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ASUU strike aftermath: Is university crisis over?

The suspension of the eight months' strike action earlier embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has been greeted with mixed feelings by most Nigerians who never expected this impasse to have lasted this long. The cheering news of the strike suspension was finally made public when ASUU National President, Professor Emmanuel Osodeke announced it at the end of the National Executive Council meeting of the union held last week at its secretariat in Abuja. Though the universities have reopened for business; what then is the fate of Nigerian students?





Closure of media: Zamfara has overstepped its boundary

The recent action of the Zamfara State government ordering the closure of five media outlets in the state, is to say the least, unfortunate and tragic in an emerging democracy such as ours.

We understand the action was provoked by the coverage for the main opposition party's rally by these media houses, which the state claimed was in violation of the state ban on political activity. This claim however does not hold water since the state government did not have any locus to carry out such an action.

As a result of this lawlessness, Nigerians condemned the action widely and described it as cruel and unreasonable especially as it had political undertones and smacks of victimisation.

It is quite unfortunate that at this stage of Nigeria's political journey, immaturity still takes centre stage. National interest is often consigned to the back seat as selfish interest is given prominence.

Every indication point to the fact that it is political wrangling and the one with political advantage is using the power at his disposal to arm twist those at a disadvantage. Unfortunately, life is a vicious cycle, tomorrow the victim may be the victor.

Recently, political activities were suspended in the state, due to insecurity and other vices like kidnapping for ransom, activities of bandits. Zamfara has been a hotbed of criminal activities, no doubt but highhandedness in whatever form is unacceptable.

It is as a result of this that Nigerians see the ban on political activities at this material time as unusual, ill-timed and mischievous since the upcoming election is fast approaching.

The Zamfara State Police Command was ordered to arrest any staff of these media organisations performing any duties in violation of the ban. Those involved were NTA Gusau, Pride FM, Radio Gusau, Amin TV Gusau, Gamji TV Gusau, and Alumma TV Gusau.

According to the directive of Governor Mettawalle, these journalists who were simply doing their jobs of informing the public, were to be dealt with mercilessly by the security.

It is crystal clear that the government of the day has not been friendly to the media. But to be treated like a criminal for doing one's job is unacceptable.

We throw our weight behind the International Press Centre (IPC) and call on the Presidency to caution Governor Mattawalle as he had acted beyond his executive powers.

We see the closure of the media outlets as another attempt to stifle press freedom in the country as Lanre Arogundade, Executive Director of IPC pointed out.

The Governor should be brought back on track to avoid being the judge and the jury in this case. "Subject yourself to the rule of law", as IPC Executive Director advised.

Be reminded that this is a political era and each party has equal right to the media space. What is good for the gander, is good for the goose.

Sadly, it is often people with media background that are usually a clog in the wheels of progress of the media. In this age and time, the media should not be stifled but allowed freedom like is the case in developed climes.

Tinubu promises security, robust economy, jobs

Presidential candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has unveiled his manifesto, with national security, economy, education, oil and gas, agriculture, transportation and power topping his 'Action Plan' for Nigeria.

The unveiling was done simultaneously with the inauguration of the party's presidential campaign council (PCC) by President Muhammadu Buhari.

The transformational plan was unveiled on Friday, at the Banquet Hall of the presidential villa, Abuja.

The document, tagged "Renewed Hope - An Action Plan for a Better Nigeria", contained multi-sectoral policy options.

"I seek to become the next president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria because I know the way. My experience and past performance assures that. It will be through collective effort and national endeavour that we join hands, across divides, and achieve our vision", Tinubu said self-assuredly.

Unveiling his plan for Nigeria, the former Lagos State governor, said, he "will prioritise national security, economy, agriculture, power, oil and gas, transportation and education, when elected as President Buhari's successor next February."

The former governor of Lagos promised that his administration would provide sufficient jobs with decent wages; revive manufacturing industries; generate, transmit and distribute sufficient and affordable electricity; manufacture, produce and market good quantities of essential goods and services; export more and import less to strengthen the Naira; make food available and affordable; modernise and expand public infrastructure.

Tinubu assured that if elected in 2023, his administration will optimise the country's foreign exchange (FX) to strengthen the naira, as well as reduce foreign debt to achieve a productive economy.

He said the exchange rate is the most evocative monetary issue of the day as it "stirs emotions and feelings of national pride or embarrassment, depending on the rate of the day and the trend it suggests".

According to Tinubu, the FX rate influences the costs of imports, the competitiveness of exports, and net capital flows, among other things.

"It cannot be ignored nor left to the vagaries of an unrestrained market.

"Yet, we must be precise regarding economic cause and effect. The recent dip in our exchange rate is primarily due to global supply and production shortfalls caused by global factors well beyond the scope of our control. Our diminished levels of oil production and the modest capacity of our manufacturing sector to expand production both serve to compound the pressure on the naira.

"Further compounding our difficulty is the fact that we are tied to an ineffective regime of multiple, somewhat arbitrary, exchange rates.

According to the APC presidential candidate, having listened to the yearnings of the people, he is

UAE slams visa ban on Nigerians

AUTHORITIES of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday slammed a visa ban on Nigerians seeking to visit Dubai. In a notice issued to its trade partners in Nigeria which include travel agents, the Dubai authorities declared that "all Dubai applications submitted are now rejected".

According to the notice, the authorities added that the rejections will be sent in batches. The rejections, the Dubai authorities said "are general for Nigerians and approvals are on hold at the moment."

This situation gives rise to financial dislocation, currency speculation and arbitrage.

"These practices divert much-needed funds away from productive endeavours that could employ hundreds of thousands of people and create products that improve average living conditions.

"To ensure that exchange rate policy harmonises with our goals of optimal growth and job creation driven by industrial, agricultural and infrastructural expansion, we will work with the Central Bank and the financial sector to carefully review and better optimise the exchange rate regime. Our economic policies shall be guided by our desire for a stronger, more stable Naira founded upon a vibrant and productive real economy", he said.

On foreign debt, Tinubu said the country can protect its exchange rate, "guard against inflation and preserve foreign currency reserves" by limiting its exposure to large debt obligations denominated in foreign currency.

"Our administration will engage in extraordinary prudence in contracting debt in foreign currency. Our policy will be such that new foreign currency debt obligations will be linked to projects that generate cash flows from which the debt can be repaid.

"Where possible, we shall limit such foreign currency-denominated debts to essential expenditures that cannot be adequately addressed by either naira-denominated expenditures or debt obligations", he added.

Tinubu also outlined "policy options for healthcare, digital economy, women empowerment, judicial reform, federalism/decentralisation of power and foreign policy.

He also promised huge investments in sports entertainment and culture, youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, to expand jobs and opportunities for millions of Nigerian youths.

"Our nation's history affirms that our people constitute our most valuable treasure. Whether the hardworking farmer, the industrious market woman, the dynamic young entrepreneur or the hopeful child, Nigerian people rank among the best anywhere. They excel in every aspect of human endeavour when given a fair chance.

"Senator Shettima and I have traversed every part of our beloved nation, listening to the concerns of our fellow citizens. Young and old, poor and rich, educated and uneducated, Christian and Muslim; all have expressed their views and concerns. People do not seek superficial answers to hard questions. Nor do they want the broken, unimaginative, failed promises repackaged and fed to them again. They want true and innovative solutions which address the challenging realities of today.

"Our party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) was founded on the premise that the people of our beloved country are entitled to the benefits that only progressive good governance can procure", he said.

According to the APC presidential candidate, having listened to the yearnings of the people, he is

emboldened to change their stories for good the same way he did in Lagos State as governor for eight years while putting together the best team.

"When I was governor of Lagos, my team and I developed institutions and policies that changed the face of the state. It became a safe place for its residents and an engine of prosperity for all those willing to work in pursuit of their economic dreams. What my team and I achieved in Lagos, together we all can achieve for Nigeria. Our objective is to foster a new society based on shared prosperity, tolerance, compassion, and the unwavering commitment to treating each citizen with equal respect and due regard", he said.

Tinubu noted that the total transformation of Nigeria can be achieved, building on the foundation laid by the present APC administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

On security which he affirms to be the "bedrock of a prosperous and democratic society", Tinubu said his administration will make it a fundamental responsibility to protect the lives and property of its citizens by mobilising the country's national security, military and law enforcement assets to protect all Nigerians from danger and from the fear of danger.

"The current government has made important inroads. When it came into office, the Buhari government met a situation in which terrorists had planted their flags and claimed Nigerian territory as their own. The Buhari government eliminated these incursions against our national sovereignty, bringing peace to many areas. Thousands of formerly displaced people have returned home to rebuild their lives."

Tinubu recalled meeting a tough security problem when he assumed office as governor of Lagos State in 1999, revealing the Herculean task he surmounted.

"When I entered office as governor of Lagos, the state was crime-ridden. Safety was uncertain. The population was fearful. With bold, no-nonsense crime prevention reform and creative institution building, we won back our state. It became a safe and secure place to live and to do business. I shall bring the same determined, problem-solving spirit to solving insecurity at the national level.

"Our administration will be committed to permanently securing the safety, freedom and prosperity of all Nigerians", he said.

To achieve this, he promised in his Action Plan to further equip the armed forces with more modern hardware and needed technological support, even as he also said police will be reformed to fully take responsibility for internal security.

"Police reform will be focused on positioning the institution to better deliver on its primary duties of community policing and maintaining law and order through crime fighting and prevention.

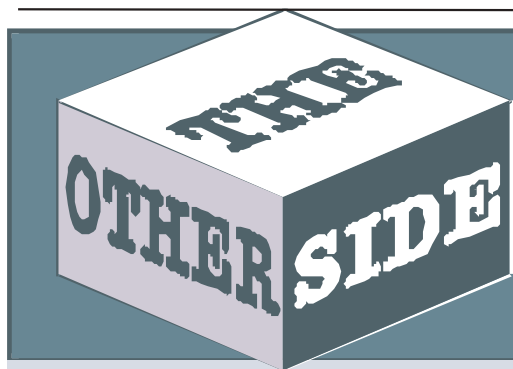
"Police personnel will be freed from extraneous duties such as VIP security and guard duties. VIP security and provision of security for government buildings, installations and other critical assets will be transferred to The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). The NSCDC shall be evaluated and reformed to be better integrated with our internal security apparatus", he said.

The APC Presidential Candidate assured Nigerians that his administration will focus on the massive and unprecedented 4th industrial revolution, helping the youth to be transformed from job seekers to job providers.


"The country does not need fancy promises or foreign experiments. Nigerians seek sustained progress and reform through stable governance and proven leadership.

"We need true and innovative solutions that address the specific challenges of each of our 36 states and our over 200 million people. We need our own Miracle on the Niger River", he added.

No reason was given for the drastic measure taken by the UAE.



With
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On Sunday



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"It is little wonder how prices of commodities in our markets are what they are today. Traveling from one point to another is tasking and frustrating, as everything is tied to the fuel scarcity. And as stated above, people and communities can determine the prices of goods and services and not the market forces that should enable us get those things done. To say the least, that can be frustrating."

IF you are a Nigerian and living, you must be aware of what the country is going through. Traveling in almost parts of the country is a major problem as a result of the persistent fuel scarcity.

Nothing can be more traumatic than for a country that prides itself as a major oil producer to face this horrible experience on the streets. Many Nigerians have wondered how we got to this stage; so long as no one is willing to offer any explanation to us.

There may be no state of the federation that long queues are not being experienced or rather, have become the order of the day. Motorists virtually sleep at fuel stations so that they can afford to procure the commodity that is if it is available for those who can afford to.

Those that are not lucky return home despondent and or are forced to buy from roadside vendors at very exorbitant rates. Some are forced to go to roadside fuel stations that are not sure of what they sell. So, either way, we are all at risk.

If you get the product in the last two places, you must be grateful to God if you are not buying adulterated fuel. Many car owners have stories to relate to their experiences in the last few weeks. Some motorists, as soon as they leave the fuel station, their vehicles begin to develop problems and have had to spend fortunes before they fix them.

But the availability of the product should not be the problem. The major concern has always been the lack of money to buy it. The economic circumstance is telling on families, how much more of spending huge sums of money to purchase Premium Motor Spirit; however at their risk as stated above. But for how long will the country continue with this? Something has to give way, so that we can save ourselves.

Few fuel stations are operating at full capacity that sells at the regulated price. Every marketer has set sight on how much profit they would make from the sales of the product.

Nigerians are aware that the price of the product has not been increased nor is the government contemplating any change in the price regime. That being said, I am, like many are thinking, the rate of sabotage ranks to high heavens. The questions to ask are: Could the government not act even in the face of the difficulties Nigerians are going through? If it is sabotage as it is being alleged, couldn't a mechanism be activated so that filling stations across the country be free of the long queues?

Nigeria appears to be a country

Nigerians: Do leaders care if they suffer?



Buhari

where the absurd is daily permitted to be witnessed. Marketers are always at liberty to fix the prices of any commodity without the thought that it will affect others in the process. And once it is fixed, it is always difficult to bring it down; knowing that what is experienced on that account is harrowing.

The case of the premium motor spirit is a typical example. Today, several fuel stations are selling a liter at 300 naira or slightly less. How annoying could that be? And since no one is saying anything about it, it has continued unabated; and affecting virtually almost all Nigerians.

In Jos, a few days ago, some officials of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) were seen going around on a monitoring exercise. It is not clear if they are always out on the exercise. But, while their actions may be appreciated, I am tempted to think that the marketers are always steps ahead of the department. That is why it should be taken that sabotage may not be ruled out in what is happening in the industry.

The NCSDC in Plateau has gone ahead to make arrest of young men, whose stock in trade is to stand at street corners and sell the product. How they get the product in large quantity is questionable. Fuel stations which get involved and sell to them have questions to answer.

They have mapped out strategies to circumvent the

department work in sanitizing the industry to the point that whatever is being done; the ordinary man is affected the most. The brunt of the hardships is transferred from up to the ordinary man of the street. It goes on like this in several other sectors; perhaps that is the reason why a lot of things which work in other climes don't function the way they should here.

On account of our perceived passiveness, everything, whether good or bad; is allowed to go on here. It is high time; we thought how some of these things can be corrected, the better for all of us. If we continue this way, it is likely that we can wake up and find that nothing works for us again.

It is little wonder how prices of commodities in our markets are what they are today. Traveling from one point to another is tasking and frustrating, as everything is tied to the fuel scarcity. And as stated above, people and communities can determine the prices of goods and services and not the market forces that should enable us get those things done. To say the least, that can be frustrating.

Nigerians always enjoy feeding on all situations maximally. They seem not to be bothered if suffering becomes a middle name for all of us. And it does appear that those in government are fully aware that Nigerians are docile; always accepting anything happening to them, without a modicum of strength to question such things.

This sad commentary leaves us

with a lot to chew given this circumstance. Indeed it has a telling tendency to keep Nigerians weakened not to complain about the treatment meted on them. The effect is that, and it appears that whatever happens, Nigerians are persuaded to remain not bothered about certain developments going on in the country.

The painful aspect of the scarcity is that it came to many with damages to several vehicles. Many recall that the whole saga started with the importation of adulterated fuel; the source we are not aware of; and no one is willing to offer any understandable explanation for that.

Several millions of adulterated fuel was shipped into Nigeria unaware to the authorities and before we knew what has hit us, several trailer-load of the commodity found its way into some states. Since then, long fuel queues returned; this time with ferocious consistency and intensity.

Trust Nigerian fuel marketers, it was as if they were waiting for the development; they appear to know when some of these misfortunes will take place. They cashed in on it, selling the commodity to gullible Nigerians and made stupendous profit from the naivety of their countrymen and women.

Since the adulterated fuel entered the Nigerian market, some of the stations where it is dispensed have been destroyed in some states occasioned by the rowdy nature of the buyers, which resulted in fire outbreak. For many motorists, they have had their vehicles destroyed after they bought and used the commodity.

What are witnessed daily are fuel stations that have petroleum products but are kept as if nothing is available. They are waiting for an announcement for the increase in the price of the product. Secondly, they are awaiting the order from their 'union' on how the product can be exhausted at one station before they turn to another.

In some states, motorists queue for days believing that they will be given the product; and not knowing that the stations don't have it. Always after a long wait on the queue, they are appealed to go home and return the next day. Most businesses have continued to suffer as many do not make any transaction for days.

Transportation fees have continued to increase on a daily basis and pains are inflicted on several Nigerians who depend on the availability of the product for their activities.

There are stations which have remained without petroleum products for over a year, however, in the last few days they are back in business. They are back and customers are falling heels over each other buying the product at 300 hundred naira per liter. They have reason to return to business: There is money to be made if the product is sold there.

They are smiling to their banks having made so much from the sweat of Nigerians. And they even want more if left alone. However hard things turn out to be, we have to think of a way out of the situation. We must go in search of a solution which can save Nigerians from experiencing more hardships.

The capacity to change things still lies in us. I believe strongly that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation may not have done well. We are given daily figures of what has been sent into the Nigerian market, yet, on a daily basis, they queues have remained as they started. If as they tell us, several millions of gallons have been released into the Nigerian market on a daily basis, what we expect is that by now, no queue would have been expected in any station.

This is why many suspect that sabotage is highly involved, if not, pray say what could be responsible for the development? Nigerians have heard and read in the media explanations concerning the scarcity that do not water. The explanations give us cause not to trust government about national assets that save us in our hour of need.

In the days that are ahead of us as a people, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation must have to wake up to do more. Those who monitor how the product is distributed (Department of Petroleum Resources) have a greater responsibility to ensure that the right things are done. They must monitor and punish erring fuel stations that hoard and sell at exorbitant price regimes not regulated by government.

Apart from the NNPC taking a stand, the government has a responsibility to act and save us from this embarrassment. Those who are presently profiting from the development are certainly Nigerians who desire that they gain while their country men and women suffer untold hardships.



Befriending the bottle

ONE of the oldest reasons often given for getting drunk is to dull pain or an escape route. In the Bible, Apostle Paul told his spiritual son, Timothy to take a little alcohol for his stomach pain. It could have been as medication or to dull the pain.

A few people say they drink to boost their ego and to embolden themselves. From experience one can say with authority that the number of people who belong to this group is very large. It includes people without liver. Yes, cowards, subordinates who begrudge their superior but to keep their job, they have to keep their peace. Wives who fear their husbands or vice versa. It could be an employee that is offended by his/ her boss. In the drunken state, they will pour out their minds. Mission accomplished, they apologise when they are sober.

In the journey of drunkenness, the aspect that is very common one, is robbing one of respectability. There is a lady one used to know that anytime she was drunk, she would expose her nakedness to everyone. One could say, she became a free show for everyone.

One of the worse things she used to do, was openly plaiting her public hair before the whole family which was made up of more than 15 boys. It was so terrible but to us then (kids) it was funny. This trait drove away every suitor from marrying her.

My aunt's husband who was highly placed in the society changed the narrative of his life one fateful day. As usual, he went out in the evening to wind up at a beer parlour. But that day, he came back very late and very drunk.

I and my siblings had come around because our mother was undertaking another training in School of Nursing, Vom. We were awoken by noises. I opened the door just a little and what I saw made me to lock up immediately.

My aunt's husband was holding a cane. And lined up before him were my aunt who was half dressed, and his nieces all indecently dressed in their under wears or transparent night wears. He was forcing them to match as sleepy as they were and looked. My aunt was the leader of the march pass.

"Left right!!!" He was saying. Any one who did not do as commanded got the swipe of the cane. "Forward March!" and the sleepy bunch took off on unsteady legs.

My siblings and I were watching from our bedroom window. It looked funny but since my tough aunt was

the most humiliated, one could not laugh openly. The parade carried on for most of the wee hours of morning. The drunk took them round the house, then outside the house. Neighbours were the ones that came to the rescue of my aunt and Co, around 2:00 am.

As early as 6:00am, my aunt summoned her husband's relatives and narrated to them their ordeal. By that time, he was sober. Through out her narration, his head was down. He could neither look her nor his relatives in the face. If I had not been a witness to what happened, I would have sworn that he didn't force his wife and niece's to March round the house for hours. The retired high ranking police had exchanged his honour for shame in a drunken state.

A young man said good bye to alcohol after he woke up in a gutter just as he was about to be bundled into an ambulance to be deposited in a mortuary. He said, he remembered vividly, mistaking ITF office Bukuru for his house the night before. The guards gave him a hard chase. In the course of running, he fell into the gutter along the road that leads to Bukuru and there made his bed for the night.

Like a dream, he started hearing whispers around him just as he was stirring due to discomfort caused by the cool morning due and breeze. The people were talking about somebody murdered and disposed in the gutter.

Out of curiosity, he opened his eye slightly in the semi darkness and discovered he was the centre of attention. Someone was saying something about the police being on their way to pick the body. Again, he opened his eyes slightly, looked for an opening in the crowd that was growing. Without warning, he stood up, scattering the crowd and made a run for it.

Imagine what would have transpired if he was picked by the police. That experience had separated him from alcohol for good. If he does not tell you his story, you will think he had never touched alcohol bottle in his life.

The advice always given by alcoholic drink sellers is to drink responsibly. Why don't we heed their warning? There are some people in police custody because of offences committed under the influence of alcohol. We need to practice some restraint. Don't ever allow yourself get drunk. Always be in control of your faculties. Or in the alternative, when drunk (preferably at home), please go to sleep.

NEWS

Judge orders psychiatric evaluation of degree holder inmate

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

BAUCHI State Chief Judge, Justice Rabi Talatu Umar has directed for the mental evaluation of a graduate of the University of Maiduguri, Buhari Sani who has successfully undergone a degree awarding studies on Mining and Geology at the institution and passed out in 2020.

But somewhere, somehow along the line, Buhari Sani on 18th October, 2022 found himself at the Medium Security Custodial Centre, Jama'are in Bauchi State charged with insult, criminal intimidation and theft.

He was said to have insulted his uncle in Jama'are, his domicile under what was described as the influence of drugs, frightened some family members, and removed a belonging of one of them.

Justice Rabi Talatu Umar regrettably wondered how Buhari's Uncle shouldered or bore his educational responsibilities right from primary school up to the university level only to turn back and become recalcitrant to him.

The Chief Judge therefore directed officials of the custodial centre to liaise with Buhari's family members and Department of Social Welfare of the Jama'are Local Government Council with a view to take Buhari to a Psychiatric Hospital for mental and physical evaluation.

Buhari, who was in 2021 posted to Imo State for his National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC) may probably have absconded the service

year due to influence of drugs as he was unable to collect his discharge certificate at the time of this incident, on 18th October, 2022.

Pressed by the Chief Judge as to why Buhari could not collect his NYSC discharge certificate, Buhari attributed it to collaboration between his family members and the Vice Chancellor of his University (UNIMAID).

She said, "NYSC discharge certificate is being personally collected by an institution's graduate, and not by any proxy, hence Buhari's inability to collect his certificate might have default in the service year.

She explained that Buhari's

mental evaluation at the psychiatric hospital would determine the level of his drugs addiction and eventually admit him for treatment.

The Chief Judge counseled Buhari's family members, particularly his mother who is in existence to exercise restraint on her son for he would gradually be cured at the hospital and would one day become useful to himself and the society.

Justice Rabi Talatu Umar has during her cases review visit of Awaiting Trial Persons (ATP) at the Jama'are Medium Custodian Centre released two persons and granted bail to one other.



Mohammed

Kogi receives first Derivation Allocation as oil producer

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

KOGI State has received its first derivation allocation as an oil producing state.

Governor Yahaya Bello disclosed this during the weekly State Executive Council meeting held in Lokoja midweek.

He assured the people of the determination of his administration to continue to record more wins for Kogites.

Bello said his administration had recorded many giant strides in the sectors covering the thematic areas of his New Direction Blueprint. Adding that the "derivation allocation will make us do more for our people".

Governor Bello said, "I am elated to announce to the good people of Kogi State that my administration has received our first derivation allocation as an Oil Producing State. This announcement is in line with my administration's commitment to transparency and accountability, for which we have received many awards.

"We worked hard to make this history. But we wouldn't have achieved it without the support of our people, who stood resolutely with us to make this see the light of the day. We also wish to express our gratitude to President Muhammadu Buhari for his leadership roles as well as the RMAFC for making this a

reality.

"Let me reiterate this to the people of Kogi State that my promise to make their resources work for them is iron cast. We will build more schools, hospitals and construct more roads. We will empower our youth and women. Under my watch, we will ensure security."

Addressing pressmen after the State Executive Council meeting, the Commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley Fanwo, said the derivation allocation came at a time the state government was building legacy projects across the state. He stressed that the Governor would ensure "judicious use of the derivation allocation".

"The Governor has once again proved that he is a go getter with the tenacious manner he defended the interest of the state to be listed as an Oil Producing State. History will remember him for this feat," he stated.

Also, the Commissioner for Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Asiru Idris, said the administration would continue to put in place more "people oriented projects". Kogites are elated with the full status of Kogi State as an Oil Producing State and have expressed confidence in the capacity of the Yahaya Bello Administration to deliver more democracy dividends to the people.



Bello

POLITICS

PDP accused of denying citizens political choice

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

THE All Progressive Congress (APC) in Sokoto State has accused the People's Democratic Party (PDP) led government in the state of plotting to deny the citizens freedom of political choice. Isa Sadiq-Achida, the Sokoto State APC Chairman made the allegation in a statement issued to newsmen in Sokoto recently.

According to Sadiq, "the PDP-led government in the state has lost the popular support of the people due to its bad governance.

That out of desperation and frustration, the party resorted to unwholesome and unconventional arm twisting methods, to force people into voting them in the forthcoming elections.

"The state government, through the Local Government Councils is threatening and intimidating traditional and religious leaders as well as businessmen into supporting and campaigning for PDP.

"As a party, we view this as an attempt to use false propaganda to dent the good image of our leaders and at the same time, cripple democracy in Sokoto State," he added.

Sadiq-Achida urged the state government to remember that traditional and religious leaders were fathers to all, politicians and non-politicians alike.

The chairman also affirmed that another disturbing issue on the part of the state government was withholding the salaries of junior LG staff.

"This is for no reason, other than PDP's political persuasion. The question begging for answer is, when did the expression of one's political preference become a punishable offence?" he asked.

Sadiq-Achida further alleged that the state government had adopted some discriminatory actions against the billboards hoisted by candidates of the APC.

"It has been observed that while the billboards of its favoured candidates are left standing and protected, those of the APC candidates are selectively targeted for removal.

"The selective action is more likely to pollute the current peaceful political atmosphere, than enhance a robust and democratic electioneering process," he warned.

Sadiq-Achida also advised the state government to concentrate more on the completion of its abandoned project "rather than embarking on reckless appointments of Special Advisers."

Reacting, Malam Hassan Sanyinnawal, the spokesman of the PDP in the state described APC's allegations as baseless.

"The state government under the leadership of Gov. Aminu Tambuwal, has always respected the traditional institution in the state and never threatened any leader,



Adamu

let alone sack any," he said.

On the alleged withholding of salaries, Sanyinnawal said, "the APC should be reminded that their party's secretary was still on the payroll of the state government.

"Yet, his salary has not been withheld by the government even for a month, not to talk of other civil servants in the state.

"Therefore, the APC should not subject itself to cheap mischief following the fear of the might of the PDP in Sokoto," he said.

Also speaking, Alhaji Sidi Lamido, the Special Advisor to Gov. Tambuwal on State Urban and Regional Planning Board (SURPB), said the claim on the discriminatory actions against billboards of APC was false.

"As a board, we work with security agencies and all

necessary stakeholders to ensure law and order are fully adhered to.

"We invited all the political parties to a meeting where a unanimous agreement was reached that any party willing to erect a billboard must seek approval before doing so.

"So, you see, any violation of such agreement will be addressed officially without any discrimination as alleged by the APC," he concluded.

NHRC charges political parties on Human Rights agenda

THE National Human Rights Commission has called on the various political parties in Nigeria to ensure that human rights protection is a critical component of their campaign promises rather than indulging in hate speech to tarnish the image of their opponents.

It is a common knowledge that countries are globally rated in terms of their accomplishments in human rights protection of citizens, therefore it will be unthinkable for our political parties to neglect human rights issues and over heat the polity with name calling and hate speech

Northern Youths disown Atiku as preferred presidential candidate

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE Northern youths under the umbrella of New Northern Initiative for Growth have parted ways with the Arewa Consultative Forum over the alleged adoption of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar as its preferred contender for the 2023 elections.

The youths pressure group, made this clear while interacting with journalists on in Bauchi, where they warned the ACF against endorsing any of the candidates, saying, doing so might jeopardize the interest of the region.

The National President of the Initiative, Lawal Sahabi in his speech read by the Bauchi State Chairman, Alkasim Abdulkadir, announced that, "We wish to use this opportunity to reply to suggestions making the rounds that Atiku Abubakar is behind recent moves by some elements of the Arewa Consultative Forum and Northern Elders Forum to endorse him as the single candidate of the region for the 2023 presidency.

"We use the opportunity to ask the so-called elders to explain to northerners where they derived their mandate to impose a single candidate on the entire region. We also challenge them to explain

what criteria they used to arrive at Atiku as consensus candidate for the North and to define his contributions to the growth of the region that qualifies him as such.

"We challenge them to prove they are truly leaders and well-meaning elders of the Northern region by telling the people what Atiku has ever done in the interest of or for the promotion and protection of the well-being of the region and its people.

"By every reasonable assessment, Atiku has never had any concern for the North beyond exploiting the region's resources and its goodwill for his personal political capital.

"Atiku who has risen on the goodwill of the northerners can today not boast of any development project he has ever influenced personally or through the high offices he has held, to courtesy the North.

"It is in his blind desperation to secure the presidency that Atiku is sponsoring capitalist northern leaders with no record of achieving anything for the region to manipulate the conscience of the northerners into believing the lies that he is a true northerner with good intentions for the region, whereas the opposite is the case.

