during the Enumeration Area Demarcation in all the 17 Local Government Areas in Plateau State.

Dapoet appreciated all stakeholders in attendance,

## Lalong assures NPC of commitment to success

By **HOSEA NYAMLONG**

particularly the Local Government Chairmen for their kind support given to the commission and its ad-hoc staff during the trial census preparatory to next year 2023 census.

Earlier in a separate goodwill messages from the National Orientation Agency(NOA),Traditional Rulers Council(TRC), National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies(NIPSS),Association of Local Government of Nigeria(ALGON),Jama'atu Nasril Islam(JNI),Christian Association of Nigeria(CAN),University of Jos(Unijos) others are National Council of women's Societies(NCWS), Civil Societies Organization(CSO),Plateau Youth Council(PYC),Nigeria Labour Congress(NLC) and National Bureau of Statistics(NBS) have all agreed

and pledged their support to work in synergy with the commission to create a wider range of awareness to the general public on the importance of every citizen to be counted.

They urged government to supply all the necessary materials and support to NPC, for this would enable the commission to conduct a credible and reliable census by 2023.

SUNDAY STANDARD reports that the occasion was grace by the Royal Fathers, government officials, security Agencies, Partners, donors, Local Government chairmen, civil societies organizations, media organizations, religious leaders and community leaders.

Highlights of the event was the formal flag off of the summit by the His Excellency, Governor of Plateau State and the presentation of the project document by the Director of the Commission Mr. Pam Du Deme.



Lalong

## Flood: Kogi VCDP rice farmers lament loss

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

RICE farmers who are beneficiaries of the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) under the FGN/IFAD assisted project in Kogi have lamented over the colossal loss of their rice farms to flooding.

ICE farmers who are beneficiaries of the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) under the FGN/IFAD

assisted project in Kogi have lamented over the colossal loss of their rice farms to flooding.

These beneficiaries are vulnerable farmers under the IFAD-VCDP Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF), aimed at cushioning the effects of covid-19 pandemic on rural farmers

This is a clear story of flying from

frying pan to fire as several of these people may develop disaster induced high blood pressure which may degenerate into other serious issues because their only hope of survival was taken away by the flood

The farmers who are mainly from Ibaji, Lokoja and Ajaokuta Local Government Areas, told our Correspondent on Thursday in Lokoja, that all their rice farmlands had been submerged by flooding.

Narrating the ordeal, the Ibaji Local Government Liaison Officer, Mr Achogu Fredrick, said about a total of 216 rural farmers in Ibaji who benefitted from the IFAD-VCDP RPSF, had all lost their rice farmlands to flood.

According to him, each of the 216 farmers were having one hectare of rice farmland totaling 216 hectares in Ibaji, and all have been submerged.

He stated that IFAD/ VCDP painstakingly funded RPSF to pull farmers from the dungeon of poverty created by Covid 19 in the system. Unfortunately the flood pushed the people back again into hunger and starvation.

"The RPSF grant which was a palliative to support us as vulnerable rural farmers to cushion the effect of the covid-19, has been lost again.

"A total of 216 farmers who benefitted from the RPSF grant have lost everything to the flood. Indeed, it is a double tragedy for us.

"We did not only lose our farmlands but also our houses and properties. Presently the fear of what tomorrow holds for the farmers is what is in the heart of the people now.

Infact, the entire Kogi VCDP farmers are in mourning mood currently.

Other beneficiaries in Ibaji: Mr Friday Ofor, Joel Ogala, Enefo Festus, Samuel Joseph and Victoria Ajodo, in their separate comments, expressed sadness over the sudden loss of their rice farms to flooding.

In their separate comments, the youth and women farmers' leaders in both Kabawa and Magajija Clusters in Lokoja, Seidu Liman and Maryam Abubakar, respectively, who were beneficiaries of RPSF described the loss as a great damage to them and their families after investing time and resources only to be swept away by flood.

Liman said the devastating effect of the loss of their rice farmlands to flooding would affect them and their wellbeing.

They further called on the government to come to their aid by providing palliatives for immediate relief.

The affected farmers in all the three local government areas, lamented that they did not only lose their farmlands but also their buildings and properties.

They stressed that the flood had further exposed them to more suffering than before.

## NECO records 84% pass rate

From **MATHEW JWANTU, Minna**

NATIONAL Examinations Council (NECO) has released the 2022 Senior Secondary Schools Certificate SSCE, internal results with candidates scoring 84.40% with 5 credits irrespective of English and Mathematics.

The Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Professor Dantani Ibrahim Wushishi made the declaration of the results at the council headquarters in Minna, saying that 1,209,703 actually registered for the examination but 1,198,412 sat for it.

He noted that a total of 727,864 representing



Adamu

60.74% candidates scored five credits including English and Mathematics while recording 1,011,457 representing 84.40% who scored five credits irrespective of English and Mathematics.

Prof. Wushishi revealed a drop in 2022 exam malpractices compared to 2021 from 1.63% to 0.13 this year, reiterating the councils zero tolerance for malpractice.

He added that four schools were recommended for derecognition for two years due to their involvement in mass cheating while 29 supervisors were blacklisted for various offences. Heria in Bassa local

# SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Continued from page 10

and honey, this is terrible and therefore unacceptable.

Most times too, the hoarding of products by the Middlemen and women has hurt the economy seriously. Something ought to be done! But generally, the economy needs diversification, agriculture and mining seems to be the key.

Sixty two years after independence, what is the state of Medicare? And how accessible to the common man? This is another critical sector of the Nigeria political-economy that needs serious attention. Illnesses are bound to happen and the provision of medicare to a large extent ought to be the responsibility of government. In other climes, that is the norm, but in Nigeria, what obtains is the direct opposite. Little wonder, one of the coupists in the litany of coups in the 1980's alluded to the known fact that Nigerian hospitals were "mere consulting clinics". That is true confession!

With the sick common man searching from one hospital to the other for medicare, Nigerians, particularly politicians at the slight of headache fly abroad in what has now been dubbed "medical tourism". This ill-advised and unpatriotic act is being encouraged every time while health facilities get dilapidated, deteriorating and even outdated in the field of medicine. This is one sure reason why Nigeria medical personnel (Doctors and Nurses) are leaving in droves abroad in search of greener pastures and better working environment.

It further complicates an already bad situation of the common man. Even if the common man manages to find a health facility that may cater for his or her health challenge(s), the exorbitant charges are excruciating. It takes the grace of God for a common man in Nigeria to get sick and come out of it because the misgovernance by the rapacious leaders did not factor the common man in the equation, it is equally sad that government is shying away from its responsibility. The Primary Health Care (PHC) centers and government hospitals standing, one will say with cocksure that they are mere buildings without equipments or medications.

Sixty two years after independence, one may ask: where are the railways? What about the roads? And airports? Until very recently, the once booming rail transport was forgotten in the dustbin of history. The convenience and capacity of rail transport need not be repeated here. After Independence, the rails were still functional and reliable traversing across the country. What went wrong? And for the roads across the country, even the blind man knows that Nigerian roads are littered with potholes thereby becoming death traps. Travelling on Nigerian roads is literally an invitation of sickness after the "shaking and dancing" while on the journey.

For the airports, this is Nigeria! It is even intriguing that a nation said to be the "giant of Africa", does not have a national carrier. The once thriving Nigeria Airways has disappeared from the surface of the earth. Look at Ethiopia Airways that is competing favourably with other international airlines. It is amusement for discerning observers. Ethiopia? Nigeria? Definitely, this is strange. We may ask this laughable but serious question: What is really wrong with Nigeria or even Nigerians? Reading through former President Olusegun Obasanjo's book **my watch** (Part two) Part two one may have an incline that is the disaster called Nigeria and Nigerians. He did analysis of the Nigeria Airways in his days as military Head of State and the sordid, unpatriotic and self-serving interest in destroying the national air-carrier.

