

**Lar taught politics of inclusion**

Page 7 -Lalong



**News:** Appeal Court orders ASUU to call off strike

Page 2

**Sports:** 32 invited for Olympic Eagles camp

Page 39

**Politics:** Lalong praises police officer for rejecting bribe

Page 28

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# 2023 election: Parties and crises

Pages 10,31

*As registered political parties in Nigeria embark on campaigns collecting votes from the electorate ahead of the February 2023 elections, some of the major parties have been engulfed in one crisis or the other. What tendencies does this portend for the general elections?*



HRH Rev. Ronku Aka (rtd) the Braa Ngwe Rigwe (right) yesterday presenting a chieftaincy title on Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State as Ambassador of Peace during Otu Rigwe 2022 at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos. Photo: DANLADI DUK

**Lalong bags title, supports Irigwe communities rehabilitation**

Page 2

**Nigeria spent \$10m in feeding pupils -FG**

Page 2

### NFA: As Gusau mounts the rostrum

Nigeria as a nation is undoubtedly blessed in all spheres of life including the world of sports, with talented men and women who have done the country proud in the last 62 years of her Independence. The game of football in particular has attracted Laurels and goodwill to the nation, with some young Nigerians doing the nation proud in renowned club sides around the world. There is no doubt, the game of football has not only come to stay but it is an economic spinner when properly administered by those vested with such responsibilities.

The Nigerian Football Federation is the organ vested with the management and administration of this leather game in the country which is loved and cherished beyond boundaries of religion or tribes. One of their responsibilities is to ensure the welfare of players and the growing of grassroots football for young men and women that will grow to be the future stars representing the nation. However, those who have found themselves in this glass house piloting the affairs have seemingly failed to live up to their expectations.

The game of football in Nigeria as elsewhere is a serious business that warrants putting not just the solid structures but must also be run by seasoned administrators with the requisite professional knowledge and a sincere love for the country. It must be run by visionaries who can see into the distant future because of the need to make some returns on the nation's investment at the appropriate time.

The just concluded NFF elections which has produced Gusau as President was a last resort after a lot of foot dragging and political interplay that had the consequence of attracting the penalty of FIFA, the world Football Governing Body. There is no doubt, the interplay of politics among other things has largely been responsible for the nose diving of football in the nation of recent. Indeed, before the elections, Amaju Pinnick who was the immediate past President of the body, wanted to rewrite the history of the Football Federation by trying to go for a third term as President of the glass house. This development had left much to be desired as these internal wrangling were even taken to the law courts.

Worthy of note is the sad commentary that these wrangling have produced dismal performance of football in the country. Evidences about that the performances of our national teams have not been encouraging of late. Recently they failed to qualify for Quarter, with the Falcons also showing dismal performance in most of their outings in recent times. Power tussle and corruption have been the twin brothers visibly at play in this glass house.

Nigeria has grown beyond the era where people would measure the game of football by how fat their personal bank accounts have become. The NFF needs a breath of fresh air and a change in the current narrative and the Gusau Led administration must strive to achieve this.

The total reliance on government for sponsorship of all football activities in the country and the scrabble for shares into private pockets have been the unseen magnet pulling down the performance of this organization. It is equally sad to note that this has also affected the standard of domestic leagues in the country.

It is worth recommending that no member of the current cabal who has frustrated football administration in the country be allowed to be part of the new system, rather, the altar of football be left to merit based professionals.

Government must take a holistic look at the problem facing the NFF and approach them with corresponding solutions. Nigerians are a very passionate people about the round leather game, always forgetting about their political and ethno- religious differences during such events. Nothing should be allowed to distract this. Given the significance and acceptability of football in this country, privately owned clubs by Nigerians must be encouraged and be given the free hands to make some returns on their investments.

As Nigerians watch keenly the Gusau led NFF for fresh ideas that will meet global standards, it is worth stating that the era where things are done the same old way expecting new results are gone.

### Nigeria spent \$10m in feeding 10m pupils -FG

The Federal Government said it spent about 10 million US dollars in feeding 10 million Nigerian children under the National School Feeding Programme.

This was part of efforts to eliminate the scourge of child labour in the country.

Chris Ngige, Minister of Labour and Employment said this when he received the US Ambassador to Nigeria, Mary Leonard, and officials of the Department of State, on a courtesy visit on Friday in Abuja.

This is contained in a statement issued by Olajide Oshundun, Head of Press and Public Relations in the ministry.

Mr Ngige said that the Nigerian government had introduced the school feeding programme under its social security programme, to lure children engaged in child labour, back to school.

He said the Federal Government also introduced social protection programmes to fight poverty, which is the major contributory factor to the prevalence of child labour in Nigeria.

According to him, "we have introduced the National school feeding programme under our social security, to lure children back to school."

"As of today, we are feeding 10 million children across the country. We have spent nearly \$10 million on this."

We have also taken more schools into the areas prone to child labour and made education free in the whole country through the Universal Basic Education and the Child Rights Acts.

"For the people with disability, we introduced Disability Peoples Commission, to give them full and comprehensive aid."

"This is so that they will not feel that they have any disability. If you don't support someone with disability, it is



Admed

outright poverty," he said.

The minister however, commended the US Government for the recent technical assistance of the Department of Labour to West Africa.

He said that this was in the area of fighting violence and harassment at work under Convention 190 of International Labour Organisation (ILO).

"Nigeria and Liberia are listed there and the fund is \$5 million, estimated to be spent on the project. We think that it is a step in the right direction."

"Just last week, we got information of another \$4 million for anti-child labour activities in Nigeria."

"Ondo State was chosen as the pilot state for the fight against child labour in the area of cocoa farming. We think this is a good step in the right direction."

"Because over the years, from the

time we visited for African Growth and Opportunities (AGOA) conference under the Department of Labour and Trade in Washington in 2017, we had made it clear that the US Government has to take practical steps for us to follow," he said.

Mr Ngige added, "we can't be mouthing child labour and we leave it unattended to when we know that most of those engaged in it are those trying to make up for family needs."

The minister also said that vulnerable families send their underaged children to work in cocoa farms, mining sites, street hawking and petty trading.

"This is because the family income is not enough, owing to under employment or unemployment," he said.

The minister explained that advocacy alone cannot reduce the scourge, adding, "it would be difficult to retain the audience of a hungry person."

Mr Ngige reiterated his proposal at the AGOA conference that US must assist Nigeria in fighting child labour in the area of capacity building and logistics, among others.

Earlier, Ms Leonard said the US Government was worried to see that Nigerian children were subjected to the worst forms of child labour in quarries, granite and other mining sites.

She assured that her country would continue to work with the Nigerian Government in addressing the scourge and appealed to the remaining seven states yet to domesticate the Child Rights Act to do so without further delay.

The envoy said, "the US government was pleased to see a new programme in Nigeria that provides seed capital to vulnerable people to pursue programmes in areas with high prevalence of child labour."

### Lalong bags title, supports Irigwe communities rehabilitation

By PALANG KASMI

For working to secure peace in Irigwe land, Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has bagged a traditional title as "Ambassador of peace".

The Governor was decorated with the traditional title by the Paramount ruler of Irigwe land during the 2022 annual festival of the Irigwe people of Bassa Local Government Area, tagged the "Otu Rigwe" held on Saturday October 8, 2022 at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos.

Speaking as Special Guest of Honour at the event, Lalong said there is no alternative to peace and commended the traditional ruler of the Irigwe people, The Braa Ngwe Rigwe, Rev. Ronku Aka for working for peace with the Fulani's.

He tasked the Irigwe's for vindicating him by embracing his peace Philosophy urging them to continue the positive stride by taking ownership of the peace agreement they signed recently on 13th June.

While assuring that he will ensure that work resumes on the Miango/Kwall/Vom road project and the housing estate cited in the Local Government, the governor advised the people to watch out for crisis merchants among them who may want to take them back to the darker days.

The Governor urged the Irigwe people to continue to harness their rich cultural heritage and values, by adding to the tourism market value and potentials of the state.

"We can only harness these tourism potentials if we live in peace with each other" he said.

He expressed happiness that parts of the event will be a Fund Raising for the rebuilding of ruined

communities, by the Irigwe Development Association (IDA).

In his remarks Former Chief of Defence Staff and Chairman of the Occasion, Gen. Martin Luther Agwai said the cultural display is a sign of unity and cultural heritage of the Irigwe people.

Describing his presence at the event as nostalgic and home coming because he grew up in the state, he prayed for permanent peace to return to the LGA.

He also called on stakeholders in the LGA and state level, to harness the rich cultural festivals on the Plateau adding "If harnessed, it will surpass all cultural festivals in the world".

He commended the people and organisers of the event for not relying on government but taking the initiative to rebuild broken communities who have suffered as a result of the crisis that engulfed the land advising them further to seek support from friends, tribes, neighbours and allies of the Irigwe tribe towards the noble cause of rebuilding, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the ruins and destroyed communities.

President Irigwe Development Association (IDA), Prince Robert Ashi Dodo was thankful for the opportunity to showcase their rich cultural heritage and used the forum to appreciate Governor Lalong for personally facilitating the return of peace to the area.

Defining the Irigwe culture as 'rich and unique', he said the event is historic because it will pass on to future generations, their heroic way of life".

While lamenting the crisis and losses that bedeviled the Irigwe Nation in the past, the President however expressed hope that the fundraising will be a huge success, so that the funds realised will be used to

resettle displaced people of communities that have lost their means of livelihoods adding "The fund will also be used to assist the orphans in pursuance of the education".

The Paramount Ruler of Irigwe land, the Braa Ngwe Irigwe, Rev. Ronku Aka appreciated well-wishers and dignitaries for coming to share in their cultural heritage, expressing gladness that the cultural celebrations which has not been marked for the past years due to insecurity is finally coming to fruition.

He thanked the Governor for making them sleep with their eyes closed with his peace initiatives that has brought lasting peace to the area, and used the forum to call on government to complete the road linking Kwall/Mango Vom which is a major access road between Miango and other Local Governments.

In a paper presentation titled "Rebuilding the City" by Air Commodore Dogo Gani, strategies and solutions for rebuilding the destroyed communities, and the people to return to their normal activities and way of life was highlighted.

Some side attractions at the Cultural fiesta was the opening of traditional dishes, match pasts and cultural performance by different cultural groups, and Rigwe artistes, horse riding displays, Royal greetings to the Paramount Ruler of Irigwe land the Braa Ngwe Rigwe of Irigwe and the conferment of traditional title to Governor Lalong.

The event had in attendance top government functionaries, politicians, heads and members of various sociocultural and religious groups.



With  
**Katdapba  
Y. Gobum  
On Sunday**



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**"First of all, the prevailing financial standings of most of the states are most worrisome. The cost of governance takes the largest chunk of the savings of the states. Most of the states have literally abandoned all capital projects they embarked upon or are even thinking about to start."**

**L**AST Saturday, Nigeria celebrated its 62nd independence anniversary. As much as I love the country, I had refrained from celebrating its attainment of nationhood. There are many reasons, which we have repeatedly said should be looked into; it is not about being unpatriotic.

I know of many who also have reasons not to join the bandwagon to celebrate. For us, it is time for stocktaking; reflecting on how the journey has taken us to, and expecting leaders to direct the course of where to head to.

As it is, this year's will be the last one to be celebrated by those whose tenures will end next May. At the federal level to the state levels, the tempo of the celebration was increased for obvious reasons.

The celebrations were in various shades; all planned to satisfy the complexities of the issues at hand. And there are many that may have risen in each case in the various states. That is why each state celebrated according to its complexities and circumstances.

First of all, the prevailing financial standings of most of the states are most worrisome. The cost of governance takes the largest chunk of the savings of the states. Most of the states have literally abandoned all capital projects they embarked upon or are even thinking about to start.

There are more abandoned projects than are new ones. Funds are indeed scarce to come by. Some of the states have used the resources for other purposes that are not productive for them.

In fact, some of them have squandered the limited resources available to them for political purposes. There are some of the governors who have always used state resources for other reasons other than what they are meant for. No wonder, many sectors are suffering needing intervention urgently.

Interestingly, the issue of internally generated revenue in states has increased phenomenally, thanks to the fact most states have up their revenue profile, ostensibly to help develop them.

But it is the issue of insecurity that has taken off the shine off the celebration in the nation. There is no state that has no complaint of one security challenge or another. Communities no longer sleep with their eyes closed. No one is sure of what will happen in the next hour. Communities have been desecrated,

## Nigeria @62: Any reason to celebrate?



**Buhari**

to the point that there are more camps of internally displaced persons in our villages and towns.

Everyone knows that it is the responsibility of government to protect lives and property, but to think that it always the reverse speaks volumes of that aspect of what to expect from the government.

Nigeria is a nation in search of leaders; the older ones do not want to give younger Nigerians, or are not prepared to mentor them for power. That being the case, there are lots of young people that are today frustrated on account of lack of jobs. There is a monopoly of the recycling of leadership over the years; and it does appear it will be here for long with us.

Millions of young men and women have, thankfully with pains been educated and may have even gone ahead to serve the nation; yet they are still roaming the streets in search for non-existent jobs. No wonder, there is anger, animosity in the minds of younger Nigerians.

Now the youths think they have been educated on what best they can do to 'free' themselves from the shackles of domination they perceived is being encouraged by the long stay of the older hands in power. But sadly for the youths, they have continued to be used for the wrong reasons by the older ones as thugs

and all manner of negative tendencies.