He said further that, supporting Atiku as soul northern candidate on the

PLATEAU State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Honourable Rufus Bature, has joined millions of Nigerians both at home and in the diaspora in congratulating Nigeria's former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon, as he attains the ripe age of 88 years.

This was contained in a press statement signed by Plateau State Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the state capital Wednesday on occasion of Gowon's 88th birthday.

The Chairman in a congratulatory message, said, "the octogenarian who is a worthy son of Plateau State remains Nigeria's longest ruling Head of State. General Yakubu Gowon has remained a reference point of courageous and selfless leadership as he served Nigeria during its most critical moment, including a 30-month old civil war which he prosecuted with finesse and distinction as Nigeria came out as one united and indivisible country.

"This unparalleled stewardship which gave his name the acronym of Go On With One Nigeria (GOWON) and his popular "No Victor, No Vanguished" stand which gave birth to the 3Rs of Reconstruction, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation should continuously inform our present set of leaders on the

Plateau APC congratulates General Gowon @ 88

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

need to keep our country and its people united and pursue the path of progress and prosperity.

"As we celebrate this quintessential elder statesman of all times, we call on the Federal Government to immortalize him while he is still alive by naming a major national monument after him apart from the Jos Airport based on his meritorious service and sacrifice for this

country", he enthused.

According to Bature, "his non ostentatious lifestyle should also serve as a reference point to our leaders where morbid accumulation of wealth have taken the centre stage. As he marks this special day in his life, we pray Almighty God to continue to grant him long life and good health for us to continue to draw from his wise counsel and service to our nation".



Gowon

before, during and after the 2023 general elections.

This was contained in a release issued by the Deputy Director of Public Affairs in the Commission, Fatimah Agwai Mohammed Tuesday.

According to the statement, the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Chief Tony Ojukwu SAN, OFR stated this during the official launch of a project tagged "MOVE", meaning Mobilizing Voters for Election. The project is supported by Ford Foundation and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

According to the Chief Human Rights Officer in Nigeria, political parties could choose to focus on education, health care, food security etc, which are critical human rights issues confronting the county.

The NHRC boss therefore urged Nigerians, particularly those directly or indirectly involved in the 2023 general elections to desist from hate speech and conduct capable of frustrating human rights focus and credible polls.

The Commission will ensure that any person, group or institution; be it politician, political party, Independent Electoral Commission or law enforcement agency found wanting in any of the processes before, during and after the elections accounts for his actions or inactions as the case may be, he stated.

The Executive Secretary also expressed concern over "The retrogressive pattern of voter participation in 2011, 2015 and 2019 general elections reaching to a historical low of 35% in the 2019 elections, which is not in the interest of democracy and human rights.

According to the Senior Advocate of Nigeria, the above scenario has reflected voter apathy, which is obviously antithetical to the whole

essence of democracy which is promoted and reinforced by periodic and credible elections.

Similarly, the learned SAN recalled how the three elections in 1999, 2003 and 2007 were trailed with complaints of irregularities ranging from logistical failures, disenfranchisement to electoral fraud of all kinds, saying that such challenges had over the years occasioned the unfortunate voter apathy which is being witnessed in recent elections in the country.

To ensure that errant persons and institutions during the general elections are brought to book, he said the Commission has opened a Hate Speech Register across its 36 state offices and that the register is manned by members of staff of the Commission designated as Hate Speech Registrars in the states.

The Registrars will track hate speech in print, electronic and social media platforms preparatory to inviting culprits to a panel of inquiry that will be set up in due course to interrogate such hate speech and related cases.

Ojukwu, however, clarified that the Commission does not have prosecutorial powers and as such will leverage on the Office of the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice and Offices of Honourable Attorneys General of the states to handover reports and findings of the Commission on hate speech for further action. Government hereby advises the public to always cross check their facts from constituted authority and seek for dialogue rather than taking the laws into their hands.



Atiku

SUNDAY POLITICS

Wase applauds President Buhari for signing FMC Bill

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase (CON) has applauded President Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR) for signing into law the Federal Medical Centre, Wase Bill into law.

President Muhammadu Buhari had on Wednesday, 19th October 2022, assented into law, the Federal Medical Centres Wase Bill, sponsored by Deputy Speaker Wase.

The Act provides for legal framework for all the existing Federal Medical Centres across the Federation and also established a new Federal Medical Centre, Wase, Plateau State, charged with certain responsibilities, among which are:

1. To provide facilities for diagnostic, curative, preventive and rehabilitative services in medical treatment;
2. Construct, equip, maintain and operate such training schools, and similar institutions for providing the Medical Centres with appropriate staff;
3. Construct, equip, maintain and operate such clinics, out-patient departments, laboratories, research or experimental stations and other similar institutions necessary for the effective functioning of the Medical Centres;
4. Ensure that the standards of treatment and care provided



Wase

at all establishments under its control and the standards of treatment and care provided for patients at those establishments is not below the required standards; and

5. Perform such other functions as are necessary to facilitate the performance of its functions under this Act; and provides their due management and administration.

In a statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Umar Muhammad Puma, the Deputy Speaker said the establishment of the Federal Medical Centre Wase, would bring relief to the people of

Plateau and the entire North Central and Northeast geopolitical zones.

It reads in part, "On behalf of the good people of Plateau State, I wish to sincerely thank His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR) for assenting to the bill. It is a milestone not only to the people of Wase Federal Constituency, but also to the entire North Central and Northeastern states."

The Deputy Speaker also congratulated the entire leadership and members of the 9th National Assembly for the feat, the statement added.

THE Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt Hon Femi Gbajabiamila, has asked Nigerian students to fully participate in the 2023 elections by voting for candidates based on their records.

The Speaker said the Nigerian youths should not pass up the opportunity of electing the next political leaders on their terms, which could only be achieved with their full participation in the electoral process.

Gbajabiamila stated this recently in Abuja while welcoming executive members of the National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, led by their President, Usman Barambu, to his office at the National Assembly.

They were on a "thank you" visit to the Speaker over the resolution of the 8-month industrial action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU.

While appreciating the visit, the Speaker highlighted the importance of the Nigerian youth in national development, saying, "You are a very important segment of Nigeria for national development.

The role of youth in society cannot be over-emphasised because you play a very critical role in what happens in this country now and in the future.

Gbajabiamila according to a statement by his Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Lanre Lasisi, said students could not afford to be detached from the process of electing the next president as the future of the country was at stake.

2023 elections: Gbajabiamila charges students

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

He said, "Well, for me, you (students) have a lot to do between now and election day. In the next three, four months, you have a lot to do. What I mean is that you have to now begin to look at things differently, be able to look at things the way they are done in other climes, where people will look at things when it comes to politics and elections.

"What do I mean by that? We have so many candidates, not three, not four. People talk about having three frontrunners, perhaps, but as far as I'm concerned, we have 18 candidates running for the president of this country, and I don't think you should overlook any one of them. You should not.

"What I want you to do, as is done in advanced democracies, is to look objectively, and this is what is done in other countries, people run on their records."

The Speaker maintained, "So, those are the issues that I think you need to consider. If a candidate does not have a record to run on and is talking about something else, it means that he doesn't have a

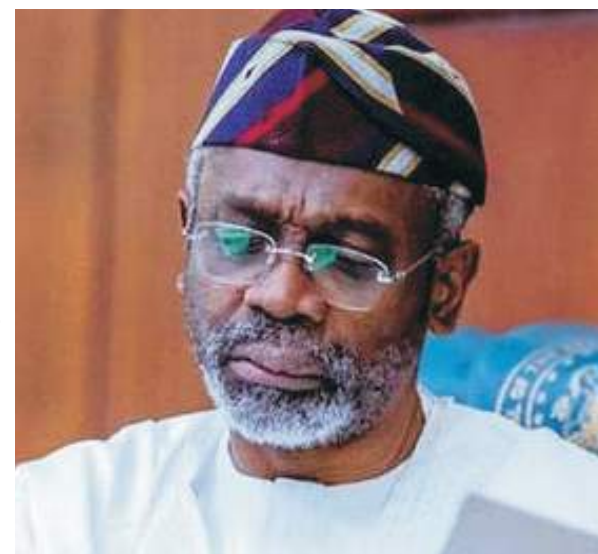
record to run on.

"The good thing is that most of the candidates, at least the frontrunners, have records. I'm not pitching for anybody here but look at their records. If you feel he deserves to be the President of Nigeria, please, do not hesitate. Vote for that person based on his record.

Earlier, the NANS President, Barambu said the visit was to show the appreciation of the Nigerian students for the efforts the Speaker put into the resolution of the ASUU crisis.

He also put before the Speaker the request of the students regarding the possibility of the authorities waiving a year of the school calendar in order to usher in a proper academic work, having lost almost three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the ASUU strike.

The students also requested the intervention of the Speaker on the possibility of waiving the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC service year age for graduates who might have passed the age limit as a result of the time lost due to the Covid-19 lockdown and the ASUU strike.



Gbajabiamila

PDP/APC supporters clash in Taraba

From VICTOR GAI, Donga

IT was more of a political jamboree in Donga Local Government Area, venue of the official installation of the Gara Donga, His Royal Highness, Sanvala Varzoa Shimbura, Gargbanyi 11, as supporters of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC), clashed over Governor Darius Ishaku.

Ishaku is contesting for the senatorial seat of Taraba southern district while Donga is home to the current senator representing Taraba south and Ishaku's political rival, Emmanuel Bwacha.

There were however, mixed reactions from supporters of both political parties while the governor was about to mount the podium to make his speech. While supporters of the APC protested against the governor, supporters of the PDP were hailing him and praying for him.

The situation almost led to a breakdown of law and order but for the intervention of security agents and concerned persons who calmed the supporters.

Meanwhile, Governor Ishaku had, during the occasion, warned traditional rulers against interfering in politics. Ishaku described the State as a "haven for all types of people because of the insurgency".

He therefore urged traditional rulers to identify criminal elements in their communities and desist from seizing lands of their subjects and selling them.

He added that new chiefdoms were upgraded in order to boost security, economic prosperity and that the reforms have received positive feedback from affected communities.

The newly installed traditional ruler is the 10th Gara Donga and takes over after the demise of HRH Stephen Bayonga in 2019.

Police command interacts with political party leaders

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

BAUCHI Police command has interacted with Political party leaders and warned them against destroying opponents' posters, billboards, and other symbols in Bauchi.

Following the kick-off of political activities in the country as directed by the electoral body (INEC), the Bauchi State Commissioner of Police, Umar Mamman Sanda, has warned politicians in the state against destroying posters, party symbols and billboards of their opponents.

SUNDAY STANDARD at the

occasion reports that the warning was issued during an interactive meeting with leaders of various political parties at the commands' conference room along Yandoka road Bauchi on Wednesday.

Sanda said the purpose of organizing the meeting was to put heads together and ensure hitch-free politicking in the state in 2023 general elections.

"I would like to use this avenue to warn against removing or defacing your opponent's posters, leaflets, be it inter-party or intra-party," the CP said.

He further warned against posting political banners, posters at public buildings, such as, government institutions, schools, hospitals, INEC offices, and worship centres.

The CP said, doing so is tantamount to an electoral offence as enshrined in Section 92 (3) of the Electoral Act 2022 as amended.

He pointed out that "under Section 28(1) of the Electoral Act 2022, the electioneering campaigns has commenced with effect from 28th September 2022 for the Presidential and National Assembly, while that of Governorship and State Houses of Assembly from 12th October 2022. Hence, It is expedient to note that, the pre-election activities form a critical step in the electoral process that will pave way for free, fair and credible elections."

Sanda expressed the commitment and determination of the command towards providing security and order within a political system conducive enough to guarantee hitch-free and threat-free campaign processes to people and the entire electoral processes before, during, and after the conduct of the 2023 general election in Bauchi state.

He explained that as a leading agency in election security, charged with enforcing laws and

maintaining order before, during, and after the election, the police would be firm, stern, and decisive with all forms of breaches that may mar the process.

The police boss announced that "using quasi-security outfits created by state or local communities under whatever name or guise is not allowed to participate during the electioneering campaigns and other electoral processes as they have no role in the Electoral Act".

He noted that to achieve a hitch-free electioneering campaign in Bauchi state, all political parties are to submit their proposed campaigns/rallies programmes to the Police Command headquarters in a bid to avoid collusion of venues and time.

The police boss added that all political parties' applications for campaigns/rallies should be submitted forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled date, and permission will be communicated twenty-four (24) hours before the event.

While appealing to all political leaders and candidates to eschew any form of violence during electioneering campaigns and other electoral processes, he warned that anyone found wanting directly or indirectly connected with such acts would be made to face the full wrath of the law.



Alkali

SUNDAY POLITICS

The PDP crisis and people's interest

It is no longer news that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has been caught up in crisis following the outcome of the presidential primaries which produced His Excellency Atiku Abubakar as the candidate. The genesis of the problem could be hinged on the allegation of imbalance in the composition of the leadership positions in favour of the North against the South. RAYMOND OISE-OGHAEDE writes.

THIS cause of action is spearheaded by His Excellency Nyesom Wike, governor of Rivers State with the support of four other governors and some prominent leaders of the party. Consequently, they have called for and are still insisting that the chairman of the party, Senator Iyorchia Ayu (from the North) must resign for a southerner to take his position. These proponents are relying on an alleged promise made by Ayu before the exercise that he will relinquish the position should a northern candidate emerge from the process. After the emergence of Atiku, the chairman was called upon to honour his words but, he failed to do so. As such, Wike and his allies comprising of Samuel Ortom, governor of Benue state; Okezie Ikpeazu of Abia; Seyi Makinde of Oyo; Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu; Donald Duke, former governor of Cross Rivers; Olusegun Mimiko, former governor of Ondo; Jonah Jang, former governor of Plateau State, and Prof. Jerry Gana to mention a few, have excused themselves from having anything to do with the presidential campaign until the needful is done. Their adamancy has caused serious concerns in the party and efforts are ongoing to see how best they would be resolved.

Though, the crisis is an internal party issue, this review is informed by the statement made by the chairman on Monday October 10, during kick off of the party's presidential campaign in Uyo that, "Nigerians are not interested in the crisis going on in the PDP." In as much as I am well convinced that this is a harmless remark for political expediency; I am equally of the opinion that the crux of the ongoing crisis in the party is very sensitive and should be of serious concern, interest to all well meaning Nigerians for the following reasons: the allegation of imbalance in the composition of key positions in favour of the north against the south is extremely weighty and, capable of pushing us back to the era of politics of north-south dichotomy with grave consequences.

1. The PDP is presently the main opposition party to check on the activities of the government towards encouraging competitiveness and effectiveness of governance as applicable in all modern democracies of the world.

2. There is need to quickly find amicable resolution to the imbroglio to forestalling same from degenerating or escalating into a major crisis because of the party's national outlook which would make it very easy for crisis



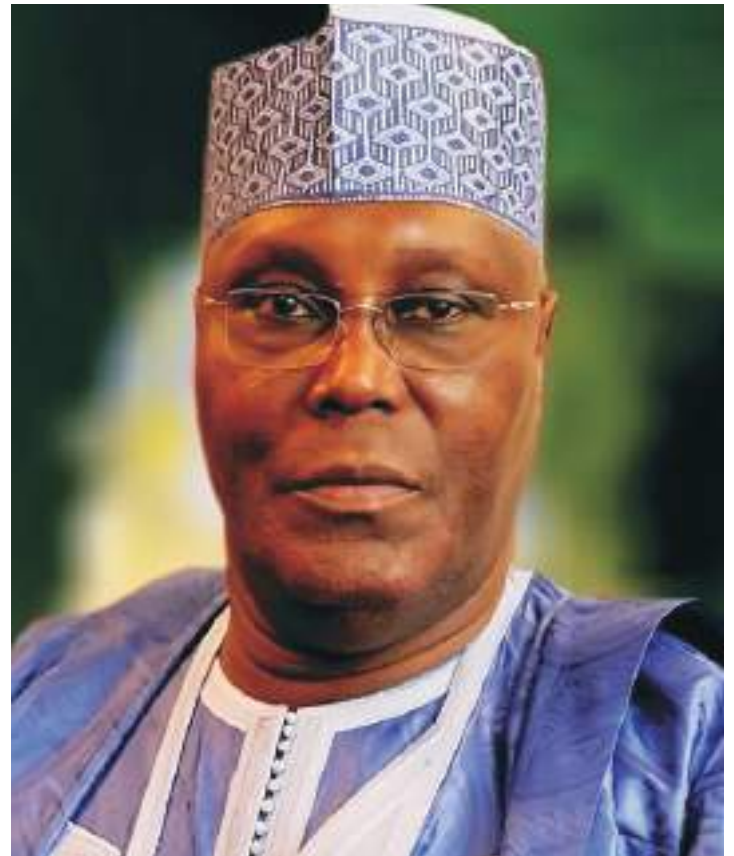
Ayu

within the party to spread across the nook and cranny of the country; and,

3. The party, like others, will provide the electorates with options to make their desired choice of candidates at the polls.

Consequent upon the aforementioned, it is very pertinent for every well meaning Nigerian to be interested in the matter because of what it portends if not properly tackled. Therefore, with all due respect to Mr. Chairman Sir, you will agree with me that it should rather be a thing of great concern to you and other leaders/members if Nigerians are not interested in the crisis going on in your party; thus, we are very much interested; and, we are calling for amicable and urgent resolution of same.

In my two recent articles titled "The Delicate Ethno-Religious Road To 2023" and "Learning To Walk Again Independently At 62", I delved on issues bordering on ethno-religious factors in the country's political arena, such as, the alleged jettisoning of zoning arrangement in the PDP; the APC's Muslim-Muslim ticket; the call for Senator Ayu's resignation; and, the tribal and religious tendencies of the third force movements. These cases were looked into from non-partisan perspectives by outlining the inherent dangers and discouraging the people from allowing the facts in issues to pushing us back to the unpleasant situations of the bygone days. Flowing from the aforesaid, I (as an interested Nigerian) would want to crave the indulgence of the leadership of the party to come to equity



Atiku

with clean hands to considering this unique review with the aim of finding workable and lasting solutions to the imbroglio.

The issue of zoning arrangement or understanding which is the foundation of the problem could be addressed from both legal and political angles. Looking at it from the legal aspect, the party has not contravened any known law or rules in the process that led to the candidacy of H.E. Alhaji Atiku Abubakar as the flag bearer. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended); the newly promulgated Electoral Act, 2022; and, the Constitution of the PDP did not make any provision for zoning of the office of the president. If this is anything to go by, it means that there is nothing wrong for any eligible person from any part of the country to contest and emerge as the candidate of the party.

From the political perspective, the party also made spirited efforts towards ensuring that no particular region or zone was unjustly treated by the setting up of a committee to deliberate on the issue of zoning before the primaries. It was this committee that threw the contest open for every region/zone to vie for the position (even though anything contrary would have been inconsistent with the subsisting law); and, by so doing gave further credence to the right of every eligible individual to contest regardless of his region or zone of origin. Thus, the thoroughness of the selection process adopted by the party is very germane; and, this could be



Wike

said to be in order.

On the issues pertaining to the chairmanship position, the party did not also breach any known law in the process that produced Senator Iyorchia Ayu as its chairman. Thus, the call for him to resign because he is from the same northern zone with Atiku cannot hold water in the face of the law; since, the subsisting legal framework guiding the process did not preclude any one zone from holding the positions of presidential candidate and chairmanship of the party simultaneously. In the same

vein, the allegation of his biasedness during the primaries which was fueled by the mere statement credited to him where he addressed Aminu Tambuwal, governor of Sokoto State (who earlier stepped down from the contest and urged his supporters to vote for Atiku) as the "Hero of the Convention" would have to be proven on a balance of probabilities by the plaintiffs (the proponents) before a court of competent jurisdiction; and, this is perhaps, the reason why seeking judicial relief was not activated by them.

To be continued next week

SUNDAY PEOPLE

BUHARI INAUGURATES PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN COUNCIL

Nigeria's President, Muhammadu Buhari on Friday inaugurated the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) for Tinubu/Shettima in Abuja, the Governor of Plateau State and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) is to served as Director General of the PCC



APC Presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu delivering his remarks



President Muhammadu Buhari (middle) flanked by the APC National Chairman, Sen. Abdullahi Adamu, Presidential Candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and others unveiling the Tinubu/Shettima action plans during the PCC inauguration



A cross section of the Presidential Campaign Council members listening to remarks at the inauguration ceremony



A cross section of very important personalities at the ceremony

BELLO VISITS FLOOD VICTIMS IN KOGI STATE

The Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello recently visited flood victims at various camps in the state



Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State (in white) with some members of his entourage on a boat during the visit



Governor Yahaya Bello addressing the flood victims



Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello waving to some of the victims of flood



A cross section of victims visited by Governor Bello in their camp

THERE is no doubt that peace remains the hallmark of any meaningful development. Without peace, development becomes a mirage. Over the years, the Plateau State House of Assembly has played a significant role in ensuring that peace reigned in the state. The eighth assembly through the introduction of an act of legislation set the motion for the establishment of an agency that would serve as a medium of bringing warring communities together, with a view to putting to an end the repeated cycles of violence that has lasted for many years.

This dream became a reality on the 2nd of February 2016, when the state Executive Governor Simon Bako Lalong assented to the bill and thus, paved way for the establishment of the Plateau Peacebuilding Agency. It is imperative to note that the peacebuilding agency is a non-partisan, non religious and non ethnic agency of government saddled with the responsibility of effectively coordinating all conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts in Plateau State. In fact, the peace being enjoyed today is said to be as a result of the pro-activeness of this agency.

Apart from Plateau, states like Nasarawa and Kaduna already have existing peacebuilding agencies. Benue State recently followed suite and is at the verge of establishing its own, to be known as Benue Peacebuilding Commission. That of Benue is no different from that of Plateau as both have the same goals and objectives of taking proactive measures in the prevention, identification, mitigation and resolution of conflicts with a view to promoting peaceful co-existence.

The Benue Peacebuilding Commission will promote mutual understanding and respect between communities involved in communal clashes, remove mutual suspicion among the various ethnic, cultural and religious groups. This will be achieved through the sensitization and holding of interactive meetings with community leaders, religious leaders and other stakeholders. Of course, assisting in policy formulations that promote peace and security, social stability and ensuring compliance to the rule of law remains sacrosanct.

One cannot deny the fact that Benue and Plateau share a lot in common. Aside being a part of the old Benue-Plateau State, both are located in the middle belt or north central region. More importantly is that they are agrarian societies, thriving on rich agricultural produce. Another notable thing about these two states is the fact that they have suffered several years of conflicts, particularly the farmer/herder crisis which has resulted in the loss of many lives and properties. According to reports, many have been displaced across Benue, Plateau, Nasarawa and Taraba States due to one form of conflict to another between 2001 to 2018.

The creation of the Plateau Peacebuilding Agency has not only helped in the restoration of peace but has become some sort of a model for states who have suffered the same fate. Recently, the state assembly played host to a delegation from Benue comprising of its state assembly members, some executive members and stakeholders who have come to learn one or two things, and share experiences with their Plateau counterpart on the workings of the agency and how it has benefitted the people of Plateau.

Even after having passed the Anti-Open Grazing law that allows for

grazing in ranches, Benue still suffers from the farmer/herder conflict. The law has not made much impact because it was met with stiff resistance from the herders. This worrisome development necessitated the visit to Plateau. The delegation led by the Benue Assembly Majority Leader Hon. Damian Chime saw the need to interface with and understudy the Plateau experience as a guide to the operationalization of its peacebuilding commission. The visitors were particularly awed at how Plateau got it right by transiting from a once conflict ridden state to a now peaceful state.

Youth restiveness is a major



On Plateau, Benue Assembly peacebuilding efforts



Sanda



Chime



Group photograph with the visiting delegation from Benue

contributor to conflict in the state. As we all know, restive youths have the tendency to channel their energies towards criminal activities, buttressing the saying that 'an ideal mind is the devil's workshop'. The peace initiative would not have been possible without taking into cognisance the number of unemployed youths who roam the streets with nothing doing. Thus, the state government after careful thought and consideration decided to create the Plateau State Microfinance Development Agency (PLASMDA), alongside the

peacebuilding agency. This agency has played a key role in keeping the youths engaged through various skills acquisition.

For the Plateau assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda, visits like this are meant to foster unity and further cement the existing relationship between the two states. He did not mince words when he described the two states as twins having the same umbilical cord. To him, Benue and Plateau will always be one which means that whatever affects one state affects the other and vice versa. Sanda

however, advised the delegation to make sure that they shared their final document when fully crafted so that both can learn from each other's peculiarities.

Highlight of the visit was the exchange of pleasantries and banter, it was as if long lost brothers just found each other again after a long time. In their goodwill messages, members of the Plateau State assembly who spoke described the Plateau Peacebuilding Agency as a child of necessity conceived and birthed by the state legislature to address the reoccurring conflicts witnessed in

various parts of the state.

On the other hand, those who spoke from the visiting delegation applauded their counterpart from the Plateau State House of Assembly for the leading role in peacebuilding. They were also quick to notice and commend the cordial relationship among the members irrespective of their party differences. For the Benue delegation, there are still lessons to learn from the challenges and successes in Plateau hence their desire to visit the Plateau Peacebuilding Agency.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Adamu



Ngige



Asokeke

ASUU strike aftermath: Is university crisis over?

The suspension of the eight months strike action earlier embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has been greeted with mixed feelings by most Nigerians who never expected this impasse to have lasted this long. The cheering news of the strike suspension was finally made public when ASUU National President, Professor Emmanuel Osodeke announced it at the end of the National Executive Council meeting of the union held last week at its secretariat in Abuja. Though the universities have reopened for business; what then is the fate of Nigerian students? JENNIFER YARIMA writes.

THE lingering strike earlier embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities was finally suspended after the union heeded to the order of the Court of Appeal which ruled in favour of the government asking lecturers to resume work. Various appeals were also made by distinguished personalities including President Muhammadu Buhari, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila and other well meaning Nigerians. To this effect, the union subsequently directed its members to immediately resume work at their various duty posts without further delay.

The union through its President, Prof Emmanuel Osodeke, however regretted that issues in dispute that led to the strike were yet to be satisfactorily addressed as no agreement had been reached and or signed. It named some of these unsettled issues as funding for revitalization of public universities, visitation and release of white paper recommendations and University Transparency and Accountability Solution (UTAS), as broad spectrum software to stop illegality and provide for an alternative

payment platform in the university system. The strike suspension does not mean that issues of funding, education standard improvement, staff and students' welfare have been resolved.

The suspension of the strike has however provide an ample opportunity for institutions to hold special meetings to deliberate on new academic calendars instead of the one destabilized by the strike. This is a sad development on the part of Nigerian students who had waited endlessly for a permanent solution to these unending problems.

Our public universities should be citadel of learning and innovation where young people discover themselves but it has unfortunately turned out to be where our graduates are half baked produced which does not afford them the privilege to favorably compete with others. This is the time that government, universities, unions and citizens should begin a more critical conversation about the future of public tertiary education in the country.

For the first time since the establishment of ASUU in 1978, the Federal

Government last week formally registered the Congress of Nigerian University Academics (CONUA) and the National Association of Medical and Dental Academics (NAMDA) in a move pundits have opined is to further polarize and weaken ASSU's perceived monopoly. The Minister of Labour and Employment, Sen. Chris Ngige said the move would help liberalize the academic subsector and allow for freedom for university workers.

Come to think of it however; since the rationale behind the coming on board of two unions in the face of this crisis; many people are asking whether the registration of these two new unions would be a prospect for restoring quality and stability to the country's university system or entire destabilize and or sabotage ASUU efforts?

This least move is also generating criticisms among stakeholders who described the action as illegal and uncalled for. This development might likely according stakeholders create more problems instead of resolving issues at stake. Aside the reason it gave for registering the new unions, many citizens also suspect

that the government has other ulterior motives like distracting ASUU from its struggle and probably reopening the universities without fulfilling the union's demands or delay tactics.

Reasons postulated by the National Coordinator of CONUA, Dr Niyi Sunmonu explained that this would give a approach to handling issues affecting universities across the country. One of the mandate as claimed is to ensure a stable academic calendar to improve the quality of education in tertiary institutions. Human Rights Lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Femi Falana was among those who condemned the registration of CONUA, which he said was illegal. According to him, "The labour laws in Nigeria do not permit the registration of more than one union in a sector as it is a desperate act by the government to end the ASUU strike".

After series of failed negotiations between the government and the union, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige dragged striking lecturers to the National Industrial Court requesting them to be ordered back to work. The court on the 21st September ordered ASUU to call off the strike

which had commenced on the 14th February, 2022.

While some students expressed excitement over the resumption which will afford them the opportunity to go back to their classrooms, others are disappointed that the union was unable to accomplish its goal after such a long time and had to settle for conditional suspension of the strike despite wasting the students' time for several months.

The gap that was created has caused restlessness for parents who would have to content with how to meet up with crash programme of paying fees, house rents and other needs of their children that they would need to content with. As hard as the times are, some people are suggestive that institutions should consider many things which can be waved to ease the hardship faced by Nigerians. The question is; who will bear the brunt of these inconveniences, students or ASUU?

The face-off between Federal Government and ASUU which had destabilized academic calendar has left both new and graduating students stagnant, wondering what their fate would be in the midst of this unpalatable situation. Some

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SUNDAY FEATURE

Kola nuts' relevance in Igbo society

The term KOLA NUT refers to the seed of certain species of plant of the genus cola, placed formally in the Cocoa family Sterculiaceae and now usually subsumed in the mallow family Malvaceae (as sub family Sterculioideae). It is indigenous to the tropical rain forest of Africa. The tree grows to the size of Chestnuts. It inhabits lowlands. Kola nut pilfers most sandy, loam or clay soils that are well drained with neutral acidity. It requires exposure and can tolerate drought. It is cultivated in large quantity in Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Brazil and the West Indian Island. There are two main species of Kola nut. They are Kola acuminata and Kola nitida. It contains caffeine, theobramine, tannis, alkaloids, saponis and flavoids. MICHAEL BERNICE EGO writes.