In the political arena since Independence, sixty two years ago (62), it has been one confusion too



## Nigeria at 62: Any cause for celebrations?

many. Nigeria's political turf is akin to the banana peel or more appropriately, a revolving door. The ominous signal started showing barely six (6) years after Independence. In January 1966, some ambitious young Igbo Military officers staged a coup, killing some of the founding fathers and leaders of the nation like the prime minister, Alhaji Tafawa Balewa, Premier of the Northern region, Sir Ahmadu Bello amongst other politicians. In July 1966, there was a counter coup perceived as revenge from the northern officers in which the Head of State, General Aguiyi Ironsi and his host, Adekunle Fajuyi were killed amongst others.

The two coups of 1966 are the only once that have certain things in common. In all coups in Nigeria, only the two were bloody. Except for the two, all the coups and counter coups witnessed no bloodshed. The case of General Murtala Mohammed was different. He as Head of State was assassinated by Bukar Suka Dimka but there was no coup. It is equally on record that the event of January and July 1966 advertly or inadvertently led to the 30 months fratricidal Civil War otherwise dubbed the Biafra War which started in 1967 only to end in 1970 with millions of deaths recorded on both sides.

Other coups and counter-coups that follow can only be termed "regime change". This went on until 1979 when the military apparatus led by then General Olusegun Obasanjo handed over power to the civilian politicians in which the late Alhaji Shehu Usman Shagari of the National

Party of Nigeria (NPN) was sworn in as the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria.

President Shagari did his first term and he was ousted by the military who were waiting in the wings. General Muhammadu Buhari was to be the biggest beneficiary of the 1st January, 1984 coup as some analysts opined that he was not part of the planners and executioners of the coup.

Buhari was not to last, giving way in what can correctly be termed "palace coup" to General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, popularly known as IBB. The most sordid part of the Babangida's regime was the reckless annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential election said to have been won by billionaire politician Moshood Kashimawo Olawole Abiola, popularly known as MKO Abiola of the Social Democratic Party (SDP). It should be pointed out here that the Babangida transition from military to civilian government was the longest and costliest in Nigeria if not Africa.

Then came General Sani Abacha, the Head of State. During his stay in power, he became terror personified. Even his fellow officers were dead-scared of the dreaded Head of State. He was on his way to transitioning from a military Head of State to a civilian president as all the five political parties then, in what the late Bola Ige called, "Five leprosy fingers of a hand", had already endorsed him for the presidential election. Suddenly, there was a divine intervention as he passed on.

Somehow, General Abdulsalam

Abubakar navigated the turbulent political terrain, conducted elections and duely handed over power to politicians in 1999 with Chief Olusegun Obasanjo emerging the President. With over two decades of uninterrupted democracy in place, there seems to be hope and there is need for celebration. Now that the 2023 elections are around the corner, Nigerians should do the needful by rising up to the occasion by voting candidates of their choice. At 62, Nigeria and Nigerians should know what to do.

Perhaps the biggest problem amongst the litany of problems is the hydra-headed monster called corruption. It has permeated almost every facet of Nigeria nationhood. No sector seems to be spared. It has halted growth and development of the Nigerian nation. Massive pillage of our common patrimony by some few individuals is now the norm rather than the exception. How can one individual "steal 400, 600, 800 billion naira from the country's treasury, agency or ministry? Infact, the "stealing" has gone beyond naira as stealing millions or billions of dollars is now the vogue.

In her books, **Killing Corruption is dangerous and Reforming the unreformable**, erstwhile Minister of Finance under President Olusegun Obasanjo and later President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who should know better, graphically exposed the racket called fuel subsidy. From her espouse, the fuel subsidy issue is simply a scam, fraud, a theft of monumental proportion. Indeed, the country's

trillions of naira has gone down the drain in deceit.

However, it is baffling in the face of this perfidy, that successive governments over the years have been mouthing sing-song without any concrete action. There are legions of perpetrators of humongous corrupt acts that we never hear their stories again. Connivance? Why do these cases come to the public glare and quietly, equally go silent? In typical Nigerian parlance it seems "the more you look, the less you understand".

At 62, in the face of these daunting challenges, what is the panacea? What is the way out of these self-inflicted injuries? Is there hope for the "giant of Africa? Certainly, there is hope because there is ray or light at the end of the tunnel. The 2023 general elections present another opportunity to make the difference and the desired change. There is no time for complacency, particularly by the electorate. Nigeria at the moment needs a visionary leader on a mission to rescue, salvage and implement policies and programmes that would bring Nigeria out of the woods.

With enormous resources at its disposal, Nigeria does not deserve to be in this pitiable state. With vision, focus and the political will, the sky is the limit.

Nigerian leaders and its people should strive to keep the spirit of the founding fathers alive. As part of our national anthem aptly captured, we should not allow their sweat to go in vain. **HAPPY INDEPENDENCE NIGERIA!**

## METRO-FOCUS

# Neighborhood theft in Jos/Bukuru on the rise

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA,  
FATIMA ABDULKARIM TAYE,  
ABIGAIL MAINA, YUSUF SHAKIRA AYOMIDE  
and NGOT BWEHMASI CALEB

THE rising cases of neighborhood theft these days is becoming alarming by the day in the city of Jos and Bukuru metropolis. Every blessed day comes with the bitter reports of one house being burgled or the other by these criminal elements who have decided not to allow citizens sleep with their eyes closed.

Even with the relentless efforts of security personnel who are always on patrol, these criminal elements have chosen negative ways especially when it rains or when people are asleep around the neighborhood to perpetrate this dastard act.

Some people have attributed this attitude to youths' joblessness and it has continued to increase by the day keeping patrol teams of security agencies on their toes. Attributing this dastard act to lack of job is not healthy because a criminal minded person will always have a reason for his or her action.

Although, it is also obvious that an idle mind is the devil's workshop, it is also certain that lack of what to do contributes largely to these negative acts especially when a weak minded person cannot afford to put food in his stomach. Sadly, the major playing factor is the lingering strike which has kept students of federal universities at home for more than six months. It is generating serious problem around the neighborhood.

In an interview with one Maman Basira, who owns a shopping centre in Bukuru, she said majority of such crimes are done for survival sake as the criminals focus more on petty items like foodstuffs, cash, electronics, phones, pot of soup, and other items that can easily be disposed.

According to her, "Just last week, several phones were carted away in Pangwale Market Bukuru, when some boys embarked on a robbery. They went from one shop to another shop where phones are sold in Bukuru burgling shops and these boys were within the age of 15-18 years. The case was reported to Police, but the phones have remained untraceable till date.

Some people claimed that those who carried out this act were people close to the victims because the way and manner in which this similar incidents are recorded in the area is neatly and calculatingly done without trace and it is generating serious concern.

There are also cases where shops and homes have been burgled and several items carted away in the process. Majority of their victims are



traders operating in isolated or quite areas where the thieves can operate without hindrance. Most of these young boys specialise in terrorising households and petty traders. They steal to survive in the areas because there is hunger everywhere and the residents record losses on daily basis.

One of the victims who owns a barbering saloon and would not want his name printed and whose shop was burgled told our correspondent that the thief broke the back-wall and gained access into his shop and carted away clippers and other

barbering accessories. Till date there is no trace of these items.

Regrettably, the major trigger to this neighborhood theft is not unconnected to economic hardship. Citizens are faced with so much suffering due to lack. Unfortunately, these days, these criminal minded persons target homes, shops of the ordinary Nigerians who are struggling to make ends meet. Churches these days are major target too. These thieves carry out their operation and escape easily without any trace.

It was reported that some of

these crimes are carried out in broad daylight when majority of residents have left for work. It is worrisome that over the years, youths who graduated from school are left without being employed and they use the knowledge acquired in school to create some harmful tools that can put fear in people when carrying out their operations.

Therefore, it has become necessary for government and stakeholders to look at ways of addressing this ugly incidence. A special skills acquisition programmes should be organised for these idle youths

around the neighborhood so that it will take their minds off crime and gainfully employ them. This will enable them make some income that can put food on their tables.