Handling the youth has either been misunderstood or not taken as a project; knowing the army of unemployed roaming the streets in Nigeria. There are some of them who have been empowered repeatedly; while others haven't been, no wonder that has made them mad. The state is the worst for it, as the army of the unemployed has turned out to be legions of armed bandits, kidnapers and insurgents terrorizing states. Our communities and neighbourhoods are no longer safe anymore for living and business.

It is not out of place to state that, Nigerians are despondent in many fronts. Apart from being named as the world's capital for poverty, there are many things working against us for the wrong reasons. Ordinary (sorry), majority of Nigerians go to sleep on empty stomachs, as the cost of living does not favour the people. Most Nigerians live from hand to mouth and are worried that if things continue in this fashion, the country will be in for the worse.

It has been reiterated in leader story of The Nigeria Standard on October 2, 2022 and would like to share it thus: Sixty-two years down the line, our democratic experience has shown that despite the vast human and material resources at Nigeria's disposal, we are yet to

make significant progress and take its rightful place in the comity of advanced nations'.

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

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

'We now have a crop of ethnic bigots masquerading as leaders who have polarized the nation along sectional lines and interest while the society on a daily basis continues to disintegrate due to political, religious and ethnic cleavages. It is clear that our system has broken down as we are now faced with institutional crisis with evidence of collapse while our so-called elected leaders continue to feed fat from the state treasury at the expense of the tax payers'.

That is not what the founding fathers may have conceived concerning what the nation would go; even though, right from inception, the birthing of Nigeria may not have been rightly done. The British Colonial Government was in a haste to birth the nation, even if things were not done rightly.

Therefore, on account of the initial 'mistake' made, there are today agitations from sections of the country. It has taken the mercy of God to keep us as a nation. Repeatedly, there have been insinuations about the future of the country; stating apparent concerns about how its disintegration was on the way sooner than we ever imagine.

These agitations have given birth to security challenges that have threatened the foundations of Nigeria in more ways than one in the last thirteen years. Nigerians live in fear of what may happen the next minute. They know that, if things are not urgently done, the 'one chance' bus we are traveling in may not take us to our destination. It has been reiterated that it may crash anytime soon; but that may not be the way Nigerians think.

There is urgency for the leadership to be transformed. That is the sense in the agitations as the sections are worried that the country seems to belong only to a section. Why do they feel so? In the last seven years or more, appointments are skewed and essentially favour the north to the detriment of other sections. Nigerians from other section have lamented that they feel a sense of despondency as there are qualified Nigerians from other sections that play the second fiddle. There is no sense of togetherness whereas, on account of the challenges in the area of governance, they are limited to

contribute their best to nation building.

Even though those who should know pretend as if all is well with the people, and never saying anything about the people's concerns. They know it has been planned to go that way. Religion and ethnicity play a part never seen before in the annals of the history of the country; perhaps that is why even when some leaders are accused of sleaze, and depleting our common till, they don't get to face the wrath of the law, as they are the favoured ones.

Until corruption and other vices are dealt with quickly, there is no way that we will be satisfied with our state of stunted development. We are in it because we are led by leaders who put self first; they come into various offices without a blue print, unprepared for the mission they are embarking upon.

No wonder, midway through the journey, they run out of ideas that may change the state of the states or governments. They employ all manners of charlatans, who are not ready to disagree with their principals; only so if they can keep their jobs and or remain relevant in the scheme of things.

Governments don't survive that way; neither do they make any impact on this basis. They say, ideas rule the world, therefore, that being the case, it is expected that anyone coming government must be prepared by working on a blue print that would run for four or eight years as the case might be. Those who are bereft of ideas often falter and show eminent signs that they were not prepared for leadership.

Take the issue of internally generated revenue in the states; whereas some of them have made tremendous show of the idea on using what is available in the states for development, some of the states have remained stuck to receiving hand outs from the federal coffers. In this case, it will be difficult to eke out development of any sort, except payment of salaries that are difficult for some of the states for years.

Imagine that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, university teachers have been out of the lecture theatres since February 2022. Since then, there has no success in negotiations between the Association of Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Federal Government. One can only imagine what the students and parents have gone through, however, Nigerians are as worried as this debacle remains unresolved.

Nigerians are worried as the running battle continues. ASUU rightly believes strongly in the struggle, as they know the funds that are being frittered away by government officials which would have been used to settle what they are asking for. If certain individuals are being accused of sleaze in hundreds of billions and at the same time government is saying there are no funds to pay ASUU; it should be reason enough to ask questions.

On this march to the 63<sup>rd</sup> and approaching an election year, who knows, this could be the road to the dream we all have longed for as a nation. Whoever wins the presidency must be our guide to get us out of the woods.

**"There is urgency for the leadership to be transformed. That is the sense in the agitations as the sections are worried that the country seems to belong only to a section. Why do they feel so? In the last seven years or more, appointments are skewed and essentially favour the north to the detriment of other sections. Nigerians from other section have lamented that they feel a sense of despondency as there are qualified Nigerians from other sections that play the second fiddle. There is no sense of togetherness whereas, on account of the challenges in the area of governance, they are limited to contribute their best to nation building."**



## Teachers Day: Celebrated or tolerated

A few days ago, Teachers Day was celebrated. At most quarters, accolades were poured unceasingly on teachers for their sacrifices and selfless services. But even as they were celebrated, a handful of people reflected on the terrible teachers that they had either in their primary, secondary or tertiary institutions.

A lady who had her primary education in Kano in the 80s said about 2 years of her life were wasted by a very lazy teacher who spent more time under a gigantic tree in the centre of the school than in class. She said she spent part of her days in school straining her ears to hear what the teacher in the next class was teaching his pupils because she was hungry to learn.

Fortunately, the day came that their malam left and their class was asked to fix themselves in any of the class 2s which then was class 2 A - J. This lady took off at the speed of lightning to the class next to there's as her other classmates went to their friend's classes. That was when education really began for her.

On Teachers Day, my kids decided to run through their teachers. At the end of their discussion, they had categorised their teachers in two: those that were a blessing and those that were a curse. My daughter said she had a particular male teacher in primary school that most of her classmates came to dislike. His stock in trade was favouritism. His favourites were always right and never did anything wrong. And they were the ones always leading in class even though they were not the best. He made the other pupils feel like second class citizens. How they celebrated when he left the school.

An Abuja based young man says you will hate teachers if you meet one bent on making you look bad no matter what you do. His case was bad because he was in the same class with the

proprietress daughter who always picked on him because he refused to be intimidated by her or her mother. That put him in the school bad book. He was often picked on for no just reason to be punished. He said his teacher played the proprietress' card so well that he came to hate school. School then was synonymous to beating, punishment. That was until his mother got wind of the conspiracy and confronted them before changing his school.

A colleague recounted her son's experience in primary school. He was a very brilliant boy and was on top of the class in all subjects. But every prize giving day, he was never among the first 3. The teacher made sure those that received prizes were those who enrolled in her after school lesson. She wanted to justify their investment and to lure more parents to employ her service. In the process, she almost crushed a bright star. If not for the encouraging words of his parents, he would have lost hope and zeal for education.

Recently, I took my nephew for transfer examination. He was schooling in GSS Shendam and decided to transfer his education to Jos. We both came back with our tails buried between our legs. His performance was very poor. The school told me that he is not even qualified for JSS one in their school talk more of SS2 that we were claiming.

The report I got was that he is a brilliant boy, that was why I boldly took him to write exams for a mission school. Who would have thought that simple spellings would be a challenge. Who would have thought that reading would be a challenge for a student in senior class.

One wonders what he was taught in primary school. What did they spend their time teaching him in English. If a child can be in senior class without understanding of sounds, learning to read, then Nigeria has a long way to go.

We hear of teachers in the village becoming successful farmers who use pupils or students as their labourers for marks. Have the authorities concerned ever investigated the stories?

These vulnerable children have right to education. Being under-privileged does not mean they should be used or made to feel like second class citizens. What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

Passing through a community here in Nigeria, one of my aunts in company of a few friends, heard a teacher of primary school teaching her pupils English. It was an interactive class.

Teacher: The girl is sitting on the window. Do she?

Pupils: Yes, do she.

Teacher: The boy is playing. Do he?

Pupil: Yes, do he.

And we blame Governor El Rufai for sieving Kaduna State teachers. If our children are to be taught, they should be taught by qualified teachers who will not confuse them but groom them in every way possible.

“**One wonders what he was taught in primary school. What did they spend their time teaching him in English. If a child can be in senior class without understanding of sounds, learning to read, then Nigeria has a long way to go. We hear of teachers in the village becoming successful farmers who use pupils or students as their labourers for marks. Has the authorities concerned ever investigated the stories?**”

## NEWS

# RAAMP engages stakeholders on way forward

By JIDAUNA DARING

STAKEHOLDERS at a one day workshop on sector reform under Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project, (RAAMP) have been charged to brainstorm, discuss and share experiences on the way forward towards smooth implementation of the project in Plateau State.

Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development in the state, Dr. Hosea Fwangwai gave the charge while declaring open the sector reform workshop, held at the Crest Hotel Jos, last Tuesday.

SUNDAY STANDARD reports that the workshop was organized by the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with RAAMP supported by the World Bank, (WB) and the French Development Agency, (AFD).

Dr. Fwangwai said that the event marks a giant step in the quest to increase accessibility of the rural areas and agricultural marketing in the state.

He pointed out that the stakeholders who were drawn from MDAs, 17 LGAs and organized private sectors were to critically look at areas of benefit for the establishment of the Rural Access Road Agency, (RARA) and the avenues for generating funds, for the State Road Funds (SRF). He further said that this would further ensure continuous maintenance of roads and guarantee sustainability of the roads life.

The commissioner urged stakeholders at the workshop to give the project all their time, efforts and vast experiences to ensure investment of the state government and the partners WB and AFD are profitable.

He also put on record that RAAMP had brought about hope in rural areas, adding that they are doing everything humanly possible to ensure full implementation and



Fwangwai

sustainability of the project.

According to Fwangwai, the project mandate would bring relief to rural dwellers in terms of reduction in travel time and cost, easy accessibility to the needed basic social amenities such as quality health care, schools among others.

He maintained that the workshop was equally geared towards ensuring adequate maintenance and sustainability of infrastructure to be put in place by this project for the betterment of the lives of the citizens of the state.

Dr. Fwangwai commended Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State for his persistence at ensuring better life for rural populace.

National Coordinator, sector Reform, Abuja, Aminu Muhammed who was represented by Engr. Bukar Gana said that the purpose of the workshop was to discuss issues on maintenance and sustainability of the planned RAAMP intervention in Plateau State.

Consultant RAAMP Sector Reform, Maysam Abedin stressed the need for road inventory in Plateau State.

He emphasized the need for road users to be involved in the roads management.

Earlier in his remarks, coordinator RAAMP Plateau State, Engr. Matawal Dauda Mafwil expressed hope with the workshop and thanked the development partner for having the rural populace at heart for this important plan intervention project.

Some of the stakeholders who spoke with SUNDAY STANDARD also expressed happiness with the project, adding that if implemented, it would go a long in reducing the difficulties being faced by the rural dwellers who are predominately farmers.

They added that connecting the rural areas with good road network would equally enable them to transport whatever goods they have from one market to another with ease.

## SON ordered back to seaports

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

STANDARDS Organization of Nigeria, (SON) has been ordered back to Nigeria's sea ports in a bid to halt entry of substandard goods into the country. Its reinstatement to the sea ports is coming 11 years after the government ordered it out of seaports alongside other agencies.

The Director General of SON, Mallam Farouk Salim, who confirmed this development to newsmen in Abuja emphasized that the agency was working with Customs, Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) and other relevant agencies.

“Our presence is impactful and we are committed to the drive on ease of doing business as well as protecting the country from substandard goods,” Salim said.

The director general further stated that the agency has so far maintained a good working relationship with the

Customs Service and will, in the next two months release reports that show SON's presence is relevant at the ports.



Salim

SUNDAY POLITICS

# Ayu warns enemies of the party

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

**A**HEAD of the 2023 general election, National Chairman of the People's Democratic Party, Yorchia Ayu has warned enemies within the PDP who are bent on derailing the success of the party.

Ayu assured that those trying to cause division in the party would be disappointed.

The embattled PDP National Chairman has been at logger heads with Rivers governor, Nyesome Wike, who is agitating for his removal.

He spoke on Wednesday in Bauchi at the North East Consultative meeting.

"There are enemies of the party who are determined to cause division among us, by uttering all sorts of lies against us," Ayu stated.

"I want to tell you that they will be disappointed because at the end of the day members of this party will come out en masse and vote"

"All our National Assembly, governor candidates, will come back to the office. Having stayed out of power for 8 years, the PDP will be returned to power."

Those present at Wednesday's meeting held at the Multi-Purpose hall and hosted by Bauchi governor, Bala Mohammed, include the presidential candidate of the party, Alh. Atiku Abubakar and Delta governor who doubles as the Vice Presidential candidate of the party, Ifeanyi Okowa,

Others are the governor of Adamawa State, Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, former president of the senate, Abubakar Bukola Saraki, Sokoto governor, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, former Jigawa governor, Sule Lamido, former governor of Niger State, Dr. Babangida Aliyu.