THE caffeine content act as stimulant when consumed. It is also used to relieve thirst and improve taste of water. Kola nut is used to flavor sodas and as a supplement to increase energy. It is culturally staple in many west African countries. Kola nut is a significant cash crop for poor rural farmers seen in every market, bus depots and corner shops for sale. It tastes bitter but it sweetens upon chewing. The nut can be boiled to extract the caffeine. It is a special nut in Nigeria used in many ceremonies and also to welcome visitors. The nut signifies hospitality and friendship.

Kola nut and its relevance in Igbo Society

Kola nut is called "Oji in Igbo". In Igbo society, it means a whole lot more. From traditional history, the people claimed Kola nut was the first fruit on earth. Basically, it symbolizes peace, unity, reconciliation, integrity, life, fraternity, hospitality, good will, and kindness. Kola nut is regarded as a sacred fruit, revered, respected and almost adored. It plays vital role in the celebration of Igbo culture and tradition. Indeed, it serves as harbinger of peace.

It has taken an unparalleled position in the cultural life of Ndi Igbo that was why J.T. Basden declared that Kola nut is neither the biggest nor the sweetest but the nut that had tremendous cultural relevance signifies why it is ritualized among the Igbo. The Kola nut and the accompanying ritual that goes along with it symbolizes the customs and sign of respect and unity among Igbo communities.

A ritual is a religious or solemn ceremony consisting of series of actions performed according to certain order. In Igbo culture, the Kola nut Oji Igbo "Kola acuminata" plays crucial role in many ceremonies and gatherings. It starts with the ritual of presentation. Presentation of Kola nut shows peace acceptability and it differs in Igbo society. In some communities, it is accompanied with money no matter how little or white chalk "Nzu". As presented, the oldest man or traditional ruler says the prayer to bless it. In some areas after blessing, it the youngest person breaks it. The reason for the youngest person breaking it is that our fore fathers believed that children are not fetish. They are sacred to be precise in Abiaziem in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo state. In other communities, the oldest person or monarch breaks it after prayers. During important cultural occasion, a person must bless the Kola nut in Igbo language. The person who must say that he who brings Kola nut brings life "Onye wetara Oji wetara ndu"

In some communities, the breaking of Kola nut of the village and nut on the ages of those present. However, the person from the older village may be favorably disposed to allow the oldest person to perform the ritual by merely touching the Kola and



passing it on to the oldest person. Also, a man does not break Kola nut in the presence of his in-laws, doing so would be interpreted as a sign of disrespect. A woman does not break kola nut, it is men's affairs, she does not take Kola nut from plate when is broken. It is forbidden for a woman to plant, luck or climb kola nut tree.

Again, in Igbo society, distribution of Kola nut is a task many people would not want to get involve in as the distributor must be conversant with the seniority of all the people gathered. If one makes a mistake while sharing the Kola he is traditionally admonished according to norms in the community. Such as an error is considered as a serious offence. It is an indication that the offender is either not a reliable person or not conversant with his culture and must be penalized. In Igbo cosmology and philosophy, the Kola nut is described as king. The emotional and cultural attachment to it makes it religiously infectious. Adherents of the culture of Kola nut which without exaggeration involves every Igbo of religious belief, gender and caste find in Kola nut lobes is a cultural vehicle that carries the people's world view. Kola nut with one cotyledon is called Oji Ogbu "dumb Kola nut, it is Kola nut of the spiritual not eaten. That is why Igbo people do not use Kola nitride for ritual or serious traditional celebrations. Kola nut with three lobes or cotyledons represents equality and justice. It is called "Oji Ikenga" Kola of the valiant. Only warriors or brave men and consecrated or ordained persons are permitted to eat this as a matter of principle.

Kola nut with four cotyledons is called "Oji Udo na ngozi" Kola of peace and blessing. It is normal. The number (4) four is sacred. It signifies the (4) four market day in Igbo Eke, Ori, Afo na Nkwo. Kola nut with (5) five cotyledon is Oji Ubara Mmadu Omumu na ukwuoma" Kola of increases, procreation, protection and good luck.

Kola nut with (6) six cotyledons

indicates communion with the ancestors that is "Ojo ndi mmuo na ndi mmadu" the smallest part of the cotyledon is not eaten by men when broken during ceremonies because it belongs to ancestors on attitude reminiscent of the direct link between the living and the dead.

In Igbo land, Kola nut with seven and eight cotyledons is a sign of royalty and prosperity, a sign of good omen. They represent joy and happiness. They are highly associated with supernatural effects. Because 4 represents the four gods of the four-market day while 3 represents the (3) three dimensions of man and trinity. These spiritual symbols make it the most cherished and the most valuable sign of good omen.

Relevance of Kola nut in Igbo Society

It has to be observed that the Igbo of Southeastern Nigeria do not see Kola nut as king of all fruits but also claim and trace its origin to Igbo land. Kola nut is highly prized because of its social, spiritual medicinal, economic, acceptance, co-operation and recognition values to the Igbo and the world at large.

Social Value

Kola nut is used almost in all ceremonies in Igbo society, it is used for celebrating Igbo value system. The offering of Kola nut proceeds other activities during any occasion. It is a social regulation used to lodge complaints against a fellow citizen who is found to be troublesome. The complainant would use Kola nut to inform his kindred "Umuna" of the issue at stake. The kola would be presented blessed, broken, shared and eaten before the message is narrated. It is also used for marriages. The breaking and eating of kola nut by the host and guests constitute a covenant. It is believed that after sharing the Kola nut neither party would contemplate hearing the other because of the Igbo belief in the supernatural origin of the Kola nut. The Igbo land view that it can kill any party that contravenes the covenant which they freely entered into by sharing the kola nut and also the prayers offered

before breaking it too.

Spiritual Relevance of Kola nut.

There is a great sacredness associated with Kola acuminata (Oji Igbo) because the Igbo believe that the breaking of the Kola is an invitation of the supernatural to be part of the activities of the living and bear witness in any occasion: - They are summoned. The living and the dead share or partakes of Kola nut. The ancestors, deities and malingering spirits are requested to share from the kola nut and allow the living unmolested. It is in this regard that kola nut is traditionally seen as a sacred nut which is used link to communicate with the gods (Spirit being) hence, it was chosen by the elders asking of all seeds. In such prayers (rituals) bits of kola nut are warred over the head in symbolism expressing the exchange of Kola nut for life and thrown out to the spirits and the ancestors. The diviners need kola to appease and seek favour from their invisible spiritual agents' in their professional routines. Upon suspicions of any laxity in the responses of the spirits to his operations, the diviner is forced to present more kola nuts to awaken them from their slumber or sleep since it is believed that kola nut drives away sleep even among spirits as among the living. Such cases, the diviner may even chew the nut and spit it on all the item that represent the deities in the shrine. It is also used as a sign of hospitality among the Igbo.

Medicinal Relevance of Kola Nut

Traditionally, Kola nut is chewed and a masticatory substance to stimulate the flow of saliva. In traditional medicine kola nut and bitter kola are dried, grand and mixed with honey to make traditional cough syrup. The bitter and stringent flavor of kola nut is used as digestive aid before meals to stimulate gastric acid juice and bile production. Its caffeine and iheobromine content makes it portent neuro-stimulant that is used to combat fatigue, that was the reason why among the West African elites in those times of

cigarette and kola nuts were complementary items of conspicuous consumption. It was popularly called (Academic biscuits) as a euphemism for kola nut coined by and current among West Africa students. This is against the background of student's conviction that kola nuts are needed to prevent fatigue to sustain and encourage longer and more mental academic work.

Economic and Industrial Relevance of Kola Nut.

It is an important economic cash crop to a significant proportion of Nigerian population who are involved in Kola nut farming, trading and industrial utilization. It has served as an important article of internal trade in West Africa. There is also increasing demand for its usage in pharmaceutical industries and for production of soft drinks, wines and candies. Its uses have inevitably created a high demand in excess of its production.

Acceptance Relevance.

Kola nut as an indispensable nut among the Igbo when presented shows acceptability in any gathering. In Things Fall Apart in Chapter 4 when Okunwo beats his priest of Ezeari he refuses to share haospility with him and boldly told him "Take away your kola nut I shall not eat in the house of a man who has no respect for our gods and ancestors." The share of one's kola nut being rejected was enormous and anybody whose kola nut was rejected especially elders of the land must do everything possible to atone for his transgressions. This helped in check mating the ills in the society then.

Co-operation Relevance

The kola nut when presented is a sign that the parties are willing to co-operate among themselves for their common good. It is usually eulogized with the word "Egbe Bere Ugo bere" live and let live".

Solidarity Relevance

Beyond acceptance, the kola nut is used to show solidarity, communality and unity of purpose. As kola is broken, it fosters love, peace and openness among the groups in Igbo society. Wherever the Igbo are gathered even outside Nigeria, Kola nut is presented i.e. "Oji Igbo" kola acuminata. It is both a cultural identity as well as cultural symbol.

Recognition Relevance

Kola nut is used to trace seniority among constituting members of the family, village or community. In conclusion, kola nut is one of the important tangible heritages that unite the Igbo society. Although the production of kola acuminata Oji Igbo is gradually fading. The Igbo society should promote the production because it is part of their culture as well as their identity.

In conclusion, the production of kola acuminata is gradually fading. The Igbo society should promote the production because it is part of their cultural identity and it plays major roles in their.

Mrs. Michael Bernice Ego is staff Institute of Archaeology and Museum Studies Jos, Plateau State.

SUNDAY FEATURE

Taking the youths out of unemployment through empowerment



SALIHU OYIBO

TOWARDS taking the youths out of crime, a lawmaker from Kogi state has empowered his constituents with business starter parks as SALIHU OYIBO reports.

Worried by youth unemployment in Kogi Central Senatorial district especially in Okene/Ogori-Magongo federal constituency, the lawmaker representing the constituency Hon Yusuf Ahmed Tijani Damisa had done a lot to the people of the constituency since 2011 when his constituents found him worthy to represent them at the national assembly.

Damisa on his third tenure at the National Assembly had trained and empowered thousands of people both within and outside his constituency.

The lawmaker, for instance, trained youth and women in rice, snail, poultry, fishery, soya beans, benny seed farming as part of his constituency projects to create jobs and improve the livelihood of the electorate that gave him the mandate three consecutive times.

One of such empowerment

was a two-day training organised for 30 youth and women in poultry value chain to stimulate development of poultry production in Kogi Central Senatorial district.

The training has equipped the participants with the modern techniques in poultry farming as many of the beneficiaries attested to the fact that in the past, they could not make headway in the businesses because of unsurmountable challenges that pushed them out of farming.

At the training in Okene, the headquarters of Okene local government area of Kogi state recently by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in conjunction with National Veterinary Research Institute Vom and anchored by Synergy Impact Consultants Limited as part of effort to alleviate hardship confronting women and youth in rural areas of the federal constituency.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the two days capacity building on poultry production value chain for youth and women of Ageva Onyoto community and its environs, Mr Owoyale Yusuf who represented Synergy

Impact Consultants limited, said the participants were trained to enable them stimulate development of poultry production along agricultural value chain in the federal constituency.

"We believe that with this training, if it is well utilized, it would definitely go a long way to make the beneficiaries ambassadors in poultry production in Kogi state.

"Through this training, the participants would have positive multiplying effect on the people because there would be off-takers, marketers, retailers who would buy and sell the business," he said.

While cautioning the beneficiaries against selling their starter packs, Yusuf urged them not to see the training as ordinary, noting that the best form of empowerment is education which has been given to them. "We expect you to make use of the training so that you can replicate that to some of the youth and women who were not opportuned to be part of this training.

He commended the lawmaker for putting smile on the faces of the participants whom he said had lost hope.

In his remarks, Hon Damisa who was represented by one of his aides Hon Abdulsalam Kunaiye said the training and empowerment is one of the numerous programmes the lawmaker has provided for the people since he became member of house of Representative in 2011.

According to him, the participants were selected on the basis of passion they have for poultry farming, assuring that they would not sell the packs rather use it for the purpose it was meant for.

"In the past, we trained beneficiaries of empowerment and give them starter packs; regrettably, we discovered that some of them do sell the items, but now we select the participants based on the passion and interest they have for the farming.

"The purpose of the training is to engage the participants on meaningful project that would eventually take them out of poverty.

He charged the beneficiaries not to handle with levity the life-time opportunity already created for them and urged them to cooperate with one another so that they can gain from the project, assuring that the lawmaker is ready to

assist whenever there is any challenge hindering their operations.

He further disclosed that the sum of N10,000 was given to each of the beneficiaries including starter pack that contains a bag of animal feed, 100 piece of a day chicks, drugs, feeder and drinker.

Kunaiye also revealed that 30 women traders from the community were given the sum of #10,000 each to boost their petty trading.

Speaking on behalf of traditional rulers, HRH Victor Aliyu commended Hon Damisa for the concern through his unaccountable numbers of empowerment programmes.

Fatimah Lawal one of the participants who spoke on behalf of others said that the road to success has been created for them; therefore appealed to others not to disappoint him by not showing commitment in the business.

She noted that in the last two years, she has been struggling to invest in poultry farming but all to no avail due to her poor financial status, but promised that she would feast on the opportunity to realise her dreams.

SUNDAY FEATURE

Abubakar takes Fatima as bride

Excitement filled the air at the wedding fhatiha of Dr. Harris Salihu Abubakar, the Chairman Board of Trustees, Sekyen Open University Nigeria who doubles as Head of Arabic Studies Department of National Open University, Jos Study Centre takes Fatima as his new bride. Ezekiel Dontina reports the ceremony for SUNDAY STANDARD.



Dr. Abubakar in company of his friends

IT was celebration galore when the founder of Anwarul Faidah Orphanage (Gidan Marayu) of No. 4B Ali Kazaure Street Jos, Plateau State, Dr. Harisu Salihu Abubakar, took to the stage Hajija Fatima as his newly wedded wife last Saturday.

Certainly, marriage is supposedly considered to be a gift from God and should be a lifetime union for better and for worse and that no man should put asunder. It comes when two people agree to spend the rest of their lives as husband and wife and must not necessarily be for the purpose of child bearing.

This is because children are seen as blessings and fruits of the union and that has been proven in so many spheres of marriage life. We have seen many couples living peaceful even when the marriage is not blessed with a child and it is a fulfilment a fact that, love and understanding lead in every marriage.

However, on this special day of Dr. Abubakar and Hajija Fatima's wedding, friends and well wishers were seen as early as eight o'clock in the morning around Zololo Junction of Jos-North Local Government Area, to witness this great wedding fhatiha of the two lovers as the Bauchi road went full to the brim.

After the conclusion of the wedding fhatiha, dignitaries from both the academia and religious spheres stormed the venue of the wedding reception at Anwarul Faidah orphanage around Ali Kazaure to celebrate with the couple as students of orphanage were seen dancing.

Dr. Abubakar, who doubles as the Chairman Board of Trustees, Sekyen Open University, Nigeria is also the Head of Arabic Studies Department of National Open University Jos Study Centre. While speaking to our Correspondent shortly after the ceremony, the newly wedded groom, said, he gives Allah the glory for making the day a reality.

According to him, "this is a

great thing of joy to me and it is something that comes to one in different ways. With this grace of getting a new wife, there is nothing we will say other than thank Allah for this wonderful gift to me. As you can see, everybody is here to celebrate with us what Allah has done to us and I am very happy.

"There is nothing as good as this because of the calibre of people who came to share in our joy. For one to get married, you must go out to look for a suitor or sometimes, meet accidentally, so Allah has done it. She is a widow and I met her here in Jos and Allah gave me the opportunity marry Hajija Fatima.

"I want to advise people, especially we the muslims, to get married because we have the privilege of marrying four wives as in the belief of Islam so that, it will control the indiscriminate rooming about of women. Truly, this will help control immortality among women in our society because this has caused a lot of problems in our society", Abubakar advised.

SUNDAY STANDARD discovered that the groom, Dr. Harris Salihu Abubakar, first got married in 1980 and now has twenty-two children out of the thirty-two he gave birth to and Hajija Fatima, the new bride, is now the fourth wife of the family.

Celebrating with his friends, the grooms right hand man, Muhammad Mustapha Hassan, said, "I am very happy for my friend because he is a good man and he deserves good things. I want to advise him to follow the doctrine of the religion of Islam and also encourage the young ones to emulate him because marriage is good. Although, it has its ups and downs, but it is good.

On his part, the Chief Imam of Farin-Gada Juma'at Mosque in Jos, Imam Muhammad Tanimu, thanked Allah for making this happened and congratulated the newly wedded couple, wishing them a happy marriage life. He



Groom and well wishes



Children at the orphanage home

called on both young and old to emulate Dr. Abubakar.

Also congratulating the groom, the Founder of Sekyen Open University Nigeria, Prof. Ishaku Muhammed Dajagahas, wish the married couple a happy married life to encouraging his friend to farm more for him to be able to cater for his children because marriage goes with food. He therefore, advised the younger generation to follow the pattern of Islamic marriage known long before now so that, peace would reign in our society.

He, however, expressed concern that there was a change in our present day life because

people were now after material things and embraced worldly things throwing away the promises of marriage and it is causing serious problem in our society today. He said, "my advice to both males and females is for them to calm down a little bit and emulate the old practice of our forefathers so that, our society shall be good and peaceful".

Meanwhile, the son of the celebrant who is the Admin. Manager of Anwarul Faidah Orphanage, Auwal Abubakar, said, "I am very happy for my Daddy! I am also comfortable with the step taken by my father

to have married today. I will by God's grace support him and work to see that my father achieves his goal particularly, in our education, our feeding, clothing and every human life's endeavours".

In fact, it was glaringly seen how happy the groom and his friends were during the ceremony. The students of the Orphanage were not left out in the celebration probably because they could see how happy their father was. There were series of snapshots by both friends and invited guests with the groom as all retired home peacefully.

Last week, we talked about spousal killings and the stigmatization of divorce and the divorced. We are looking at the correlation between the stigmatization of divorce and spousal killings. Last week, we started by understanding abuse and its correlation to mental health. We saw that mental ill-health contributes immensely to spousal abuse and killings. In order words, until the issue of mental health in marriage is addressed, spousal killings will continue. Today we will look at the correlation between spousal killings and the stigmatization of divorce again as a continuation.

Many women and men are trapped in abusive marriages with spouses who are suffering from undiagnosed mental health conditions, one of which are personality disorders, which can occur in a person who appears to be normal. The abused, oftentimes, would refuse to leave the marriage because he or she does not understand that the abuser cannot change without medical intervention, as the abuser is wired to abuse.

The biggest drawback to leaving an abusive marriage is the stigmatization of divorce and the divorced in our society. Men and women would often remain in abusive marriages until they are killed by an abusive spouse, because they cannot contain what the society has termed, "the shame of divorce". Consequently, the abused would rather cover up for the abusive partner and pray for him or her to change. Unfortunately, change is intrinsic and takes personal effort and or medical intervention in the case of the mentally ill and addicted. The question is, why do we as a society, choose to accept abuse and spousal killings as better than divorce when we know that life is at stake? Why do we continue to stigmatize divorce and the divorced, knowing fully well that this will cause the abused to remain in life-threatening marriages because they do not want to be associated with the sting of stigmatization.?

When the HIV and AIDS epidemic was at its peak, as a way of curbing infection, the government encouraged the society to be accepting and supportive of the infected and encouraged the infected to divulge their status as a way of preventing the spread of the disease. This helped to curb the spread of the disease and the stigmatization of the infected. However, today, just like yesterday, divorce remains a taboo for many reasons. The divorced have no support from society and family, they are devalued and caste aside. So also, mental ill-health is stigmatized, so that the mentally ill in marriage would rather hide their condition, with far reaching consequences. Divorce has been stigmatized in our society for many reasons. The following are some of the reasons for the stigmatization of divorce

RELIGION: Christians believe that God hates divorce. They also believe that marriage is "until death do us part". Due to this belief, many abused persons prefer to die in abusive marriages rather than crying out for help. This belief is preached and reinforced by some Pastors and Priests and people of God. The church has no mercy and no place for the divorced. The Divorced is often seen as the sinner and often an adulterer, whether he or she committed adultery or not. Even when cases of abuse are reported to the church, the preachers would often recommend prayer and patience instead of advising that the abused should leave the marriage by way of divorce or separation, even when the abused runs the risk of getting killed by the abuser.

Counselling in church is often restricted to prayer alone and no testing is done to ascertain the

mental state of the abuser because every action of the abuser is termed the work of the devil. This leads to the death of many of the abused who see faith as an effective tool for curing the unincorporating abuser. However, there are denominations, such as the Anglican faith, that permits divorce while others will not permit the divorced to be a cleaner of the church and to mention being visible.

The stigmatization of divorce is subject to the interpretation of the scripture. According to divorcenet.com:

Many people wonder what the Bible says about divorce. Generally, in

Spousal killings and the stigmatization of divorce (2)

Christianity, marriage is viewed as a life-long promise between partners. While many believe that means God hates divorce, and Christian divorce is indeed normally frowned upon, that isn't the end of the story. Reasons for acceptable divorce in the Bible may include unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) and abuse (Exodus 21:10-11).

Clearly, the bible permits divorce in the case of unfaithfulness and where the husband marries another wife and is unable to treat his wife well. How much more for beating and abusing her? Is that not maltreatment? So, the stigmatization of divorce in Christianity boils down to how denominations interpret the bible and its position on divorce. The Bible says that God hates divorce, and the same bible says that God is loving and merciful. The Bible says the following of God: Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." Psalm 73:26 "My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." So, if God is merciful and has made a way for divorce in the case of unfaithfulness and maltreatment, why should the church continue to insist that men and women must remain in marriage until "death do us part" because God hates divorce, even when they risk getting killed by an abusive spouse? Where is "until death do us part" written in the bible? What verse and what chapter says "until death do us part" as a conditionality for marriage? God may hate divorce but he has made exceptions in His own Word. As such, no man of God or congregation has the right to play god with the lives of its members by insisting that marriage is "until death do us part" when this is not scriptural but a doctrine, written as marriage vows?

Before we continue, let us also look at what other religions say about divorce from this excerpt culled from an article written by Garrett Callahan, Writer and Reporter, titled "Divorce and Religion: What Different Faiths Say About Ending a Marriage" published on divorcenet.net. Religions obviously have their own views on any number of issues in life, divorce among them. Here's an overview of the positions of some faiths on the topic of ending a marriage.

Religious vs. Civil Divorce
Just like a marriage can be recognized by both a religion and civil society, a divorce can be acknowledged in both realms as well. A religious divorce results in a formal ending of a marriage within the view of one's religion. It has no bearing on divorce under the secular laws established in your country or state. In other words, the civil laws that we live by regardless of religious affiliation have their own requirements regarding divorce. (However, some religious denominations, like Reform Judaism, may consider you religiously divorced once you get a civil

divorce.)

Religions have their own rules and procedures regarding divorce, including as it relates to remarriage. Some also have a special set of rules and views around annulment which basically means a marriage is considered not to have been valid. So, while religious and civil divorces may affect one another in some aspects, they often work in different worlds.

Christianity and Divorce

Though it has several denominations, Christianity follows the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as written and explained in the Bible. The religion, which believes in only



one God, is firmly centered on beliefs around Jesus's birth, death, and resurrection. It is also the largest religion in the world, having had more than 2.3 billion followers around the globe in 2015.

Many people wonder what the Bible says about divorce. Generally, in Christianity, marriage is viewed as a life-long promise between partners. While many believe that means God hates divorce, and Christian divorce is indeed normally frowned upon, that isn't the end of the story. Reasons for acceptable divorce in the Bible may include unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) and abuse (Exodus 21:10-11).

Of course, different denominations interpret these Scriptures differently. So, here's a look at the general beliefs of some of them around divorce:

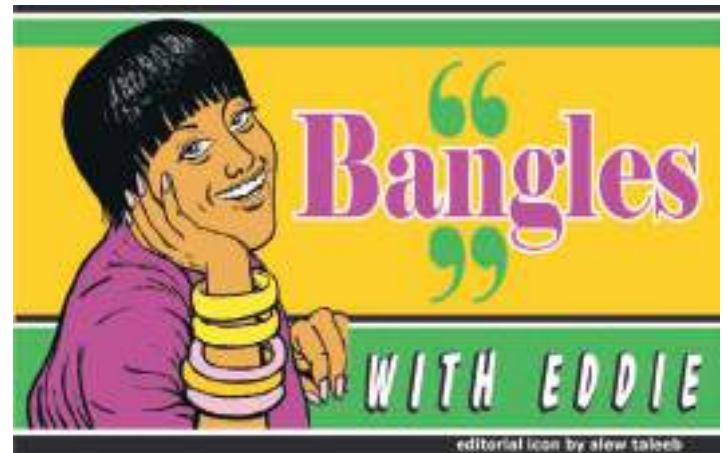
Protestantism: While it advocates against divorce whenever possible, many Protestant churches allow divorce if a marriage is beyond repair. Protestantism also permits remarriage in many cases.

Catholicism: Since marriage is considered a sacred sacrament, the Catholic Church doesn't believe in divorce and considers it a sin. To this religion, a marriage only ends in the case of a partner's death or if there is a Catholic annulment, which declares the marriage invalid and says it should have never have happened.

Mormonism: Similar to Protestantism, Mormonism disapproves of divorce but permits it in some instances. Couples may be able to get a "cancellation of sealing," which allows for an ending to the marriage in the eyes of the church.

Judaism and Divorce

Judaism, one of the world's oldest religions, is centered on the belief in one God and his covenant, meaning



of communication, among other reasons.

Islam and Divorce

Islam, the world's second-largest religion, believes in one God, Allah, and his prophet, Muhammad. Muslims believe they must submit to the will of Allah, and they follow the Qur'an, their central and sacred religious text. Like other religions, Islam has multiple groups, including Sunni and Shi'a, and these groups have differences.

As with many other religions, divorce is allowed in Islam, but it is considered a last resort. In fact, the Prophet Muhammad reportedly said, "The most detestable of lawful things before Allah is divorce." So, Islamic couples may be encouraged to work with their mosque to resolve any differences before taking steps to divorce.

When it comes to remarriage, different rules apply to men and women. Differences include the principle that a man can immediately remarry after a valid divorce whereas a woman must not remarry for a certain period of time (usually three months).

Buddhism and Divorce

Since Buddhism doesn't have strict tenets about marriage, divorce is allowed in the religion and is unrestricted. Divorce may actually be recommended if an unhappy marriage causes stress or suffering.

Considering Religion When Thinking About Divorce

Studies have shown that religious involvement can reduce divorce rates (by up to 14 percent according to one). And at least one study reported that couples that attended church together were less likely to divorce. But that doesn't make the process any easier or less complicated for those considering going through it.

After all, no matter your religion, divorce can be a touchy subject. Though views on divorce have changed with time, there can be a stigma associated with it that's hard to shake. Some people undoubtedly worry a divorce will cause judgment or even shame from others in a religious community. Or they might be concerned that it will cause a loss of friends or push them away from their faith. According to the study referenced above, people can experience a drop in religious involvement after a divorce, especially in middle age.

But, to many, that need not dictate how people navigate their own marital challenges. Similar to how religion is a very personal decision, divorce is a unique topic to each individual, with no one-size-fits-all answer. Not all people in the same denominations have the same beliefs, and views on divorce may differ between people within a religious group. Plus, views within religions and society generally can evolve.

The forgoing is excerpt is from divorcenet.net.

Next week we shall continue looking at spousal killings and the stigmatization of divorce.

Find out today from God's word what he has said about your circumstance and believe it and chose not to fear. You must understand that life is first of all spiritual and is governed ultimately from the realm of the Spirit. Again 2 Tim. 1:7 has told us that fear is a spirit and is not a gift from heaven and so should be resisted. We resist it because Satan's authority is hinged in the spirit of fear. If Satan cannot get you to fear, he cannot do anything I your life.

We have said that fear is manifested to you through thoughts, ideas and suggestions which are simply words that are spoken to you in the realm of the spirit. Satan suggests negative thoughts in your mind to induce fear because he knows that he cannot do anything to you except you first corporate with these thoughts.

Aside from the fact that fear is a spirit, also remember also that fear arises as a result of trying to interpret your life's circumstances outside of God; not factoring in the power of God. Ones you leave God out of your reasoning process, you are left with confusion, panic and total chaos.

So understand the centrality of life that it is spiritual. Why is it spiritual? Because life is governed by words; Hebrews 1:3 says God upholds all things by the word of his power, while Hebrews 11:3 says everything God made He made out of invisible substance. Satan knows this that is why he tries to inject his own evil wicked words because he understands that except a man corporate with his words, he cannot get his will and intentions to come to pass in that man's life.

Refuse to corporate with Satan's will and his words which seek to produce fear in your life. chose rather to trust God. Jesus said in John 6:63, It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. Words are central to God's economy; how does God manifest Himself? By putting words in the earth for men to believe. When men believe those words and began declare and act on them and even rejoice in them, fear gets dissolved and light shines in darkness.

The light of God's word will dispel fear and also open the door for the power of God to get involved in your circumstance. When the power of God begins to work, know that there is a testimony that is about to be unleashed in your life.

We have to corporate with God to get His power begin to work in our lives. Now, the first thing we need to know about corporating with God is that fear must be shut down by refusing to focus on Satan's thoughts, ideas and suggestions. Satan has no other access into your life outside of fear. If there is any situation that is persisting in your life now, know that the root of that

circumstance is your fear of it. The moment that fear is eliminated, Satan's authority over you in that area is broken.