There is no denying the fact that when the poor, hungry are awake, the rich neighbours would not have peace. So, it is necessary for government to look inward and come out with strategies to address this because if you visit most of the police stations these days, majority of those detained are youths and their cases are mostly neighborhood theft.



# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## PLASCHEMA HOLDS INTERFACE WITH NUJ

The Plateau State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (PLASCHEMA) on Thursday held interface session with members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Plateau State Council at Crest Hotel, Bishop's Court, Jos



Mr. Paul Jatau, NUJ State Chairman (left), registering on arrival



Mr. Josiah Sati Buzum of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (right), receiving his PLASCHEMA card from the DG of the Agency



Dr. Fabong Jemchang, Director General, PLASCHEMA (left) during a power point presentation with journalists



NUJ State Chairman, Paul Jatau (left) flanked by other journalists at the occasion



Pam Musa, State Correspondent with the New Telegraph (left) and Hajiya Zakiyah Usman Zumunta, Head of Communication, PLASCHEMA



A cross section of Directors, Plateau State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (PLASCHEMA)



A cross section of journalists listening with rapt attention to the Director General, PLASCHEMA, Dr. Fabong Jemchang



Director General, PLASCHEMA, Dr. Fabong Jemchang, Directors of the Agency in a group photograph with journalists after the occasion

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



# Road Runner

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SAFER TOGETHER

## Attitudes and society

**O**UR attitudes are shaped to a large extent by the society we live in, the organization we belong to and the company we keep. This groups help us to define what is normal, what is acceptable and what is desirable. We take on the attitude of those with whom we identify. This is partly because it helps us to feel good about ourselves and partly because we look for approval from those whose views we care about.

Large organizations can affect attitudes to road safety through educational and publicity materials. They can adopt policies that reward safe driving and punish unsafe driving. This is why it is particularly important that law enforcement drivers are seen to be exemplary drivers for others to emulate. The attitude of 'uniform drivers' are easily noticed by the society at large and will influence other drivers.

Because the attitude of your colleagues and the organization you work for affect your driving, you should be aware of what these attitudes are. Certain attitudes-for example, an overemphasis on reaching destinations on time at the expense of safe driving, using stereotypical and aggressive language, valuing speed competitiveness etc. -may undermine safe driving practices. Problems such as these really need to be dealt with at an organizational level, but the first step in remedying them is to acknowledge that they exist and that they have a personal relevance.

You need to be aware of the social influences in attitudes and safety but, in the end, the responsibility of safety of yourself and other road users is yours alone. Most people are reactive when they encounter another driver with a courteous attitude and an obvious concern for safety; they are encouraged to adopt a similar approach. Drivers who have a professional attitude to driving and safety can influence the behaviour of other motorists for the better.

### Changing unhelpful attitudes Develop positive attitudes

Having analyzed driving attitudes that increase the risk of road traffic crashes, let's now consider some positive attitudes that can help reduce auto crash. These include;

Tolerance and consideration for other road users

A realistic appraisal of your own abilities

A high degree of care for your own safety and that of your passengers and other road users.

You need to be able to recognize your own limitations and set aside personal goals in the interest of safety -an example would be restraining yourself from reacting aggressively to aggressive behaviour of other road users. You also need to make decisions carefully, taking full account of the traffic conditions and not acting unpredictably.

### Recognize that attitudes affect safety

Understanding your own attitudes and changing them to reduce crash risk is no mean task. The first stage is to be aware of the effect that your attitudes can have on your driving safety. One way of gaining some insights into this is the use of attitude tests. By answering a few simple questions, you can gain some idea of your attitudes and a measure of your crash risk. Research evidence show that well-deigned attitude tests give an accurate indication of an individual's likely crash rate. The actual number of crashes for a given driver will depend on many things, but a good survey reflects the way people drive and accurately predict the risk of having a crash. It equally acts as a sounding board by mirroring individual driver's attitude and the efforts thereof on safety. It is a means by which a diver can assess self and change for the better. Such instrument can only be effective if the driver who is the respondent is sincere in his response.



## Goodwill Message

From

### Plateau State Pension Board

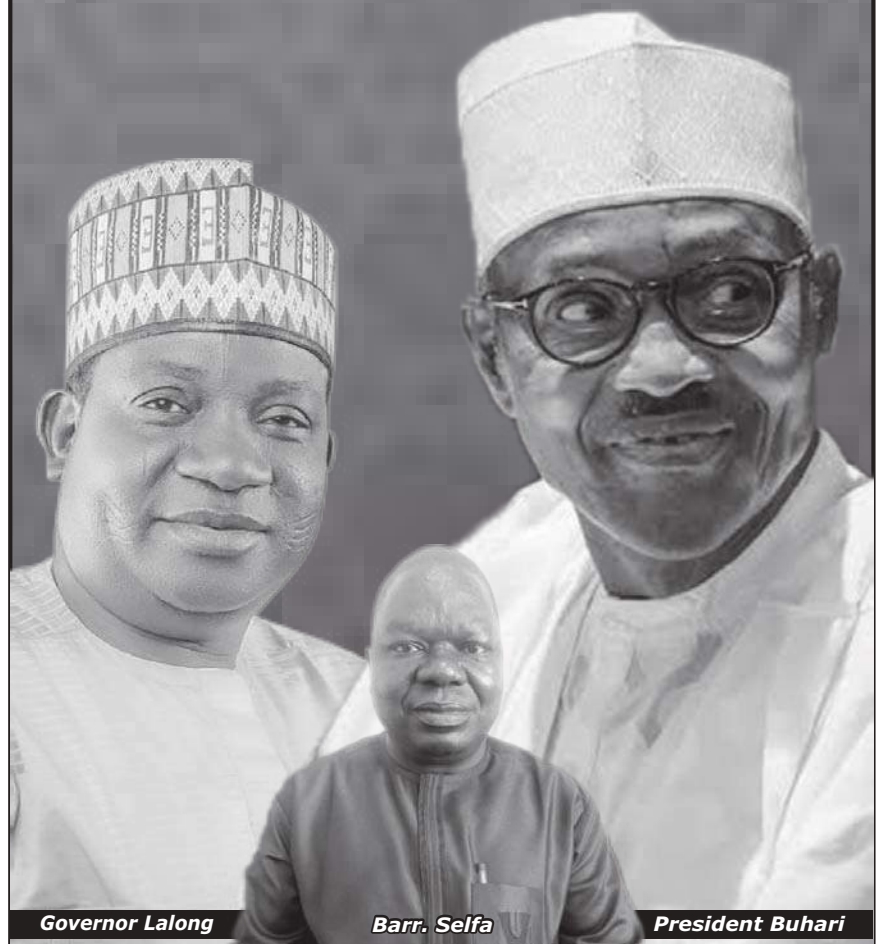
**O**n behalf of the board chairman, members, management and staff of the Plateau State Pension's Board, wish to join other Nigerians in celebrating sixty second year of nationhood. We want to felicitate with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Mohammedu Buhari**, his Vice President, **Prof Yemi Osinbajo** and Members of the national Assembly. Our Peace loving and visionary Governor, **Rt. Hon Barr. Simon Bako Lalong**, his Deputy, **Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden**, The Chief Judge of Plateau State, **Hon. Justice David Mann**, the Speaker and members of the Plateau State House of Assembly and Members of the Plateau State Executive Council. This year's celebration of the independence celebration is unique in the sense that despite doubting challenges confronting us as a nation, we remain United sharing the desire to pursue the path of peaceful coexistence and harmony. We also want to comment the dogged commitment of captain of the Rescue Mission in Plateau the State and Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum, **Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong** for providing a level playing ground for positive activities to thrive in the state.

As a board whose responsibility is to attend to the needs of pensioners in the state, we shall sustain efforts towards ensuring is due to them as pension, pension arrears, gratuity and death benefits is given them. So, far we have ensured continuation and up-to-date of monthly pension. We have also ensured that we are up to date in placement of pensioners on monthly pension. Similarly, there's a considerable reduction in the payment of gratuity and pension arrears, so also is the implementation of relativity of monthly pension for pensioners who retired in 2011. All this are credited to the visionary Governor who has supported us immensely.