**Ayu**

Also present are Senator Dino Melaye, one of the spokespeople for Atiku's presidential campaign, Taraba governor Darius Dickson Ishaku, Dr. Mohammed Jibrin, PDP governorship candidate in Gombe, Agbu Kefas, governorship candidate in Taraba, Shariff Abdullahi, governorship candidate in Yobe and Muhammad Ali Jajari, governorship candidate in Borno among others.

The PDP Chairman earlier received 25,000 defectors from various political parties in the state at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Stadium Bauchi, before the North East Consultative meeting where they said the North-East sub-region has not produced a President, "but today, God has chosen Atiku Abubakar who is a son of the North-East to correct all the challenges bedeviling the nation and unify it."

He then assured all the

defectors that they will enjoy a level playing ground within the party at all levels.

Bauchi is one of the key states in the country. In the Presidential election, if you don't win Bauchi, you can't win the country," He added.

He said further " power is returning to the North East but makes sure you campaign at your polling booth, not only at rallies. On that day, we shall shock Nigerians. The victory margin is going to be 7 million votes" he boasted.

In his remarks at the meeting, Atiku promised to revitalize the North East according to a plan that has been laid down in his book proposal titled ' My covenant with Nigerians'

Atiku who earlier congratulated the defectors at the Tafawa-Balewa stadium said that it was a good development that will bring a lot of gains for the party in 2023.

He then assured us that the campaign train will be back to

**A**HEAD of the 2023 general elections in the country, the Inspector General of Police, (IGP) Usman Baba has approved the training of first batch of Bell 412EP Type training course for Police Air wing Aircraft maintenance Engineers comprising 17 officers.

The training is expected to improve the technical expertise of the Aircraft maintenance Unit of the Police Airwing, there by preventing Operational Mishaps during aerial surveillance operations.

The Police boss has also approved the training of more pilots on Cessna citation this is contained in a press statement by the Force Public Relations Officer (FPPRO), Olumuyiwa Adejobi, a Chief superintendent of Police (CSP) which copy was obtained by SUNDAY STANDARD.

The training and maintenance of a fully operational unmaned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) squal, training of more engineers on both fixed wing and Rotary wing,

# Police trains aircraft maintenance engineers

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

as well as training for other auxiliary aviation staff to streamline operational in

adequancies, improve human resourcefulness and ensure enhance operational efficiency and cohesive



**Baba**

# Councillor extends N3m to construct party office

From **MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi**

**T**HE Councillor representing Hadari electoral Ward in Kokona Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, Hon. Affiku Kuje has spent over N3million on the construction of his political party office the All Progressive Congress (APC) in the ward headquarter, Marke.

Similarly, the councillor has also constructed other offices and furnished them both for the vigilante group and the youth canvassers to enhance the security of lives and property as well as facilitate political activities of his party.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony of the offices that took place in Marke during the week, the Councillor stated that his reasons for the construction and the donations of such edifices was based on his desire to contribute meaningfully to the success of his party especially that to whom much is given much is also expected as such he feels highly committed to give back in returns what was also given to him through the instrumentality of the party.

Kuje who is popularly known as GB Young, a prominent transporter, businessman and a farmer that has travelled widely across the globe, also recalled that when Lenin of the former Soviet Union became the President of that country he first of all built and strengthened his party to enable it provide the best direction on how to best take Russia to the promised land. As such, he said he feels highly committed to emulate him.

He stated that apart from such projects, he is working with a construction company along with member of the state House of Assembly representing Kokona East, Hon. Daniel Ogah Ogazi to embark on various roads construction across the constituency and beyond with a view to provide access road especially for the rural smallholder

farmers to enable them transport their agricultural produce to the markets with minimum ease and reap the fruits of their labour.

The councillor also stated that already he has donated several tipper loads of gravels and roads construction sand to the twin Mosque in Sabongida as well as the Church and even in Garaku outside his constituency.

While expressing his gratitude to the people of his constituency for their constant and encouraging support, he assured them of his determinations to continue to live up to his campaign promises and other obligations that would enhance their welfare, trust and togetherness.

He further assured that the usual support or financial assistance being rendered to his constituents to enable them address some of their financial challenges would be continued to the best of his abilities.

Kuje however solicited for the support for his people to his political party the APC for candidates of the state's House of Assembly up to Governor Abdullahi Sule, members of the National Assembly and the presidential candidate of the party Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Meanwhile, the ceremony was attended by prominent members of the APC in the Area including the Senatorial candidate of the party, Architect Shehu Ahmed Tukur among others.

# Lawmaker urges Nigerians to keep hope alive

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

**T**HE member representing Jos South/ Jos East Federal Constituency in the House of Representative, Hon. Musa Dachung Bagos has called on Nigerians not to lost hope in the country despite the

many negativities being presently witnessed across the land.

Hon. Bagos who sated this in a exclusive interview with **SUNDAY STANDARD** in his

National Assembly office, recently, urged Nigerians to keep hope alive, saying Nigeria will be great again.

The lawmaker hinged his advice on the continued ASUU strike insecurity, economic down turn, rising cost of living, brain drain and joblessness among other issues of great concern.

Hon. Bagos while explained that there is the need to raise the hope of the people, especially as the national moves towards the electioneering seasons, said there are too many challenges facing the people which necessitated the clarion call in order to calm trail nerves and sooth upset emotion.

The legislator who come to the House in the 9th Assembly and it seeking re-election said his party, the People Democratic



**Bagos**

## SUNDAY POLITICS

## Senator Daduut: Honour for an accomplished representative

*If all the available indices must be reckoned with, then Senator Prof Dame Nora Ladi Daduut could best be described as a woman of immense administrative acumen. With remarkable leadership style, or how else does one describe a woman who is currently serving her first term as the Senator representing Plateau South in the Red Chamber, JIDAUNA YANUNG writes.*

**S**ENATOR Prof Dame Nora Ladi Daduut is the Senator representing Plateau Southern Senatorial district of Plateau State in the national Assembly. She was elected as Senator and assumed office in 2020. Since then she has impressed the people of the Senatorial district perceived as the largest in the state and has been operating smoothly which speaks volumes of her leadership and style of representation.

She assumed office following the sad event of the demise of Senator Ignatius Longjan the lawmaker who represented the Senatorial district, with the overwhelming support of the APC in the state and its leadership.

At a period when the economy was impacting negatively on the people, the legislator pledged to be accountable to the senatorial District and took deliberate steps towards the delivery of the dividends of democracy of the APC government both at the State and Federal level.

Today, Senator Daduut has made history by putting life into the senatorial district as a whole by embarking on programmes and projects that have direct bearing on the people drawn from the six local government areas that make up the Senatorial district.

Senator Nora Ladi Daduut in a media chat explained how she feels being the representative of her people.

According to her, "I feel a number of things: first and foremost I feel grateful to God Almighty for giving me a rare opportunity. Rare opportunity in the sense that its not everybody that has this unique opportunity of representing their people.

Secondly, I think its another opportunity for me to come close to my people and know what they need, because to whom much is given, much is also expected. Thirdly, I think it is another battle, in the sense that the powers that be, expect so much from me. There is a level of confidence placed on me, and confidence is like respect, you earn it. And so, I want to earn this confidence, I want to sustain it over a period of time.

These are some of my feelings, I feel challenged and motivated to do more to justify the confidence reposed in me and show the world that I deserve to be respected.

Senator Daduut could not have been appreciated better by her people for her laudable contributions to the quest of building a virile nation, especially as it borders on her locality and her current brief, which has seen her establishing a warm rapport between the government and the people.

It is on account of this, that Senator Nora Ladi Daduut was conferred with Thomas Sankara Pan Africa leadership prize for excellence as "Pan Africa women



President of YOUPAD, comrade Hameed presenting the award to Senator Daduut

of courage 2022 on September 23rd, 2022. Earlier, the youth partnership for Africa's development (YOUPAD) had sent a letter of notification to the legislator informing her of the award. The YOUPAD in the letter explained that the award was conferred on the law maker because of her hard work and dedication to national development, her selfless leadership ideology and high administrative prudence. Also, her positive contribution to the Plateau South Senatorial District and her achievements in the area of job creation, open door policy, charity to the less privileged, among others were taken into cognisance.

On the award day, a delegation comprising comrade Daniel Donal who came from Ghana, Comrade Nwankwo Henry Nkem from Nigeria, Comrade Coulibally Bn Hameed came from Senegal and Comrade Pemumbu Brenda from Cameroon were all in the National Assembly for the presentation of the award.

Mr. Henry Nwankwo Nkem who kick started the event explained that the youth partnership for Africa's Development (YOUPAD) is an African based youth organization with a core objective of building the youth in leadership and entrepreneurship for the purpose of providing Africa with intellectually equipped youths to take the mantle of leadership so as to build the Africa of our collective dreams. He added that this can only be achieved through an integrated, prosperous and

peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic youth force in the international arena.

Explaining further, Mr. Nkem who is also the Nigeria coordinator of YOUPAD said the organization operateS in two ways in order to reach out to the youth who are future leaders of Africa and it carries out various campaigns in the area of drug abuse and rape among others.

Conferring the award on the senator, President of YOUPAD, comrade Coulibally Bn Hameed described Senator Daduut as a woman of honour, intellectual juggernaut and a woman with magnificent experience as a matter of Administrative prudence and public service best practice.

According to him, "To achieve our objectives, we need to find ourselves individuals and leaders who have distinguished themselves in various areas of endeavour, then appreciate them with our instrument of commendation as we also (more importantly) interact with them so as to enable us tap from their wealth of experience for continuity and replication of their good work in all member countries. It is on the foregoing note, that we are here today to present this honor to your esteemed person (Prof. Nora Daduut) because you have distinguished yourself as a selfless leader of astute erudition, outstanding understanding and articulate attributes who is one of such rare



prominent African women that are writing their names on the very heart of history as a matter of dedicated service to God, humanity and county which is in line with the Thomas Sankara ideology, our terms of reference for conferring this honor to your esteemed person today. Also included (but not limited to) your hard work and dedication to national service via the academia and politics, high administrative acumen and selfless leadership ideology, pwhich has led to the positive transformation of the Plateau South Senatorial District since your assumption of office as the Senator.

You are a team player and passionate youth developer which is evident in your all-inclusive leadership style, you have approached your mandate of providing care and support to your people with every sense of responsibility. As a team player you carried everyone along in your decision making irrespective of tribe, religion or gender, as a public servant with zero tolerance to corruption, nepotism or favoritism, and your philanthropy in charity to the less privileged and the downtrodden in the society and providing humanitarian support to people and communities.

Your exemplary lifestyle which promotes the African moral values is worthy of emulation by the youths, including many other attributes too numerous to be mentioned in prints.

YOUPAD acknowledges you as a Pan African Women of Courage, those African women of courage

and virtue whose lives exemplify the ideal of living for the sake of others and dedicate themselves to practices which promotes African moral values, strong family Life, corporation, renewal of Pan - Africanism leadership ideology, a responsible public media and establishment of a culture of peace transcending racial, national and religious barriers, the woman of courage most constitute to the fulfillment of the hope for all ages, a unified Africa of peace wherein the spiritual and material dimensions of life are harmonized.

It is on that note that we are here to present this well-deserved honor to you Prof. Nora Daduut. According to an old African proverb; an army of sheep led by a lion is stronger than an army of lions led by a sheep, but what we have in this Senatorial District or any office under the amiable leadership of Prof. Nora Daduut, is an army of lions led by a lioness. YOUPAD is delighted to be in West Africa, to be in Nigeria, to be in Abuja to honor a woman who is hard working and dedicated to service, a woman who is accountable and operate with 100 percent open door policy, a woman with a high administrative acumen and selfless leadership. I am talking about no other but Prof. Nora Daduut.

Responding the Senator, Prof. Nora Daduut, expressed gratitude to the group for finding her worthy of the award addig that this will spur her to do more for her people and her constituents.

POLITICS

# Lar taught us politics of inclusion -Lalong

By PALANG KASMI

**P**LATEAU Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has described the Late Chief Solomon Daushep Lar, the first Civilian Governor of Plateau State as a man who left lasting legacies in Nigeria.

The Governor also described him as a personality who laid the foundation for politics of Inclusion which earned him the popular name 'Emancipator' and 'Baba Lar'.

He gave the accolades during an Autobiography Book Launch in honour of Late Lar in Abuja.

Lalong who was Chief Host of the event, disclosed that his preference for politics of inclusion and Bridge-building is a result of the mentoring he got from the first civilian Governor of Plateau State Chief Solomon Daushep Lar. He said "Like Baba Solomon Lar, I am perturbed by criticism of my governance style which downplays exclusion, tribalism and religious bigotry".

"Personally, Chief Solomon Lar groomed me among many others in politics and taught us so much about politics".

"One of the key things to highlight about Baba Lar are his politics of Principles; Inclusion; and Bridge-building. Although he stood by his principles in the opposition NPP, nevertheless he reached out and had friends across other political parties including the then ruling NPN and people from various parts of Nigeria".

"Some of his friends include people like Abubakar Rimi, Dr. Jim Nwobodo, Chief Bisi Akande among others".

Lalong who is also the Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum and Director General of the APC Presidential Council recalled that in delivering service to the people, the Late practiced and taught the principle of balance, inclusion, excellence and fairness.

He said during the period Lar ruled, Plateau became home to people from all over Nigeria and foreigners because he never allowed ethnicity to becloud his search for capacity and excellence.