Christ Jesus has made so many things available to us through His death, burial and resurrection but fear is the thing that attempts to stop those things from manifesting in your life. Understand also that for every challenge in your life, God has already made advance provision for you. He

of what He has already accomplished. This is the spirituality of life. life is Governed by words; God's words. God has given us His words to pull us up to enjoy His resources and economy.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed? When God says something about a situation, as you believe it, His power begins to flow into your situation and His economy is deployed in your



Fear not trust God 29



put all our troubles on Christ Jesus when He came and died on the cross. Matt. 8:17 says that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. By his strips we are healed.

Jesus is our salvation; what He did has answered anything that the devil can ever do in our life. The provision God has made available for us in this life is the salvation that we have in Christ Jesus. it is understanding these different aspects of His salvation and exercising your faith in them and trusting in what He has done instead of the circumstance that will turn the table around and give you the victory that you need.

So words are very critical to God's interventions in our lives and you cannot trust God outside of knowing and believing something He has said. What God has said is His commitment to you to perform it. If you ever see God say anything, know that that thing was accomplished already before He said it. So when God says I will help you, that means He has already helped you. That word, I will help you, is to give you a basis to agree with His commitment to you so that he can manifest the help that He has already provide for you.

Anytime you see God speak, He has already accomplished something and so what He is saying is only a demonstration

behalf. This is how simple the operation of God is.

My brothers and sisters, no matter how bad the situation might look, refuse to agree with the devil that there is no way out for you or that this sickness will kill you or that you will become a statistic of terror or terrorism. Refuse to agree with the devil that you will not be able to survive; chose rather to agree with God. Remember, the words of the person you agree with units you with that person's economy and power.

Disconnect yourself from the devil by refusing to agree with what he is saying and connect yourself with God by choosing to agree with what God is saying. Trusting God is agreeing with what He has said about your circumstance.

When you know the word of God for yourself, you become

unbeatable on the face of the earth. When you know the word of God, you are able to handle the devil and to beat down the spirit of fear and see the operation of the power of God in your life.

What an honour it is to be able to share the word of God with you ones again. I sense somebody's faith raising and I believe that today is your day for a miracle and a turnaround. I sense that today is your day for an amazing breakthrough. Glory to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, the first miracle that will ever happen to a man is when they become a member of God's family. This happens by placing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and receiving Him as your Lord and Saviour. When this happens, everything that belongs to God now belongs to you. So your first step to

deliverance and help is to make Jesus your Lord and Saviour. Remember, according to Isaiah 12:2, Jesus is God's provision for your salvation.

If you are not sure that if for some reason you leave this earth right now, that you will appear before the presence of God in heaven, you need to be sure. Acts 2:21 says ...whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Salvation is not a guess work; on the authority of scriptures, when you call upon the name of the Lord, you shall be saved.

And this salvation, one part of it has to do with where you will spend your eternity while the second part has to do with your life on this earth where the power of God becomes your inheritance to subdue any circumstance you are faced with.

If you have not prayed this prayer before or perhaps, you have but have not being living constantly as a believer should, pray this prayer after me:

Dear Lord Jesus, I come before you today. I believe that you came to this earth to die for my sins. I receive you now as my Lord and Saviour. Write my name in the Book of Life and wash me clean with your precious blood. From this day forward I declare that I am your very own child and you are my very own Father. Father I thank you.

If you have prayed this prayer, I welcome you into the Family God. Please contact us using the information below; and it will be our joy and honour to do whatever we can to help you on this your new found journey of faith. Keep walking and trusting God and keep resisting and refusing to be afraid. Keep enjoying your testimonies. God bless you.

"Refuse to corporate with Satan's will and his words which seek to produce fear in your life. chose rather to trust God. Jesus said in John 6:63, It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. Words are central to God's economy; how does God manifest Himself? By putting words in the earth for men to believe. When men believe those words and began declare and act on them and even rejoice in them, fear gets dissolved and light shines in darkness. The light of God's word will dispel fear and also open the door for the power of God to get involved in your circumstance. When the power of God begins to work, know that there is a testimony that is about to be unleashed in your life".

INTERNATIONAL

For Biden and Trump, 2024 in preview?

This year's midterm elections are playing out as a strange continuation of the last presidential race — and a potential preview of the next one. Writes CHRIS MEGERIAN.

DONALD Trump, who refused to exit the stage after his defeat, has spent months raging against Joe Biden, reshaping downballot campaigns that normally function as a straightforward referendum on the incumbent president.

The result is an episode of political shadowboxing with little precedent, as the current president and his immediate predecessor — and possible future challenger — crisis cross the country in support of their party's candidates.

Trump has been holding raucous rallies in battleground states, where he alternates between touting his handpicked candidates and denouncing his enemies. He belittles and excoriates Biden while lying, as he did in Ohio last month, that “we didn't lose” the last election.

Biden has so far steered clear of some of the tightest midterm races, instead focusing on fundraisers and official events where he draws contrasts between Democratic and Republican policy agendas. He often avoids direct references to “the last guy,” but on Saturday in Oregon, Biden warned that “Trump controls the Republican Party.”

Sometimes the two men travel to the same places, such as when they visited Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, within days of each other, a reflection of the narrow political map that will determine which party controls the U.S. Senate.

“It's remarkably unusual,” said Jeffrey Engel, founding director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University, who strained to think of any comparison in previous election cycles.

“Without exception, since the Great Depression” — Republican Herbert Hoover tried to plot a path back to power despite losing to Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932 — “we have not had a former president who believed they still had a viable political career ahead of them,” he said.

Neither Trump nor Biden has formally announced they will run again. Trump has come close to declaring his candidacy, and Biden has said he intends to seek a second term.

If they face off again, the competition between them could become one of the longest and impactful political duels in American history, spanning several years and



Trump



Biden

multiple elections.

Voters seem to have little appetite for a rematch.

A recent AP-NORC poll shows only about 3 in 10 Americans want either Biden or Trump to run for president in two years. Just 5 in 10 Democrats want Biden to seek a second term, while 6 out of 10 Republicans hope to see Trump seek the presidency again.

Engel said another battle between Biden and Trump would likely prove dispiriting.

“What that fundamentally means is our country is not moving forward,” he said. “I have not met anybody who relishes that campaign.”

However, it's clear that both men see their fortunes tied to the other.

When CNN's Jake Tapper asked Biden whether he's the only one who could fend off his predecessor in another campaign, the president sidestepped the question but expressed confidence about his chances.

“I believe I can beat Donald Trump again,” he said.

Trump would take issue with the use of the word “again” — he continues to spread the lie that Biden only took office through voter fraud.

It's an integral part of Trump's political message, and he never fails to bring it up at rallies for Republican candidates who have endorsed his false views on the last election. Sometimes the rhetoric dives even deeper into conspiracies, a reminder that

another campaign could represent an even sharper break with reality.

In Arizona, during his most recent rally, Trump darkly suggested that Biden is surrounded by “vicious, very smart people” who are “pulling strings.”

“No one thought this could happen in our country, and it all happened because of a rigged and stolen election,” he said.

The former president has also tightened his embrace of the QAnon conspiracy theory, which portrays Trump as battling sinister, hidden forces.

Using his Truth Social platform, Trump shared an image of himself wearing a Q lapel pin overlaid with the words “The Storm is Coming,” referencing his eventual victory over opponents who would be tried — or even executed — on live television.

People close to Trump have said they believe a strong performance by Republicans in November will further encourage Trump to run again in two years, as he has been openly teasing for months.

In addition to his rallies, which earn candidates local media attention and fire up the Republican base, Trump has been helping candidates in other ways, holding fundraisers and tele-rally calls on their behalf. Most significantly, last week, his new super PAC, MAGA Inc., reserved nearly \$5 million in airtime for ads in key states

attacking the opponents of his favored candidates.

The first round of ads from the group notably do not feature Trump or even mention his name. Republicans have expressed frustration that Trump was hoarding small-dollar donations for himself and refusing to help the candidates he had pushed voters to nominate, despite sitting on an enormous war chest.

But Mike DuHaime, a longtime Republican strategist, isn't sure the outcome of the midterms will make a difference in Trump's plans for the next presidential race.

“He'll take credit for every win and deflect blame for every loss,” he said.

Trump has claimed, as he did in Pennsylvania last month, that the midterms are “a referendum on the corruption and extremism of Joe Biden and the radical Democrat party.”

But DuHaime said Trump has prevented that from happening by injecting himself into this year's races, providing a boost to Biden, whose poll numbers remain underwater as voters express concerns about the economy.

“Trump is no ordinary president, nor did he really seem to care about the party,” he said. “He seems to care about himself more than the party that put him in office.”

Biden's circle has a similar view. An adviser, speaking on

the condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations, said those around Biden see the midterms as having become more of a choice than a referendum. Trump's presence on the trail, the adviser said, is seen as helping make Democratic points for them.

Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster, said the only thing more helpful would be if Trump announced another presidential campaign.

“He's getting dangerously close to that,” she said.

Biden has deferred any announcement about his own candidacy until after Election Day, keeping his focus on the midterms.

Like other incumbent presidents in an election year, Biden has blended his political and governmental duties as voting begins.

He stopped in Colorado on Wednesday to designate the first national monument of his administration, fulfilling the wishes of the state's senior Democratic senator, Michael Bennett, who is seeking reelection this year. Although Bennett is favored to win, he's facing a concerted challenge from Joe O'Dea, a Republican businessman.

Jill Colvin in New York and Hannah Fingerhut in Washington contributed to this report.

Source: WASHINGTON (AP)

INTERNATIONAL

Chad- casualties as protesters demand civil rule

CHADIAN security forces have opened fire on anti-government demonstrators in the country's two largest cities killing dozens of people.

Chadian government spokesman Aziz Mahamat Saleh said 30 people were dead in the capital, N'Djamena. Organisers of the march, however, placed the toll higher, at 40 on Thursday.

A further 32 protesters were killed in Chad's second-largest city, Moundou, according to an official in the city's morgue. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said more than 60 people were wounded.

At the main hospital in N'Djamena, overwhelmed doctors tended to scores of people with gunshot wounds.

Police earlier fired tear gas at the crowds but the demonstrators continued advancing and their numbers grew. It was then that security forces opened fire, leaving protesters struggling to gather the dead from the scene.

Among those killed was a Chadian journalist, Narcisse Oredje, who worked for CEFOD radio and was struck by a bullet.

Hundreds of people took to the streets to mark the date when the military initially promised to hand over power – a period that has been extended for another two years.

The country has been rocked by a political crisis since longtime President Idriss Deby was killed on the battlefield in April 2021 while visiting front-line troops.

Mahamat Idriss Deby, his 38-year-old son, was then installed by the military as interim president. He had initially promised not to take part in elections that would follow an 18-month transition to civilian rule but as the deadline neared, a nationwide forum staged by Deby reset the clock.

On October 1, it approved a new "maximum" 24-month timeframe for holding elections. It also named Deby "transitional president" and declared he could be a candidate in the poll. Deby was sworn in on October 10 and later appointed a so-called government of national union headed by Prime Minister Saleh Kebzabo.

The headquarters of Kebzabo's UNDR party was also attacked by demonstrators "and partially burned down", UNDR Vice President Celestin Topona said.



Mohammed

There were also reports of barricades being set up in several districts and tyres being set alight in the main avenues to block traffic.

Security forces have cracked down on several civil society and opposition-led protests denouncing the military takeover and France's backing of the transitional government, at times killing people in the crackdown.

In May, police fired tear gas and used water cannon to disperse anti-French protests that saw the

destruction of French-linked businesses.

France, which colonised Chad in the past, condemned Friday's violence, which "notably [featured] the use of lethal weapons against demonstrators".

"France is not playing any part in these events, which lie strictly in Chad's domestic political domain," the foreign ministry said. "False information about France's purported involvement is baseless."

Truss resignation: World politicians, media react to departure

MANY editorials focus on Ms Truss's brief and chaotic time in office - while others speculate on what her departure means for British foreign and trade policies.

Among foreign politicians, France's President Emmanuel Macron said that on a personal level, he was always "sad to see a colleague go", but that the most important thing was for Britain to find stability.

White House reporters asked US President Joe Biden whether Ms Truss had made the right decision. He replied it was her decision to make, adding that he wouldn't "weigh in on her judgement".

In an earlier statement, Mr Biden said close relations with the UK would continue, and thanked Ms Truss for her partnership on issues including "holding Russia accountable for its war against Ukraine".

Dmytro Kuleba, the foreign minister of Ukraine, said Ms Truss's exit had been dramatic, but voiced his confidence that British support for Kyiv would not drop.

The Ukrainian government was reported in the British press to have tweeted - and then deleted - a post reading "better call Boris", in an apparent endorsement of any bid by the former PM to win back Tory leadership.

There was little sympathy for Ms Truss from Russia. Its

foreign ministry spokeswoman said the UK had "never known such a disgrace of a prime minister".

Other nations questioned what the news would mean for post-Brexit trading arrangements that had been under discussion with Ms Truss, a former international trade secretary.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he was "concerned" that the turmoil could scupper a deal between the two nations which had been finalised, though not yet ratified.

Calling attention to the UK's rapidly changing leadership, he said: "I've been in office for five months. I've met the two British prime ministers, so far, and I obviously will have contact with a third."

And there are similar concerns in India. "Truss's exit catapults the India-UK free trade deal in a zone of uncertainty", writes India's NDTV, quoting an Indian commerce minister as saying he would "wait and see" what happened next.

The Daily Star's longevity competition between Ms Truss and a lettuce appears to have cut through to international audiences: "Her agenda had floundered, her own party had turned on her and commentators widely speculated on whether she could outlast a head of lettuce. She couldn't," wrote the New

UKRAINIAN and Israeli officials have held talks about Kyiv's request for Israel to provide air defence assistance, days after Russia allegedly deployed Iranian "kamikaze" drones as part of a new wave of air raids on the war-torn country.

Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Thursday he had spoken on the phone to Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and "discussed in detail" the provision of air and missile defence systems and technology.

"I informed him [about the] unspeakable suffering, loss of life, and destruction caused by Russian missiles and Iranian-made drones," he tweeted.

Lapid's office said in a statement on Thursday that the Israeli prime minister had expressed "deep concern" over the military ties between Russia and arch foe Iran.

Ukraine this week accused

Israel, Ukraine discuss air defence systems

Russia of using four Iranian-made drones to bomb Kyiv and said its air defences have shot down 223 Iranian drones since mid-September.

The Kremlin said it had no knowledge of its army using Iranian drones in Ukraine and Tehran said the claims that it is

providing Russia with weapons are "baseless".

European Union countries, however, said they had found evidence supporting Kyiv's claim and on Thursday adopted sanctions on Iran over its provision of drones to Russia.



Ukrainian authorities say Russia is using the Iranian-made suicide drone Shahed-136

Boris Johnson eyes comeback bid

SEVERAL British lawmakers, including former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, were trying to scoop up support on Friday ahead of a short, intense contest to replace Liz Truss as the nation's leader.

Truss quit on Thursday after a turbulent 45-day term, conceding that she could not deliver on her tax-cutting economic plans.

The Conservative Party is holding a speeded-up race to replace her, which will see a new leader – who will also become prime minister – chosen within a week.

Former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak and House of Commons leader Penny Mordaunt are among the bookmakers' favorites – along with Johnson, who was forced to resign by the party just over three months ago after becoming mired in scandals over his ethics and finances. His return would be a remarkable resurrection for a politician who is popular and polarizing in equal measure.

Johnson, who remained a lawmaker after stepping down as prime minister, has not said whether he will run, but his allies in Parliament are working to gather support.

Nominations for a new leader will close on Monday afternoon, and candidates need the signatures of 100 of the 357 Conservative lawmakers, meaning a maximum field of three. Lawmakers will vote to knock out one of those, and will hold an indicative vote on the final two. The party's 172,000 members will then get to decide between the two finalists in an online vote. The new leader is due to be selected by Oct. 28.

Sunak, who came second to Truss in a summertime leadership contest, is favored by some as a safe pair of hands who can steady the struggling economy. Mordaunt, who came third, is popular with the party grassroots.

But the wild card in the contest is Johnson, who is adored by some in the party as a proven vote-winner with a rare common touch, and reviled by others for the chaos and scandal that marred his three years in office.

Johnson ally Nadine Dorries said the party should pick him because "he is a known winner" who led the Conservatives to a big election victory in 2019.

But some other Conservative legislators said they would leave the party if Johnson – who faces an ongoing probe by a standards committee over whether he lied to Parliament – returned as leader.

The party's second leadership contest this year comes after Truss became the shortest-serving prime

minister in British history. She was elected leader by the Conservatives early last month after a party election to replace Johnson.

Truss' free-market economic package roiled financial markets, drove up the cost of government borrowing and home mortgages and forced emergency Bank of England intervention. Truss executed a series of U-turns and replaced her Treasury chief but faced rebellion from lawmakers in her party.

Truss admitted Thursday that "I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party."

The new leader will be Britain's third prime minister this year, and the Conservative turmoil is fueling demands for a national election. Under Britain's parliamentary system there does not need to be one until 2024, five years after the 2019 contest that was won by the Conservatives under Johnson.

Opposition politicians say the tumult since then – and the decision by Truss to rip up many of the policies on which Johnson was elected – means the government lacks democratic legitimacy.

Polls suggest that if an election was held now it would be a wipeout for the Conservatives, with the left-of-center Labour Party winning a large majority.

Labour leader Keir Starmer accused the Conservatives of presiding over a "revolving door of chaos."



Johnson



Truss

York Times.

Even the Russian politician Dmitry Medvedev – a close ally of President Vladimir Putin – referenced the feature, bidding a sarcastic farewell to Ms Truss on Twitter, saying: "Bye, bye @trussliz, congrats to lettuce."

Chinese commentators took aim at the six-week prime minister. The China News Service said Ms Truss had proved to be not an Iron Lady, but a paper one – a reference to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The prominent former editor of the Global Times said Ms Truss had been "insolent and unreasonable" with her tough stance towards Beijing.



'Upcoming gospel musicians should be supported'

Can you introduce yourself please?

I am Yop Kyata None as Yoppy', I was born and brought up in Jos, a family of 4 and I am the first. I was born on the 3rd of May in Jos.

I am an indigene of Plateau State Nigeria, Berom by tribe from Tahoss Riyom local Government Council.

When did you start your music career?

I started my music career since 2001 here in Jos. I started from a junior choir then to the church band Church of Christ in Nations, COCIN Nassarawa in Jos North Local Government Area. I officially launched my album in 2005. Since then, God has been faithful and He has continued to lift me from glory to glory. I can testify today that without God, I would not have achieved much. Therefore, my God has been faithful and He will by His grace continue to do so.

This is however not to say that I sometimes don't face one or two challenges in life. As a Christian, I know that we must face some hurdles, however, God's ultimate plan is to bring us to an expected end. His good plans are to bring us to our most cherished destination in life.

How many albums have you lunched so far and can you explain what you have been able to achieve?

I was able to produce two albums. These are albums which are intended to positively change lives for the better.

A promo Album and a full Album though till now; I have not achieved much from the records in terms of my set dreams and total anticipation. But I thank God that the songs are able to touch lives. The first album is titled 'Testify'. Basically, it has a lot to do with issues of life.



The second album was reggae medley. I equally have many reggae fans and I know this will serve them good. However, the greatest of it all is to motivate people to serve our creator in spirit and in truth. I am always fulfilled seeing the people of God serving Him in spirit and truth. We must always appreciate God for His mercy and faithfulness to us.

As a young lady in the industry, what have been some of your challenges?

Well, I have so many challenges, but what I believe is that in life; you must face difficulties but

some of key's challenges are: lack of sponsors which is perhaps a financial issue. But to also say the truth, the church is not encouraging young upcoming musicians like us. But God is still faithful and

therefore we must always appreciate Him in this regard.

Have you ever collaborated with any other musician in your career and what has been your experiences?

I have collaborated with Dave Azi, Dankwada, Helen Dafom, Danjuma Ajege and Clair vision Production for directing.

It wasn't easy going to the studio morning and night but it was a good experience because I also learned how to endure and we also learn from



Continued on page 26

Likeliest actors to play next James Bond, ranked

With No Time To Die now out and Daniel Craig's tenure as the British spy resoundingly over, speculation is only going to ramp up surrounding who his gun-wielding, martini-swilling replacement will be.

The debate on who would be fit and ready to don James Bond's signature tuxedo has been raging since well before Daniel Craig even stepped in front of a camera to start filming No Time To Die. The actor made headlines way back in 2015 by saying he'd rather "slash his wrists" than play the part again, and although a very handsome pay packet did eventually convince the Englishman to reprise his role for the 25th Bond film, Daniel Craig's confirmation that No Time To Die would undoubtedly be his final film as James Bond has reignited fiery conversations of who should replace him and carry on the franchise's storied legacy.

This all means a flurry of potential names has been mooted over the years, largely depending on the prevailing tides of who seems to carry biggest Bond energy at any given time. Tom Hardy has been a long-standing favourite thanks to his perennially grizzled nature. Bodyguard star Richard Madden made the case with his stoic, suit-wearing security agent in the Netflix drama. Even boyband member-turned-soloist and lauded suit wearer, Harry Styles, has been pinned as a potential name to carry Bond beyond 2021 thanks to his looks, style and surprising acting chops. And until Craig's successor is announced, Bond fans everywhere (us included) will pay mind to each and every rumoured replacement, even if No Time to Die's ending may have already revealed one potential candidate.

As such, we've combed the internet, trawled every rumour mill and even looked at the betting odds (because the bookies always know stuff we don't) to weigh up every actor predicted to play the next James Bond, and just how likely it'll be they step into the most famed shoes of all.

Regé-Jean Page

The case for: young, oodles of charm, looks unbelievable in a tux, likely your girlfriend/boyfriend's pick.

The case against: questionable acting chops.

In a January 2020 interview on The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon, breakout *Bridgerton* star Regé-Jean Page spoke out about the possibility of becoming the next Bond. Following Fallon's proclamation that he was the Internet's current "front runner to be the next James Bond," Page responded with an answer that both mildly swiped away at rumours, but also left the door wide open for a 007 offer.

"I think the Internet thinks a lot of things, that's one of the more pleasant ones, so I'm pleased as far as that goes. But I think there might be an element of cultural translation to be done here," Page told Fallon, adding "if you're a Brit and you do something of any kind of renown, that people regard well, then people start saying the 'B' word. It's like a merit badge. You get a 'B' word merit badge."

Humility aside, Page did welcome the flattery, saying that if he was tapped as the next Bond, he would be in "wonderful company." Having taken in his portrayal of The Duke of Hastings in the recent regency era series, most believe that Page is incredibly apt for a role that demands a debonair demeanor, but his ability to carry a franchise all by himself is still yet to be proven. Still, given the calls to take the character in a new direction and the Broccolis' previous for taking punts on unknown talents, this might actually work in his favour.



Richard Madden

The case for: his performance in *Bodyguard*, looks the part

The case against: also now probably too famous, does he have the range?

Perhaps it was his highly praised role in the BBC miniseries *Bodyguard*, his ability to commit to a character long-term as evidenced by his years-long stint as Robb Stark in *Game of Thrones*, or his natural wear of a white tuxedo, but whatever the reason, Scot Richard Madden has also been pinned by Bond devotees as an obvious choice for the lead role.

Madden has shut down rumours around his links to the role on more than one occasion, but this hasn't stopped him from remaining around the top of the bookies' list for the last couple of years. And why not? The 35-year-old Madden has clearly shown he has what it takes to pull off the stoic secret agent with aplomb. The only thing we're wondering is whether he can deliver Bond's more humorous moments with the same level of charm.



Tom Hopper

The case for: his performance in *Bodyguard*, looks the part

The case against: also now probably too famous, does he have the range?

Perhaps it was his highly praised role in the BBC miniseries *Bodyguard*, his ability to commit to a character long-term as evidenced by his years-long stint as Robb Stark in *Game of Thrones*, or his natural wear of a white tuxedo, but



Continued on page 25

EVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

A rebound relationship is not healthy but toxic

By RACHAEL PACE

What is a rebound relationship?

A common understanding of rebound relationship is when the person enters into a new one closely following the breakup of a previous relationship.

It is commonly thought to be a reaction to the breakup, and not a true, free-forming relationship based on emotional availability.

However, there are rebound relationships that turn out to be stable, strong, and long-lasting. It is important to be able to recognize why you are entering a rebound relationship so that you can make sure you don't end up hurting yourself or the other person.

If your relationship has just ended, and you are tempted to rebound, you might want to ask yourself what you are looking for in this rebound relationship.

Rebound relationship signs that suggest it's unhealthy

Whether you are curious about signs your ex is in a rebound relationship or are contemplating the option of starting a rebound relationship after divorce or a nasty breakup, it is good to know these warning signs of an unhealthy rebound relationship.

Signs of a rebound relationship

- You rush into a relationship without an emotional connection.
- You fall hard and fast for a potential partner.
- You are still holding on to



phone numbers, wallpapers, and other memorabilia from previous relationships.

• You seek a new partner who is likely to put more effort into the relationship.

• You reach out when sad and retreat to your own world when happy, out of emotional convenience.

Also, here are some questions to help you understand if a rebound relationship is a healthy move for you.

• Are you doing this to make yourself feel like you are attractive and that your former partner was wrong to let you go? Are you using the new person to help you forget your old partner?

• Are you rebounding to hurt your ex? Are you using social media to make sure they see

you happy with this new person? Are you deliberately putting up photo after photo of you and them, arms around each other, locked in a kiss, out partying all the time? Are you using this new relationship as revenge against your ex?

Are you not truly invested in the new partner? Are you using them to fill an empty space left by your previous partner? Is it just about sex, or warding off loneliness? Do you use your new partner as a way to soothe your heart hurt, instead of addressing that hurt yourself? It is neither healthy nor fair to use someone, to overcome the pain of the break-up.

How long do rebound relationships last

Talking of rebound relationship success rate, most

of these last few weeks to a few months. However, not all are doomed to end, but it depends on many factors such as the emotional availability of both partners, attractiveness, and similarity that bonds them.

In an unhealthy rebound relationship, there is disposing of toxic residual emotions like anxiety, despair, and grief from the previous relationships onto the new one before the natural healing is done post the break-up.

Since the individual seeking a rebound relationship has not dealt with the bitterness and emotional baggage, they can bring a lot of resentment and instability in the new relationship.

That's why the average length of rebound relationships is not beyond the first few months.

On average, 90% of rebound relationships fail within the first three months, if we talk about the rebound relationship time frame.

Also watch: Rebound relationship stages The rebound relationship timeline usually comprises of four stages.

• Stage 1: It starts with finding someone who is radically different from your previous love interest. It can be a very toxic situation, as you are constantly under pressure to look for someone who is the exact opposite of the previous partner. In your head, you tell yourself the story of a happy relationship with someone who has no similar qualities to your ex and is therefore perfect.

• Stage 2: In this stage, you are in a state of blissful denial that there is any likelihood of relationship problems since you have carefully handpicked a partner who is totally opposite of the previous one. But this honeymoon phase does not last long, as, in the course of time, you start testing your new love interest with a mental checklist, dreadful of any similarities. You start putting your unsuspecting partner to test.

• Stage 3: At this stage relationship problems and your partner's quirks start irking you, but sadly you keep them bottled up, holding on to the relationship for dear life. You don't want to be alone, so instead of having open and honest communication, you resort to turning a blind eye to them, albeit with great effort.

• Stage 4: The final stage, of a rebound marriage or relationship, entails tipping over the edge. You realize that you brought the issues of your past relationship in this one, and inadvertently, made this person a rebound. Unfortunately, the undeserving rebound partner also realizes that they were a conduit for you to properly end your previous relationship.

If you have found closure and insights into the real reasons why things hit a dead end with the previous partner, you may have some hope left to start afresh in this relationship without the rebound.

And, if you're sincere about making an effort to be more open and communicative, they might be willing to try again as a real couple.

On the other hand, if they call it quits with you, take some time for yourself to introspect. Don't rush into finding the one who can measure up to your last love interest, look for someone who is in alignment with who you are and what you want.

So, does a rebound relationship last?

No one can answer this with certainty, although the likelihood is low. There are exceptions since the person rebounding can choose to date out of openness and a clear headspace.

If a person engages in rebound relationships to get back at an ex-partner or to distract themselves from the grieving process, then these flings are likely to end unceremoniously.



THE SOW WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Health

Calcium: The mineral that fights osteoporosis

Osteoporosis is a disorder of the bones in which the bones become brittle, weak and easily damaged or broken. Unfortunately, when you have osteoporosis, you can't feel your bones getting weaker. You probably won't know it has happened until it is too late. A small fall could make you break a bone, but it might also happen from bumping into objects.

After age 35, your body will lose bone tissue faster than you'll build it and this leads to a higher chance of osteoporosis. More than 70 per cent of people with osteoporosis are women, most especially those going through menopause. This is because the hormone estrogen, which helps protect bones, drops when women reach menopause. Just like, age and gender, hereditary does play a role. And so if your mother had osteoporosis, you might, too. You can find out if you have the condition by getting a bone density test, which measures how much bone you have in your hips and spine. But there is a lot you can do to protect your bones and keep them strong:

Get enough calcium: Women who consume more calcium from their diets are less likely to suffer osteoporosis. This essential mineral helps in building healthy bones and ensures the muscles, cells and nerves function properly. But do you know that your body pulls calcium from your bones when it doesn't get enough? And if your body continues taking calcium from the bones whenever it runs dry, your bones are prone to thinning. And sadly, this raises your chance of fractures.

The most absorbable forms of calcium are - calcium citrate, calcium glycinate, calcium ascorbate, and calcium malate.

Calcium is found in milk and dairy foods and adults need about 1,000 milligrams a day which may translate to 240 mls of milk or one thick slice of cheddar cheese. But vegetarians, the lactose intolerant



as well as people that just don't like the taste of dairy products, would not want to take any form of animal product. Gladly, nature has blessed us with such a wide array of calcium-packed non-dairy foods that you do not have to rely only on dairy products for that daily dose of calcium. So if you don't eat dairy, you're not doomed to brittle and weak bones.