Once more congratulations Nigerians!

Signed:

**Barr. Selfa Dashe Donpar,  
Permanent Secretary,  
Plateau State Pension's Board.**



Governor Lalong

Barr. Selfa

President Buhari

**PROBATE NOTICE****IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA  
PROBATE DIVISION**

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.  
AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column here onto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (2) days from the date hereof.

<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b>	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b>	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b>	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b>	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b>	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b>
Aku Victor Usaini late of Nasarawa State. Died on the 22nd December, 2020 at Nasarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State.	Aku Blessing Asibare of House No. 3 Phase A, Annex 1, Latya Rayfield Jos, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the	Tani Dauda Late of Plateau State. Died on the 2nd September, 2019 at Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Nyinmwa Dauda Gofwen of Opp. Nenpin Club Special Site Pankshin LGA. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	James Danjuma Agwe late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th Dec., 2021 at Kwall Bassa LGA.	James Ngwe Andrew of Opp St. Williams Catholic Church Kwall Bassa LGA. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Joshua Ali late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th Aug, 2022 at Jos	Joshua Racheal Tutun of No 16A Jenta Mangoro, Jos North LGA. The lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Dangyang David Daniel late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th March, 2021 at P.S.S.H., Jos.	Sarah Dauda Dangyang of Assembly of God Church Sot Gyel, Jos South LGA. The lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Abraham Kombo Jemgbo late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st March, 2022 at Shendam LGA.	Abraham Elijah Jemgbo of opp. G.G.S.S., Shendam LGA. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Ango Fidelis late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th Oct., 2021 at General Hospital Langtang.	Julcit Fidelis Ango & Manshal Fidelis of Takai, Bokkos LGA. The lawful widow & son of the said deceased.	Michael Kayode Apata late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th May, 2021 at Vom Christian Hospital.	Kehinde David Apata & Veronica Durojola Apata of No. 3 Hospital Road K/Vom. Jos South LGA. The lawful widow of the said deceased.	Shangdit Sedang late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th Dec., 2020 at General Hospital Shendam.	Nengi Shangdit of Bakin Kogi Shendam LGA. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Ojoko Godwin Asina late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th July, 2022 at OLA, Jos.	Ojoko Gabriel Asina & Ojoko Bartholomew Unogwu, of N.V.R.I Vom, Jos South LGA. The lawful sons of the said deceased.	Sunday Mohammed late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th Dec., 2021 at Gura Reyom Gyel Jos South LGA.	Follami Samuel Sunday of Opp. Rafield Resort Du, Jos South LGA, The lawful son of the said deceased.	Mutihir Mathilda Dida (also known as) Dida Mathilda late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th March, 2021 at Panyam, Mangu LGA.	Dida Joyce of behind Grand Cereal Factory Anguldi Zawan, Jos South LGA. The lawful daughter of the said deceased.
Kromark Ezekiel Didum late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th May, 2022 at Kwata Zawan, Jos South LGA.	Lami Ezekiel of Angwan Nunvu Rukuba Road, Jos North LGA. The lawful widow of the said deceased.	Yunana Adamu Yunana late of Kaduna State. Died on the 19th August, 2012 at General Hospital Kwoi Kaduna State.	Patricia Yunana of Mopol 8 Barracks Jos South LGA, The lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Dakup Alfred Filibert late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th March, 2017 at Cott. Hosp. Kwalla Quaanpan LGA, Plateau State.	Dakup Raymond Naanla of St. Joseph's Catholic Church Quaanpan LGA, Plateau State. The lawful brother of the said deceased.
Adamu Shuaibu late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th June, 2022 at Kumkyam, Kanam LGA, Plateau State.	Zaid Shuaibu Adamu Kumkyam Kanam LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Helen Chuwang Dung late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th January, 2020 at Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Linda Dung Chuwang of Jakadima Hwolshe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful sister of the said deceased.	Longsaar Kwaphoom Lot late of Kaduna State. Died on the 13th August, 2022 at Kujama, Kaduna State.	Longtier Kwaphoom Longsaar of Shimankar Shendam LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Kyari Baba late of Potiskum Yobe State. Died on the 8th October, 2019 at PSSH, Jos.	Saidu Baba Kyari of Potiskum LGA, Yobe State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Isa Garba late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th February, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Victor Isa Garba, beside NIPSS Kuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Ichaka Favour Janet late of Plateau State. Died on the 23rd July, 2009 at FMC Keffi Nasarawa State.	Ichaka Ojonimi Smith GSE FRSC estate Lokogoma Abuja. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Cecilia Mokwugwo late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th December, 2021 at A Chillies Specialist Hospital, Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Nathan Mokwugwo of No. 1B Regun Village Rukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Garba Abu Haruna late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th June, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Bangkat Abu Gagara Manchit Abu & Nankam Abu off No. 5 Peace Drive Rayfield. The lawful widow/daughters of the said deceased.	Hosea Zumyil late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th April, 2020 at Health Management Board, Bauchi State.	Hosea Begak of Gurup Kadung District Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Solomon Nesa Shikdini late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th November, 2020 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Prince Solomon Nesa & Nandi Solomon Nesa of Block 250 State Lowcost Rantya, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	<b>Signed (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) AG: PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</b>		Benjamin Nanshep Sungzhi late of Plateau State. Died on the 11th January, 2022 at General Hospital, Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	Mantim Songzhi Nanshep of Zambua Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.

## SUNDAY FEATURE

**Museum education services in Nigeria: Embracing the 21<sup>st</sup> century innovative approach**

By IKOKU NKECHI STELLA

**T**HE Museum is an educational resource centre which takes up the responsibility of teaching the public (Ibrahim, 2018). Museums have changed from the imposing sites designed to preserve relics and to exhibit collections, to places where a mix of enjoyment, learning and experience outcomes are also pursued. The importance of Museum to the society cannot be over emphasized. This is because museum is a mirror that reflects the society. In fact, Museum is geared towards enriching individuals and national development. ICOM (2007) sees Museum as a non-profit permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public which acquires, conserves, researchers, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purpose of education, study and enjoyment. Apart from the fact that museum is primarily aimed at enlightening and educating the public, it performs function of ensuring the regeneration of cultural heritage of communities. In recent years, museums have been given the opportunity to reach out to audiences beyond their physical vicinities with the help of the electronic readiness.

Museum promotes cultural awareness in the aspect of history, preservation of history, conservation of heritage and exhibition of such for the purpose of study and enjoyment to move with the dynamic world. The Education Unit of the museum is a department saddled with the responsibility of museum education. The Museum Education Department uses the totality of educational activities planned and organized by museum to effectively communicate with a diverse public, using heritage resources as its guide and undertaken catalyst.

Museum education is an intellectual and practical translation of abstract framework activities into intelligible, understandable and positive realities through non-formal and non-rigid methods. This means that museum education impact intellectual knowledge through practical means whereby the individuals are free to interact with the teaching method employed. Kerri (1993) states that museum education involves the use of non-formal activities whereby people are educated with cultural heritage of different ethnic groups and are also taught different arts and crafts. Going by various definitions of museum education, it means that education in the museum embraces every aspect of and it is participatory because it deals with a diverse public by offering specialized services to state institutions, private sector and individuals with the aim of engaging visitors in learning experiences, to enhance their curiosity and interest on the activities of the museum. Museum education is seen as vital all over the world because it forms an integral part of a well-managed museum and in the discipline of education.

Meanwhile, museum education services (programmes) are processes which involve the use of non-formal activities whereby people are educated with cultural heritage of different ethnic groups and are also taught different arts and crafts. Museum education services are vital parts of socio-cultural



development by virtue of their perpetuation of cultural standards and its values have to be woven directly into the day-to-day life of the community. In line with this, museum education services/programmes seek to bridge the gap between cultural and social development of its participants. These services/programmes are carried out by the education unit of the museum either within the museum or outside the museum and are organized for different categories of visitors ranging from children, youth, adult, persons with special needs, literate, illiterate and people from different walks of life. These services are summarily divided into: intra-mural, extra-mural and cross programmes (services) such as School Outreaches, Saturday Art Club, Long Holiday/Skill Acquisition programmes, Public Enlightenment Programmes, Father Christmas fun splash, lectures in school, cultural day, Independence Day Celebration, Children Day, skill acquisition and so on.