He recalled that Lar during those times appointed non indigenes into very senior positions in Government because of their capacity among which were Justice Obi Okoye as Chief Judge of Plateau State, Mrs. Akinrinade, Commissioner of Finance, while



Lalong

Mr. Chris Abashia, a Fulani man was his Special Adviser on Political Matters while in the Plateau State House of Assembly, an Urhobo man Chief Okporido was the Chief Whip.

This he said was the reason why he has adopted the philosophy of the late Political sage to ensure that Plateau State once again returns to its position as the Home of Peace and Tourism and a destination for all Nigerians and foreigners alike.

"Today, our Rescue Administration has continued to work hard to restore such legacies of Baba Lar in ensuring that Plateau State heals from wounds of its ugly past. Despite the criticism and attacks against me on appointments, rebuilding Jos Main Market, Peace Building and reconciliation among others, I have remained resolute because of the realization that even Chief Solomon Lar that we are eulogizing today faced such criticism over his decisions".

"However, posterity has vindicated him and he is now receiving accolades. My duty is to continue to appeal to our people and Nigerians not to politicise everything, but preach love, unity and peace", said Lalong.

According to him "Baba Lar as he was fondly called, was a politician whose faith in God and belief in the tenets of democracy and freedom impacted his conduct at all times. Little wonder, he earned himself the name "Emancipator" because of his style of governance which endeared him to the grassroots in the then Plateau State that also included current Nasarawa State".

President Muhammadu Buhari who was represented at the event by Secretary to the Government of the Federation Boss Mustapha unveiled the autobiography as well as the Solomon and Mary Lar Foundation and Institute in honour of the Late political Leader.

The President said Lar remained committed to democratic ideals during his lifetime and left behind worthy legacies that have endured.

Chairman of the occasion and former President Goodluck Jonathan said Chief Lar was a great Nigerian who opened his arms to people from diverse backgrounds and also ensured that politics benefited people at the grassroots.

In his remarks, Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and Presidential Candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in 2023 elections of the country said the legacies of Chief Solomon Lar are numerous and worth celebrating for a political colossus of his calibre.

APC National Chairman Abdullahi Adamu and his PDP counterpart Senator Iyorchia Ayu said the event is coming at a time when political activities are in top gear in the country which brings an opportunity to reflect on the ideals he stood for and profusely defended, being one of those who played very important role in birthing the restoration of the democracy.

Widow of Chief Solomon Lar, Ambassador Mary Lar said she was highly elated by the honour done to her husband who stood for unity, love and selflessness throughout his political career.

She said the foundation and institute will vigorously pursue his ideals and also work towards ensuring that his mentoring legacy is sustained.

**T**HE European Union Ambassador to Nigeria Ms. Samuels Isopi has met with the All Progressives Congress (APC) Director General of the Presidential (PCC) and Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong on the party's preparedness for the the 2023 general election.

The meeting which was held Thursday at the APC Tinubu Campaign Headquarters in Abuja also had in attendance the Vice Presidential Candidate of the APC Kashim Shettima and other PCC members.

Ambassador Isopi said she was at the Headquarters of the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Office as part of her routine engagement with various stakeholders including political parties ahead of the 2023 general elections.

## EU Ambassador Isopi meets APC Presidential Council

By PALANG KASMI

She said although the EU Mission to Nigeria has no role to play in terms of supporting any candidate or party, it has been working closely with those involved to ensure that the general elections go smoothly and the citizens exercise their franchise freely.

Both the APC Vice Presidential Candidate Senator Kashim Shettima and Director General of PCC Governor Simon Bako Lalong assured her that the APC as the ruling party is doing all possible to work within the guidelines of INEC especially with the commencement of campaigns.

They welcomed the

Ambassador to the Headquarters of the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign and expressed the readiness of the APC Presidential Campaign Council to support any initiative that will ensure that the elections go without any challenges.

The meeting which continued behind closed doors was also attended by other party stakeholders and campaign council members including the Deputy DG Operations Adams Oshiomole, Deputy DG Administration Hadiza Bala Usman, Secretary of the PCC Hon. James Faleke, and Chief of Staff to the DG PCC Hon. Yakubu Dati, Mr Wale Edun, Director of Finance, Mr. Christopher Tarka, Deputy Secretary.

## 'APC now stronger despite initial hiccups'

From GYANG PAM, Yola

**N**ATIONAL Vice Chairman North East of the All Progressives congress (APC) Comrade Mustapha Salihu said the party was now stronger despite initial hiccups.

He spoke recently at a stakeholders meeting held at the conference hall of Muna Hotel in Yola the Adamawa State Capital.

According to Comrade Mustapha, the meeting with the stakeholders has yielded fruits with stakeholders barring their minds over issues they feel could affect the party in the zone.

Comrade Mustapha told newsmen that Conflicts rather than peaceful growth is the engine room of progress as society itself

moves in cyclical natures.

He says the party was now more than optimistic of victory adding that when a political party is quiet after primaries that scenario is what is called grave yard silence and that can be dangerous.

The North East National Vice Chairman disclosed that it was good the people voiced out their grievances so as to draw attention to what might have gone wrong ongoing with the party. "People voiced out their grievances in the past and kept quiet and we lost out during the election in the past and that was 2019 and so all issues are being looked out", he says.

## '2023: Everyone is being carried along'

By PALANG KASMI

**A**HEAD of Nigeria's 2023 Elections, Plateau Governor Simon Bako Lalong and Director General (DG) of the All Progressives Congress Campaign (PCC) Council (APC), has promised to carry all stakeholders along.

He gave the assurance recently after the meeting of

the APC Presidential Campaign Council at the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Headquarters Abuja.

Thereafter, the DG alongside the Progressives Governors Forum (PGF), Chairman Atiku Badugu led

some members of the Council and Governors on a visit to the National Secretariat of the APC to meet with National Chairman, Senator Abdullahi Adamu and members of the NWC.

Lalong during the meeting informed the APC National Chairman, Senator Abdullahi Adamu that they were at the APC Headquarters to brief the NWC about their plans and activities as part of consultations with critical stakeholders.

He intimated him about the fruitful engagements that the PCC had with the PGF.

"Everyone in the party is being carried along to ensure that the APC conducts a robust campaign that will ensure its victory at the polls" assured the DG.

Responding, APC Chairman welcomed the DG and his team and assured them that the party leadership was ready to do its part in ensuring smooth campaigns for the victory of the Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and other candidates of the party.

## PDP Chief decries Wike's uncompromising stance

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

**A**chieftain of the people's Democratic Party (PDP) in keffi Local Government Area of

Nasarawa State Engineer Mohammed Naseers KB

has decried the uncompromising stance of Governor Nyeson Wike of River state and his group for their recent decision not to be part of the campaign of team of the Presidential candidates of the party Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

Speaking against the backdrop of their recent meeting in Porthartcourt River state capital convened by Governor Wike the host, the PDP chieftain described their stance as highly detrimental to the success of the party.

"From what they were doing Governor Wike and his cohorts are really undermining the efforts of the party that is now

striving to win the presidential and other available seats come 2023 general elections and regains its lost glories for the general betterment of all Nigerians" he stated.

KB who lamented that Wike who has been tipped to succeed the Presidential candidate of the party Atiku Abubakar especially that he comes from the south -south but has unfortunately decided not be a true party man that accept the outcomes of every situation in good faith and work for an amicable solution.

He stated that since it is quite obvious that the present National Chairman of the party must quit to pave way for

balancing of positions within the party but courtesy demined that he should wait for the appropriate time so that due process must be followed.

KB who recalled the previous antecedents of Governor Wike in bringing and changing the leadership of the party just for him to satisfy his personal aggra disement, urged the National leadership of the party to ignore him and move ahead.

He then commended the presidential candidate of the party for his decision to ignore them and chart the way forward in pursuing their campaign activities in earnest.



Ayu

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## LALONG SWEARS IN 7 COMMISSIONERS

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong last week sworn-in seven commissioners in the state at the Victoria Gowon Multipurpose Hall, new Government House Rayfield, Jos



A cross section of the 7 commissioners listening to the speech of the Governor after the oath taking ceremony



Governor Lalong addressing the newly sworn in commissioners



Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, APC State Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature, SGS, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu and other appointees of Government at the ceremony



The Long Piapung, HRH Lawrence Lityong Nanshel (left) greeting first class royal fathers at the swearing in ceremony



L - R: Hon. Benschak Dalop, Hon. Innocent Tirsell and Hon. Sadat Garga at the swearing in ceremony



Dr. Boniface Gwotbit, KSM, General manager, PPC (right) congratulating the Commissioner, Barr. Tehkuk Naanlep Pingwai posted to the Ministry of Lands and Survey



Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda (left) flanked by Chief Judge, Justice David Mann, representative of the President, CCA, Barr. Peter Bettei and His Royal Highness, Long Gamai, Miskoom Martin Shaldas



Hon. Dan Manjang, Commissioner of Information and Communication (right) in a warm embrace with the newly sworn in commissioner of Youth and Sports, Hon. Daniel Dung Dalyop

Photos: DANLADI DUK



**THE Plateau State House of Assembly in collaboration with Plateau ALGON and the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, recently held a capacity building workshop for councillors in the seventeen local government councils of the state. The aim is to basically, educate and equip the legislators for better performance. Below is a general assessment and expectations from some of the participants.**

**Hon. Samuel Iliya, Leader Jos East Legislative Arm**

I actually count it a privilege to be part of this workshop. The training has been an eye opener and I have really learnt a lot of things. It has been very educative, very challenging and very motivating. Some of the areas we have been informed on has to do with our responsibilities at our various local government level. In fact, the issues mostly has to do with our representation. We as legislators are representatives of our people before any other thing, and I am happy that one of the speaker's did justice to that. He spoke on some of the attributes and characters we need to possess as a representative. He also discussed on the ethics of leadership, and legislative responsibilities etc.

At the end of this experience, I would have been properly equipped and ready to take on areas that were lacking believing that my skills would have been sharpened. By virtue of all that I have learnt, I can categorically tell you that I have been properly educated to better carry out my responsibility as a leader. The organisers have really tried honestly, only that we wished that the exercise would have come earlier. As you know, we are almost clocking one year in office and most of us did not understand what it entailed but all the same we are grateful. I pray that our tenure as legislators lasts up to three years and I assure you that if we have that ample time, and with what we have learnt so far, you will be surprised at the improved performance of the legislature at the local level.

**Hon. Nanzing Miner, Leader Langtang North Legislative Arm**

Sincerely, I have learnt a lot in the course of this training and have realised that that there were so many things that we were doing ignorantly as a legislative arm. With the knowledge that I have acquired here, I am sure to pick up and improve on the legislative business. When I get back home, I promise that Langtang North legislative arm will begin to do things differently as a result of this training. You must be aware of what is going on between us as legislators and the executive. Yes, we agree that some things were done wrongly while initiating the impeachment process but as lawmakers, we have been better informed on how to follow due process on impeachment matters as prescribed by the law. That is not to say that the issue has been withdrawn, we are still on the matter and this time, all due process is being adhered to.

**Hon. Pansat Sylvester, Majority Leader Mangu Legislative Arm and Vice Chairman Councillors Forum of Nigeria, Central Zone**

As legislators in the local government on the Plateau, I will say that this is what we have been waiting for because we cannot venture into a business that we know little or nothing about. This capacity building workshop is

timely. Personally, this exercise has prepared my mind towards what is expected of me as a legislator. It has also opened my eyes on things I never knew about pertaining to legislative business. As far as I am concerned, this is one of the best achievements in my life so far as a legislator. Reason being that it has exposed me on what I need to do going forward so as to bring the dividends of democracy to the people I represent at the grassroots.

**Hon. Grace Laraba Vanderpuye, Councillor Representing Vanderpuye Ward**  
Well, for some of us in Jos North we



## 'We have been equipped to function better'



Iliya



Vanderpuye



Miner

will describe this as an additional training because we have been privileged to have attended one in the past, and it was courtesy of Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan, our representative at the state assembly who also happens to be the House Committee Chairman on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs. The opportunity presented itself when we as a legislative arm were

confronted with certain challenges. At that time, we were not comfortable with what was going on in the local government council between us and the executive, even though we knew what our rights were.

So, this training is just like rehearsing some of the things we have had in the past, though this one went a step further in broadening our knowledge

because a lot were added. Also, some areas which were not clear then are now clearer. What I can say is that I am now better prepared to function effectively because I have been taught on a deeper level. This is a very welcome development and I really want to appreciate everyone involved in coming up with the initiative. While we would have loved to have had it earlier especially at the beginning of our tenure, however it is better late than never.

**Hon. Sylvester Kwapnoe Ari, Majority Leader Jos North Legislative Arm**

Truly speaking and looking at this capacity building workshop, you will realise that indeed it has been a mind blowing experience. As a legislator, it has opened my eyes, widened my horizon and sharpened my understanding to know that democracy is a game of inclusiveness. That is to say that I have to have an avenue of interacting with my constituents always, so as to know and understand what their problems are and see how we can legislate on them. Most importantly is to make by laws that will bring about progress and development for the people at the grassroots.

Therefore, I see this workshop as the best idea so far and I want to say kudos to the Chairman House Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan who stood his ground to ensure that we are trained with plans to continue training the state local

government legislative arm on issues that will sharpen and broaden our legislative insight. After today, my constituents should expect a better representation, quality governance at the grassroots that will require more interface and interaction with them.