Leafy green vegetables, legumes, seeds and fruits also contain calcium. For example:

Cabbage- Cabbage and other members of the Brassicaceae family which include broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and mustard seeds prove to be good sources of calcium. These vegetables are extremely nutritious and eating them raw or lightly steamed helps

to maintain their highly nutritious quality. Being a great source of calcium, cabbage can decrease inflammation.

Almonds: A ¼ cup dry roasted (about 20 nuts) will provide 72 mg of calcium. It will be beneficial for you to grab a handful of almonds every now and then. They are the most nutritionally dense nut and aside from calcium, they also contain potassium, vitamin E, and iron. Sprinkle on a salad or make your own almond butter.

Moringa oleifera (horseradish; okwe oyibo-Igbo; ewe igbale-Yoruba; zogalla-Hausa)-

Analysis of moringa fresh (raw) leaves and dried leaf powder has shown them to contain 440 mg and 2,003 mg per 100 gms of edible portion respectively. The fresh leaves and dried leaves



respectively contain 4 times and 17 times the calcium of milk. Little wonder Moringa has been used to address conditions resulting from a lack of calcium. Drink a cup of this herb 2 X daily and your bones will be glad you did.

Sesame seeds (beni seeds): Half cup of sesame seeds is said to contain 3 times more calcium than half cup of whole milk. Eat it roasted or cooked as vegetable soup.

Oranges: 1 medium fruit contains 65mg of calcium. I am sure you are glad to know that oranges contain calcium too apart from the popular vitamin C people know them for. So enjoy this fruit as a mid-morning snack for calcium and vitamin C.

Eat foods high in vitamin D: Remember to pair your calcium with vitamin D as the body needs this vitamin to help absorb calcium. Good sources of vitamin D include sunlight, fatty fish such as mackerel, salmon, and tiger nuts, among others.

Exercise regularly: If you are above 50, exercising cannot help build new bones. However, it can help slow bone loss as well as build and maintain muscles. Any exercise that you do with your feet on the ground forces your bones to support your weight. And that strengthens your bones. Walking, jogging, climbing, dancing, aerobics, tennis, and weight-bearing exercises are good options. Since family history is one of the risk factors for developing osteoporosis, don't forget to encourage your girl child to exercise. Pre-teen and teen years are the best time to build up your bones, not after 50!

Remember your bones are living, growing tissue that store calcium and other minerals. Be sure not to allow depletion of this essential mineral. Live a healthy lifestyle, eat healthy, get enough sun shine, take healthy exercise and be mindful how much alcohol you drink.





Reality Bites

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Are you taking care of your mental health?

Many people are getting affected with mental health challenges these days.

On the news and social media handles, trending stories and videos of suicide related deaths, physical and mental abuse, and depression is common.

In Nigeria, harsh economic and living conditions, Climate Change, natural disasters especially flooding of many communities that has rendered many homeless including bandits attacks, kidnappings of loved ones, payments of huge ransome, increased insecurity, and incessant strikes, bad road networks, traffic hold-ups, and poor working conditions has affected the normal mental health of citizens.

Global bodies like the United Nations say some mental health challenges like Depression is one of the leading causes of disability, while Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among 15-29-year-olds.

It states that People with severe mental health conditions die prematurely – as much as two decades early – due to preventable physical conditions.

"Despite progress in some countries, people with mental health conditions often experience severe human rights violations, discrimination, and stigma, but many mental health conditions can be effectively treated at relatively low cost, yet the gap between people needing care and those with access to care remains substantial, and effective treatment coverage remains extremely low".

"However increased investment is required on all fronts, for mental health awareness to increase understanding and reduce stigma; for efforts to increase access to quality mental health



care and effective treatments; and for research to identify new treatments and improve existing treatments for all mental disorders".

Staying strong and refusing to let life's daunting challenges to weigh you down is better than allowing depression to set in, or opting for suicide. Here are ten things you can do for your mental health adapted from the National mental Health Association and the National Council for Community Behavioural Healthcare to keep your balance, or re-balance yourself.

1. Value yourself

Treat yourself with kindness and respect, and avoid self-criticism. Make time for your hobbies and favorite projects, or broaden your horizons. Do a daily crossword puzzle, plant a garden, take dance lessons, learn to play an instrument or become fluent in another language.

2. Take care of your body

Taking care of yourself physically can improve your mental health. Be sure to eat nutritious meals, avoid smoking and vaping, drink plenty of water, exercise, which helps

decrease depression and anxiety and improve moods, get enough sleep. Researchers believe that lack of sleep contributes to a high rate of depression in college students.

3. Surround yourself with good people

People with strong family or social connections are generally healthier than those who lack a support network. Make plans with supportive family members and friends, or seek out activities where you can meet new people, such as a club, class or support group.

4. Give yourself

Volunteer your time and energy to help someone else. You'll feel good about doing something tangible to help someone in need – and it's a great way to meet new people.

5. Learn how to deal with stress

Like it or not, stress is a part of life. Practice good coping skills: Try One-Minute Stress Strategies, do Tai Chi, exercise, take a nature walk, play with your pet or try journal writing as a stress reducer. Also, remember to smile and see the humor in life. Research shows that laughter can boost your immune system, ease pain, relax your body and reduce stress.

6. Quiet your mind

Try meditating, Mindfulness and/or prayer. Relaxation exercises and prayer can improve your state of mind and outlook on life. In fact, research

shows that meditation may help you feel calm and enhance the effects of therapy.

7. Set realistic goals

Decide what you want to achieve academically, professionally and personally, and write down the steps you need to realize your goals. Aim high, but be realistic and don't over-schedule. You'll enjoy a tremendous sense of accomplishment and self-worth as you progress toward your goal.

8. Break up the monotony

Although our routines make us more efficient and enhance our feelings of security and safety, a little change of pace can perk up a tedious schedule. Alter your jogging route, plan a road-trip, take a walk in a different park, hang some new pictures or try a new restaurant.

9. Avoid alcohol and other drugs

Keep alcohol use to a minimum and avoid other drugs. Sometimes people use alcohol and other drugs to "self-medicate" but in reality, alcohol and other drugs only aggravate problems.

10. Get help when you need it

Seeking help is a sign of strength – not a weakness. And it is important to remember that treatment is effective. People who get appropriate care can recover from mental illness and addiction and lead full, rewarding lives.



THE WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Parenting

Steps to more effective Parenting

RAISING kids is one of the toughest and most fulfilling jobs in the world — and the one for which you might feel the least prepared.

These child-rearing tips can help you feel more fulfilled as a parent.

Boost Your Child's Self-Esteem

Kids start developing their sense of self as babies when they see themselves through their parents' eyes. Your tone of voice, your body language, and your every expression are absorbed by your kids. Your words and actions as a parent affect their developing self-esteem more than anything else.

Praising accomplishments, however small, will make them feel proud; letting kids do things independently will make them feel capable and strong.

Catch Kids Being Good

Have you ever stopped to think about how many times you react negatively to your kids in a given day? You may find yourself criticizing far more often than complimenting.

The more effective approach is to catch kids doing something right: "You made your bed without being asked — that's terrific!" or "I was watching you play with your sister and you were very patient." These statements will do more to encourage good behavior over the long run than repeated scoldings.

Set Limits and Be Consistent With Your Discipline.

Discipline is necessary in every household. The goal of discipline is to help kids choose acceptable behaviors and learn self-control. They may test the limits you establish for them, but they need those limits to grow into responsible adults.

Establishing house rules helps kids understand your



expectations and develop self-control. Some rules might include: no TV until homework is done, and no hitting, name-calling, or hurtful teasing allowed.

You might want to have a system in place: one warning, followed by consequences such as a "time out" or loss of privileges. A common mistake parents make is failure to follow through with the consequences. You can't discipline kids for talking back one day and ignore it the next. Being consistent teaches what you expect. **Make Time for Your Kids**

It's often hard for parents and kids to get together for a family meal, let alone spend quality time together. But there is probably nothing kids would like more. Get up 10 minutes earlier

in the morning so you can eat breakfast with your child or leave the dishes in the sink and take a walk after dinner. Kids who aren't getting the attention they want from their parents often act out or misbehave because they're sure to be noticed that way. Attending concerts, games, and other events with your teen communicates caring and lets you get to know more about your child and his or her friends in important ways.

Don't feel guilty if you're a working parent. It is the many little things you do — making popcorn, playing cards, window shopping — that kids will remember.

Be a Good Role Model

Young kids learn a lot about how to act by watching their

parents. The younger they are, the more cues they take from you. Before you lash out or blow your top in front of your child, think about this: Is that how you want your child to behave when angry? Be aware that you're constantly being watched by your kids. Studies have shown that children who hit usually have a role model for aggression at home.

Model the traits you wish to see in your kids: respect, friendliness, honesty, kindness, tolerance. Exhibit unselfish behavior. Do things for other people without expecting a reward. Express thanks and offer compliments. Above all, treat your kids the way you expect other people to treat you.

Make Communication a Priority

You can't expect kids to do everything simply because you, as a parent, "say so." They want and deserve explanations as much as adults do. If we don't take time to explain, kids will begin to wonder about our values and motives and whether they have any basis. Parents who reason with their kids allow them to understand and learn in a nonjudgmental way.

Be Flexible and Willing to Adjust Your Parenting Style

If you often feel "let down" by your child's behavior, perhaps you have unrealistic expectations.

Kids' environments have an effect on their behavior, so you might be able to change that behavior by changing the environment. If you find yourself

constantly saying "no" to your 2-year-old, look for ways to alter your surroundings so that fewer things are off-limits. This will cause less frustration for both of you.

Show That Your Love Is Unconditional

As a parent, you're responsible for correcting and guiding your kids. But how you express your corrective guidance makes all the difference in how a child receives it.

When you have to confront your child, avoid blaming, criticizing, or fault-finding, which hurt self-esteem and can lead to resentment. Instead, try to nurture and encourage, even when disciplining your kids. Make sure they know that although you want and expect better next time, your love is there no matter what.

Know Your Own Needs and Limitations as a Parent

Face it — you are an imperfect parent. You have strengths and weaknesses as a family leader. Recognize your abilities.

And try to make parenting a manageable job. Focus on the areas that need the most attention rather than trying to address everything all at once. Admit it when you're burned out. Take time out from parenting to do things that will make you happy.

Focusing on your needs does not make you selfish. It simply means you care about your own well-being, which is another important value to model for your children.

Source: KidsHealth Medical.



BUSINESS WORLD

Ease of doing business and currency transactions

Conversations about the ease of doing business in Nigeria have been on the front burner for several years, with the Nigerian government doing everything within its power to create an enabling environment for Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SMEs) to thrive, writes
BABAJIDE ALIU.

THE efforts of the government at creating a friendly business environment for SMEs are not unconnected with the fact that they are the livewire of the country's economy. Nigeria relies on business owners across various levels to generate employment and to power an economy that caters to well over 200 million people.

From a lack of access to finance to tedious bureaucratic processes, an unstable exchange rate, and jaw-breaking inflation, Nigerian businesses are not having the best of times. And, according to the World Bank's annual rankings, Nigeria is ranked 131 among 190 economies in the Ease of Doing Business ranking; a rating that can only be described as poor.

While the implication of an ailing business environment is taking a toll on Nigerians and the country's economy, it is important to note that this is coming at a time when the country is experiencing a scarcity of foreign exchange, which is very necessary in the case of cross-border business deals.

For instance, Emeka Japan, who is popular for the importation and sales of electronics, cannot get his goods from Japan to Nigeria because there is the unavailability of forex that is needed for payment of goods.



This anomaly implies Emeka's platform whose effective yet business and other aspects of simplified solution enabled him his life would be affected to transact his business deals unless he finds a quick and get his goods into Nigeria. intervention.

Having searched around, he came across Leatherback, a fully regulated multi-currency

arrive on time and his customers will not be disappointed.

Why not follow the footsteps of Emeka and let your business heave a sigh of relief by enjoying the awesome benefits made available by Leatherback?

Once again, Emeka is a happy man. A simplified process of sending and receiving money for global transactions is the answer to the prayer of many business owners in Nigeria who are in dire need of forex to transact businesses globally and get their businesses to stay afloat in the local business environment. Leatherback is just a few of the high-end financial solutions that individuals and companies can take advantage of from account that allows you to send, receive and hold multiple currencies. This lets you manage payments in a foreign currency instead of opening a new bank account overseas. Leatherback removes complex processes that come with sending and receiving money globally.

A multi-currency account with Leatherback is typically an account that allows you to send, receive and hold multiple currencies. This lets you manage payments in a foreign currency instead of opening a new bank account overseas. Leatherback removes complex processes that come with sending and receiving money globally.

With a presence in 13 countries, including the United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada, Nigeria, India, Egypt, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Angola, the UAE, and Côte d'Ivoire, Leatherback is regulated by other business owners are the Financial Conduct Authority, United Kingdom,

and the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC).

Poised to provide a unique gateway that enables people and businesses to be truly global, Leatherback also aids businesses to realise their full potential by providing services like global payroll processing, virtual and physical cards, and payment gateways to enable international collections.

Leatherback, which deploys cutting-edge technology in delivering its services, is committed to ensuring that businesses attain their full potential and play in the same space as their contemporaries on the global stage. This is why it is ensuring that business owners get access to multi-currency transaction options and transact deals.

Even as the government is playing its part in ensuring that the Ease of Doing Business improves across the Nigerian business landscape, Leatherback has become the light every business needs at the end of the tunnel.

Source: BusinessDay



Emefiele

BUSINESS WORLD

NEC to review budget support facility from states

The National Economic Council (NEC) yesterday resolved to review the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) plan to commence deductions from state governments' share of the monthly federal allocations.

The move was aimed at exploring further financial succor for states regarding repayment of the federal government's budget support facility. The Council chaired by the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo therefore, resolved to set up a panel with representatives of the federal government and the states to review the matter.

A statement by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on media and publicity in the Office of the Vice President, Laolu Akande, Osinbajo stated, "bearing in mind all of the financial difficulties, we take the position to review the plan to commence the deduction for the loan."

NEC at its monthly meeting resolved that representatives of the Governors' Forum, the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, among others, meet to review modalities for the imminent deductions of funds from States by the Central Bank of Nigeria, to repay the Budget Support Facility granted to states by the federal government.

It noted that the decision was in consideration of current difficulties experienced by state governments

In fulfilling their financial obligations. The council equally endorsed the revised National Social Protection Policy presented by



Ahmed.

Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Zainab Ahmed.

The policy would now go to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for input and from there to the National Assembly for Legislative approval. When passed, the new policy would replace the "2017-2022 National Social Protection Policy."

The minister added that the expected benefits of the revised NSPP included among others, "reduction of multi-dimensional poverty; promoting social justice, equity and inclusive growth; reduce unemployment, social and economic vulnerabilities, and other threats to sustainable development." The NEC also resolved to constitute a committee of the federal government and state governors to liaise with other relevant stakeholders to find immediate and long-term solutions to flooding problems across the country.

The vice president noted that the committee liaising with critical stakeholders, would support efforts, whether short, medium or long term, in mitigating the impact of flooding as well as finding lasting solutions to the issue. Council also commended the efforts of stakeholders including the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) in the vaccination of more Nigerians against COVID-19.

According to the presentation of the COVID-19 Scorecard by the Executive Director of NPHCDA, Dr. Faisal Shaibu, "over 127 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been procured and administered through collaborations by the federal government and other partners since the inception of the exercise. "Additional 10.5 million doses of Johnson and Johnson vaccines have been procured by the federal government and is being expected in the

THE International Monetary Fund has said Nigeria and other countries in the Sub-Saharan African region risk social and political instability and worsening food insecurity because of rising inflation.

According to the IMF, inflation has nearly doubled pre-pandemic levels in the region, adding that while there is a significant difference between countries, the median inflation rate in the region increased to almost nine per cent in August.

It said, "And even though the rise has been less dramatic than in other parts of the world, and the drivers are different, inflation is nearly double pre-pandemic levels, risking social and political instability and worsening food insecurity."

It disclosed this in a report titled, 'Africa's Inflation Among Region's Most Urgent Challenges.' The fund explained that the region was besieged by a slow recovery from the pandemic, rising food and energy prices, and high levels of public debt. It stated that despite an economic rebound in 2021, the fallout from the pandemic has kept domestic economic activity in the region relatively muted, and it expects growth to slow this year.

The Washington-based lender stated that unlike richer countries in other regions,

Inflation: Nigeria, others risk political instability – IMF

most countries in the region lack the needed resources to support and stimulate growth.

Listing some of the causes of the region's inflation, it said inflation in Nigeria and other sub-Saharan African countries was being driven less by economic activity and more by external developments. It said, "They include the sharp spike in global commodity prices, swings in the exchange rate, global supply chain disruptions, and natural disasters. "In the case of food, the prices of key staples such as maize and wheat have increased since 2019, contributing two-thirds of overall inflation in fragile states and one-half elsewhere in the region. Higher global energy prices and the strong dollar have also fed through to inflation indirectly, via transportation and tradable goods like household products.

"By contrast, there have been only modest increases for the prices of goods and services that most reflect domestic demand pressures, so-called nontradables—which typically include any locally-produced services, such as in the hospitality, health, or education sectors."

The IMF further said it

expects 12 per cent of the population in Nigeria and other countries in the sub-Saharan region to experience acute food insecurity by the end of 2022.

It added that many countries have turned to subsidies and tax cuts to alleviate the squeeze in household incomes in a bid to alleviate some of the economic concerns of the regions while central banks across the region have started raising interest rates in response to rising inflation, capital outflows, and currency depreciation.

It disclosed, "Examples include Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, and the economic and monetary unions for both Central and West Africa.

"Monetary authorities also find themselves facing an increasingly delicate trade-off: raising rates to keep inflation in check will risk choking off credit for investment, depressing economic activity, and reducing incomes. Meanwhile, fiscal consolidation and the global slowdown weigh on domestic economic activity." However, the IMF warned central banks against raising interest rates in a hurry as it might jeopardize recovery.

Why FG will not declare state of emergency -Minister

THE Nigeria's government, recently said it will not declare a state of emergency on the ravaging flooding in some parts of the country because it is not overwhelmed by the incidents yet.

Minister of Water Resources, Suleiman Adamu, said this during an interview on Channels Television.

With over 600 lives lost and

properties worth billions destroyed, the country is arguably facing one of its worst flooding incidents in decades.

The recent floods have displaced more than a million persons from their homes as some of the government's infrastructural facilities were also affected by this unprecedented development.

Some of the most affected states include Kogi, Anambra, Rivers, Benue, Yobe, Delta, Cross River and Bayelsa.

When asked why Nigeria has not declared a state of emergency like neighbouring Chad, Mr Adamu, who admitted the dire conditions of this year's victims of flood, said Nigeria has not got to that crisis point.

He said the country would only do so if all relevant agencies complain of being overwhelmed.

"It's certainly an emergency situation but it all depends on what you mean by the declaring state of emergency. We have not reached a situation in my view where the relevant emergency management authorities have not been able to deal with this situation. I'm not aware that has happened.

"We have governments, we have the federal government, we have state governments or state emergency management agencies and the Federal Emergency Agency. And I think they have not in any way said that they have been overwhelmed by what they have been doing," the minister said.

Mr Adamu debunked the claim in some quarters that it was poor planning on the part of government that led to the floodings.

The minister said the latest cases of flooding in some states in the country were largely human making due to their years of disregard for nature and proper planning.

"The flood is a combination of many things. First and foremost, there is a natural disaster, like an

earthquake and everything. There is an act of God but there is also a human aspect to it. For this, one particular thing I will say is that for hundreds of years, well, decades, let me exaggerate. We have been bastardising our watersheds. We have been deforesting our lands, we have been degrading our soil, that is one aspect.

"Secondly, many Nigerians just refuse to be law abiding. They have built on water courses, they have blocked drains and water channels. So many activities have been done. Yes. And of course, I will accept that there are certain strategies that are to be taken, maybe engineering solutions, that over a long period of time have not been addressed, but that is also probably because of the nature and the level of our economy.

"Water resources management is a very, very expensive venture that is a time consuming venture. To even study alone takes years to be completed. So it is a combination of so many issues, really," the minister explained.

Mr Adamu also dismissed the assumption that the release of water from the Lagbo Dam in Cameroon caused the havoc.

He said the water contribution of the dam is low compared to the volume of water Nigeria generates internally.



Adamu

CBN announces sale of Polaris Bank

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has announced the completion of the sale of Polaris Bank.

Osita Nwanisobi, CBN's Director, Corporate Communications, disclosed this in a statement recently.

Nwanisobi announced that the new core investor in the bank is Strategic Capital Investment Limited, disclosing that the deal was sealed with SCIL by the CBN and Asset Management Company of Nigeria (AMCON).

"Polaris has been operating as a bridge bank since 2018

when the Central Bank of Nigeria intervened to revoke the licence of the former Skye Bank Plc and established Polaris Bank to assume its assets and certain liabilities.

As part of the CBN intervention, consideration bonds with a face value of N898 billion (future value of N1.305 trillion) was injected into the bridge bank through AMCON, to be repaid over a 25-year period. These actions were taken to prevent the imminent collapse of the bank, enable its stabilisation and recovery, protect depositors'

fund, prevent job losses and preserve systemic financial stability."

"SCIL has paid an upfront consideration of N50 billion to acquire 100% of the equity of Polaris Bank and has accepted the terms of the agreement which include the full repayment of the sum of N1.305 trillion, being the consideration bonds injected. The CBN thus received an immediate return for the value it has created in Polaris Bank during the stabilisation period, as well as ensuring that all funds originally provided to support the intervention are recovered.

"The sale was coordinated by a Divestment Committee comprising representatives of the CBN and AMCON, and advised by legal and financial consultants. The Committee conducted a sale process by 'private treaty', as provided in Section 34(5) of the AMCON Act to avoid negative speculations, retain value and preserve financial system stability. In the process, parties who had formally expressed an interest in acquiring Polaris Bank, subsequent to the CBN

intervention in 2018, were invited to submit financial and technical proposals.

Invitations to submit proposals were sent to 25 pre-qualified interested parties, out of which three (3) parties eventually submitted final purchase proposals following technical evaluation. All submissions were subject to a rigorous transaction process from which SCIL emerged as the preferred bidder having presented the most comprehensive technical/financial purchase proposal as well as the highest rated growth plans for Polaris Bank."

Commenting on the transaction, the Governor of the CBN, Godwin Emefiele, said: "This sale marks the completion of a landmark intervention in a strategic institution in the Nigerian banking sector by the CBN and AMCON.

"We commend the outgoing board and management for their vital role since the bridge bank was established; in stabilising the Bank's operations, its balance sheet and implementing strong governance structures to address the issues that led to the intervention.



Emefiele

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

Zita Ejike: Maker of Zee shea butter-cream

Zita Ejike is a 10-year-old Basic 6 pupil. A lover of nature and mankind, Zita, at the age of seven, developed an interest in the production of natural skin and hair care products. This led to her becoming the CEO of ZEE SHEA HUB at the age of nine.



ZITA'S love for everything natural and establishing her own beauty line started very early, having assisted her mother, who is also a nature enthusiast and Natural Lifestyle Entrepreneur, in the production of natural organic skincare products.

The idea of launching her own business was actually spontaneous. One day, after returning from school and sharing with her mother the day's experiences, she had narrated how a classmate was suffering from skin blemishes. She felt there was something that could be done to remedy the situation. She asked her mother what she could do to help.

Her mom asked her to take some of her organic Shea butter to school the next day and give it to her classmate, which she did. Surprisingly, within three days, all the blemishes disappeared.

That was how the company, @zeesheahub



Ejike

was born to sell unrefined, unadulterated and therapeutic Shea butter, which helps children to have healthy and glowing skin and hair.

From the proceeds of her Shea butter sales, she removes only what she needs to restock and uses the rest to feed and clothe the less privileged, as this has been her vision.

Zita has received the

Kidpreneur Ambassador Robotics.

Award by Kidpreneur Africa Last year, she won the significant impact and Kidpreneur challenge and dedication as a Kidpreneur won a cash award to produce more organic

She was also among the Shea butter.

successful 50 Kids Also in September 2019, sponsored by Cadbury Zee Shea Hub was Bournvita to attend the nominated for the Star Kids 2019 Bournvita Tech Award in the category of Bootcamp, where she the most outstanding Kid received a certificate in Entrepreneur of the year Certificate intelligence, 2019 and won!

Programming, and As part of her corporate

responsibility and giving back to society, she adopted a school in Lagos State, Central School Isashi to support the management and the pupils.

So far, she has been able to give Basic 6 pupils of the school such materials as books and writing sets needed to enhance their academic performance, as the challenges confronting the school seem enormous. The pupils would appreciate such helpful contributions from other individuals and NGOs in realising their future dreams and goals by supporting them materially and otherwise.

In line with her vision of supporting young children, and with support from family and friends, Zita do visited children at the hospital where she gave out clothes, raw and cooked food, as well as water and some amount of Zee shea butter mostly during summer holidays she said her visions to become a medical doctor.

Source: The Guardian.



Web BULUS GAMBO

'Upcoming gospel musicians should be supported'

Continued from page 18

each other, you know two heads are better than one.

Are you trying your hands on any other thing now?

Yeah, I'm a hair stylist and into selling of textiles .and into some petty business. In fact, I do multi-business as far as it pays me well. I think venturing into business has also helped me to stabilize.

Sometimes it very difficult for gospel musicians to make it on the Plateau, what has been your experience?

Well, I work with my bare hands which the Lord has blessed me with to make a living and also sponsor my music I don't depend on anyone except God ...I have learned from difficulties and that shouldn't be a challenge to me...so I engaged myself to many businesses to keep body and soul.

How have you managed in your production, any support from people?

Well, there some key people who supported me both to direct and contributed financially and prayerfully, which they are as follows, Clare vision Production and Smob And also My family.

And

some of my church members.

What do you plan to achieve in the nearest future?

My plans are first, I would like start with my Live recording Reggae Album by next

year by God's grace and to also expand my business. And also, to have my own home. To help



needly and to encourage upcoming artists with both ideas, finally, morally and prayerfully though I'm still praying.

Any advice to other musicians and your fans?

My advice to all my fellow musicians is please don't depend on just the music, do other things that will upgrade you, engaged yourselves in businesses and get some business ideas from some who are into it also. Get educated in skills acquisition, learn trade etc. and get educated because education is the key to success and also engage Bible study because you cannot give what you don't have hope it's not all about singing only but winning souls to Christ.

And also, to my fans... please don't give up and never loose hope If you feel like giving up, remember why you started, pray even if you feel like not praying; sing whenever you fill rejected. God is your all in all...And seek first his kingdom and every other thing will be added unto you... JESUS LOVE YOU!!! I LOVE YOU ALL.



Likeliest actors to play next James Bond, ranked

Continued from page 16

whatever the reason, Scot Richard Madden has also been pinned by Bond devotees as an obvious choice for the lead role.

Madden has shut down rumours around his links to the role on more than one occasion, but this hasn't stopped him from remaining around the top of the bookies' list for the last couple of years. And why not? The 35-year-old Madden has clearly shown he has what it takes to pull off the stoic secret agent with aplomb. The only thing we're wondering is whether he can deliver Bond's more humorous moments with the same level of charm.

Sam Heughan

The case for: another low-profile choice, look at that jawline

The case against: might not draw a crowd Emerging from the pack in recent years has been Outlander star Sam Heughan. Sources have claimed before that filmmakers were eyeing the actor for the coveted role, including Barbara Broccoli, and one Daily Mail report has even claimed that Heughan got a call from producers to audition for Barbara Broccoli as she prepares to usher in a new era of the spy franchise. Heughan himself later denied this, of course, however he did say that he once auditioned for the Bond role back when they were preparing to film Casino Royale, meaning he'd likely answer if 007's producers came knocking. "There's a long list, right? It's one of those things, isn't it? You don't want to talk about it, because there isn't anything to talk about," he said on the Just The Facts with Alex Zane podcast, It's all media, and there's no weight to it at all, there's no truth to it. Having said that, you can't help but then think, 'God, that would be amazing.' And I have been up for Bond, I went up for it when they did Bond 21. It was an amazing experience and I was completely out of my depth. But I think now I feel the right age for it, I feel capable enough to do it, I'd love the opportunity to throw my hat in the ring."



Henry Cavill

The case for: he's Henry Cavill

The case against: too famous, too busy Having already helmed the Superman franchise for seven years (and counting), Henry Cavill's aptitude to pick up the heroic character torch once Craig unhands is abundantly clear. Partner that with his existing turn as a government agent when portraying CIA agent Napoleon Solo in the film revival of the Man from U.N.C.L.E. series, and the fact that Cavill once came close to stealing the role from Craig himself, it's near impossible to convince us that Cavill isn't the only logical choice for the next Bond.



Few have flirted publicly with the idea of playing the role quite like Cavill, either. The Brit has kept himself across the rumours that he could once again be in line to portray 007, and has expressed his willingness to step into the 007 role if it were offered to him. Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, Cavill said he would be interested in speaking with Bond producers. "I think it would be very exciting to have a conversation with the producers," he said. "In an ideal world, I'd never have to turn anything down. Nothing is off the table. It's an honour to even be part of that conversation."

But while we may think that his role as the 'Man of Steel', as well as his secret agent stints in The Man from U.N.C.L.E and Mission: Impossible — Fallout, near guarantee his casting as Bond, experts believe his past roles and the gargantuan amount of franchises he already leads actually do him a disservice. According to Dr. Kinane, Cavill may be "too famous" and likely too busy to play Bond, the scholar noting that actors who have slipped into the iconic tux in the past have been relatively unknown, per Movie Web.