In the twenty-first century, significant changes are occurring related to new scientific discoveries, informatization, globalization, the development of astronautics, robotics, and artificial intelligence. This century is called the age of digital technologies and knowledge. For the museum to be relevant in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, it must adapt to the dynamism of the age. The innovation environment of the 21st century is characterized by disruption, accelerated technology development, and globalized access to information, which is a dramatic shift

from the largely government-controlled Cold War innovation environment of the previous century. According to Carlson (2018), innovative approach means an approach to the design or construction of a subsystem or safety component which does not involve the use of a standard or a specification that has been approved by a recognized standardizing body; or an evidence-informed approach to civics education. It is the creation and delivery of new customer value for society with a model for sustainability. For education services of the museum to be relevant and result oriented in the 21<sup>st</sup> century therefore, it must adopt the innovative pedagogy approach. This approach involves the process of proactively introducing new teaching strategies and methods into the dissemination of museum education services. The purpose of introducing these new strategies and methods is to improve museum education services and address the challenges confronting museum education services. This will help promote the services of the museum to her public.

The old and conventional approaches of disseminating museum education services which are laddened with challenges such as insufficient funds, inadequate infrastructural development, poor management, location, insufficient professionals, insecurity, language barriers, lack of sufficient collections could be replaced by the implementation of a value-creation playbook. The criteria for value creation will include:

An important initiative that can be scalable and have an impact on society;

A value proposition detailing customer need, approach for addressing this need, benefits and costs, and comparison to competition and alternative options; and The use of comparative teaching-learning to solve problems collaboratively and quickly.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century innovative approach adopts the use of ICT platforms (such as social media, cloud computing, virtual reality, etc), visitor-oriented approach, novel research tool, museum-community participation and so on. The museum's ability to describe its complete value proposition, as opposed to merely its approach, is essential. Once value is created, skilled people and entrepreneurs can efficiently produce high-value innovations with societal impact. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the emphasis on profound competitive world, talent and hard work alone are insufficient; a paradigm shift with a focus on value creation is needed.

In conclusion, the museum should ultimately strive to be positioned with access to both capabilities and customers, with minimal competition, and to be able to present and package her services to the public. These services can be enhanced through wholistic planning, proper management and presentation. Museum education services can enhance effective service delivery if its services are properly repackaged to meet with the dynamism of the society using innovative approaches in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Ikoku Nkechi Stella is Chief Museum Education Officer, National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Abuja. 08032635412.**

# ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

## Entrepreneurship in Nigeria before and after independence

*TODAY we go memory lane to how entrepreneurship started and how it has evolved. There has been clamor for entrepreneurship in recent times and this will help to throw light on the history of entrepreneurship globally, its evolution, history of entrepreneurship in Nigeria, and the role of government in improving the entrepreneurial landscape in Nigeria. Emily Rella writes*

**E**ntrepreneurship is the process of running a business, and navigating through its attendant risks with the aim of making profit. Basically, people who come up with business ideas and implement such in ways that seek to generate profit are generally regarded as entrepreneurs. They take risks and are determined to succeed

### History of entrepreneurship in the 17th century

Entrepreneurship has existed as far back as in the 17th century. The first recorded trading act was in 17,000 BC when people exchanged a volcanic glass (obsidian) for food, skins, tools, and other needed items, etc. Apparently, it continued for a long time where people from different tribes traded (exchanged) properties with other tribes.

See Also: What nobody tells you about entrepreneurship.

### Early history of entrepreneurship

Agriculture was the first area of business that people ventured into. People were engaging in food production and other businesses, i.e., farmers started commercial farming, and non-farmers specialized in other businesses. Then they would trade their products amongst themselves. For instance, I give you a hoe, you give me rice, etc, and the trading scope began to expand. Afterwards, they began to specialize in fishing, clothes-making, hunting, tool-making, etc. These were entrepreneurial activities and the people were one of the earliest entrepreneurs in human civilization.

Subsequently, parents started passing down their skill to their sons and daughters. Eventually, families started specializing in different fields. Then, people started building permanent huts in the settled areas having assurance of food.

Furthermore, they started exploring new areas like pottery-making, carpentry, black-smiting, wool-making, etc. and making profit while solving problems.

See Also: Types of entrepreneurship and different classifications of entrepreneurs.

### Invention of money

As earlier stated, trade by barter existed for a long time but ended when countries started experiencing a 'coincidence of wants'. People were getting irrelevant things in exchange for their products, and since they were trading across boundaries, returns couldn't be controlled. Unfortunately, this coincidence of wants limited trade and in the process of finding solutions, money was invented.

The invention of money led to the use of different objects as currency. The earliest form was the shekel in 3000 BC. The

shekel is the unit of weight and currency. It was a specific weight of barley and equivalent amounts of silver, bronze, copper and many more. Later on, Central Asia started using silver bars. Ancient China, Africa and India used cowry shells. Some countries used tobacco leaves, some beads, and others sticks and rocks. Subsequently, coinage evolved, then paper money.

With currency, it was easy to trade across borders and trading boomed.

### History of entrepreneurship in Nigeria

Entrepreneurship in Nigeria started when the goods produced by her citizens exceeded their needs. They exchanged surplus items for what they needed. For instance, a farmer started selling out his farm produce in exchange for meat from a hunter.

Farmers started selling their farm produce and engaging the services of their family members for greater output. While farmers farmed, non farmers engaged in other activities like craft work. These entrepreneurial activities improved Nigerian economy until the colonial era.

### The colonial era

There was something for everyone to do. The boys assisted their fathers in farming, hunting, gold-smiting and other vocation while the girls assisted their mothers with cooking and home cleaning.

Then, Nigeria started direct trade started with the Europeans. The Europeans built coastal bases, introduced slave trading and bought slaves from Nigeria. Subsequently, the slave trade business boomed and some Nigerian traditional rulers participated.

Eventually, the colonial era turned the Nigerian system around. Africans were trained and employed as low rank officers in the local administrations. Nigerians were indirectly receiving training on how to exploit and dominate their country. Then, a biased form of education like inequality was introduced, and colonizers were amassing the wealth of our dear country, Nigeria.

During this period, the colonial masters introduced an educational curriculum that did not have much regard for entrepreneurship. The Colonizers curriculum concentrated majorly on arithmetic, religion, reading, writing, i.e. it was all about book and religion. This greatly affected the entrepreneurial culture that was already striving as Nigerians tended toward white collar jobs as a means of livelihood.

### Revitalisation of entrepreneurship in Nigeria after independence

Eventually, after



independence, Nigerians became aware of the menace the colonial educational system has caused on entrepreneurship and economic growth. And this was a turning point in the history of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. Then, they started making efforts to reverse it. The solution was to make education a tool for national development.

### Entrepreneurial organisations

To achieve this, the government established organisations like: National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Nigeria Industrial Development Bank (NIDB), Entrepreneurship Development

Centre (EDC), National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NAOS) and many more.

### Funding

Similarly, fund raising institutions were also created. These included Peoples Bank of Nigeria, Funds for Small-Scale Industries (FUSSI), co-operative societies, etc. Today there are different organisations that support entrepreneurs through loans, grants etc.

### Educational system

To change the education system to encourage entrepreneurship, the 1977 National Policy on Education was formulated. It was formulated for several reasons. One was to address the situation of

entrepreneurial learning in the educational system. This policy was formulated in 1977 and revised in 1981, 1988, 2004, 2007 and 2011.

Also, several technical subjects has been incorporated into the Nigerian educational system today. Nigerians now study home economics, craft, ICT, tourism, automobile and other entrepreneurial subjects in secondary schools. All of these are to further motivate young minds towards becoming an entrepreneur.

Entrepreneurship is a lonely journey, let us help you go through it with our services.