**Hon. Simon Dung Pam, Leader Jos South Legislative Arm**

This exercise was organised for us as legislators to know more about legislative practice and procedures. And have I done that? Yes, I have actually learnt that and more. My take home is on the need to have a cordial relationship between the legislature and the executive. I was made to understand that if the council chairman who is the executive fails, it is not only him that failed but the legislature as well. Again, if we do not know the practice and procedures, we cannot provide good governance for our people because the councillor is the closest to the people.

Secondly if you do not know your duty as a councillor, which is to represent your people in order to bring them development, you have ultimately failed in your number one responsibility. For me after this workshop, I intend to go back to the drawing board and begin to set my priorities right. I promise to perform my duties as a councillor effectively so as to deliver the dividends of democracy to my people of Zawan B Ward who chose to give me their mandate.

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Mahmood



Tinubu

## 2023 elections, parties and crisis

**As registered political parties in Nigeria embark on campaigns collecting votes from the electorate ahead of the February 2023 elections, some of the major parties have been engulfed in one crisis or the other. What tendencies does this portend for the general elections? VICTOR ALI Writes.**

**S**INCE the return to democracy in 1999 after several years of military interregnum, Nigeria entered another phase in its nationhood. With democratic rule kept in abeyance for a long time, party politics, sure, will have to start from the scratch. Largely, the political parties of the first Republic (1960-1966) can be said to be regionally-based. These parties had their firm roots in the regions.

The Northern peoples congress (NPC led by Sir Ahmadu Bello cum Alhaji Tafawa Balewa had the Northern region as its forte, the National Council for Nigeria and Cameroon (NCNC) with Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe in charge had the faster region in its grip while Chief Obafemi Awolowo of the Action Group (AG) had the western region for itself. That is not to say that there were no other parties. The aforementioned were the dominant ones.

Even the second Republic (1979-1983) was not

different. The prominent and dominant parties then had the semblance of the First Republic. The National Party of Nigeria (NPN) on whose platform the late Alhaji Shehu Usman Shagari emerged as president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria had its firm roots in the North, the Unity party of Nigeria (UPN) of Chief Obafemi Awolowo had the West while Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe's Nigeria Peoples Party (NPP) was in charge of the East. Of course, there were pockets of other smaller parties.

Interestingly, the transition programme that ushered the Fourth Republic was huge departure from the past. The parties that were registered and contested had national outlook. Though some involved strange bed fellows, they were still good to go. At the dawn of the democratic dispensation in 1999, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) emerged as the dominant and intimidating Political Party. Like a

colossus, it swept the polls virtually everywhere.

For sixteen good years (16), the PDP held sway at the centre, from Chief-Olusegun Obasanjo, Umaru Yar'Adua down to Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, the PDP was in the eyes of the storm. So confident was the party that its then zonal vice chairman (West) Chief Olabode George, boasted that the party will continue to rule Nigeria for the next 50 years was to come to naught in 2015 as the ruling Party (PDP) was resoundingly defeated by the mega party – the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The emergence of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in itself was an act of ingenuity in political engineering. It was a fusion or amalgam of several parties – the Congress for Progressive change (CPC), All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) and part of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) amongst others. In what started as a joke, the APC was to be PDP's Waterloo in the general elections of 2015.

With the 2023 general elections around the corner and with the APC on the saddle for about eight years (8) what are the state of the parties? Will the PDP stage a come back? What about the

emergence of a third force in the mould of the Labour Party (LP) or the New Nigeria People Party (NNPP) and others?

The emergence of these new parties and their forceful, albeit serious entry into the politics areas has given political pundits a second thought on what to expect. The so called established parties, particularly the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) seem to be having post-convention issues. The political intrigues and intricacies that trailed and still trailing the two major parties call for concern. Can the centre still hold? Or something will give away?

With the beginning of campaigns on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, it has been mixed outlook for the parties. According to media reports, The Nation, Friday, September 30, 2022, barely 24 hours after launching its campaign, the crisis that has hit the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) escalated as some members of the National working committee (NWC) returned N122.4m rent stipends paid into their account.

Some NWC members alleged that they got the strange alerts after they joined issues with the party on the where about of over

N10 billion realized as nomination fees during the party's primaries. The N10 billion was said to have been depleted to N1 billion in uncertain circumstances, leading to tension in the NWC. The paper equally reported that some NWC members were paid N28million each to hush the row over the where about of the N10 billion.

According to the report, those who have so far returned their emergency stipends were the Deputy National Chairman (South) Ambassador Taofeek Arapaja (N36 million), National Vice Chairman (South West) Olusoji Adagunodo (N28,000,000), National Woman Leader, Prof. Stella Effa Attoe (28,000,000) and National Chairman (South-South) Chief Dan Orbih (N28,800,000). Though money maybe at the centre of this latest controversy but beyond the horizon there seems to be some undercurrent.

It is an open secret that since the conclusion of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) National convention in which Alhaji Atiku Abubakar emerged as the standard bearer of the party, the Dr. Lyorchia Ayu-led executive has not known peace. At the fore-front of the campaign for resignation of the PDP National Chairman has remained Rivers State

*Continue on page 31*

**"It is an open secret that since the conclusion of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) National convention in which Alhaji Atiku Abubakar emerged as the standard bearer of the party, the Dr. Lyorchia Ayu-led executive has not known peace. At the fore-front of the campaign for resignation of the PDP National Chairman has remained Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike with his few governors-colloquy. Wike who equally contested the presidential primaries may have been displeased and disappointed hence, his resolve to have his pround of flesh."**



## JOS NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO RELOCATE THE OLD POLICE BARRACKS AT THE NEW MARKETTO YELWA ZANGAM ALL IN JOS NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The Jos North Local Government Council in partnership with the Nigerian Police Force is desirous of relocating the old Police barracks at new market Jos to Yelwa Zangam. In pursuant to this, the management of Jos North Local Government Council is requesting for expression of interest from suitably qualified companies to indicate interest to pre-qualify / submit expression of interest for the work.

#### SCOPE OF THE WORK

1. Acquisition of 2.27 Ha of land at Yelwa Zangam
2. Construction of:
  - i. 50 units of 1 bedroom complete with kitchen and toilet
  - ii. 50 units of single room complete with toilet and kitchen.
  - iii. 1 unit of 3 bed room apartment
  - iv. 6 units of 2 bed room apartment
  - v. A multi-Purpose hall.
  - vi. 4 security observation towers
  - vii. A Police post
  - viii. Entrance gate / gate house
  - ix. Fencing of the Barracks:
  - x. Construction of parking lot
  - xi. Landscaping/services

#### CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY

All bids must be accompanied by the following:

- Evidence of company registration with Corporate Affairs Commission in Nigeria.
- The current three years tax clearance certificate of the company (2019-2021)
- Certificate of VAT registration
- Company audited account for the last three years (2019-2021)
- Evidence of financial capacity or bank support to undertake the project.
- Evidence of having successfully carried out similar works
- Company profile indicating qualification and experience of key company staff
- Proof of company's understanding of the job implementation plan and job methodology
- Evidence of health and safety/environmental policy and community relation
- Evidence of compliance with ITF act
- Valid certificate of compliance with pension act issued by PENCOM
- Sworn affidavit disclosing whether any member of a relevant committee of Jos North Local Government Council or the technical committee is a former or present director, shareholder or has a pecuniary interest in the bidder and to confirm that all information supplied by the bidder is correct
- Evidence of registration with relevant professional bodies
- Evidence of registration as a contractor with Jos North

LGC.

#### TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested companies should obtain the documents from the office of the Director of Works Lands and Survey, Jos North Local Government Council upon the payment of a none refundable expression of interest fee of #50,000.00 (fifty thousand Naira) only in bank manager's cheque made payable to Jos North LGC.

#### SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Two (2) bound copies of the technical and financial tender documents must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes clearly marked 'Expression of Interest' and 'Financial Bid' respectively, both put in a third envelope sealed and marked on the right-hand top corner 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST and addressed to;

**THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN,  
JOS NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL  
JOS NORTH LGC SECRETARIAT, JOS  
PLATEAU STATE.**

The closing date for the submission of the expression of interest shall be Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 by 10 am. The documents shall be dropped in a box in the office of the Director of works Jos North LGC, Companies submitting expression of interest document are expected to sign the tender register at the office of the Director of Works, Jos North LGC before dropping them. Submission of expression of interest by post or courier will not be acceptable and any tender submitted to the designated location after the stipulated date and time will be considered late and none responsive

#### OPENING OF TENDER/ EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Opening of tenders shall be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 by 12;00 pm at the council chambers.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Successful companies will be expected to source for funds to buy the land at Yelwa Zangam, build the structures listed above, hand them over to the Nigerian Police and thereafter recoup their investment through the sales of the old Police Barracks.
2. Jos North LGC shall reserve the right to verify the authenticity of claims made by tendering party.
3. Jos North LGC reserves the right to reject any submission based on unverifiable information
4. All financial bids should be quoted in naira.

**SIGNED:  
DIRECTOR OF WORKS,  
JOS NORTH LOCAL GOVT. COUNCIL**



## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Nigeria: What hope for education at 62?

**Nigeria has recently celebrated yet another independence anniversary as a sovereign nation which was granted to it on October 1, 1960, the day the British colonial flag was joyfully and in a historic mood replaced on the pole with the Nigerian flag signifying the departure from the colonial rule and from that day, every 1<sup>st</sup> October was set aside for celebration to mark the nation liberation CHINDAPBA NGOP, writes.**

**R**ECALLING how the independence celebration used to be, every Nigerian was eager to see and participate; school children, students, the military police, cultural troupes, masquerades and the display of ethnic groups dances to thrill and add colours to the celebration. The National anthem was sang with great sense of total commitment to our great nation and to crown it all, Nigeria was the envy of many African countries.

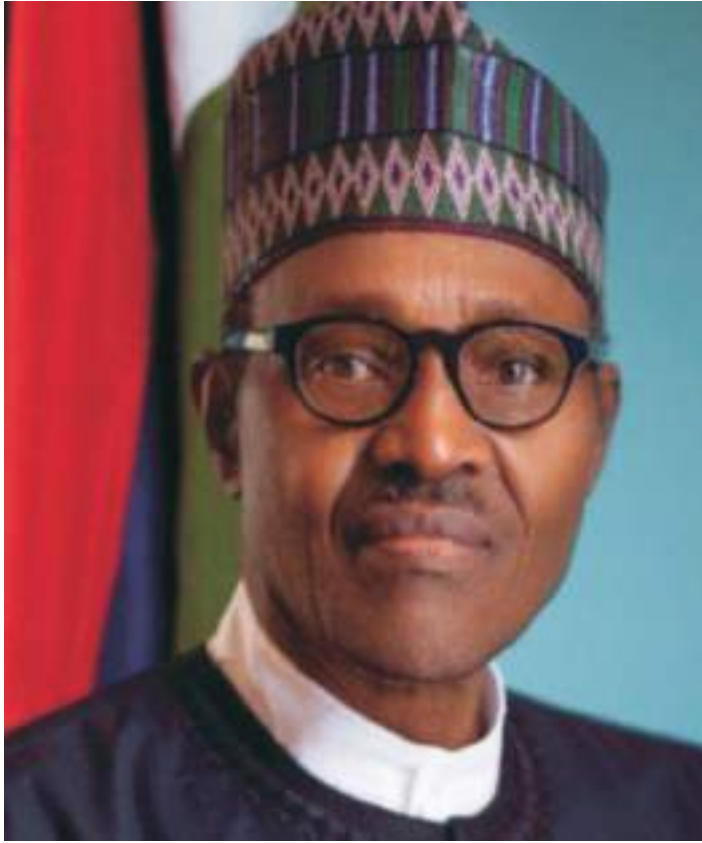
Watching this year's activities of the independence celebration, Nigerians are no longer celebrating the anniversary of our nationhood enthusiastically. The spirit and avidity with which they used to celebrate it has faded away. This is because the foundation that was laid by our founding fathers have not been sustained and improved upon despite Nigerian's wealth in petroleum and natural resources and its huge agricultural potential. Nigeria which was and still considered as one of the largest economies in Africa has suffered a serious gasp in all aspects of life after 62 years of its freedom. The dreams and aspirations for greater future of Nigeria appears to be dark and gloomy for an average Nigerian today.

However, the driving force of any great nation is education, therefore our productive capacity solely depends on the quality of education we put in place today. It was in this regards that our founding fathers established the Nigeria's first five early generation and regionised Universities; Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) 1962, University of Ibadan (UI) 1948, University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) 1962, Obafemi Awolowe University (OAU) 1962 and University of Lagos (UNILAG) 1962.

To keep pace with time and the ever fast growing population, between 1975-1980, the Federal government in its third National Development plan established seven additional Universities namely; University of Jos, Ilorin, Maiduguri, Port-Harcourt, Calabar, Sokoto, Ado Bayero University, Kano as the second generation Universities.

Today, number of primary and secondary schools in the country have also increased considerably and their enrollment have been made universal. The proliferation and privatization policy of government have made individuals and corporate bodies to establish more schools. Now Nigeria currently has over 180 public and private Universities.

There is no denying the fact that in the last 62 years, Nigeria has made some progress in series of reforms that have also taken place in the education sector but the quality of education leaves much to be desired as the sector is at a crossroad. The explosion of higher institutions without commensurate number of qualified teachers has exacerbated the already battered educational system. Therefore no progress has been made beyond the increase in the number of educational institutions across the country. Even with the increase, politicians are still clamoring for more Universities to be



Buhari



Adamu

established in the country.