Tom Hardy

The case for: moody, gritty, action movie experience, the most Daniel Craig-ish actor on this list

The case against: his age, maybe too famous While the official word on Craig's replacement for the franchise's titular role is still outstanding, many were convinced that action film fixture, Tom Hardy, was believed to have signed on as the next Bond at one point late last year. However, following the wave of seemingly confirmatory rumours, many industry insiders were quick to quash the possibility of a Hardy-portrayed Bond, including Forbes' film-industry reporter Scott Mendelson. "Contrary to what you might see in the British tabloids, Tom Hardy has not been cast, and probably will not be cast, as the next James Bond once Daniel Craig vacates the role upon the release of No Time to Die," claimed Mendelson. He remains the third-favourite name at the bookies at the time of writing, and as far as natural successors to Craig go, you can't argue with a CV like Hardy's if you're looking for someone to portray a debonair, hard-nut agent. Given life as Bond is likely a decade-long commitment, however, the now 44-year-old Hardy might have already aged out of contention, and may be too much of an a-lister for a producer team that generally favours placing relative unknowns in the role.



CHANGE OF NAMES

USMAN	REGINA	PAM	AMARACHI	JOY	SALOME
I, formerly known as USMAN ABDULLAHI , now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as REGINA WURIM DAVOU , now wish to be known and addressed as REGINA JOHN JONDO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as BOT KANENG PWAJOK , now wish to be known and addressed as PAM KANENG SONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as AMARACHI GRACE NWOKOCHA , now wish to be known and addressed as AMARACHI GRACE OHAERI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as JOY ENE SAMUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as JOY ENE ROY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SALOME IBRAHIM BLESSING , now wish to be known and addressed as SALOME IBRAHIM GOTUS . All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth 18/7/1986 not 18/7/1984. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
YOHANNA	GYANG	MICHEAL	OSHIKOYA	GLORY	MAGIT
I, formerly known as DUNG STELLA JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA STELLA JOHN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as GYANG DAOVU PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as GYANG PAM DAVOU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ALEX JAMES NILL , now wish to be known and addressed as MICHEAL MOSES ODUBO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SALAMI OLUWABUNMI ESTHER (MISS) , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OSHIKOA OLUWABUNMI ESTHER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as GLORY AMINU DANBABA, NANDI AMINU DANBABA , now wish to be known and addressed as GLORY LUCAS ABRAHAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as BABALE JOSEPH, JOSEPH BABALE , now wish to be known and addressed as MAGIT BABALE JOSEPH . All former documents remain valid. GTB/UBA. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
EMMANUEL	ZAKARIYYA	RUKAYAT	ESIRI	MUHAMMAD	MUSA
I, formerly known as EMMANUEL STEPHEN JIBRIN , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL STEPHEN OFUKOWOICHO . Correct date of birth is September 26, 1985 not September 26, 1982. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ZAKARIYA ZULAIHAT , now wish to be known and addressed as ZAKARIYYA ZULAIHAT IBRAHIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS RUKAYAT LAWAL ABDUL-AZEEZ , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. RUKAYAT ABDUL-AZEEZ . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ESIRI CHIDEBERE FAITH , now wish to be known and addressed as ESIRI CHIDIEBERE LILIAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ISMAIL MUHAMMAD ABDULLAHI , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD ISMAIL HAMZA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as PANKYES JEPHTHER , now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA PANKYES JEPHTHER . Correct date of birth is 22/08/2000 not 22/4/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
BINVEN	ONYEABOR	EZEAKALAM	UFULLUL	DAMEN	AUWAL
I, formerly known as BINVAN LOHCIT , now wish to be known and addressed as BINVEN LOHCIT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ONYEABOR GRACIOUS CHINWENDU , now wish to be known and addressed as ONYEABOR CHINWENDU GRACE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as EZEAKALAM NKEMAKOLAM , now wish to be known and addressed as EZEAKALAM ROMANUS NKEMAKOLAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as RANDONG LUKA, UFULUL RANDONG LUKA , now wish to be known and addressed as UFULLUL RONDONG LUKA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NUNGNAAN SIMEON , now wish to be known and addressed as DAMEN SIMON KYEMOEN . All former documents remain valid. My correct date of birth is 19/07/2002 not 20/01/1992. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM AUWAL , now wish to be known and addressed as AUWAL IBRAHIM ALI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
DUNAYUWA	ABA	EZEADIUBU	JEREMIAH	LUKA	SALLAU
I, formerly known as JERIMOTH DUNAYUWA GRACE , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNAYUWA JERIMOTH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SUNDAY ITEH SIMON , now wish to be known and addressed as ABA ITEH SIMON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as AYEKE ESTHER ONYINYECHI , now wish to be known and addressed as EZEADIUBU ESTHER ONYINYECHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as JEREMIAH DAVOU BADUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as JEEMIAH DAUDA BADUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SAMSON LUKA OBU , now wish to be known and addressed as LUKA OBU SAMSON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NANDOM ZINGNIM , now wish to be known and addressed as SALLAU JULFA NINMUR-NANDOM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
EUNICE	DANJUMA	GABRIEL	RABIU	LUKLE	KUMUSU
I, formerly known as EUNICE DAVOU , now wish to be known and addressed as EUNICE EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAPREP NANKYEP SAMUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as DANJUMA NANKYER SAMUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as LEYITNA'AN HOSEA PANPO , now wish to be known and addressed as GABRIEL SUCCESS HOSEA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as IMMIAH LIANGSHAK , now wish to be known and addressed as RABIU BAIHAKI ISMAIL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NANDAK MANJI , now wish to be known and addressed as LUKLE NANDAK CLEMENT . All former documents remain valid. My correct date of birth is 07/07/1999 not 07/07/1995. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MALI SAMARIA WUJE , now wish to be known and addressed as KUMUSU SAMARIA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
MAGAJI	SUNDAY	PAM	NANRIBET	YUSUF	AUWAL
I, formerly known as NORO JULIET JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as MAGAJI NORO JULIET . All former documents remain valid. UBA and concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SUNDAY ESTHER , now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY ESTHER ACHA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PAM GARRY DAVOU , now wish to be known and addressed as PAM DAVOU GYANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as JACOB NANRIBET YANGSHWA , now wish to be known and addressed as JWANLE NANRIBET JACOB . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as YUSUF IBRAHIM JALO , now wish to be known and addressed as YUSUF IBRAHIM ADAMU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as AUWAL YAHYA , now wish to be known and addressed as AUWAL YAHAYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
AISHA	BARRI	MALLAM	HAKEEM	CYPRIAN	JOHN
I, formerly known as AISHA ABDULHADI JIBRIN , now wish to be known and addressed as AISHA ABDULMUMINI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BARRI SYLVESTER MAMGIM , now wish to be known and addressed as BARRI SYLVESTER SAMBO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as LADI DINFA , now wish to be known and addressed as MALLAM LADI RINDAP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SULEIMAN JAJI MUINAT , now wish to be known and addressed as HAKEEM MUINAT JAJI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as CYPRIAN MATYANJI , now wish to be known and addressed as CYPRIAN CHRISTIANA MAIYENJI . All former documents remain valid. My correct date of birth is 03/03/1973. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as AYUBA VERAH ANJACK , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN VERAH NIRI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
EMMANUEL	ISAH	UMMUSALMA	GOFWEN	ZUBAIRU	DANIEL
I, formerly known as EMMANUEL JENNIFER , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL JENNIFER DALYOP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ISA YUNUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as ISAH YUNUSA HASSAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as UMMISALMA MUHAMMAD , now wish to be known and addressed as UMMUSALMA UMAR MUHAMMAD . All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth is 01/01/1996 not 01/01/1994. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GOWOK GOFWEN , now wish to be known and addressed as GOFWEN WUFWINNA GOWOK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ZUBAIRU IBRAHIM , now wish to be known and addressed as ZUBAIRU IBRAHIM IDRIS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ESTHER DABO ITSE , now wish to be known and addressed as DANIEL JUMMAI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
FLORENCE	BWODE	ABUBAKAR	WAZZAM	OGBOFEMINI	ADELINE
I, formerly known as CHUNGUNG DUNG PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as FLORENCE CHUNDUNG DUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BWODE CHRISTABEL , now wish to be known and addressed as BWODE VOU CHRISTABEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as HALIMA AUWAL , now wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR HALIMA YUSUF . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as WAZZAM ALTI , now wish to be known and addressed as WAZZAM ALTIYO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as OGBOFEMINI SUNDAY SAMSON , now wish to be known and addressed as OGBOFEMINI CELESTINE SAMSON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ADELINE MOIDEN FANTO , now wish to be known and addressed as ADELINE TAHITANG PALMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
FLORENCE	BWODE	ABUBAKAR	OGBOFEMINI	ADELINE	KANDE
I, formerly known as CHUNGUNG DUNG PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as FLORENCE CHUNDUNG DUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BWODE CHRISTABEL , now wish to be known and addressed as BWODE VOU CHRISTABEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as HALIMA AUWAL , now wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR HALIMA YUSUF . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as OGBOFEMINI SUNDAY SAMSON , now wish to be known and addressed as OGBOFEMINI CELESTINE SAMSON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ADELINE MOIDEN FANTO , now wish to be known and addressed as ADELINE TAHITANG PALMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KANDE PAUL GOPEP , now wish to be known and addressed as KANDE DORCAS GOPEPL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

NEWS

Commissioner inspects work at NUJ Secretariate

By JIDAUNA DARING

COMMISSIONER for Information and Communication Plateau State, Hon. Dan Manjang has expressed satisfaction with the ongoing renovation work at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Plateau State Council Secretariat Jos.

Hon. Manjang stated this while inspecting level of work at the council secretariat in Jos, last Wednesday.

He disclosed that the work at the secretariat was long overdue, saying that the work would have been completed before now but due to some challenges, the contractor was unable to finish the work before now.

He said, it was because of the slow pace of work that Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State had to come and see the level of the work for himself.

Hon. Manjang described the total overhauling and renovation work as part of the rescue mission of Governor Lalong led administration in the state. He added that government also needs to do the needful by releasing necessary funds to the contractor handling the work, so as to avoid any further delay on the remaining work which would soon be completed.

The commissioner maintained that the Lalong led government has not had any challenges with the media on the Plateau. He pointed out that the media has continued to remain very supportive to the government, adding that they have equally enjoyed cordial working relationship with the media.

Commenting on Lalong legacy projects across the state, Manjang explained that they



Manjang

may not be able to finish all the projects, but would not relent in their efforts towards ensuring the completion of some of the projects before the expiration of the present administration's tenure.

Hon. Manjang disclosed that about 3 of the Lalong legacy projects have been taken over by the Federal Government for the establishment of Federal Institutions. This include: Government Secondary School (GSS) Ajikamai now converted to Federal Polytechnic Shendam; GSS Dengi now to be used for the proposed site of the Federal College of Education, Dengi in Kanam LGA; while GSS Riyom is also going to be used for the proposed site for School of Law, Jos.

NUJ Chairman, Plateau State Council, Mr. Paul Jatau thanked

the commissioner and his team for coming to inspect the level of work at the council secretariat. He affirmed that the work is now in serious progress. He said that with the speed of work, they are hoping that work will soon be completed and put to use for its members.

Mr. Jatau told the commissioner that the council would continue to maintain existing good or cordial working relationship with the present administration in the state at all times. Earlier in his remarks, the contractor handling the project, Mr. Yarima Balami while briefing the commissioner on the level of work said that the work on the building has reached 97% completion while the landscaping work is now at 95% completion.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Kogi State Commissioner for Finance, Ashiwaju Idris Ashiru has said that the rebuilding of the State House of Assembly Complex that got burnt about a week ago would have to wait until the funding situation improves.

"Until we get buyers for some of the state assets which have already been put up for sale like the Kogi Hotel and other assets. These would have to be sold for us to have more liquid to undertake many of our pending projects which include Kogi State House of Assembly Complex," the commissioner said.

He was speaking on Wednesday in Lokoja at the Citizens Engagement on 2023 budget organized by the Kogi State Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

Our correspondent recalls that the chamber of the state assembly went up in flames in the early hours of last Tuesday, ripping through the roof of the complex in what the speaker, Mathew Kolawole described as suspected act of "sabotage".

He however did not say from which quarter the sabotage was coming from. He stated that security operatives are working to unravel the

TY Foundation, CAVSI provide free eye surgery

By DUMAH RANDONG

THE TY Danjuma Foundation in collaboration with the Care Vision Support Initiative (CAVSI) is to provide free and comprehensive eye surgery to people with Cataracts, Glaucoma and other humanitarian services in Plateau State.

The health care

Burnt Assembly Complex to wait until finances improve

- commissioner

cause of the fire.

The commissioner called on citizens to help the state look for buyers so that the state can have more money to embark on the reconstruction of the building including the access road which is in a very bad shape.

Earlier, the commissioner had lamented the downturn in the economic prospect not only in the state and country but globally. He noted that "this is not the best of times for all nations."

"The last six years or thereabout have been very challenging nationally and globally. From recession in 2016 to Covid-19 in 2020, to Russia-Ukrainian war in 2022 to a multiplicity of domestic

issues, we can safely say that this not the best of times for all nations of the world.

He said that the last decades have been spent fighting insecurities which grew to a major crisis level in the last few years.

"Cumulatively, insecurity has incrementally dwarfed our productive capacity, which in effect, further escalated poverty, agitations and general instability in all facets of our national life," the commissioner noted.

He said that strategic conversation like the one organized by the ministry was therefore important to find solutions to our teeming problems.



Bello

TY Foundation, CAVSI provide free eye surgery

intervention which commenced at the Pankshin General Hospital is to last for the next five years, according to the Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation, Gima Forge. Forge who disclosed this while on courtesy visit on Governor Simon Lalong at Government House, Rayfiel, Jos, Wednesday, said the intervention was aimed at dealing with preventable blindness.

Forge said aside these, the foundation had delved into issues around maternal and child health, neglected tropical diseases and other humanitarian services such as improving quality teaching in the state.

According to the Chief Executive Officer, the Foundation was established in 2009 by General Theophilus Danjuma borne out of the need to deal with preventable blindness which was dear to the heart of the founder. He added that they have been partnering with the Care Vision Support Initiative, an NGO based in the state for

12 years providing eye care services across the country. The Foundation, he said provides grant for the screening of eye, health workers, medication and salaries for staff.

Governor Simon Lalong who spoke through his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, described the intervention as a welcome development, noting that the state had longed to be part of the beneficiaries at inception of the Foundation until now and thanked CAVSI for collaborative efforts.

On its part, Lalong said, government would do all that was possible to facilitate smooth operations of the Foundation within the five year period to enable them go round the state.

The areas of intervention which includes health care, education and skills acquisition would be of immense benefit to the people of the state. He promised to encourage the Association of Local Government of Nigeria, ALGON in the state to do the

Police rescues kidnapped victims, recover stolen item

THE Nigeria Police Command in Zamfara State said it rescued five kidnapped victims, recovered 11 rustled cows and stolen vehicle in Kaura Namoda, Birnin-Magaji and Gusau local government areas of the state.

This was contained in a statement issued in Gusau by the Public Relations Officer of the Command, SP Muhammad Shehu.

"In its determination and commitment to rid the state of dwindling security challenges, the Police Command in Zamfara has

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

made another breakthrough in three local government areas of Kaura Namoda, Birnin Magaji and Gusau.

"On February 4, police operatives attached to Operation Puff Adder, led by Divisional Police Officer of Kaura Namoda facilitated the unconditional release of five kidnapped victims who were abducted behind Namoda Secondary School and Zangon Danbade areas of Kaura Namoda town.

"All the rescued victims were medically treated, debriefed by the police and

reunited with their families.

"Efforts to apprehend the perpetrators is ongoing," Shehu said.

He also said that on February 3, another team of police operatives attached to Operation Puff Adder on market patrol at Nasarawa Godal in Birnin Magaji Local Government Area, received an intelligence report about some cows suspected to have been stolen from Maradun Local Government Area.

"The report was effectively utilized, where 11 cows were recovered and taken to police in Gusau for discreet investigation and identification of rightful owners.

"On February 6, a report was received at police station in Tudun Wada from one Hajiya Zainab Saidu of Gidan Dawa area of Gusau that on the same day, she parked her vehicle, and entered the market but the car was stolen.

"The police in Tudun wada quickly led police operatives and pursued the criminals to where the vehicle was abandoned and recovered at Premier Road

area, Gusau.

All the suspects fled before the arrival of the police," Shehu added.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr Abutu Yaro, commended the officers and men of the three police divisions for the wonderful achievements.

Yaro urged other divisions and formations to emulate them and work hard towards ensuring peace and safety of Zamfara.

Alkali appointed Gombe Internal Revenue board chair

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

GOMBE State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, has approved the appointment of Salihu Baba Alkali, as the Executive Chairman, Gombe State Board of Internal Revenue Service.

He succeeds Abubakar Inuwa Tata, who was appointed sometime in February 2020.

He was reputed to have initiated some positive reforms in the internal revenue generation organ of the state which were implemented by the

state government.

He recently initiated the Gombe State Revenue Recovery Tribunal, inaugurated on 04/10/2022, which has since commenced sitting.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi who conveyed the Governor's approval of Alkali's appointment and made available to newsmen by the Director General, Press Affairs, Government House, Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said the

appointment takes immediate effect.

The newly appointed Executive Chairman, Salihu Baba Alkali, is a retired Director at the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

A financial management and taxation expert, he is a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, Certified National Accountant of Nigeria and Nigerian Institute of Management.

He had previously served as Executive Chairman of Gombe State Board of Internal Revenue Service over a decade ago.



Alkali

NEWS

Bupwatda takes over as JUTH CMD

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has approved the appointment of Dr. Pokop W. Bupwatda as the new Chief Medical Director, (CMD) University of Jos Teaching Hospital (JUTH).

The appointment was conveyed in a letter signed by the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire and made available to newsmen in Abuja on Wednesday.

According to the press statement, the appointment is to take effect from 30th August, 2022 for an initial tenure of four years.

Congratulating the newly appointed CMD, Dr. Ehanire charged him to strive to add value to the facility in order to improve the economy and also justify the confidence reposed in him by the President.

"Health sector is a key sector of the economy; you should try to improve on the health facility in order to improve the economy, and the condition of



Bupwatda

the teaching hospital," the minister said.

Responding, the new CMD, Dr. Pokop Bupwatda expressed his appreciation to the Acting Director, Hospital Services, Dr. Bola Alonge, Director, Teaching Hospitals, Dr. Andrew Noah, Special Assistant to the Honourable Minister; I will work with all stakeholders to move the place forward," Dr.

THE Senate of Plateau State University Bokoos (PLASU), has approved the academic calendar and the resumption date for all students for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 academic sessions.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the PLASU Public Relations Officer, John K. Agam, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the state capital recently, following the suspension of ASUU strike.

According to the statement, the approved calendar indicated that all students of the university were to resume on Monday 18th October, 2022 and SIWES returnees were to complete their registration on resumption.

The statement said, "Lectures for 2020/2021 will continue on Monday 24th October, 2022 as well as lectures for 2021/2022 fresh students and stop on Saturday, 17th December, 2022 for the Christmas

PLASU Senate approves academic calendar/resumption

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

break.

The university is expected to close for Christmas break on Monday, 19th December, 2022 for a two - week Christmas and New Year break, which will last till Monday, 2nd January, 2023. The university will

formally resume from Christmas break on Tuesday 3rd January, 2023", it stated.

The Vice Chancellor, however, welcomed back all staff and students from the long period of strike and urged them to immediately settle down to cover lost ground and ensure stability in the system.



Izam

Chairman inaugurates committees on revenue collection

By DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

KARU Local Government Chairman, Honourable James Thomas (Jarumin Kodape), has inaugurated an 8 man Revenue Committee to steer the affairs of revenue collection in the council.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to Karu Local Government Chairman, Comrade Danbaba Uba Magaji on Wednesday.

According to the statement, the Executive Chairman, through the council Secretary, Hon Utoh Vakpa Danladi explained that the main responsibility of the committee was to carry out revenue assessment and collection.

He urged committee members to put in their best, adding that they would all be assessed based on their performance and anyone that failed to perform creditably, would be shown the exit way.

The chairman, also added that, the defunct task force on

revenue has been dissolved, and that the newly inaugurated committee is to mop out the areas that were left out during the revenue collection exercise for the year 2022.

The committee members are: Awuya Lazarus, Chairman, Mark Hosea, member, Mary David, member, Mohammed Bawa, member, Jekada Victor Naye, member, Abdullahi Bissalla, member, Egbe W. Moses, member, Ephraim Iyakwari, Secretary.

Speaking on behalf of the committee members, Mr Lazarus Awuya appreciated the authority of the local government for finding them worthy to serve in that capacity, assuring that they will block all leakages in revenue collection.

In the meantime, another eight (8) man Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility was also inaugurated by the executive chairman, who are saddled with the responsibility of collecting names of companies, institutions and NGOs for more collaboration with the council area on

infrastructural development in the area.

Below are the committee members; Hon. Emmanuel Cheto Price, Chairman, Ahmed

MANGAL Cement to build housing units for community

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE management of MANGAL Industry Limited has promised to build 52 units of different block houses at Iluagba community in Ijumu Local Government Area of Kogi State to relocate residents whose houses are close to its plan.

The Managing Director of the company, Alhaji Fahad Dahiru disclosed this while fielding questions from journalists during Kogi State House of Assembly Adhoc Investigative Hearing which held at Edge-drive Hotel Lokoja, recently.

According to him, the Federal Ministry of Environment had advised the industry to relocate residents who are close to the plant and build for them block houses.

"The residents whose mud and thatch buildings in the host community, Iluagba, are about 52 in number will be compensated with one, two and three bed room flats," he said.

He said that the industry had earlier contributed to the supply of farm inputs, provided portable water and electricity for the community.

Earlier at the sitting, the

Balarebe, Musa, member, Nanza Emmanuel, member, Hon. Bulus. Auta, member, Hon. Habibu Bulus, member, Hon. Nathan Francis, member, Lydia Mark Auta, Secretary.

Managing Director had revealed that the industry bought the land

from the community and submitted some documents to the Adhoc Committee. The industry is to

reappear before the committee on another scheduled date for further questions.

Kogi vows to sustain priority for quality education

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Kogi State Government has given an assurance that its priority to provide the people with quality education will be sustained.

Towards achieving the goal, Governor Yahaya Bello's led administration

is set to launch Education Revolution with the provision of quality infrastructure in schools and recruitment of teachers.

The Commissioner for Education, Wemi Jones,

disclosed this while briefing journalists after a tour of facilities at the new GYB Model Science Secondary School, Adankolo in Lokoja, by the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kogi State Council.

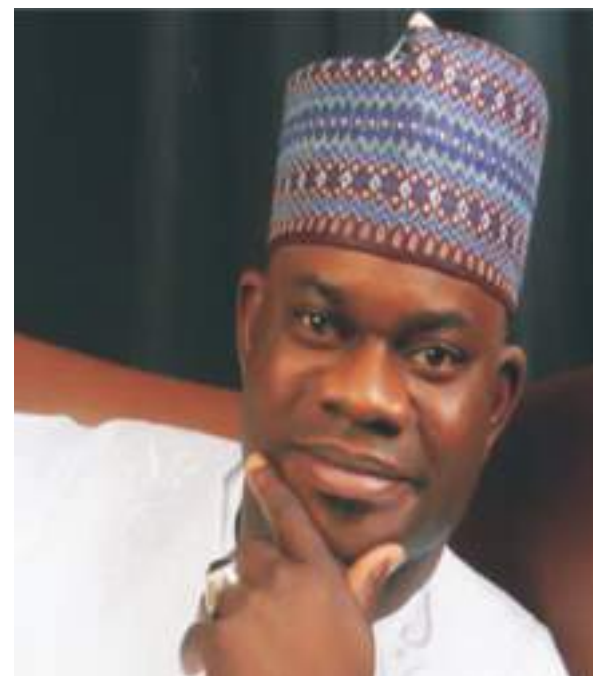
He also hinted that the model science schools were scattered across the state as part of the legacy edifices of the Yahaya Bello administration.

He announced the state government's plan to employ 3,979 teachers, adding that 3,100 had passed the qualifying test. He assured that the exercise would be continuous.

Chairman Kogi NUJ, Adeiza Momo Jimoh, commended the state government for its achievements in the education sector, noting with dissatisfaction government's failure to carry the press along, thus keeping the citizens in the dark.



Sule



Bello

NEWS

Senate summons Minister of Niger Delta Affairs

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

SENATE has summoned the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Mr. Umana Okon Umana over alleged plot to siphon N480 billion intervention fund belonging to the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC and domiciled in the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN without approval of the National Assembly.

The minister is expected to appear before the Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions, chaired by Senator Ayo Akinyelure (PDP Ondo Central) upon receipt of petition being investigated by the panel.

According to the petition, Umana has perfected plans to seek Presidential approval to collect the money on the guise that it would be spent on special projects in the Niger Delta region.

Addressing journalists at the National Assembly Complex in Abuja, Senator Akinyelure said: "There is N480 billion funds in a CBN account. Umana Umana is said to have perfected ways to present some new projects to President Muhammadu Buhari to approve it for him to start using the money to implement projects that are not appropriated by National Assembly."

"The power of appropriation is conferred on the National Assembly not on Mr. President. Mr. President, can only give approval for service Wide Votes when the money appropriated by the National Assembly is not adequate to implement some projects meant for a particular state or region," he stressed.

Senator Akinyelure said several other allegations were levelled against Umana; among which is his refusal to forward two annual budgets of the NDDC (2021 and 2022) to the National Assembly for approval while money is being spent by the commission on the orders of the minister therefore taking the power of appropriations to himself.

He said: "The president has in his wisdom deemed it fit to appropriate funds to the Niger Delta region but the minister has refused to bring the appropriation before the National Assembly for us democratically elected representatives of the people to give approval. They have refused to do so. There are a lot of higher level mismanagement of resources."

"Because we are entering an election year, this is the fear of the Niger Delta people. We are entering an election year. We have less than seven months for Mr. President to say bye bye to Nigeria and he has a legacy to prove that he loves (the country)."

"Why must the budget of 2021 and 2022 be held by the minister by collaborating with some people who do not love the



Lawan

people of the Niger Delta region not to bring his budget for National Assembly when we are ready to pass the budget of NDDC.

"The budget of other similar agencies were brought by their ministers and they have been approved by the National Assembly."

The minister is also summoned to explain why he sacked over 100 NDDC staff therefore increasing the level of unemployment in the country.

"On his assumption of office as the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, he sacked over 100 staff to compound the problem of Nigerians. We have received documentary evidence to back this allegation."

"He is there in the Niger Delta Affairs Ministry to pursue personal agenda, instead of pursuing the agenda of the people of Niger Delta region,"

PENGASSAN seeks solution to energy transition on workers

From DORCAS PANKYES

THE Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) is seeking solution to the effects of energy transition on workers.

Speaking at Energy and Labour Summit organized by the association to brainstorm on challenges facing the sector, President of PENGASSAN, Comrade Festus Osifo said the association is concerned about the job on her members.

He said "Energy transition remains a global burning issue as it affects all sectors and nations regardless of location or affiliation. But in all of these conversations, the attention and discussions have been many on investments, climate, profits and little or no focus on the workers who ensure all other factors of production are assembled."

"It is on this premise that our association, being proactive and poised to protecting the job of its workforce, chose to organize the PENGASSAN Energy and Labour Summit with the theme "Energy

Senator Akinyelure further alleged.

Similarly, the minister was also accused of plotting to sack the current NDDC Sole Administrator, Effiong Akwa who was appointed by President Buhari and have him replaced by one of his cronies.

The petition before the Senate also accused Umana of deliberate refusal to inaugurate the NDDC board.

Senator Akinyelure, therefore, disclosed that the minister had been invited to appear before the committee on November 10 to provide answers to all the allegations.

"We are giving you a fair hearing to come on the 10th of November to come and defend these allegations and say no, you never make any attempt to remove the appointee of Mr. President," he said.



Sylva

Transition and Its Effects on the Workforce in the Nigeria oil and Gas Sector

"The purpose of this summit is to brainstorm on how the transition can be best sailed, how it will affect the workforce that are the most important asset and by extension their families and dependents and how it can birth maximum value to the nation."

"We hope that the summit will reveal what the working class in the oil and gas industry have

FEARS have been raised by the Mbula people on the effects of the flood that has wrecked havoc along the river banks of the Benue River.

Chiefly among these fears is its effect on children who are already showing signs of emaciation.

Addressing newsmen at the N.U.J. Press Centre in Yola, the Adamawa State capital on Thursday, spokesman of the National Association of Mbula Mwashat Youth, Emmanuel Nathaniel Ali equally said many people affected by the flood are refusing to leave their ancestral homes even after losing their homes and foodstuff.

According to Emmanuel, "while the situation is controllable, our people can no longer continue to live on relief materials each time flooding occurs".

Community expresses fear over effects of flood

From GYANG PAM, Yola

The Mbula youths disclosed that the communities have been taken over by flood displacing quite a number of families while others who are conservatives prefer to remain in their ancestral homes in spite of the fact that their houses have been destroyed.

Furthermore, they said it is the predisposing factors for diseases, causing organisms to thrive occasioned by the floods.

The youths commended the state government, the

Borrong and Demsa for their untiring efforts at ensuring the comfort of their people.

They also praised the motion presented by Senator Binos Yaroe calling for the dredging of the Benue River but wondered why the Federal Government has failed to complete work on the Dasin Hausa Dam in Dasin Village of Fufore.

"From 1982 till date, it hasn't but enough damage has been done by floods", they said.

Answering a question however, they did not give casualty figures.

GAC commends Bauchi for sustaining interventions

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

GLOBAL Affairs Canada (GAC) has commended Bauchi State Government for its sustainability plan and replicating interventions carried out by GAC throughout the state.

The new head of Development and Cooperation of the Canadian High Commission in Nigeria, Djifa Ahado, gave the pass mark to Bauchi State government when she paid a courtesy visit to Governor Bala Mohammed, at the council chamber of the Government House, Bauchi recently.