**Source: Entrepreneurs.**

NEWS

# Independence Day: Buhari gives scorecard, urges ASUU to return to class

**P**RESIDENT in a live broadcast to Muhammadu mark the 2022 Buhari, on Independence Day Saturday, thanked celebration, President Nigerians for giving him Buhari said his the opportunity to lead administration has them as their President made significant from 2015 to date. progress in addressing Addressing Nigerians critical issues

challenging the nation. Reading his scorecard, the President reminded Nigerians that under his watch, relevant security agencies have worked to "reduce insurgency in the North East, militancy in the Niger Delta, ethnic and religious tensions in some sections of Nigeria, along with other problems threatening our country."

He also said his administration strengthened the institutions for tackling corruption and also cultivated international support, which aided the repatriation of huge sums of money illegally kept outside the country.

According to him, the increasing number of prosecutions and convictions, with associated refunds of large sums of money is still ongoing. He vowed that he would continue to block opportunities that encourage corrupt practices.

The President said his administration's efforts in re-setting the economy manifested in Nigeria exiting two economic recessions by the very practical and realistic monetary and fiscal measures to ensure effective public financial management.

He added that the effective implementation of the Treasury Single Account

and cutting down on the cost of governance also facilitated early exits from recessions.

Buhari said his administration succeeded in removing several decades of uncertainty for potential Investors in the Oil and Gas sector with the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021.

According to him, this landmark legislation created opportunities for foreign investments in addition to improving transparency in the management of the sector.

He added that the administration also gave the desired priority to the Agricultural Sector through a series of incentives to Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises that resulted in creating millions of jobs.

President Buhari also restated his resolve to bequeath a sustainable democratic culture by the time he exits office on May 29, 2023.

He said only good governance anchored on electing credible leaders on the basis of free, fair, credible and transparent elections, can guarantee the gains made by his administration.

He believes that the Electoral Act 2021 as amended, with its landmark provisions, "further assures us of a more transparent and inclusive Electoral Process."

On the strike by the university lecturers, the President urged members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to return to the classrooms, while assuring them to deal with contending issues within the limits of the scarce resources.

"I must confess that I am very pained by the recurring disruption to our tertiary education system and I am using this Independence Day celebration to reiterate my call for the striking Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), to return to the classroom while assuring them to deal with their contending issues within the limits of the



Buhari

scarce resources to the millions of available. This administration has made appreciable progress in redressing these issues that have been lingering for over eleven years.

"The Federal Government will continue to mobilise resources both internationally and nationally towards funding education to ensure that our citizens are well educated and skilled in various vocations in view of the fact that education is a leading determinant of economic growth and employment generation."

President Buhari, however, expressed deep pains over the hardship that citizens are still going through in his efforts to make Nigeria great.

"I share the pains Nigerians are going through and I assure you that your resilience and patience would not be in vain as this administration continues to reposition, as well as strengthen the security agencies to enable them to deal with all forms of security challenges", he said.

The text of his speech reads in full: "Fellow Nigerians, I address you today, with a deep sense of gratitude to God and a high level of appreciation to all Nigerians whose tremendous goodwill gave me the opportunity to provide leadership for our great country at one of the trying times in her history.

"Conscious that today's address would be my last on an Independence Day as your President; I speak

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to informed the general public of the lost of original application for grant of Right of Occupancy (R of O) with PL No:27041 belonging to **Mr. Patrick Anakwe Anakwe** of Rantya Low Cost, Jos. All efforts made to trace the missing documents prove abortive. If found contact the nearest Police Station or Ministry of Lands Survey and Town Planning Jos.

Signed:  
**MR. PATRICK ANAKWE ANAKWE**

### LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notified the general public of the lost of Certificate of Occupancy No. PL 3103 belonging to **AJAYI AYO DANIEL** situate at Rantya, opposite Maidunama Junction, measuring 1327.94 in Jos South LGC is missing. All effort to traced the said document proved abortive. All concerned authorities to take note.

Signed  
**Ajayi Ayo Daniel**

## FRIENDS OF JESUS CATHOLIC PRAYER MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The general public is hereby notified that the above named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C (now part "F") of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020.

Names of the Trustees  
Mr. Chinedu P. Okoye  
Mr. Arinze Anyichie  
Mrs Okoye Josephine Egwudike

### Aims and objective

1. To raise a faithful and Godly children
2. To bring out the best christian seriousness among the members
3. To encourage practical love among members and others.

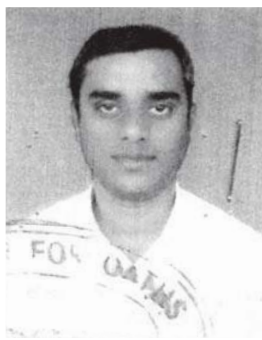
Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed: Secretary

## WANTED PERSONS



Mr. Sachin Singh



Mr. Rajan Singh

This is to inform the general public that the above named persons with their pictures have Warrant of Arrest issued against them by High Court No. 6 of Plateau State to answer the case of fraud committed against their Employers - **Dilkon Plastics Ltd.**

Anybody who comes across them or knows their whereabouts should immediately contact the nearest Police Station or the Nigeria Immigration Service or the High Court of Plateau State.

Signed:  
**Prosecutor**

## SUNDAY SPORTS

## Nigerian Sports @ 62: Three steps forward, four backwards

**N**IGERIA'S sports record in 62 years of nationhood does not present an attractive data. The major problem, according to some critics, has been inconsistencies in policy implementation. It is an ugly trend that has seen Nigerian sports remain stunted over the years. Blessed with a youthful demographic profile with a lot of potential, Nigeria certainly deserves better in terms of results.

Nigeria first participated in the Olympic Games in 1952, and has sent athletes to compete in every Summer Olympic Games since then, except for the boycotted 1976 Summer Olympics. The nation participated in the Winter Olympic Games in 2018, having qualified female athletes in Bobsleigh and Skeleton. Nigerian athletes have won 3 gold, 11 silver and 13 bronze medals, making a total of 27 medals. Not an attractive record, by any sporting standard. Despite that, Nigerian sports have recorded some iconic moments in the country's long and checkered history.

Nigeria first announced her entrance into the international sporting arena at the 1964 Olympics through Nojeem Maiyegun (Boxing) who won the country's first Olympic medal, a bronze.

This was followed by another bronze medal from boxing, at the '72 Olympics in Munich by Isaac Ikhouria. Nigeria's Olympic history changed in 1996 when Chioma Ajunwa won the first individual gold medal for the country through the women's Long Jump event. At the same Olympic Games, Nigeria won the first soccer gold medal by an African country. The Dream Team defeated high ranking football nations like Mexico, Brazil and Argentina in the final.

In 2016 in Brazil after winning the bronze medal in soccer, Nigeria became the first African country to win all three medals in the football event. The team won gold in 1996; silver in 2008, and bronze...

In professional boxing, the country's boxers showed early promise, even before the country's independence. Hogan 'Kid' Bassey and Richard Ihetu (Dick Tiger) emerged world boxing champions in their respective categories.

Hogan 'Kid' Bassey became the World Featherweight Boxing king in 1957. Hogan Bassey was the first Nigeria-British born boxer to become world boxing champion after he shed his blood to win a featherweight bout in 1957 in Liverpool.

Richard "Dick Tiger" Ihetu, on the other hand was a world champion in two different weight categories. He was awarded a Commander of the British Empire Award, for his success as a world famous boxer in the middleweight and light heavyweight boxing champion of the world. Those two were the pioneers of modern Nigeria sports history.

At the Olympics in 1984, Peter Konyegwachie won a Silver medal in the featherweight class. Compatriot David Izonrite also won a silver medal in the heavyweight class while Duncan Dokiari also won a silver medal in the Super-heavyweight category.