Admittedly, the transformation in the education sector has not yielded any positive development to unlock our enclosed potentials as a nation nor has it equipped us to get out of the extreme poverty.

Educationally we are still not where we ought to be notably in terms of the industrial revolution that is driven by the emerging technological advancements and skills acquisition. Technology remains one of the greatest components for change in the digital age. Nevertheless, how can Nigeria measure up with the emerging digital technology which is the sure way of creating wealth for the nation with the epileptic relationship between Federal government and the industrial unions in the public tertiary institutions over the years?

The over 8 months strike embarked by the unions in the Nigerian public Universities have no doubt made education boring for both students and parents and the frequent strikes in the past have repeatedly convinced many Nigerians that the quality of education is steadily dwindling thereby making them to lose confidence in Nigeria's educational system.

It is most subversive and unpatriotic for the elites and the political class who most of them enjoyed better scholarships, tree meals, better and free accommodations etc. In the 70s and late 80s have become so insensitive watching the destruction of the very sector that had offered them the opportunities to become who they are today. They are not making education their priority to allocate more resources into education sector to enable the

country accomplish its vision because most of our political leaders in government are now educating their children and wards in foreign countries and private institutions. More disturbing, even when our public universities are under lock and key, students are roaming in the streets as a result of the prolonged strike by ASUU, our leaders are proudly and shamelessly posting and celebrating the graduations of their children and wards from most of the prestigious universities in Europe and United States on social media. It is so sad that those who are vested with the responsibility of running our system do not believe in it and the bill to stop public officers from sending their children to school abroad has summarily been rejected. Lack of political will is really one of the factors that has ruined our educational system.

Our politics do not accommodate innovative leaders and intellectual capital who will break new grounds to transform our dreams into reality.

Another factor that has held the education sector down has been heighten and intractable insecurity caused by Boko Haram, 'bandits, kidnapping and insurgency which have over the years threatened most parts of the country thereby forcing schools to close down for a long period of time. The frequency at which schools are closed as a result of insecurity and strikes by Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU) has not only complicated the already bad security situation in the country but it has forced students and unemployed youths into the business of cyber-crimes, cultism, act of hooliganism, banditry, terrorism etc.

Insecurity has come to stay in Nigeria as long as universities and polytechnics continue to churn out

graduates, and half-baked graduates in most cases without jobs, we will continue to witness greater security challenges. It is indisputable that education their priority to secured job before graduation from school was common but today, the population density of Nigerian graduates has made unemployment on the increase.

Brain drain is at its highest now in our public institutions because of poor economy and more so we are in money-driven society. Most of the educated and talented young men and women are leaving the Country for greener pastures. It is estimated by experts that Nigeria has lost over 500 consultants this year alone and a total of 9,000 doctors left Nigeria for Canada, United States and United Kingdom, in April this year according to the Nigeria Medical Association. The exodus, of the skilled and best brain in our Tertiary institutions is becoming worrisome it should be an issue of concern to government if we most build a great nation.

Sadly, again, the quality of education has continue to witness a sharp drop because of inadequate structures in our universities. Lack of facilities have made the learning environment not conducive for students, the few available structures are always overstretched.

Children in most of the primary and secondary schools in the rural areas study under trees, while those lucky to have roof over them sit on bare floor. The science laboratories in secondary schools are shadows of what they used to be. The libraries are filled with obsolete books if at all the Librans, still exist in most of the secondary schools.

Poverty has also prevented the

children of the poor to migrate to foreign Countries to obtain quality education like their colleagues from the wealthy families therefore most of them cannot attend private schools that are available in the country as most parents cannot afford to pay the outrageous fees charged by the private and corporate bodies. Children from the low income earners have abandoned schools due to harsh economic challenges.

For government to build talented and home grown scientific and technical expertise that could compete with other African Countries such as Rwanda, Ivory Coast, United Arab Emirates and even China, government must provide a purposeful leadership and commitment in funding our institutions right from primary to tertiary levels. Teachers must also be trained to bring to life technologies that can transform the Country from a consuming nation to an exporting nation, turning our huge population into blessings rather than a cause. The Bank of industry, should live up to its expectation by empowering our local industries to expand and diversify methods of production using our domestic resources and raw materials to finished products, it will boost job creation. This will no doubt remove the army of unemployed youths from the streets.

Change is also possible if government can find the existing universities and stop the proliferation of more universities.

Happily, Federal Government has recently announced a bursary of N75,000 per semester for under graduates studying education in public universities and N50,000 per semester for those in colleges of education, these will go a long way in encouraging students take up teaching profession.

**T**HE primaries have come and gone, and we are waiting for the main event. How many women are political candidates on the Plateau? Very few. They are not up to ten in number. That is a worrisome development in view of the fact that women clamour very loudly for participation in leadership through politics.

Women give many reasons for not contesting for political positions. One of such reasons is that the men would not give us the opportunity to do so. There are questions that we need to ask ourselves and answer to honestly give. What are we doing wrong? What can we do to be "allowed" to contest for political positions?

Women, do we ask ourselves what we actually have to offer to our party and our society by way of service? Have we made our mark in our profession and our community? Having money is not enough these days. Being an active member of any political party does not make us leaders. Leadership is a process. Most of us do not take the time to understand it or learn it on a personal level. If you desire to go into politics as a woman then you must come to terms with the fact that the expectations are high, and the bar is even higher for you as a woman. This is the reality we are faced with. You have the duty of distinguishing yourself through your profession and your leadership skills because no one is going to hand it to you because you are a woman. You must study and learn leadership skills.

Furthermore, you have to ask yourself this question: "what and how is my value system? We live in a society where the woman is expected to be a saint. If you want to go into politics, you must live above board because when it is time for politics, the mud slinging will start. Society does not forgive the woman easily. It will remember your past, if you have a bad one, and use it against you. If society forgives you, you are lucky. There is a certain standard of behaviour and carriage that this society expects from you if you aspire to be a politician.

As a married woman, your political career should start from your home. Your character should speak for you in your home and your community. You should start building your support structure from your home. If your husband believes that you can render service to humanity from his home without becoming recalcitrant, he will be your chief campaign officer. If your husband is the one blowing your trumpet, the men will look up and pay attention. If you are not married or if you are divorced, you can excel in the area of your profession and gain the confidence of the men you work with. They will blow your trumpet. We have very powerful women running big ministries, corporations and conglomerates successfully. Transiting into politics will not be hard for such women because they have proven their mantle in gainful leadership.

Your community is your base. What grassroots activities do you carry out in your immediate community to help in developing it? How do you contribute to the betterment of the lives around you especially when you have the means? It is by making your mark as an individual that the party can consider you when considering their options. When they are seeking for those who will bear their flag and stand for elections, your individual achievements count.

The forgoing is to say that your reputation counts in politics. So also does your personal achievements in the area of local politics or in the area of business or any other profession. When parties pick their candidates, they do so based on the strength of their believe in the politician's ability to deliver. It is often a combination of personal achievements and wealth. Money plays a role like buying you a ticket, but politics in Nigeria today, demands much more than money. Working very hard and building from scratch is very critical to any political ambition. Do not go into politics from the party platform. Start from yourself and your community so that when you get to the party level, you already have a pedigree. You have people who can and will confidently vouch for you because you are tried and tested. They will run the race with you because they do not see your gender, they see your capabilities and abilities.

Some of us believe in the concept of equality without being contextual in our application of that concept. Is it actually applicable in our society and in our politics? The men are in the majority on the political platforms and since politics is numbers, we must acknowledge the fact that we are outnumbered. When you equate yourself to a man, he treats you like a man. Since they outnumber us, we do not stand a chance if we operate on the basis of equality. The contradiction here is that after putting our foot down and announcing our equality to men, we still turn to them to give us special concessions by breaking the rules for us. That is a contradiction. If we are equal, we should be able to get what we want without passing through them. This contradiction

## Plateau women in politics (I)



says we are not sure of ourselves. We cannot eat our cake and have it. It is either we are equal, or we are not. This means that we must draw up strategies for winning in politics without drumming up our gender all the time.

You cannot succeed in a domain that is dominated by men if you do not know a man's psychology within your cultural and religious context. We know already that you must turn on your masculine energy without becoming a man. How do you do that? by not forgetting your culture or religion. Men respect a woman who is respectful to them and is self-respecting. Your approach will depend on your understanding. On the Plateau, what is the psyche of the average man towards women? How do they perceive women in politics? How can you convince them of your ability to lead? I said earlier, that politics starts with self, family and community. It is the testimonies of people around you that will introduce you to the men folk. How have you distinguished yourself from other women and men? Why should anybody choose you to lead? How have you proven that you can be a good leader? How do you go about garnering support? Do you know anything about marketing yourself as a political brand? What positive impact have you made on your community?

When men contest for political positions, do they put their gender before everything else? When a woman is an achiever, she has a lot to use in marketing herself based on her achievements in her community or her profession. Most men will give a woman her place if she earns it. Others may do so grudgingly, but they will not deny that you qualify if you do not forget your value system. These Socio-cultural factors are hurdles that women have to overcome in politics.

Talking about the psyche and psychology of the average Plateau man. You need to study that if you want to become a politician and win at it. Men are very supportive of each other. Their conflict resolution and negotiation skills are better than ours. They understand the political terrain better than we do because they have been around longer than us. They



have a code that keeps them together. On the contrary, women are different. Half the time, we do not like each other, we are jealous of each other, we gossip, and back bite and we have very poor conflict resolution skills unless we consciously learn these. This is why it is very easy for the men to break our political ranks and to divide and rule us. Women need to learn a lot from men and copy them because it is their disposition that keeps them above us politically.

Women must learn how to succeed together. After working as individuals, we need to work as a group. Since the party primaries have come and gone, we cannot turn back the hands of the clock, but we can plan for the future. For starters, women most learn to stop being petty. Jealousy and envy within a group can only divide it. It means that if we want to win, we should start behaving like men politically.

Politics requires money. Are women ready to contribute money towards running their campaigns? Are we ready to cross political lines and vote for female candidates not considering party affiliations? Are we ready to field candidates based on credibility and capabilities? Are we ready to vote only women and only women who are tried and tested?

All the women's group on the Plateau are relevant in this journey. The message of oneness and love should be spread. It is only when women recognize that we are underrepresented that we can work together. Secondly, if every women association decides that every member will cast her vote for the women candidates only, come next year, and in future, political affiliations notwithstanding, then we will see more political wins for women. Some of us will say that it is all about money. No matter how much money a female candidate has, she will not be able to buy her way through. Society will always call up her qualifications for the position that she is contesting for.

Furthermore, learning from those who have succeeded in politics is very critical. Women should make it a duty to have

female as well as male political mentors. However, having a female political mentor who is an achiever is critical because she will teach you the ropes and show you how to navigate within and outside the political terrain as a woman in a man's world. Secondly, reading the biographies of women who have succeeded locally and globally, in politics will go a long way in the political learning process.

The women in politics on the Plateau can also offer coaching and mentorship to young women who have leadership skills and political potentials. Last week we spoke about skills in the area of governance. This is invaluable for any aspiring female politician. The depth of your knowledge in this area will determine the quality of your leadership.

Women today, must understand that politics in Nigeria is evolving. The electorate is beginning to place more emphasis on good political representation and leadership skills than the gender. The journey is becoming easier. This means that the chances of winning elections for women on the Plateau is getting bigger. If you qualify, they will vote you. It is now up to you to be teachable and to learn. Young aspiring female politicians on the Plateau can seek to learn from great women such as Dame Kedem Pauline Tallen and walk in the shoes of Ngwo Hanatu Chollom and Ngwo Naomi Jugu by reading their biography and philosophy of life and walking in their footsteps. The following are excerpt for inspiring young female Plateau politicians not to give up but to strive towards learning and winning:

Apex News Exclusive, June 30th 2022, by Anthony Maliki:

Plateau State Governor Simon Bako Lalong has expressed sadness over the demise of stateswoman and frontline politician Ngwo Naomi Jugu who was called to glory on Tuesday at the age of 82. Lalong described the death of Ngwo Naomi Jugu as a huge loss to her immediate family, Berom Nation, Plateau State and Nigeria at large considering her enormous contributions to the socio-political development of the country. This was contained in a statement by Dr. Makut Simon Macham, Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Governor of Plateau State to Apex News Exclusive. He recalled her impact as a politician, women mobilizer, philanthropist, business woman and advocate for justice and human rights where she canvassed for the improvement of the lives of ordinary citizens. Lalong said apart from serving in various Governments in Plateau State and Nigeria, Nggwo Naomi Jugu was very active in the socio-cultural activities of the Berom people which earned her the title of "Delo-Berom". The Governor said the State and Nigeria will miss her wisdom and counsel that have been highly valuable particularly during trying moments. While sympathizing with her family, the Governor asked them to be consoled by her achievements which touched the lives of many and enabled them break barriers to progress.

**We will continue next week**

**W**ITHOUT fear Satan is helpless and impotent and cannot fulfil any threat against you. Fear is his only weapon against the human race. That is why God emphasizes that we refuse being afraid. Satan cannot steal, kill, destroy, keep men sick or poor or cut a man's life short on the face of the earth outside of fear.