The Canadian High Commission expressed delight with the commitment shown by Bauchi State Government in not only continuing with its intervention in the state, but also replicating it across the entire state.

She however, lamented the persistent maternal, newborn and child mortality and morbidity in the state, but expressed hope that concerted efforts will be intensified in reversing the trend. She particularly stressed on the need for the



Bala

state government to strengthen its human resource for health and infrastructure network to make quality health care services accessible to people, especially those in the core rural areas.

Ahado stated that because of the successes recorded in some of the interventions in the state, GAC intends to make Bauchi State reference point and model to be studied by other states in Nigeria.

Also speaking, the Chief of UNICEF Field Office, Bauchi, Dr. Tushar Rane said the Government of Canada has made available the sum of three million dollars assistance to the Bauchi State Government to fast track and strengthen women and children engagement, geared towards making quality health service accessible.

Dr. Rane who was represented by the health specialist in the field office, Emmanuel Emedo said the 3 million dollars was meant to strengthen the implementation of some of the ongoing interventions of GAC and other partners in health care services in Bauchi State that were captured in an MoU signed by both parties.

"We are working through the Bauchi State Primary Healthcare Development Agency and other partners in the MoU, and we are working in all the 323 wards of the state empowering women for their engagements in health service delivery," he said.

In his response, Governor Bala Mohammed expressed

gratitude to Global Affairs Canada for its viable interventions in the state and choosing Bauchi State to be a reference point and model to be studied by other states. He said that "the state will jealously guard the ranking and not fake it for granted".

He said the state government has developed a robust sustainability framework to ensure that gains recorded from development partners do not wither away as interventions exit.

Governor Mohammed appreciated GAC's intervention in the rice, groundnut and soybeans value chain under its MEDA Nigeria-WAY Project that is being implemented in 7 LGAs of the state. He also acknowledged the positive impact of the Livelihood Empowerment Programme being implemented in the state by Oxfam Nigeria.

He then assured the delegation that the state has since commenced the understudy of the implementation processes of the interventions with a view to sustaining and replicating the same across the entire state.

He informed the delegation that the state government, through the Agency for Microfinance has designed a programme tagged MIFIN in an effort to pick up from where GAC intervention ends.

He assured of government's resolve towards meeting its obligations in all arrangements made with its partners.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



ASUU strike aftermath: Is university crisis over?

Continued from Page 10

persons would have been through with their undergraduate, post graduate and other levels in their academic pursuits, but were left stuck.

Likely challenges students might encounter are over flow of students on campus as school resumes for registration of new students which was truncated by the strike. Fresh students alongside existing ones would inevitably be vying for accommodation in various hostels.

It is likely that due to time lost during the strike, students should be prepared to make up for the lost time by resuming early so as not to miss vital things. It is expected that semester breaks might be minimized or not available as schools try to make up for lost time by getting their calendar back on track. Students should not rule out writing exams any moment soon as such had happened in the past and it cannot be ruled out.

The leadership of National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) was at the National Assembly for a thank you visit to the Speaker of the house of Representatives, Femi Gbajabamila for his active role for settling the

lingered dispute between ASUU and Federal Government which finally led to the suspension of the strike.

NANS President, Usman Barambu said "the visit was to show the appreciation of Nigerian students for the effort you put into the resolution of ASUU crisis". Barambu also put before the Speaker the request of the students regarding the possibility of authorities waive a year of the school calendar in order to usher in proper academic work, having lost almost three years due to COVID -19 pandemic and the ASUU strike.

The students also appealed for the Speaker's intervention on the possibility of also waiving the National Youth Service Corps service age for graduates who might have passed the age limit as a result of time lost during the strike. This is a dicey issue awaiting desired results tabled before the law maker for consideration at the lower chamber of the National Assembly. Any nation that does not prioritize education can hardly achieve reasonable goals. It's sad that the effects of their fights are usually on the students. The Federal Government must be sincere while signing

agreements in the future to ensure peace on the campuses.

Lecturers on their own part have gone through a lot as a result of the 'no work no pay' policy that has grounded them thereby causing untold hardship on many. This development will need them to redouble their efforts towards ensuring that the needful is done for smooth academic takeoff.

Survey of the compliance level by students and lecturers after the suspension of the strike action is below expectation as most environments are not fully charged for takeoff as only skeletal activities are observed.

On the Plateau and at University of Jos, the President of Students Union Government, Danladi Joshua Adankala in a chat with Sunday Standard gave an insight into its activities at the institution after the suspension of the strike action by ASUU. He said, registration was ongoing even though most of the processes are online and the presence of students may not be seen much on campus at the moment. Sensitive to the plight of students at this critical time, the president appealed to the University authority through the Dean of

Students Affairs Dr. Chris Piwuna to allow students clear the grasses and fumigate the environment and get paid instead of contracting it out. This is with a view to cushioning the effects of the hard times being faced in the country today.

The likely challenge which students might faced from this conditional suspension of strike by ASUU is what was clearly stated by its president last week that they have not been paid and have no transport to school. The fear according to Adankala is that "lecturers might not fully resume normal duty if they are not paid even though the official resumption is on paper. We cannot guarantee that lectures will continue even though calendars have been released, Senate needs to sit and deliberate on resumption possibly on Tuesday next week. We are appealing to the Federal Government to fulfill its own side of the agreement by paying these lecturers so as to enable them do their part as none of their demands has not been settled as they respected them court order as law abiding citizens of this country".

The students' union body has set up a committee to monitor the safe return of all students on campus and will liaise with Landlords of off campus

students. The committee is expected to see to the fair consideration in regards to rent upon resumption as it is understood that the economic situation of the country is not favourable and strike has caused a lot of loses hence the need for students to be considered in such times.

The educational system in Nigeria no doubt needs to be given adequate attention to give the future leaders hope in their fatherland. The Federal Government needs to intensify its effort to meet up with UNICEF expected annual budgetary allocation for the education sub sector. Sadly, it faulted Nigeria's 2022 education budget saying, it ought to be 1.14 trillion, an equivalent of 8.4 percent of the country's total annual budget and not 5.4 percent which falls below standard.

It is on record that in 2021, education budget was the lowest in ten years. Out of 13.08 trillion budgeted 742.5 billion only was allotted to the entire education sector. This development did not speak volume of the way and manner a crucial and sensitive issue as such should be handled in its totality. Though lecturers are resuming for lectures after this avoidable strike, many citizens of this country as still apprehensive that without concrete consensus, the crisis facing our tertiary institutions in the country may be far from over.

METRO-FOCUS

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

Citizens, taking up public space

THE rate at which citizens misuse government property and space within Jos metropolis and environs is becoming alarming. On a daily basis, public property, infrastructure and public space are being destroyed and vandalized in their numbers and our environment desecrated with government losing millions of naira for repairs and sometimes replacement of these infrastructure.

These are funds that could have been channeled to other sectors of the economy and human development projects that can benefit the populace, but due to people's lack of respect for public property and lack of maintenance.

Unfortunately, public infrastructure such as parks and gardens, bridges, traffic lights and street lights, road sign boards, road medians, bus stop shelters, public waste bins, drainages, roads, electricity poles and cables and a host of others are state owned properties that were actually put in place with tax payers' money for the general benefit of the society. However, they are being destroyed or misused. Worse still, looked upon as nobody's business.

METRO FOCUS went round the city centre of Jos metropolis and reports that the JMDB Complex, popularly known as Abuja Market, situated within the axis of Terminus Market has over the time become crowded with economic activities that have taken the public space of motorists and pedestrians. The situation deprives commuters access to pavements and movement of both commuters and motorists is hampered.

Similarly, shop owners within the JMDB Complex and outside have not only occupied their shops to a full capacity but extended the shops, blocking path way of customers with their goods which take up everywhere.

Again, hawkers have taken over the streets of the city centre by displaying their goods within the public space provided by government for easy access and movement of both pedestrians and motorists. The situation is so bad that access roads have been narrowed by their wheel barrows or mobile shops. Their presence make parking a harlequin task. All this add up to make the city centre rowdy. Car owners are also having a bad experience getting parking space. This means money that would have come to government through 'park and pay is being discouraged.

The Ahmadu Bello Way, Rwang Pam Street, Murtala Mohammad way (Old JUTH), Terminus Market, Maman Tapgun roundabout, Tafawa Balewa Street, through Riders Park, Church Street behind (Luka



Bentu Theatre), Panyam Street, Yan Taya, through AP Filling Station, Old Bukuru Park, Farin Gada Market, Katako Market have become congested with beehive of economic activities, leaving citizens at the mercy of traders that have taken public space to their own advantage. METRO FOCUS observed that the attitude shown by individuals over government owned properties in public space is getting worse by the day. One aspect to this is that most people don't care about their personal hygiene let alone that of others.

Within Jos centre, littering has become the order of the day, where refuse is dumped indiscriminately in any public space, polluting the environment, despite refuse dump sites that were provided by government in other to curtail littering and the spread of diseases.

The popular Late Baba Paul Gindiri Over head Bridge at



Dadin Kowa II gate is another eye sore that citizens have turned to a refuse dump not minding the health hazards it constitutes to pedestrians and motorists.

Unfortunately, Plateau State, the beautiful has invested more funds to restrain by constructing concrete reinforcements on the road to protect some flower trees meant to beautify the landscape. People have rammed and matched on them, destroying such facilities that

were meant to beautify the city, but turned into shadow of itself. Plateau State governments should ensure full compliance of laws to maintain order. It should not hesitate to use the apparatus of the state within its disposal to enforce the law. People should on their part develop a civic sense and imbibe the culture of discipline and respect for law and order.

Government needs to revisit enforcement and ensure that offenders face the wrath of the

law, to serve as deterrent to others, while appropriate structures should be put on ground to monitor and protect public properties such that vandals would be caught in the act.

It was suggested that to achieve this feat, government should introduce the Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI), which Lagos State Government created to deal with citizens that are not discipline.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

MANJANG INSPECTS REMODELED NUJ SECRETARIAT

Plateau State Commissioner of Information and Communication, Hon. Dan Manjang with his management team last week inspected the remodeled Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) State Secretariat, Jos



Hon. Manjang, flanked by his management team on arrival



Front view of the remodeled NUJ State Secretariat



Mr. Paul Jatau, NUJ State Chairman (right) welcoming the Commissioner and his team



Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner of Information (right) with the Ministry's Director for the New Media, Mr. Wulime Goyit



Engineer handling the remodeling of the NUJ Secretariat, Engr. Yarima Balami (right) taking the team round the project site



Commissioner of Information, Hon. Dan Manjang (left) Mr. Jabbe Detawo Atu, State NUJ Assistant Secretary



Commissioner for Information, Hon. Manjang, NUJ Chairman, Paul Jatau, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Sunday Dagwom, some members of NUJ EXCO and Directors of Information in a group photograph



Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner for Information stressing some points to the Engineer during the inspection visit.

Photos: Danladi Duk

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 SAFER TOGETHER

NEWS

Lalong commissions 50 bed hospital in Kwande

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

PLATEAU State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, CON, has rated the family of Miskoom Peter and Nnah Anna Bawa for their great sacrifice to construct a state of the art hospital in Kwo Chiefdom of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Area to help cushion the health challenge of their people.

The Governor made the commendation Thursday, while commissioning the state of the art Peter Bawa and Anna Memorial Hospital, Kwande constructed by Miskoom Dr. Godfrey Peter Bawa Shitgurum, the Noetsen of Kwo Chiefdom and family in memory of their late parents.

Represented by the State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Sylvanus Taggun, he said, "I am here not to commission this gigantic edifice, but to share with you the goodness of this day. This is one clear example of how our people's level is being raised."



Shitgurum

"I want to thank this family for the blessing that has been on them and also wish to pass it to their father and mother land to show that they are part and parcel of this land. I want to also wish you success wholeheartedly on behalf of the government and people of Plateau State because this is another blessing that has come to Kwo Chiefdom and Plateau State", Lalong commended.

On his part, the Executive Chairman of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council, Hon. Ernest Da'a, appreciated the Bawa family for their kind gesture and pledged the council's readiness to partner with the hospital in so many ways when needs arise.

He quoted that, "as a Christian, we know that, the Bible says that, on the last day, God will ask whether we had visited him in the hospital or cloth him when he needed to be clothed, or given him food. But in your own case,

you did not only visit the sick, but you brought the hospital to our home".

Also, former member, House of Representatives from Nasarawa State, Hon. Ahmed Wadada Aliyu said, "We bless God for the Bawas! It is one thing for you to have the wherewithal and it is completely a different ball game for you to be blessed by God to want to use the wherewithal to bless people, particularly, by taking care of health needs. For me, I pray for them, commend them and I am challenged because I am a leader".

However, His Royal Highness, Miskoom Fidelis Longtoe Attahiru I, the Long Kwo of Kwo Chiefdom, commended the Shitgurum family and charged sons and daughters of the Kwo Chiefdom to cherish and honour this great gesture. In his words, "Under my watch, I promise the Shitgurum family that i will do everything

possible to maintain and sustain this great gesture".

Meanwhile, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Peter Bawa and Anna Foundation and the donor, Miskoom Dr. Godfrey Peter Bawa, said, "I feel great, I feel honoured and satisfied that, after we serve God, we will serve humanity. We have given the hospital. It is now left for them to sit down with the Long Kwo who is in charge of the hospital and know what to do.

The Hospital which is to be operated as a health insurance medical outfit for their people would be owned and managed by Peter Bawa and Anna Foundation. It could be equated with a Specialist Hospital because the services rendered. It has fifty bed capacity, has facilities for both in -patients and out-patients and emergency facilities like ambulance and mortuary respectively.

TYRES are meant to wear out eventually. Even the best quality tyres will age with time and have to be replaced irrespective of whether they are use or not. However, tyre lifespan can be extended with some basic preventive maintenance and care. If these tyre care and maintenance tips are practiced regularly during day to day driving and before embarking on long trips your tyres will last longer and serve you better:

Tyre safety

Maintain the right and correct pressure

Most of the problems stem from improper inflation. Keeping your tyre properly inflated is critical to maintaining the life of your tyres, thereby maximizing the fuel economy and most importantly keeping you and other passengers safe. The maximum pressure that the tyre can hold is embossed on the sidewall of the tyre. That however is the maximum limit and may not be the actual you want to inflate your tyres with. You can find the exact tyre pressure in your owner's manual and on the placard placed on the driver's doors. Depending on the usage of the tyre, it is generally recommended that you check your tyre pressure at least once in a fortnight (once every two weeks)

Check your tyre tread depth

The tread depth of your

tyres must always be more than 2/32 inches. If your tread depth reaches this limit, it is considered unsafe and must be replaced. The more the tread depth the better the grip and braking capacity of the tyres.

Check your wheel alignment periodically

Wheel alignment is getting the wheel at the right angles, pointing the right direction. If you hit a curb or a bump over a pothole, it could throw the wheels out of alignment. Wheels that are out of alignment accelerate tyre wear. Check your alignment at least once in every 700 kilometres to prevent premature and uneven wear of your tyres.

Ensure you get your tyres properly rotated

Tyre rotation is best done every 1000 kilometres. This is good time to take your car to a tyres dealer and have them rotate your tyres and check your brakes, suspension and other important car components.

Maintain good driving habits

Erratic driving most often causes tyres to wear out quickly. Accelerating and slamming the brakes suddenly leads to tyre damage. Drive smoothly and carefully.

Choose your tyres well

If you wish to get maximum life from your

tyres, pay attention to the quality of the tyres you buy. Along with the trye brand, you must ensure that the tyre size exactly matches the manufacturer's recommended size. This will prevent early tyre wear, improve fuel efficiency and increase their longevity.

Replace your tyre as and when due

If you don't use your tyres they will dry rot. If you do not use them quite often, it is possible to still have maximum tread but you will notice cracks on the tyres an indication of rot and damage. Hence, even though you have enough tread you will have to replace them.

Clean your tyres

Simply wash your tyres with soap and water and remove dust from the wheels. Cleaning your tyres is not only important to enhance the aesthetic look of your car but is also a significant maintenance step that can prevent your tyres from cracking and discoloration. Following these simple tips will increase the lifespan of your tyres, prevent unnecessary expenditure on repairs, increase safety and enhance performance. A seasoned tyre dealer can help you with all these services and also give you the most accurate advice on tyre maintenance.

Troops arrest suspected NIMC officials in Niger

TWO suspected fake National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) officials have been arrested in Niger Republic for allegedly enrolling non-Nigerians for National Identity Number (NUM).

The Director of Defence Media Operations, Major General Musa Danmadami disclosed this during the biweekly briefing at the Defence Headquarters where he highlighted the achievements recorded by the military between October the 6th and 20th, 2022.

It was revealed that the suspects had visited Gagamari IDP camp in Niger Republic to register non-Nigerians in the IDP camp.

Items recovered from the suspects include National Identification Number (NIN) registration machine, printing machine, laminating machine, a computer tracking machine and a

generator set among other items.

Consequently, during the weeks in focus, 31 suspected Boko Haram/Islamic State of West Africa Province members were neutralized, ten were arrested and two civilians were rescued while a total of three hundred and sixty-six (360) Boko Haram terrorists and their families surrendered to troops at different locations within the theatre.

According to the military spokesman, all recovered items, arrested terrorists, logistics suppliers and rescued civilians have been handed over to the appropriate authority for further action while the surrendered Boko Haram/Islamic State of West Africa Province terrorists and their families are being profiled for further action.

General Danmadami said

during the period under review, thirty-one suspected Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province members were neutralized, ten were arrested and two civilians were rescued while a total of three hundred and sixty-six (360) Boko Haram terrorists and their families surrendered to troops at different locations.



Yahaya



CHANGE OF NAMES

KOSOKO	ROSELINE	HAMID	MONICA	SAGIRU	OBADIAH
I, variously known as KOSOKO ADEYEMI ADESINA, KOSOKO YEMI, KOSOKO ADEYEMI , now wish to be known and addressed as KOSOKO ADEYEMI ADESINA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as THOMAS ROSE , now wish to be known and addressed as ROSELINE PEKWOT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as HAMID GULAY ABDUSELAM , now wish to be known and addressed as HAMID ABDUSELAM GULAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MONICA SAJO ADAMS and MONICA SAJO , now wish to be known and addressed as MONICA SAJO ADAMU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SEGIRU GARUBA , now wish to be known and addressed as SAGIRU GARBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as OBADIAH FAVOUR , now wish to be known and addressed as OBADIAH FAVOUR KAR'AN . All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth 18/7/1986 not 18/7/1984. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
SIDI	JA'AFAR	KATZUGHUM	YARMA	NDUBUISI	ENKAT
I, formerly known as HAAR DANJUMA SIDI , now wish to be known and addressed as SIDI HAAROVYN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JAFAI HADIZA , now wish to be known and addressed as JA'AFAR HADIZA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as CHISHAK MIRACLE NUHU , now wish to be known and addressed as KATZUGHUM MIRACLE NUHU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as GADI YIRMA IBRAHIM , now wish to be known and addressed as YARMA IBRAHIM DAMANG . All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth is 16/8/1990 not 16/8/1986. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NDUBUISI LUCKY , now wish to be known and addressed as NDUBUISI LUCKY CHIDI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as LONGKWANG ENKAT JESSICA , now wish to be known and addressed as ENKAT JESSICA NAWAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
ALIYU	RABIATU	TONGWE	TITUS	JAMILA	OPARA
I, formerly known as ALIYU YUSUF NADABO , now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU NADABO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as RAIATU YAKUBU , now wish to be known and addressed as RABIATU MUSA YAKUBU . My date of birth is 9/7/1977. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DANJUMA DAHDO T. and ADO DANJUMA JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as TONGWE DANJUMA DAHDO . Date of birth is 10/08/1978 to 10/05/1982. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as PARWUL YILMUK CLEMENTINA , now wish to be known and addressed as TITUS CLEMENTINA BABY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as JAMILA HUSSAINI HUSSAINI , now wish to be known and addressed as JAMILA ALIYU . Correct date of birth is 18-02-1985 not 1-1-1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI FATIMA HELMA , now wish to be known and addressed as OPARA JOY CHINYERE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
MOHAMMED	GAVEN	BAGERE	SANDRA	NANYA	ZHIRPAR
I, formerly known as MUHAMMAD NASIRU BABALLE , now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED NASIRU MOHAMMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NANLOH PONSEL GAVEN , now wish to be known and addressed as GAVEN PONSEL ABRAHAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NYORO CHRISTIANA MARLOW , now wish to be known and addressed as BAGERE FILIBUS CHRISTIANA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SANDRA OYENMWEN OBASOHAN , now wish to be known and addressed as SANDRA ELISHA BATURE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as NANYA SOLOMON , now wish to be known and addressed as NANYA SHETUR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ZHIKPAR L. NANPON , now wish to be known and addressed as ZHIRPAR LOHWEN . All former documents remain valid. GTB/UBA. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF SCHOOL NAME

The general public is hereby notify that **DASTU COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMY MARABA PUSHIT** wish to change its name to **ST PETER'S COLLEGE PUSHIT**. Henceforth the school will be known and addresses as **ST. PETER'S COLLEGE PUSHIT**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to take note.

Signed: Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME ON PREPAID METER

The general public is hereby notify of the change of name on prepaid meter No. 0101170255059 issued to me by Jos Electricity Distribution Plc with the name **LANDLORD**, now wish to change the name to **PHILIP SANI AJIJI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorizes and the general public to take note.

Signed: PHILIP SANI AJIJI

ALEXANDER

I, formerly known as **DAKUL CHRISTIANA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ALEXANDER CHRISTIANA**. All former documents remain valid. GTB/UBA. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

BINTA

I, formerly known as **BINTA BELLO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BINTA GARBA**. Date of birth is 17/09/1970 to 17/09/1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NEWS

Police arrest suspected attackers of Senator Ubah

OPERATIVES of the Anambra State Police have arrested some of the suspected gunmen, who allegedly attacked Senator Ifeanyi Ubah's convoy and killed some security personnel.

Anambra State governor, Prof. Charles Chukwuma Soludo, disclosed this on Friday, when he visited Enugwu-Ukwu in Njikoka Local Government Area of the state.

The Governor was in the community for the burial of Pa Boniface Nwankwo, the father to House Of Representatives member of Soludo for Dunukofia/Njikoka/Ana

community that some elements chose to attack Senator Ifeanyi Ubah. I want to tell you that we have arrested a number of those involved in that attack. We are still on the trail of the remaining people.

"We will not let people like that define who we are. This is Anambra State, and we are peaceful people. We must embrace peace, even in the coming election.

"Anambra is peaceful, Anambra is safe. We have chased away bad elements in the state. The pockets of crime you hear of are just a small number of the bad elements left.

"They will not disappear in one night, even in civilised places, there are still few bad elements."

Insecurity: TY Danjuma restate call for self defence

FORMER Chief of Army Staff, General TY Danjuma has stated that he was vindicated by the statement he made years ago calling on citizens to defend themselves against bandits since the military failed to protect them.

General Danjuma, in his remarks on Saturday during the installation of the Aku Uka of Wukari, His Majesty Manu Ishaku Adda Ali, also recalled how the military dismissed his claims and how the current mayhem carried out by bandits was a confirmation of his fears.

"Our country is under siege by armed bandits. When some few years ago I warned that the armed forces are either not capable or unwilling to protect us and that we must defend ourselves, the first denial came from the Ministry of Defence. They said I was lying and set up a kangaroo committee to find out if it was true. They invited me but I didn't go. They wrote that report and said there was no evidence. Now there is evidence. The country is being overrun," he stated.

He reiterated his call on citizens to defend themselves since they have the numerical strength and owned the land.

"Those invaders are not Muslims but the casualties are Muslims. As a soldier, my training teaches me that the best defence is attacks. Right now, we are all sitting dogs. These people are armed to the teeth and we don't have but we have the numbers and the land belongs to us.

"They are trying to re-colonize us and take over our land... God that has given us this land will give us the courage to root them out. This we must do or Nigeria is finished," he added.

In his speech, Governor of Plateau state and Chairman, Northern Governor's Forum, Barrister Simon Lalong disclosed that the northern governors were making moves to provide a constitutional role for traditional rulers.

While acknowledging the bridge under construction in Ibi, he promised to complete the road from Yelwa to Ibi while his counterpart, Governor Ishaku would complete the road from Wukari to Ibi.

Governor Darius Ishaku, in his remarks pleaded with the federal government for the speedy completion of Ibi bridge before the end of this administration. He urged the traditional ruler to distinguish the good people from the bad people in his domain and hand them over to the security. He also warned traditional rulers against engaging in politics.

Sultan of Sokoto, Dr. Abubakar Saad II, assured the chieftom of the total support of the sultanate.

"We will work with you. We are not strangers to Wukari. History has shown that we are part of Wukari. Sultan Tambari has his tomb here in Wukari," he stated.

The new Aku Uka, His Majesty Manu Ishaku Adda Ali, Matakitswen is the 25th Aku Uka.

SUNDAY FEATURE

Preserving monument: Importance of Zaria Moque in Museum

The need to preserve and conserve the replica of monument the Zaria Masallaci (Mosque) in Museum of Nigeria traditional architecture (Motna), Jos. SULE PHILIP SHALLANGWA writes.

THE Masallaci juma'a in Zaria, the main hall of which is called Uwar Masallaci, was erected during the reign of Abdulkarim (1834-46) of the Fulani Katsinawa dynasty the Fulani installed king who ended the centuries-old Habe autonomy of Zazzau. The decision to build the mosque was made significantly enough, on the advice of Mohammed Bello Sultan of Sokoto (1817-37), and with his moral and material support. It was on his orders that it was assigned to the famous Sokoto master builder mallam, Mikhaila. Who enjoyed the honourable title of Babban Gwani (supreme expert) and also kakan maina (Grandfather of the Builders) Mikhaila arrived in Zaria with his children and grandchildren and was generously received by the Sarki, who gave him a hundred slaves as labourers. He also provided him with a ward near the city market place and this site remained the family residence until recently, retaining the name Babban Gwani ward. Babban Gwani slaves were settled in a ward, unswar, baya south of the mosque. They stayed there after the building was completed and remain in charge of its maintenance under the supervision of Mikhaila's son and grandsons.

To design a Masallaci so elaborate and as will be seen, to read just standardized forms into a new spatial composition required some time. The creative process involved the concurrence of a mature esthetic imagination and technological master piece and the conclusion reached during this period of incubation needed to be precisely defined before even the foundations of the building were delineated on the ground.

It is the consensus that Mallam Mikhaila designed and erected the whole Masallaci complex: The hall, and the three gates on the north, west and south sides (Kofar Masallaci Arewa Yamma and Kudu respectively).

When the building was completed, Zaria was visited by the Sultan of Sokoto Muhammadu Bello, who inspected the Masallaci and considered to be "excellent", with nothing to be altered or improved. If this story is correct it would subject the approximate date of completion of the Masallaci, haraba and zauruka as before 1837 which was the year of Sarkin Bello's death.

It is not clear whether the court house, majalisa na sharia (a court of law and justice) standing at the north-east corner of the mosque was erected by Mallam Mikhaila himself or by his sons. It is traditionally accepted in Zaria that the older master did nothing more in the city than the mosque itself. So it is probable that the court house was built by his sons. Furthermore, it was told that the



court house was erected during the reign of Abdulkarim i.e before 1846.

It is known that Mallam Kikhaila established a dynasty of builders, the member of which for many years bore his honorable title, Babban Gwani. This ended when Mallam Balarabe was too young at the time of the death of his father Ismaila the last Babban Gwani of Zaria, to inherit the title Balarabe and his descendants were known as Sarkin Magina.

The Zaria Masallaci may certainly be considered as the most noble achievement of Nigerian ecclesiastic architecture.

Its spatial composition was most impressive and imaginative and the structural skill of its designer has never been equal in any other mosque in the country. The architect applied practically every device even used in the most developed constructions of northern Nigeria, enriched them with a number of his own creativity combined them in a serene environment. Even taking for granted his complete master of the building craft which had been developed for generations and was displayed in the best

monuments of Habe/Hausa/Fulani architecture, there is still the probability that Babban Gwani, through his appellation of distinction. Possessed some professional secrets of his own. His mastery designs was harmonious and

impressive to everyone. But what is not obvious is that he used some technical devices of his own in the processing of the building materials. Today only a few remaining examples of similar process exist. The use of dorowa dafara Kabaruwa and various grasses seem to be the last vestiges of the old science. Perhaps that was how he succeeded in erecting the surprisingly bold fabric, a cohesion of strict Fulani planning and artistic license in spinning a complex web of stanchions, arches, ribs and domes.

MOTNA: Is an acronym which stands for Museum of Traditional Nigerian Architecture. It was established in 1965-1970. Originally, 64 acres (25 hectares) of land was marked out for the construction of 48 ethnic structures (buildings). The sites are organized with groups of buildings representing the various ethno-geographic groupings of Nigeria. It is great significance that the scenario of each site should be as close as possible to its character and religion. Also the relationship of groups were practicable and analogous to their actual geographical position. Consequently, the whole area present a miniature map of Nigeria. The first foundation was laid in 1972 and so far most of the buildings erected are on the northern wing of MOTNA corresponding to the northern

lands of Nigeria.

The preliminary master plan of the site as well as the precise scales drawings are made from measured field notes 1958-1966 at the Research field centre from tropical architecture a Goanak Tenical University Poland under direct supervision of Prof. Z R. Dmochowski. The leading and most sought after labour forces are the Traditional master builders. It was accepted the as a Dominican role that the actual construction of any edifice should be done by craftsmen brought to Jos from the actual place where the copied building was originally erected. Thus assumed, it will be a unique museum of its kind in Africa and due to its special characters, unique to the world. Presently, the original building in Zaria is no more in existence for long what people used to relay on was the replica that was in Jos. The building that originally looked beautiful and in good condition and that had attracted visitors from across the world had totally collapsed due to Plateau weather and climatic condition that brought the condition of the monument to the state of ruins over the years is now getting attention from the new management of National Commission for Museums and Monuments under the able leadership of the new Director General Professor Abba Isa Tijjani: whom through his effort have been collaborating with public private partners to bring

the entire monument replicas in Jos that had lost its glory to the original dreams of its existence.