In 1979 one-time national champion Davidson Andeh, became the first and only Nigerian to win the World Amateur Lightweight boxing championship belt against a Russian opponent, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Nigerian boxers were celebrated in both the amateur and professional ranks, both in Commonwealth and the All Africa Games. The likes of Abraham Tonica, Hogan Jimoh, Ngozika Ekwelum, Obisia Nwankpa,



among others. Obisia had a shot, albeit unsuccessful, at the world Super lightweight title, then held by Soul Mambi of the United States.

#### Tennis

This is one sport Nigeria enjoyed a glorious past. Professionally, one could recall the likes of Nduka Odizor, David Imonite, etc. Odizor getting to the quarter-finals of Wimbledon.

#### Athletics

Athletics have given Nigeria the most medals in the Olympics, 2 gold, 5 silver and 7 bronze medals. Names like Innocent Egbunike, Chidi Imoh, Olusoji Fasuba, Sunday Bada, Yusuf Ali will remain indelible in the annals of Nigerian sports.

The quarter-mile relay quartet at the 2000 Sydney Olympic games – Sunday Bada, Jude Monye, Clement Chukwu and Enefiok Udo-Obong did not win their final race but 12 years after one of the American runners was disqualified following a failed dope test. The quarter milers were awarded gold despite silver finish in the 2000 Olympics

Sunday Dare, current Minister of Youth and Sports Development has been very successful. Although his reign has been tainted with the Pumagate, the disgrace in Tokyo and the scandal which saw 12 Nigerian athletes barred from participating in the Tokyo Olympics.

Of late, however, athletics have dominated Nigeria's medal haul at international meets. The minister may have learned from his mistakes and pursued his ideals with conviction. Dare pursued 'the adopt a talent policy which has led Nigeria to her best year in sports with Tobi Amusan and Ese Brune leading this charge.

Tobi Amusan is the first Nigerian athlete to become a world champion. Apart from winning gold medal, at the worlds Athletics Championship. Amusan helped herself with a new world record in the Women's 100m hurdles. The New World Record of 12.12 secs, was certified a few days ago by the World Athletics. Apart from the World Championships, Amusan also won the Commonwealth 100m Hurdles and the Diamond League to cement her place in the annals of world athletics. It would be safe to say the 25-year old Amusan is Nigeria's best athlete ever.

Ese Brune, on her part, is a well accomplished Long Jumper. Commonwealth Champion and silver medalist in the World Athletics Championships. Brune's stock has been on the rise. She is one of the best in the world, in her event.

#### Wrestling

Nigeria has benefited from the return of Daniel Igali, plus the cooperation of the Bayelsa State government and the Ministry of Sports. Igali, Olympic gold medalist for Canada has been performing 'miracles' with the Nigerian wrestling team. Igali's dedication and commitment to making Nigerian wrestling great has produced the likes of Blessing Oborodudu, Odunayo Adekuroye, among others. Igali has succeeded in taking Nigerian wrestling to new heights.

In pro-wrestling, Nigeria had a very busy and productive past. Michael Okpala, alias Power Mike, Dele Bamidele, Power Uti, Tony de Destroyer, etc. It was Power Mike who brought the likes of Mighty Igor to Nigeria.

#### Table Tennis

Nigeria has had the good and bad

times in table tennis. Aruna Quadri was named the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) star player in 2014. He was also voted the Best Male player ahead of then world number one, China's Xu Xin.

#### Basketball

One of the few sports that have brought so much joy to millions of Nigerians. In Africa, Nigeria got out of the shadows of Angola and stamped her authority in the court with flair and purpose. With continental titles in both male and female categories the country has had very impressive outings at the FIBA World Cup and the Olympics.

However, due to leadership crises in the Nigeria Basketball Federation the sport's steady progress has suddenly halted. It was even made worse by the ill-advised withdrawal of the country from international basketball by the Minister of Sports Mr Sunday Dare. Although that decision has been reversed, it deprived D'Tigress of going to the World Cup in Australia.

#### Football

The hottest federation in the country is the Nigeria Football

Federation, formally known as NFA.

Nigeria's appearances at the Olympics was memorable. Nigeria remains the only country to have won all colour of medals at the Olympics; gold, silver and bronze.

In 1980, Nigeria won her first senior continental title when the Christian Chukwu-captained Green Eagles won the Africa Cup of Nations in Lagos. Since then, the Eagles have won the tournament twice; 1994 in Tunisia and 2013 in South Africa.

The Super Eagles made 1994 special when they qualified for the USA '94 World Cup at the expense of Algeria. The squad went on to give Nigeria and Africa the boldest representation by any first timer. The Super Eagles were eliminated by eventual finalists, Italy but returned home with their heads held high. The team was considered good enough to be ranked 5th best national football team by FIFA, the first by an African team and none has attained that feat since.

Nigeria also won the Olympic soccer gold medal in 1996, a silver in 1998 and in 2016, Samson Siasia led a group of young players to finish third best in Brazil.

The country's age grade teams have been excellent at FIFA-organised competitions. Till date, the Golden Eaglets of Nigeria remain the most successful team in in the history of the FIFA U-17 World Cup with five titles. In the 2015 edition, Victor Osimhen emerged the highest goal scorer. The lanky forward set a record of scoring 10 goals to win the Golden Boot. He also won the Silver Ball award. He has since become an established forward for the Super Eagles and Serie A club Napoli. Osimhen eclipsed Macaulay Chrisantus' record of 7 goals in the U17 tournament in 2007 where he emerged the top scorer.

In Women's football, the Super Falcons have been the most successful national team in the whole of Africa. The team have won the African title a record-11 times. The Falcons have also been to every FIFA World Cup since inception of the Women's World Cup in 1985. The team is also the only Women's national team from the Confederation of African Football to have reached the quarterfinals in both the FIFA Women's World Cup and Football at the Summer Olympics.

The Falconets and the Flamingos, too, have also had excellent outings both in the continent and at the World Cup.

## Super Eagles captain sends independence message

**S**UPER Eagles captain Ahmed Musa has posted an inspiring Independence Day message to fans on his official Twitter account.

October 1st is Nigeria's official Independence Day, marking the day in 1960 when the most populous African country achieved independence from Great Britain.

And in an adaptation of a part of the country's National Anthem, Ahmed Musa has called on compatriots to work for the good of the fatherland.

Musa's short, punchy statement reads: "Let's all arise as compatriots and obey Nigeria's call. Let's serve our fatherland with love, strength and faith. Let's work together as Professionals to get the Nigeria that we desire and deserve."

It will be recalled that Ahmed Musa recently suffered a terrible arm injury while playing for his club Sivasspor in Turkey.

Musa, Nigeria's most capped player in history, has since had a successful arm surgery, and he is in a recovery process.

The injury kept the former Leicester City forward out of Nigeria's international friendly match with Algeria last week.

In his absence, the Super Eagles lost that encounter 2-1 to the Desert Foxes despite taking an early lead through Lorient striker Terem Moffi.



Musa



October 2, 2022

# Gusau emerges NFF President

**I**BRAHIM Gusau has emerged as the 40th President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF). He replaces Amaju Pinnick who recently completed his second term in office.

Gusau emerged President at the 78th Annual General Assembly that took place in Benin, Edo State, on Friday.