The only way to defeat the spirit of fear according to the bible is by trusting God. Isaiah 12:2 says Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Psalm 56:3 says; what time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

Thus far, we have made some very important points and have been very repetitive about it because the bible says in Romans 10:17 that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. We are never to stop hearing God's word; the more we hear, the more our faith is built up in it.

Now when we are faced with situations, what we have the tendency of doing is to begin to interpret them and unconsciously we begin to judge our ability to overcome the circumstance by resources we perceive that we have. We look at ourselves and round about us and if we do not see we have to match; whether the resources are material, emotional strength or any type of capability that gives us an advantage over the circumstance, we begin to panic. Now that is what fear is.

Fear is reasoning about your circumstance outside of God's ability. That is why the bible says when you are faced with circumstance like this; refuse to go the way of fear. Let your interpretation of that circumstance involve God. You must learn to say God is on my side and is infinitely bigger than what I am faced with. You must recall to mind that God delivered you yesterday and he will do it today and will continue to be my deliverer tomorrow. You must train yourself this way because Satan's plan is to introduce to you, thoughts, suggestions and ideas that will cause you to reason your way out of the power of God.

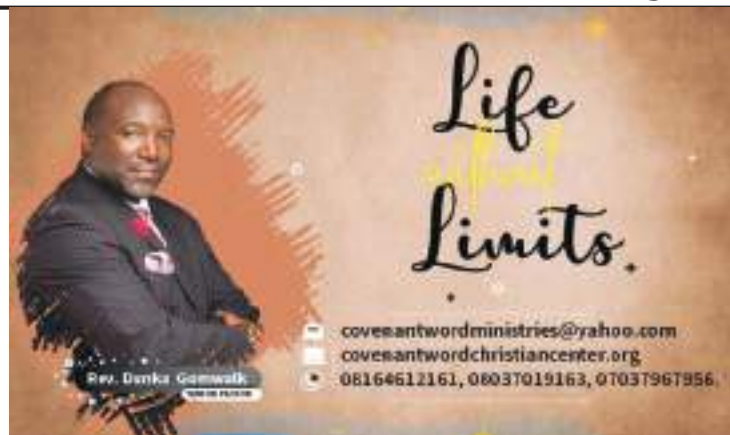
Satan will course you to constantly think about what you do not have; what is scarce

**"God seeks to inspire words that will hook you up to His power and ability. Once you are hooked up to God's power and get God's ability working in you life and circumstances, there is nothing the devil can put on the table that can match what**

in your life or what advantage, what favour or resource you do not have in your life. That is the way of fear and the moment you begin to play into the hand of Satan in that way, you unconsciously open the door for him to establish his will and his evil intent in your life. If you refuse to yield to fear and to choose to trust God, you will open the door for God to establish and manifest his will, plan and favourable intent in your life. Refuse to go

are spirit, and they are life. The words that God has spoken are the things He will act upon when we believe him. God has spoken His word into the earth and His word is the carrier of His power.

Hebrews 1:3 says who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.



# Fear not, trust God (27)



the way of fear, choose to trust God.

We had established in earlier broadcasts and it is worthy of repetition that there is no trusting God outside of God's word. The basis of trusting God is on what He has said. If God has not committed Himself to do something, there is nothing in the world that we can do to get Him to do it. The good news is that He has committed Himself in His word. So many precious things He has said in His word and it demonstrates His commitment to get involved in the circumstances of our lives.

When you find out what God has said about any circumstance; find out what He is willing to do and where He is willing to pour out His resources or His power. God has too much not just to match, but to defeat what the devil has been doing or is doing in your life at any point in time.

Satan inspires thoughts, ideas and suggestions to produce fear in your life. He wants you talking fear and he wants you acting fear for him to be able to establish his evil intent in your life. But you see, God's word is also spiritual. John 6:63 says; It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they

This says that God upholds all things by the word of His power. God's investment of His power is in His word. His plan is that you hook up to His power by believing in His words.

When you believe Satan's words, you join yourself to his power (Fear) but when you believe God's word, you join yourself to a superior power which is God's very own power. And we know that God's power is infinitely greater than the devil's power.

It is words that both God and Satan use as vehicles to manifest their power. God wants you to understand that His words rule and govern this life so that as you learn that, and learn to believe that above the devil's words, then his power will flow in your life to neutralize whatever it is that the devil is doing at every point in time.

Understanding the spirituality of life is understanding that life is governed by words. The person's words you believe is the one that is going to control your life. The two primary forces at work in the world today are Almighty God and the devil. Satan inspires evil words; thoughts, ideas and suggestions in trying to get us to respond negatively to circumstances that we are

confronted with. God also in His own part seeks to inspire words from heaven.

God seeks to inspire words that will hook you up to His power and ability. Once you are hooked up to God's power and get God's ability working in you life and circumstances, there is nothing the devil can put on the table that can match what God has to offer.

So today, God is asking us to trust Him and the basis on

which we trust Him is His word. There is no trusting God outside of His word. Again Hosea 4:6 says my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me. Isaiah 5:13 says my people are literarily taken into captivity, because they lack knowledge. Life and its outcomes are governed by words.



**Satan will course you to constantly think about what you do not have; what is scarce in your life or what advantage, what favour or resource you do not have in your life. That is the way of fear and the moment you begin to play into the hand of Satan in that way, you unconsciously open the door for him to establish his will and his evil intent in your life. If you refuse to yield to fear and to choose to trust God, you will open the door for God to establish and manifest his will, plan and favourable intent in your life. Refuse to go the way of fear, choose to trust God.**



## INTERNATIONAL

# Ukraine war: Will Putin use nuclear weapons?

Russian president has repeatedly pledged to use all means at his disposal to keep his country safe. Vladimir Putin, who controls the world's largest nuclear arsenal, pledged last week to use "all the powers and means at our disposal" to defend Russia. The United States, he said, had set "a precedent" when it dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

**I**t was Putin's latest thinly veiled nuclear threat to Ukraine and its Western allies since he sent Russian troops into the neighbouring country more than seven months ago.

But will the Russian leader use nuclear weapons? What would be the impact of such a move? And how might the US respond? As tensions ratchet up, here are key questions answered:

Russia is the world's biggest nuclear power based on the number of nuclear warheads. It has an estimated 5,977 while the US has 5,428, according to the Federation of American Scientists.

Those figures include stockpiled and retired warheads, but both Russia and the US have enough firepower to destroy the world many times over. While Russia and the US have dismantled thousands of their retired warheads, they still have 90 percent of the world's total nuclear weapons.

Russia has 1,458 strategic nuclear warheads deployed – or ready to fire – and the US has 1,389 deployed, according to the latest publicly declared data. These warheads are on intercontinental ballistic missiles, ballistic missiles on submarines and strategic bombers.

When it comes to tactical nuclear weapons, Russia has about 10 times the number the US has. About half of the 200 US tactical nuclear weapons are deployed at bases in Europe.

US tactical nuclear weapons have adjustable yields of 0.3 to 170 kilotons. (The atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was equivalent to about 15 kilotons.)

No Russian official has called for a strategic nuclear weapons attack using the weapons that were designed to destroy cities in the US, Europe and Asia.

Ramzan Kadyrov, head of Russia's Chechnya region, said recently that Moscow should consider using a low-yield tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine.

The Kremlin dismissed his call. "This is a very emotional



Putin has promised to use 'all the means at our disposal' to defend Russia as he wages war in Ukraine

moment," spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "The heads of regions have the right to express their point of view. Even at difficult moments, emotions should still be excluded from any assessments."

Tactical nuclear weapons are essentially nuclear weapons used on the battlefield for a "tactical" purpose. They are much less powerful than the big bombs that would be needed to destroy large cities such as Moscow, Washington or London.

Such weapons can be mounted on missiles and fired from the ground, ships or submarines. They can also be dropped from planes or detonated by ground forces.

Long-range nuclear weapons that Russia could use in a direct conflict with the US are battle-ready. But its stocks of warheads for shorter ranges – so-called tactical weapons are not, analysts said.

"All those weapons are in storage," Pavel Podvig, a senior researcher who specialises in nuclear weapons at the United Nations' disarmament think-tank in Geneva, told The Associated Press news agency.

"You need to take them out of the bunker, load them on trucks" and then marry them with missiles or other delivery systems, he said. Russia has not released a full inventory of its tactical nuclear weapons or their capabilities.

Putin could order a smaller tactical nuclear weapon be surreptitiously readied and teed up for surprise use. But overtly removing weapons from storage is also a tactic the Russian president could employ to raise pressure without using them.

He would expect US satellites to spot the activity and perhaps hope that baring his nuclear teeth might scare Western powers into dialing back support for Ukraine, some analysts said.

"That's very much what the Russians would be gambling on, that each escalation provides the other side with both a threat but (also) an offramp to negotiate with Russia," researcher Sidharth Kaushal told AP. He's a researcher with the Royal United Services Institute in London, which specialises in defence and security.

Although Russia has specialised forces trained to fight on a nuclear battlefield, it is unclear how its army of regular troops, mercenaries, drafted reservists and local militias would cope.

Putin's reaction will depend on how he perceives the threat to the Russian state and his rule.

The Russian leader casts the war in Ukraine as an existential battle between Russia and the West, which he says wants to destroy his country and grab control of its vast natural resources.

Putin warned the West he was not lying when he said he was ready to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia. Some analysts say Putin is bluffing, but Washington is taking Putin seriously.

Since claiming 18 percent of Ukraine as part of Russia, the nuclear threat has increased because Putin could cast any attack on these territories as an attack on Russia itself.

Russia's nuclear doctrine allows for a nuclear attack after "aggression against the Russian Federation with conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is threatened".

But there are also reasons for Putin to decide against a nuclear attack. Many Russians live in Ukrainian territory that Putin has proclaimed as part of Russia, and breaking the post-World War II nuclear taboo would not necessarily change the tactical situation on the ground.

"He is bluffing right now," Yuri Fyodorov, a military analyst based in Prague, told the Reuters news agency. "But what will happen in a week or a month from now is difficult to say – when he understands the war is lost."

Asked if Putin was moving towards a nuclear attack, CIA Director William Burns told the CBS television network: "We have to take very seriously his kind of threats, given everything that's at stake."

Burns, though, said US intelligence had no "practical evidence" that Putin was moving towards using tactical nuclear weapons any time soon.

Source: Aljazeera



Zelensky



## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Phyna wins Big Brother Naija Season 7

By FRANCISCA ADIDI

**T**HE Big Brother Naija which is a reality show that has caught the attention of many Nigerians and is featured every year, has come and gone.

This year's Big Brother season 7 show's theme is Level UP. It had two levels: Level one and Level 2, where they competed against each other until the two houses were collapsed into one house.

One interesting thing about this year's Big Brother show was how it was difficult to predict earlier who was going to win the show. Unlike other years, this year had 28 housemates. Maybe due to the two houses Big Brother had created to accommodate more housemates.

The housemates played and participated in various tasks and arena games to compete and many won millions of naira from their tasks.

The Big Brother show was sponsored by Pockets App and co-sponsored by Piggy Vest. Others include Pepsi, Close up Toothpaste, Aquaphina water, Unik soap, Nexus and many other companies that participated and gave the housemates opportunities to win prizes.

In the last week of the show, Big Brother had only 6 people they were include Phyna, Brain, Bella, Adekunle, Chichi and Daniella.

Phyna won the grand prize against five other finalists Bryan, Bella, Adekunle, Chichi and Daniella to clinch the coveted status of winner.

As winner, the 25-year-old Phyna gets N50 million cash prize, a new SUV from Innosons Motors, a Dubai trip for two, a year supply of Pepsi, new techno phone-Camon 19, supply of Unik soap and supply of home appliances from Nexus among other mouth/watering prizes.

The Edo born actress who was elated screamed upon announcement of her victory by the host of the show, Ebuka Obi-Uchendu. The surprise on her face showed that she was thinking it was Bryan that would win.

Before the announcement, Phyna said the journey had been an amazing and splendid one as she waits to embrace everything great

"4.7 billion naira was spent on BBNaija Level up show and over a billion votes came in" - Multi choice reveals.

BBNaija winner Phyna during an interview with Legit.ng, also said she never expected to emerge the winner of the Level Up edition.



Phyna said until the last minute, she was rooting for Bryan and had already told him to give her N2m if he wins.

The season 7 winner also spoke about her relationship with Groovy, Amaka and other housemates.

Relationships and friendships were created in the cause of the show with some already crashed after their eviction.

Only one person was disqualified because of violent behavior and misunderstanding after being issued with a strike. That was Beauty from Taraba State. Others like Bella and Sheggz were also issued with a strike each before the programme ended.

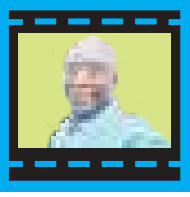
It is the organizers desire that all monies won in the cause of the show will be used wisely and will go a long way in changing the lives of the housemates that participated.

Many Nigerians believe that all those that used to appear on the show always have a life changing experience. Congratulations once more to Phyna who emerged winner of this year.

It could be recalled that



Phyna, winner of Big Brother season 7



# 'Music is my life and happiness'



Chosen Generations and I was also in the church choir in HEKAN Church Ibara Police Baracks in Abeokuta, where I also served as a Choir Master of the church. I later discovered I had a gift of singing and also writing songs; this was around 2003. Since then, I have been writing my own songs and performing around Ogun, Lagos and other places, both in churches and streets, also during programmes, until 2012 when I got appointment with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps. I then moved back to Plateau and continued with my musical journey serving my country in the Civil Defense.