The major challenge now is that most of the original builders and the labourers had passed on, coupled with scarcity of local building materials, shortage of manpower, adverse effects of weather condition, e.g high rainfall leading to collapse of monuments and effects of rodents, reptiles and termites. Others include maintenance cost of monuments, heritage and sites that is capital intensive, inadequate skilled labourers, environmental degradation and insufficient funds for constant maintenance, to mention but a few.

By and large, a monument of such importance that have historical, spiritual, educational, memorial and architectural value should not be allowed to collapse like that, hence, the need to preserve and provide priority attention to this excellent centre for research and learning, offering tourism potential and development opportunities, employment opportunities and serving as source of revenue to the government which can also attract a lot of students from various institutions on excursions, etc.

Shallangwa is a Chief Superintendent of Monuments National Museum, Kaduna.

SUNDAY SPORTS

Where are Nigeria 2013 AFCON winning squad?

By ED DOVE

What became of Stephen Keshi's heroes since Nigeria won a third continental crown?

Vincent Enyeama

One of Nigeria's greatest ever goalkeepers, Enyeama went close to breaking the all-time Ligue 1 record for minutes without conceding a goal during a fine spell at LOSC Lille.

He departed the club in 2018, having fallen out of favour and dropping into the reserve team, with his international career also appearing to unravel after not seeing eye to eye with Sunday Oliseh.

Joseph Yobo

Enjoyed a near-decade of life in the Premier League with Everton, and also briefly represented Norwich City in the top tier.

He captained Nigeria to the 2013 title, but lost his place in the starting XI during the course of the tournament.

Elderson Echiejile

Left-back who didn't always get the credit he deserved for his contribution to the Nigerian cause, with many supporters still hoping for the return of Taye Taiwo.

Elderson's performance against Mali in the Nations Cup semi-final was one of the highlights of Nigeria's tournament.

Nwankwo Obiorah

Talented midfielder who represented Parma and Internazionale, but struggled to build on his early form as injuries took hold of his career.

He only ultimately represented Nigeria on a handful of occasions, but is still active in European football, with Portuguese top tier side Chaves.

Efe Ambrose

Spent a decade in the British game after signing for Celtic from FC Ashdod of Israel, Ambrose featured in the Champions League with the Buoys and also spent time with Derby County in England.

He left St. Johnstone earlier this year, and is yet to find new employers.

Azubuikwe Egwuekwe

Towering centre-back who rarely let Nigeria down when stepping in for the likes of Omeruo, Yobo or Godfrey Oboabona.

He featured briefly in European football with KuPS of Finland, and also played for SuperSport United in South Africa.

The defender has been without a club since leaving Rivers United in 2020.

Ahmed Musa

Nigeria's all-time record appearance-maker, Musa turned 30 on Friday, and remains a part of the Super Eagles set-up.

He struggled to realise the qualities he demonstrated with CSKA Moscow after moving to Leicester City, but returned to European football—specifically Turkey—after a brief stint in the Nigerian game back at Kano Pillars.

The attacker signed for Sivasspor last month.

Ideye Brown

Enjoyed an extended run with Dynamo Kyiv, but struggled to bring his goalscoring skills to bear in the English game with West Bromwich Albion.

Brown has been unemployed since leaving Goztepe of Turkey in December.

Emmanuel Emenike

Hung up his boots in 2019 following a spell with KVC Westerlo, although his most successful stint came in Turkey, where he was a domestic champion.

As well as representing Fenerbahce with distinction, Emenike also tasted



Enyeama

life in the Premier League with West Ham United.

John Obi Mikel

Recently called time on his remarkable career, having achieved almost all there is to achieve in the sport.

Mikel enjoyed a decade with Chelsea, conquering the Champions League and winning two Prem titles during that period, and will be remembered as one of the Super Eagles' greatest players.

Victor Moses

Made a series of decisive contributions during the Afcon campaign—notably against Ethiopia—but the greatest achievement of his career was playing a key role under Antonio Conte as Chelsea won the Premier League.

Moses's campaign was made all the more impressive by the fact he was redeployed in an unfamiliar wing-back role during the season.

Reuben Gabriel

Kaduna-born midfielder who once promised so much but only managed 12 Nigeria outings during his career.

He's been unemployed since 2020, having previously featured for the likes of Kilmarnock, Waasland-Beveren and Boavista.

Fegor Ogude

Tenacious if somewhat lumbering midfielder who typically occupied a back-up role in the squad during the Keshi years.

Ogude has been without a club since leaving Warri Wolves over two years ago, with the best years of his career being spent with Amkar Perm in Russia.

• Getty Images

Godfrey Oboabona

Oboabona was a Keshi favourite who only made his debut for the Super Eagles in 2012, but stepped into the side to play a key role in their run to the Nations Cup title.

There were rumours of a move to Arsenal later in the year—they always seemed somewhat far-fetched—but Oboabona did secure a move from Sunshine Stars to represent Caykur Rizespor, ultimately remaining in Turkey for four years.

He's been without a club since leaving Dinamo Batumi in January 2021.

Ikechukwu Uche

While the likes of Obafemi Martins and Peter Odemwingie out of favour with Keshi at the time of the Nations

Cup, the Big Boss turned to Uche.

The striker featured four times at the Nations Cup—including the final against Burkina Faso—but failed to net a goal during the course of the tournament.

He would score again for Nigeria, against Congo-Brazzaville in November 2014, having missed the World Cup earlier that year.

The striker has been retired since leaving Gimnastic in the summer of 2019.

Austin Ejide

Once appeared destined to be the future of Nigeria's goalkeeping department, but ultimately settled into a role as the understudy to Enyeama.

He remained with the national side until the 2014 World Cup, and spent over a decade in Israeli football.

The stopper last featured for Ness Ziona until 2021.

Ogenyi Onazi

Once the dynamo of the national side, the engine of the Super Eagles' midfield under Keshi, Onazi ought to still be in his prime at 29.

Instead, he's languishing in Italian Serie D with Casertana, and prompted protests among Super Eagles fans when he was recalled to the squad by Augustine Eguavoen earlier this year.

Ejike Uzoenyi

Diminutive wideman who offered something a little different for the Super Eagles down Nigeria's left.

He failed to make the grade in France, but did spend three years with South African giants Mamelodi Sundowns and was on the club's books when they won a league and Champions League double in 2016.

He's currently on the books of Enugu Rangers.

Sunday Mba

Breakout star of the Nations Cup campaign who came from nowhere to net decisive goals against the Ivory Coast and then Burkina Faso in the final, Mba secured a move to France—and CA Bastia—after his remarkable Afcon campaign.

He featured in the Championnat National and Ligue 2—scoring four goals in 16 outings in the second tier—and soon moved on to Turkey.

Like so many others in this list, he faded out of the game in his late 20s.

Nosa Igiebor

Controversial attacking midfielder who never truly consolidated his place as the 'third man' in the heart of the park for the Super Eagles.

Nosa spent time in Israel, Norway, Spain, Turkey, Canada and Cyprus during a nomadic career, but has

been out of work since leaving Anorthosis Famagusta three years ago—still in his 20s.

Juwon Oshaniwa

Long-term understudy to Elderson, Oshaniwa moved to Scotland—with Hearts FC—after time in Israel, but was released after two years and then spent a year without employment.

He's been without a club since October 2019, when he departed Akwa United.

Kenneth Omeruo

Still active in the Spanish second tier with Leganes, Omeruo also remains a regular member of the Super Eagles squad.

He didn't make the grade at Chelsea, despite spending a decade with the club, but has nonetheless represented the Super Eagles at two World Cups.

Chigozie Agbim

Long-term third-choice during the Keshi era, 37-year-old Agbim spent the final 15 years of his career in his homeland after things didn't go to plan during a one-year stint with Al-MerrikhSC.

He featured for the likes of Enugu Rangers and Warri Wolves, but has been without a club since leaving Delta Force in 2020.



•Agbim

SUNDAY SPORTS

Commonwealth Games:

Norrie beats Karatsev in Stockholm Open

CAMERON Norrie returned to action with victory over Russia's Aslan Karatsev in the last 16 of the Stockholm Open.

BBC SPORT said that, Britain's number one pulled out of the Korea Open last month through illness and had to come from a set down before winning 6-7 (8-10) 6-3 6-4.

The 27-year-old is battling to qualify for the season-ending ATP Finals.

Dan Evans, Norrie's Davis Cup team-mate, beat France's Constant Lestienne 6-2 6-1 to reach the last eight of the European Open in Antwerp.

Compatriot Jack Draper was unable to join Evans in the quarter-finals as the 20-year-old world number 48 lost 7-6 (7-5) 6-7 (5-7) 6-1 to top seed Hubert Hurkacz, of Poland.

Draper lost the opening set despite saving four set points against the world number 11 but recovered from a break down to level the match via another tie-breaker, only to be swept aside in the decider.

Norrie committed to playing five tournaments in six weeks in a "big push" to break into the world's top seven to qualify for the ATP Finals, which take place in Turin, Italy, in November.

But those plans were derailed when the world number 12 pulled out of the Korea Open less than an hour



Norrie

before his quarter-final against the United States' Jenson Brooksby.

He was unable to recover in time to play in the following week's Japan Open and, after moving on to the European indoor season, was pushed all the way on his return against Karatsev.

Norrie was twice broken by the world number 45 when serving for the opening set, at 5-4 and 6-5, before eventually losing it on a tie-break.

He had to battle back from a break down to win the second set and did so again in the decider, coming from 4-2 behind with successive

breaks before serving the match out to love.

Evans, 32, had no such trouble at the European Open, taking just an hour and 15 minutes to see off world number 69 Lestienne, converting five of six break points in a clinical display.

The British number two faces a possible quarter-final against Canada's number two seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, who is due to play France's Manuel Guinard in the last 16 on Thursday.

Elsewhere, Britain's women's number two Harriet Dart lost 6-4 2-6 7-6 (7-3) to Spain's Cristina Bucsa in the last 16 of a WTA Challenger event in Rouen, France.

FERDINAND Omanyala says winning the 100m title at the Commonwealth Games was the "perfect race" that he has "always been dreaming of".

BBC SPORT said that, the 26-year-old clocked 10.02 seconds to claim gold in Birmingham on Wednesday, beating defending champion Akani Simbine by 0.11 seconds.

Omanyala becomes the first Kenyan to win the Commonwealth crown, adding to the continental triumph he recorded in Mauritius in June when he saw off South Africa's Simbine in a photo-finish.

"This was the goal we had since the start of the year - to win the African Championships and the Commonwealth Games," Omanyala told BBC Sport.

"We have achieved what we said, so we thank God for this. I am sure it will have a lot of impact, because I'll be training knowing that I'm Commonwealth and African champion.

"This is a big motivation. We are adding more accolades to my success."

Omanyala's success come

Omanyala's 100m triumph the 'perfect race'



Ferdinand Omanyala is the first Kenyan man to win the 100m at the Commonwealth Games

after disappointment at the World Championships in Eugene, where he failed to make the final after arriving late in the United States because of visa delays.

However, he says he forgot about that experience "after days".

"It is all about just moving forwards and using setbacks as stepping stones," he added. "You have to pick up yourself. Everything happens for a reason."

In June, Omanyala became just the second Kenyan to be

crowned African champion over 100m, emulating 1990 winner Joseph Gikonyo, and expects more sprinters to emerge from the east African country on the back of his triumphs.

"There is so much talent in Kenya, it's just that they never saw anybody ahead of them that has been sprinting.

"With my success, there are going to be so many sprinters coming. You saw one of our guys [Samwel Imeta] get to the semi-finals. Next time we'll all be in the final," he rallied.

Benzema scores as Madrid win at Eche

BALLON d'Or winner Karim Benzema scored as Real Madrid extended their advantage at the top of La Liga to six points with victory over Elche.

BBC SPORT said that, Benzema linked with Rodrygo before slotting home from 18 yards, having seen two earlier efforts

ruled out by the Video Assistant Referee.

That doubled Madrid's lead after Federico Valverde sliced home.

Marco Asensio scored a third as Real extended their unbeaten start to 10 games.

Real opened up a three-point lead on rivals



Benzema

Barcelona with victory in El Clasico on Sunday, with Xavi's side having the opportunity to cut the gap when they host Villarreal on Thursday.

Elche sit bottom of La Liga, and it was a tough night from the get-go with Benzema seeing a goal disallowed for offside in the build-up after six minutes.

Valverde's left-footed strike from outside the area put Carlo Ancelotti's side ahead after 11 minutes, before David Alaba and Benzema saw efforts disallowed for offside.

It left Benzema to celebrate his fifth league goal of the season by ironically drawing a square like the referee does during a VAR review.

Asensio's hooked finish rounded off a lovely free-flowing move by Real, who have won nine and drawn one as they seek to retain their league title.

They have won their first six away league games for only the second time, after the 1991/92 campaign.

McIlroy rejects Mickelson's 'winning side' comments

RORY McIlroy has rejected Phil Mickelson's suggestion that he picked the "winning side" in the dispute between the LIV series and PGA Tour.

BBC SPORT said that, American Mickelson believes the LIV series is trending higher, and the PGA is on a downward trajectory.

McIlroy said: "I don't agree with what Phil said - I certainly don't see the PGA Tour trending downward at all.

"I don't think anyone that takes a logical view of the game of golf can agree with what he said."

Next year's Phoenix Open, Heritage tournament, Wells Fargo Championship and Travelers Championship will have purses boosted to \$20m (£17.8m) and guaranteed appearances by top golfers, the US PGA Tour announced on Wednesday.

The moves complete a PGA revamp to combat the Saudi-backed LIV Golf series that was announced by tour commissioner Jay Monahan in August at the Tour Championship.

Star PGA players such as Northern Ireland's four-time major winner McIlroy,

Jon Rahm and top-ranked Scottie Scheffler, the reigning Masters champion, have committed to playing 17 events with elevated purses next year as a way to combat more players departing for the LIV Series.

The rival circuit's record \$25m purses and guaranteed contracts for

54-hole events have lured away top talent from the PGA, including British Open winner and world number three Cameron Smith of Australia, two-time major winner Dustin Johnson and Masters winners Mickelson, Bubba Watson, Sergio Garcia and Patrick Reed.

"The guys that went over to LIV, they're the ones that

have made the disruption, they're the ones that have sort of put the golf world in flux right now," added world number two McIlroy.

"I guess for them to be talking the way they are, it's bold and I think there's a tonne of propaganda being used and all sorts of stuff."

In addition to the four new events, others with



Phil Mickelson's comments were rejected by Rory McIlroy

We have zero tolerance for corruption - Sule

NASARAWA State Governor, Engr. Abdullahi Sule, has said his administration will not condone corruption in any form. The Governor made this known at the 4th National Anti-Corruption 21 kilometres Marathon Race held in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, recently.



Sule

This was contained in a press statement signed by Eche Amos, PRO, Nasarawa State Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** Sports desk, saying that the Governor was represented by the State's Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Amb. Lucky Isaac Yargwa.

"We have well-structured institutions that monitor any act of corruption in civil or public Service and the repercussions mechanisms are very strict. This is to deter anyone from indulging in any corrupt practices, the Governor said.

"I am happy to attend this Marathon race and the goal is in line with our administration's poise to nip corruption in the bud."

While commending the organizers of the event, who are the Public Complaint Commission and Fair-Play Sports International Agency, for coming up with the program, the Governor called on Nigerians to join hands to fight the dreaded menace which is daily eating deep into the fabrics of the Nigerian society.

Other dignitaries who

attended the event were the Mr. Abimbola Ayo-Yusuf, Chief Commissioner, Public Complaint Commission and National Coordinator of the Marathon and Executive Director, Fair-Play Sports International Agency, Jacob Onu.

At the end of the race which began at the Unity Fountain, Adamu Mu'azu Shehu and Rose Akusho emerged winners in the men's and women's categories after an impressive one hour, nine minutes and 49 seconds and

one hour and 20 minutes respectively, to cart away the one million naira prize money for each category.

Teenage sensations, Francis James and Vera Yohanna, came second respectively in the men's and women's categories.

The National Anti-Corruption Marathon Race was aimed at intensifying campaigns against corruption through sports.

Medals and certificates were presented to participants of the event.

THE Plateau State Government has commended Plateau United Football Club of Jos for their gallant performance against Esperance of Tunisia, despite going down one-nil in the return leg second round of the preliminary stage of the CAF champions League, played at the Rades Stadium in Tunis last weekend.

A statement signed by Albert Dakup, Media Officer of the Club and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** sports desk, said that the State Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Daniel Dung Dalyop gave the commendation while reacting to the team's impressive display after the match.

The statement revealed that, Dalyop who lead the thirty-eight man delegation of the team to Tunisia for the return leg, was particularly impressed with the fighting spirit put up by the team, despite the antics and henanigans of the North Africans and the Egyptians match officials, who were bent on favoring the home side to win the match at all cost.

"I'm particularly impressed with the maturity of our players. Even those we met after the match at the city in our way out, praised our boys for their impressive performance, the Commissioner said.

It said the Commissioner charged the boys to raise their game and be more careful with

PLSG commends P/Utd, despite defeat in CAF league

By **ANDRE BISYIT**

match officials in subsequent outings, especially now that they awaits their next opponents in the CAF Confederations cup plays-off coming up in November.

Dalyop whose first assignment as Youth and Sports commissioner is leading the team to a two-one victory over the four time winners in the first leg in Abuja, expressed confidence with the fighting spirit exhibited by the boys in

Tunisia, despite playing in front of a hostile home crowd.

He urged the boys to imbibe the spirit of discipline and teamwork in subsequent matches, so as to achieve their target of getting into the group stage of the CAF Confederations Cup.

He assured that the Rescue Administration of Governor Simon Lalong will not relent in supporting the team to enable it achieve its target and urged the players and technical crew to sustain the tempo.



Lalong

Balele, Olopade to advise NFF on Teams preparation

PRESIDENT of Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau has appointed respected football administrator and Chairman

of Katsina State Football Association, Alhaji Aminu Balele Kurfi and sports marketing guru, Hon. Bukola Olopade as part of a

three-man panel of advisers for preparations of age-grade National Teams for upcoming major international competitions.

Newsnow said that, the empanelling of the football experts, which also includes Alhaji Abba Mukhtar, has been done pending the composition of Sub-Committees by the new NFF Executive Committee, and the panel will be inaugurated on Thursday, 20th October at the NFF Secretariat by Alhaji Gusau.

The U23 National Team, also known as Olympic Eagles, will engage their Tanzanian counterparts in a two-legged second-round fixture, starting with the first leg in Dar es Salaam on Sunday and the return session in Ibadan next week Saturday. Victory on aggregate will take the Olympic Eagles to the next round of the qualifiers, which final tournament has been scheduled for the Kingdom of Morocco 2nd - 26th November

2023.

Already, the U20 and U17 Boys' squads have qualified for their continental competitions, by winning their respective WAFU B tournaments earlier this year. The U20 boys, Flying Eagles conquered all in Niamey, Niger Republic in May while the U17 boys, Golden Eagles were triumphant in Cape Coast, Ghana in June.

The U20 Africa Cup of Nations will be staged in Egypt 20th February - 12th March 2023 with the top four teams qualifying to represent Africa at next year's FIFA U20 World Cup finals in Indonesia.

The U17 Africa Cup of Nations will be staged in Algeria 8th - 30th April 2023 with the top four teams qualifying to represent Africa at next year's FIFA U17 World Cup finals in Peru.

Kante to miss World Cup in Qatar

FRANCE and Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante has been ruled out of the World Cup in Qatar after having an operation on a hamstring injury.

Kante, 31, suffered the injury during Chelsea's 2-2 home draw with Tottenham on 14 August.

In a statement, the club said that the procedure was a success but Kante is expected to be sidelined for four months.

It added that the decision to operate to repair the damage was "mutual".

The midfielder visited a specialist with the club's medical department to explore the options for his rehabilitation approach," the statement said.

Blues boss Graham Potter

said before his side played Aston Villa last weekend that Kante had faced a setback in his bid to regain fitness.

Kante, who won the World Cup with France in 2018, joins a growing list of Premier League players who have suffered serious injuries in the build-up to the showcase tournament which starts in November 20.

His Chelsea team-mate Reece James is a major doubt for England after picking up a knee injury against AC Milan in the Champion League this month.

On Tuesday, Liverpool forward Diogo Jota's hopes of representing Portugal were ended after Jurgen Klopp confirmed the 25-year-old will face a "long time" out because of a calf injury.

Para athletes protest over exclusion from NSF

SOME physically-challenged persons on Wednesday staged a protest in the Surulere area of Lagos, causing a traffic gridlock that kept motorists on the roads for hours.

Newsnow said that, many who were on their way to work were forced to abandon commercial vehicles and trek long distances to beat the

traffic, especially along Funso Williams Avenue.

The protesters, who are athletes, were airing their displeasure about the alleged removal of some sports from the forthcoming National Sports Festival.

They gathered by the National Stadium and insisted that all the Para

sports exempted from the festival must be included.

One of the protesters, Ms Joyce Otun, a para-athlete, said it was necessary they staged the protest as members of her group were being marginalised due to their disabilities.

"We are protesting because they deny us our

rights, the National Sports Festival must include all Para Sports and none should be denied participation.

"Only three of our sports have been enlisted in the National Sports Festival, if they would not include all our sports they should forget about the festival this year.

"We are not ready to stop, we will continue this protest until they heed our call," Otun said.

Another protester who pleaded anonymity said the disabled sportsmen were being ignored, hence their grievances.

"We want the government to do the right thing. They should give us what rightfully belongs to us, that is what we are fighting for through this protest.

"If they would not grant us our request, we will be here for the next 24 hours until our sports are included in the National Sports Festival.

"We are not being treated right by the government in spite of the fact that we win majority of the medals for the country," he said.

Sportingtribune reliably gathered that policemen of the Lagos State Rapid Response Squad (RRS) were later deployed to the area.

The protesting athletes, thereafter, left the scene, a situation which eased traffic flow, bringing relief to



•Para athletes protesting



October 23, 2022



Women's World Cup 2023

Falcons drawn against co-hosts, Olympic champions

NIGERIA'S Super Falcons have been handed a favourable draw ahead of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Nigeria - ranked 45th in the World, and drawn from Pot 4 were placed in Group B alongside hosts Australia, 2003 semi-finalist Canada and the Republic of Ireland.

The official draw took place at the Aotea Centre in Auckland, New Zealand with next year's tournament, to be jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand from 20 July to 20 August 2023.

It will be the first time that the FIFA Women's World Cup will have two host nations.

New Zealand will host the opening match of the tournament, against heavyweights Norway. Then, on July 21 in Melbourne, Nigeria will face current Olympic champions Canada in their opening match.

Following the expansion of the World Cup from 24 to 32 teams, only two teams will proceed to the knockout stages of the competition from each group.

If the Super Falcons finish first in Group B, they will face the runner-up from Group D. If they finish second in Group B, they will face the winner from that group. But Group D includes brutal opponents England, Denmark, and China.

The final team for Group D will be one of the winners of the inter-continental playoff.

In other notable matches, two-time reigning champions the USA have been drawn against the Netherlands in a rematch of the 2019 World Cup final.

The tournament will be jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand, and is scheduled to take place from 20 July to 20 August 2023.



Super Falcons will meet Canada again, having played out a 2-2 draw with them at the 2015 Women's World Cup

Super Falcons' fixtures

Nigeria vs Canada, Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, July 21, 2023
Australia vs Nigeria, Brisbane Stadium, July 27, 2023.

Republic of Ireland vs Nigeria, Brisbane Stadium, July 31, 2023
Republic of Ireland vs Nigeria, Brisbane Stadium, July 31, 2023.

Meanwhile, Nigeria beat USA 4-3 in penalty shootout to become only the second African country to qualify for the FIFA Women's Under-17 World Cup semi-finals in Navi Mumbai on Friday.

The two sides were locked 1-1 in the regulation time of the quarterfinal match at the DY Patil Stadium, which was delayed by nearly two hours due to adverse weather conditions. The match, which

was to begin at 4:30pm, started at 6:20pm IST.

In an evenly-contested match, Nigerian Omamuzo Edeke's 27th minute goal was cancelled out by Amalia Villarreal's 40th minute strike for the Americans. In the penalty shootout, Edidiong Etim, Edet Offiong, Miracle Usani and Omamuzo Edeke scored for Nigeria while Folorunsho missed the target.

For USA, who had topped Group A to make it to the quarterfinals, Emeri Adames, Taylor Suarez and Mia Bhuta scored, while Emri and Jackson missed from the penalty spot.

It was heartbreak for the

Americans, who finished runners-up in 2008. The Concacaf champions were considered to be a side which would go deep into the tournament. This was only for the second time, the first being in 2008, USA have gone past the group stage.

The Americans were playing the tournament for the fifth time, including third consecutive appearance.

Nigeria, on the other hand, made it to their maiden semifinal in their sixth attempt. The African champions had earlier lost thrice in the quarterfinals, in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

Ghana was the only African

country to have made it to the semi-finals, in 2012, before Nigeria achieved the feat on Friday.

Nigeria had finished second behind Germany in Group B.

Flamingos head coach Bankole Olowookere is convinced that hard work and not luck was the secret behind Nigeria's first-ever appearance at the semifinals of the FIFA u17 Women's World Cup.

Before the delayed kickoff, the United States, Group A winners, were the favourites to claim a win against the West Africans.

And the Americans did not disappoint, as they

dominated for long stretches of the match, out-shot the Flamingos 27-8, and racked up 15 corner kicks to Nigeria's four.

Player of the match and Nigerian descent Onyeka Gamero was a constant thorn in the flesh of the Flamingos, forcing a goal-line clearance just before stoppage time.

Carball Ep.4: Ronaldinho made me love football - Aproko Doctor

Reputed for being one of the internet's biggest medical voices, Aproko Doctor took a spin with Babajide Guerrero where he shared a football side of him that many do not know.

Forest stun Liverpool to climb off bottom table

NOTTINGHAM Forest produced a superb performance to shock Liverpool and climb off the bottom of the Premier League at a boisterous City Ground.

Taiwo Awoniyi, who left Liverpool in 2021 without making a competitive appearance, hit the winner from close range after his initial attempt came back off a post.

Liverpool were a long way from their best - Virgil van Dijk wasted their best chance - and remain without an away league win this season.

Forest keeper Dean Henderson produced a superb save to palm away a Trent

Alexander-Arnold header in the final 10 minutes.

There were jubilant scenes on and off the pitch at the final whistle as Forest enjoyed their best day since returning to the top flight this season after a 23-year absence.

Forest have endured a difficult start to their first season back in the Premier League, but this was a day to remember as they thoroughly deserved their victory over a flat Liverpool.

Given Forest slumped to the bottom of the table on Thursday with Leicester's win over Leeds, boss Steve Cooper will hope this is a

season-changing win.

Despite their struggles since winning promotion, Forest awarded Cooper a new contract until 2025 this month.

While Bournemouth, Chelsea, Wolves and Aston Villa have sacked managers, Forest have decided to stay patient with theirs and have now secured four points from the past two games.

Forest took the game to Liverpool from the first whistle and, by the time referee Paul Tierney blew for full-time, they had run themselves into the ground after a performance born out of aggression, energy and desire.

They have got into a habit of conceding leads this season - most notably when they led Bournemouth 2-0 only to lose 3-2 - but survived some frantic late Liverpool pressure to secure a famous win.

Three of their next five league games are against Arsenal (away), Manchester United (away) and Chelsea (home), but this memorable win will give them confidence.

Liverpool's season takes a step backwards

Liverpool looked to be getting back into some sort of rhythm with wins over Rangers in the Champions League followed by back-to-back Premier League victories over Manchester City and West Ham.

Yet they remain without a Premier League away win this season, with their last league success at the City Ground way back in October 1984.

This was a million miles away from the gripping victory over City at Anfield six days ago.

Alexander-Arnold went close to salvaging a point late on, but this was a sluggish performance before Liverpool's trip to Amsterdam for the Champions League game with Ajax.

They were not helped by the loss of midfielder Thiago Alcantara, who missed the match after waking up on Saturday with a serious ear infection which required hospital treatment.

Questions will be asked of manager Jurgen Klopp, who will demand a much-improved performance.



Klopp

WORLD SEARCH Answer the clues and search for the word

E	K	S	H	M	J	W	I	L	L	I	A	M
I	L	P	E	A	K	S	R	B	M	T	S	A
S	J	G	E	L	K	A	N	E	M	I	T	L
M	O	R	R	I	S	C	I	U	O	V	E	A
A	I	E	H	P	T	B	D	E	P	F	N	I
N	K	E	G	R	Q	R	Y	D	A	X	O	K
E	U	C	A	B	G	A	N	F	T	U	C	A
A	V	E	S	E	B	I	H	N	R	W	L	K
C	L	A	J	X	Z	M	D	P	I	C	A	N
M	O	R	O	C	C	O	Q	T	C	S	F	M
Z	R	Y	S	Q	V	H	O	B	E	C	O	A
L	J	N	E	Y	G	P	B	F	A	N	X	Z
A	I	B	R	A	H	I	M	O	V	I	C	A

- Clues**
- Sandy.....(6) American Polevaulter
 -Mihambo (7) German long jumper
 - Sadio.....(4) Liverpool/Senegal striker
 - Host country of the 2022 Africa women's Nations cup
 - Musa.....(7) Nigeria's head tennis coach
 -Troost-Ekong (8), Super Eagles captain
 -Pesiero (4) Super Eagles coach
 -Motsepe (7) CAF president
 - Where the Olympics started (6)
 - Plateau.....(5) Jos based basketball team
 - Nigeria's Junior national football team (9)
 -Warriors (8) Maiduguri football outfit

By IBRAHIM T. LOT