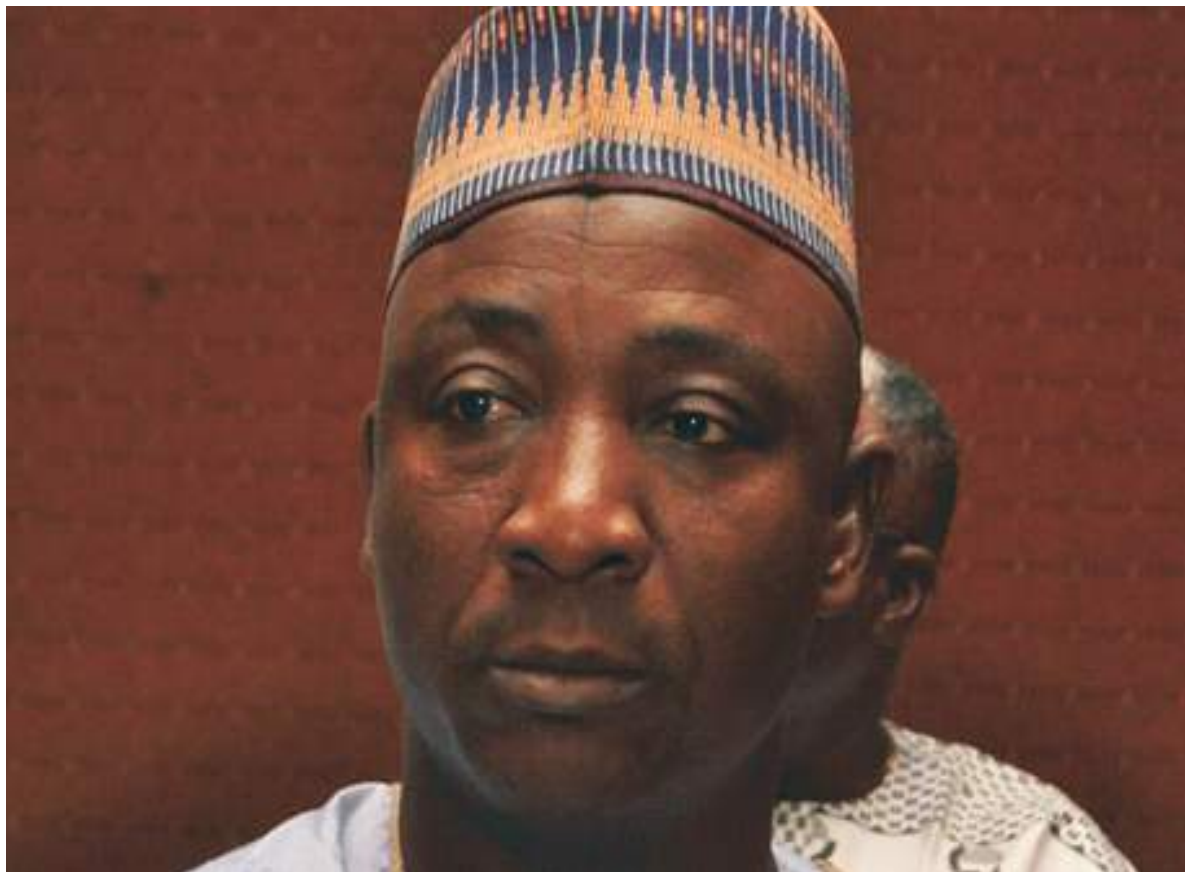
Only eight of the 11 aspirants were on the final ballot as Musa Amadu, Adam Mukhtar, and Suleiman Yahaya Kwande withdrew from the race. In the first round of the election, Gusau polled 21 votes, Seyi Akinwumi had 12 votes and Shehu Dikko had six votes.

Gusau would have been the outright winner of the election but he did not have the required 50 per cent +1 votes of the total 41 votes cast.

According to the NFF election rules, every candidate that had at least a vote could be a part of the runoff but Shehu Dikko, Seyi Akinwunmi and Abba Yola stepped down while Peterside Idah refused to step down. After the runoff, Gusau polled 39 Votes to Idah's one to emerge as the new NFF President.

Gusau was a member of the Pinnick-led NFF board when he held the position of chairman of Club Chairpersons. He is the Chairman of the Zamfara State Football Association

September 30th made it 8 years since Amaju Pinnick emerged President of the Nigeria Football Federation. An astute politician in every sense of the word, blessed with the gift of the word and one that can calm a storm with a beautiful verb until the adjective of victims



Gusau

paint great destruction; Pinnick is your typical Nigerian politician.

His emergence was premised on promise. Having led the Delta Football Association and made it one of the best-functioning at a time, his mixture of the understanding of the realpolitik with a great oratory skill and some money to spend opened the doors.

While he led his state's FA, the Warri-born Pinnick helped Warri Wolves to becoming a club of immense reputation, which produced some Super

Eagles players at the time. What he didn't do however, was create a working environment for the further advancement of the club even after he left. That's by the way.

Pinnick was elected NFF President for the first time on September 30, 2014. Like every new entrant into a top office in Nigeria, there were messianic appellations attached to his presence.

Aminu Maigari whom many wanted to see his back quickly didn't perform as terribly. Under him, Nigeria had abolished its old system of using mostly league players in age-grade tournaments, the benefit of which the team still enjoys today.

In terms of achievement, the Super Eagles won an AFCON during his tenure but his administration suffered enough cracks for many to seek the next quickly. He, in terms of same achievements is a level ahead of Pinnick.

To focus less on the political side of events will make this a shorter route to describing Pinnick's time.

The following pointers show Pinnick failed as NFF President;

For the amount of attention and time Pinnick paid the Super Eagles at the expense of other key football matters, Nigeria missed out and didn't qualify for the 2015 AFCON and the 2017 AFCON

In 2019, few months after the Super Eagles had displayed an average performance at the 2018 World Cup, the Super Eagles won a bronze medal at the tournament. The last edition

held in Cameroon ended in a round of 16 exit.

To a great degree, Pinnick and the NFF's appointment of coaches suffered great flaws and affected the team's results. When Gernot Rohr had shown his finest capacity, he was left to go on and offered a new contract, only to be sacked at the wrong time. It was simply a marriage of convenience for Pinnick, not necessarily for the growth of the national team.

The Super Eagles were his shiny ornaments, expected to cover the rot, but deeply-rooted problems existed in Nigerian football.

For Pinnick's special preference for the men's senior national team, that's a report sheet that leaves too many questions to ask.

With the Super Eagles, Pinnick achieved a World Cup group stage feat, and an AFCON bronze medal, unpalatable interference, unsolicited pep talks, and a backlog of owed allowances and bonuses.

From captaincy problems and coaching, the Super Falcons struggled greatly under Pinnick, despite winning the 2018 AWCON (now WAFCON).

Under Pinnick, the Super Falcons missed out on two Olympic tournaments because of the lack of motivation and a fractured leadership that could have long been corrected.

A preference for foreign coaches wasn't met with the requisite availability of resources or understanding of their job but for reasons best known to Pinnick, he stuck to them. From

The 1994 Super Eagles got the appointments and would be good on Pinnick's books but tales like the absence of contracts and unpaid salaries became a regular theme.

In cases like the appointment of "African Guardiola" - Sunday Oliseh, Pinnick sold Eldorado to Nigerians but the rest they say, is history.

Before Oliseh, the NFF had also left Stephen Keshi to fail with the team he built. The Big Boss had gotten to the peak of his coaching prowess with the Super Eagles and had delivered the impossible. It would have been honourable to let him go but that reality never dawned until the Super Eagles were embarrassed to not making it to the 2015 AFCON.

There are many good Nigerian coaches pushing themselves in different parts of the world and all they seek is tutelage and opportunities.

The NFF neither sponsors coaches to CAF programmes again nor has its programme for them and updating their skills become more difficult.

Many who can afford to travel abroad and seek better training go but come back to take jobs that leave them being owed a log of bonuses and salaries.

Although he placed himself strategically in a vantage position in world football politics, supporting different CAF leaders to their emergence and going as far as becoming a FIFA Executive Committee member, Nigerian football was stifled under Pinnick.

The Beach Soccer national team, who are one of Nigeria's most successful football teams has struggled to be for years. Suspended, yet owed a stack of bonuses, the team continues to struggle yet is still considered for competitions.

Under Pinnick, the Federation Cup, which represents significant history in Nigerian football suffered.

Pinnick claims to have upped the NFF in terms of financial independence, working more with corporate organisations than wait for the government's largesse, but court cases that question his financial records are also not quickly forgotten.

A number of them still float around and what becomes of Nigeria's FIFA grant is still shrouded in top level secrecy. All we hear is 'we are broke' while Nigerian football struggles and the man in charge fuels his ambition.

Nigerians waited so long to see Pinnick's back, but how much of his back will be seen is a question of time.

The selection of coaches, although impressive in some aspects, also showed a part to influence that defeated purpose.

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**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

By IBRAHIM T. LOT