**You recently released a CD, what is your recent work all about?**

I released an Album title Har'abada in 2014. The Album was about the love of Christ for humanity and it was a blessed album in which most of the songs have been featured in so many radio and television station across the nation. Some of the songs were featured on a big screen like Christian Broadcasting Network Nigeria (CBN-700 Club) .

**You combine your primary assignment in the Civil Defense and Music, are you really finding it easy at all?**

Not at all sir as it has not been easy. As you know, music needs a lot of time and rehearsals while combing it with my primary assignment. But thank God; by the grace of God, I am

*Continued on page 26*

**Can you introduce yourself please?**

My name is G-Azenna and I am from Plateau State, Pankshin Local Government and Mhship by tribe.

**How did you get involved in music and how has been the journey so far?**

I discovered my talent for music back then in Ogun State. We started as a group called



## Nigerian celebrities who quietly ended their marriages

**Some Nigerian celebrities have kept gist of their separation and divorce away from the public Here are some of your favourite celebrity marriages that ended quietly.**



### DR SID, SIMI

Nigerian music star Dr Sid and Simi got married in 2014 in one of the most talked-about celebrity weddings. They welcomed their first daughter and a second one a few years later.

Trouble in their marriage was first reported in 2017 but the couple stayed away from any public drama.

In January 2020, Simi took to her Instagram page where she announced that their marriage was over.

Sid has remained silent about his divorce to date.



### Osas Ighodaro, Gbenro Ajibade

Ighodaro and Ajibade met onset of a TV show and got married afterwards to fans and industry delight.

The couple's wedding ceremony was so huge, that it was televised on live TV.

In February 2019, fans and followers of Osas and Gbenro woke up to a rather strange post from the latter. He had in his post called out Osas over her parenting style. It was clear that they were separated at that time.

A few months later, Osas took down Gbenro's name from her Instagram handle. After several months in the United States of America, Gbenro marked his return to Nigeria with an interview on Rubbin Minds in December where he confirmed that they are divorced.



### Etinosa Idemudia, Ighrosa

Etinosa Idemudia's marriage to Benin-based lawyer, Ighrosa is the most shortest-lived on this list. The former couple tied the knot in September 2020 and welcomed their first daughter on Christmas Day, the same year.

The movie star had planned to keep the news of her marriage crash away from the prying eyes of the public but the press had other plans. In May 2021, she called out a blogger for breaking the news about her marriage collapse.



*Continued on page 25*

# EVIE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

# When forgiveness is all that matters

By **Rachael Pace,**

**I**DEALLY, you won't ever have to wonder how to forgive your husband for saying hurtful things. Nonetheless, such a fairytale rarely (if ever) happens in real life. In reality, no husband is such a prince that he never says anything hurtful.

That doesn't mean he's a bad person, he's only a human. We all say something unkind, either in the heat of the moment or unintentionally. If you're wondering how to forgive your husband for committing such marital transgressions, here are four things to consider and understand first.

**What's OK and what's not in marriage**

As we already mentioned, people say hurtful things. This has been happening since the beginning of time and will continue to happen.

Our next section will demonstrate why and how this happens.

Moreover, what can you do when your spouse says hurtful things or when your husband is mean. Understanding how to get over hurtful words in a relationship can help you move on and not resent your partner.

For now, it's important to understand that you should not consider every exchange in which you felt uncomfortable a hurtful exchange. You do have the right to your own experience of whatever was said, but please consider the nuances of communication.

In other words, you and your husband are merely two humans very much inclined and capable of saying hurtful things in a relationship. As such, it is inevitable to hit a bump here and there and to say something upsetting from time to time.

There is a difference between verbal aggression and a slip-up. The intention behind what was being said and the frequency of such remarks are some of the aspects of the said difference.

As you can already assume, aggression isn't alright. As a matter of fact, it is considered one of the three major deal-breakers in marriage.

The other two are addictions and affairs.

If you feel that your husband is plain aggressive, and not just a bit



temperamental and clumsy in an argument, you should consider a more thorough change in your relationship rather than just finding ways to forgive your husband.

**Reasons why people say hurtful things or hear hurtful things**

Women often wonder, why does my boyfriend say hurtful things? or my husband says hurtful things when we fight?

Apart from aggression and a desire to dominate a conversation and the relationship, people can say cruel things for many reasons. As an example, your husband might feel intimidated himself and tries to maintain his position by being spiteful. Or, he might have been raised

that way, to believe men are to be tactless, and women submissive.

However, as research shows, it is not an entirely objective phenomenon. In other words, the cruelty might also be (at least in part) in the ears of the beholder.

It appears that the same

statement can be perceived differently based on a number of factors. Among others, relationship satisfaction was proven to influence how the receiver of the upsetting message will perceive it.

*How you comprehend hurtful words in a marriage can have a significant effect on your relationship.*

So, in essence, it is both you and your husband who have the power and the responsibility to ensure that your communication is direct and kind.

He needs to understand what is hurtful to you and avoid such language or tone of voice. You, on the other hand, have the power to change your own experience and perception.

**How to learn to communicate in marriage**

For a marriage to work, and for the communication to be productive, many couples often require a bit of guidance. It is not that you need an expert to teach you how to talk to each other, but the majority of



people have a few destructive habits in communication.

We had learned these inadequate ways of conveying our thoughts when we were children, and we need a bit of help to learn new and healthy communication skills.

Therefore, reach out to a therapist, buy a book or two, or search the internet, but do make sure that you both undergo a cleanup of your communication styles. You should learn how to be assertive at all times, to avoid being unfair and hurtful to each other.

Avoid passive or aggressive styles in communication and always strive for healthy assertive communication.

Yes, you are wondering how to forgive your husband, but it's also entirely possible that he feels the same. You're a team in this!

**Path to forgive your husband for saying hurtful things**

Follow these steps to know what to do when your husband says hurtful things? Or how to get over hurtful words from your husband.

**Validate your emotions**

No matter how you feel after talking to your husband, it's relevant and valid. Whether it was intentional or not, if you feel hurt, accept it and validate it.

**Find a constructive relief**

Engaging in a hurtful exchange won't solve anything, it will only make things worse. Instead, write in a diary, talk to a friend, or do something productive until you feel calm again.

**Examine the problem analytically**

Try to imagine it was someone else who just had that argument. Is there a way to see things differently?

**Focus on the positive**

Pay attention to the positive side of your marriage, and work on promoting those aspects of your relationship. Emphasize the love and care for each other, and concentrate on that to move on.

Forgiveness is an art and one that brings immense peace to an individual and to a relationship. Practicing forgiveness where it is necessary should not be an option for you; it should be a must to maintain a healthy and happy relationship.



# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Relationship

### Know when its worth holding onto friendship

**F**EELING like you're always the one reaching out? You could be dealing with a one-sided friendship. Here's how to decode what's really happening, and see if this is a friendship even worth saving.

When a friend doesn't invest as much time or effort into your relationship as they used to (or, if you're being honest with yourself, ever), it's easy to interpret this as rejection. This kind of dismissal from a friend can feel similar to the pang of being rejected by a potential or former lover.

Even if the person isn't upset with you, "as humans, we have a tendency to personalize things and make it about us." That's why, for some people, the hurt feelings from a one-sided friendship can cut a little deeper.

The extent to which you personalize the dismissal depends on many factors including past traumas or relationships.

So, how can you handle a one-sided friendship or what feels like rejection from someone you considered a friend? First, know that your feelings are valid, but there could be more to the story. Here's how to uncover what's amiss, decide if the friendship is worth saving, and repair and move on.

Before you jump to conclusions (guilty!), you'll want to uncover what's really up with your friendship. You may be pleasantly surprised to discover your pal is merely missing your signals or going through their own stuff.

#### Imagined rejection

Your friend may not be deliberately trying to ghost you, says Jackson. Not everyone is going to meet your expectations for, say, initiating conversations or response time, so you could be misinterpreting these differences as rejection, or what she calls "imagined rejection." In reality, your friend may be struggling to adjust to maintaining relationships during quarantine or dealing with another personal matter that is dividing their attention.

#### The friendship curve,,

However, there are instances when it's clear someone no longer wants to prioritize your relationship. Understand



that this may have nothing to do with you or your efforts. You and your friend may have different priorities or could be at different life stages. Outgrowing friends and drifting apart is common — it's called the friendship curve — though it doesn't make it sting any less. Your friend might be going through a difficult time or a mental health issue, and they don't have the capacity to invest in others. If it's a new friendship, the person could be introverted and unopened to exploring new connections. (

Lastly, a painful truth is that not everyone is going to like you and that's okay. Some personalities just don't mesh well together, and forcing a friendship isn't going to make you happy in the end.

#### An unspoken discord

There could be a more direct reason for the missed connection: a conflict.

Even if your friend doesn't confront you about an issue, you can likely tell something's up if they're suddenly aloof and distant, passive-aggressive, or deliberately excluding you from events or invites, says Ren. Still, it's common to miss these signals entirely as your friend might be avoiding a confrontation by pretending all is well. The person may rather silently leave the relationship instead of addressing the issue. "Living in this virtual world where you have access to many things, it's easy for people to feel they don't have to put in the work or deal with the stress that may come with a relationship because they can move on and meet other people

#### Decide Whether to Confront the Issue

Whatever the reason for the falling out

— miscommunication, misinterpretation, poor timing, different priorities, or a direct conflict — the only way to know for sure what happened is to talk to your friend directly. But should you? Will that offer closure? Repair the friendship? Or do more harm than good?

A few things to consider, according to Jackson:

• Do you have the emotional bandwidth to have this conversation?

• Are you willing to put in additional energy and labor toward this friendship?

• Is the friend likely to have this conversation with you? If so, will they be honest?

• Do you want this person in your life in the future? If so, why?

Bear in mind your friend may not be willing to clear the air or could brush your feelings under the rug if you do talk, so you still may not get the closure or answers you were hoping for.

If you do reach out, and your friend agrees to have a chat, you want to express how you feel without placing responsibility on your friend. Saying something such as "I feel sad because we're not spending time together. I don't want you to feel obligated, I simply wanted to see if there was anything we could talk about that would help the situation" can jumpstart things. If you can repair the friendship, great, but "you may come to realize this is not someone who is my person, this is not a person that I want to bring into my future, or this relationship doesn't serve me as evidenced by how they responded to my attempts to repair it,

#### How to Heal from a One-Sided Friendship

Whether or not the friendship continues or if you come to some resolution, hurt feelings are still a likely reality. Luckily, you can put the pain behind you with a little effort and self-love. Here, a few expert tips to help get you started on the path to healing.

#### Acknowledge the emotions.

Repressing emotions has sticky consequences, such as misguided resentment or irritation that can

manifest in indirect ways or impact other relationships, says Ren. Instead, take notice of what emotions arise from your interactions (or lack thereof) with this friend, and acknowledge how you feel — jilted? sad? angry?

Then, do whatever you need to do, whether that's crying or just sitting with the hurt. Be patient with yourself, allowing ample time to let these emotions be, quiet, and then pass. You can consider talking to another friend or a therapist or

#### Change the negative narrative.

While it's natural to feel as if you're somehow at fault for a flatlined one-sided friendship, moving on means changing that narrative, says Jackson.

Start to observe when you engage in negative self-talk, such as 'did I talk too much?' or 'am I not enough?' Notice if you're ruminating over these feelings.

If the negative self-talk is playing over and over in your head, try singing them instead, "It's harder to take yourself seriously when you're singing something like 'I'm worthless' or 'I'm a terrible person.'" You'll realize how silly that sounds and give it less credence.

#### Reconnect with others.

Instead of trying to "replace" this friend, focus on simply staying connected to others. Spend time with people you know you can count on (i.e. a dependable cousin or grade-school friend) to remind yourself about your worth as a friend and confidante, says Jackson.

#### Think of what lessons you may have learned.

You may be surprised that there are some good things that come out of an abandoned one-sided friendship, says Ren. For one, sadness and grief highlight that the relationship you lost was important to you. This allows you to start considering what characteristics of the relationship you valued, so you can seek these out in any future friendships. Hold onto the hopeful reminder that this negative experience of a one-sided friendship doesn't determine how your next friendship will go. **Source: [WikiHow.Com](https://www.wikihow.com)**





# Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi  
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## Mental health awareness tips for preventing depression

**W**ORLD Mental Health Day, is a UN marked day annually held on October 10 to raise public awareness about mental health issues worldwide. This event promotes open discussions on illnesses, as well as investments in prevention and treatment services.

Depression, including among young people, is a major mental health problem facing the world today and could lead to suicidal thoughts and death. World Mental Health is a marked in over 100 countries including Nigeria to promote awareness on such mental health issues through local, regional and national World Mental Health Day commemorative events and programs.

World Mental Health Day is an initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH). The theme for the 2022 World Mental Health Day is "Make mental health and well being for all a global priority".

According to the UN, Mental Disorders affect nearly 12 percent of the world's population – about 450 million or one out of every four people around the world – will experience a mental illness that would benefit from diagnosis and treatment. WHO statistics for 2002 showed that 154 million people globally suffered from depression, which is a form of mental illness.

WHO defines mental health as a state of well-being in which people realize their own potential, can cope with normal life stresses, can work productively, and can contribute to their community.

Mental health is a global priority yet services lack human and financial resources in many countries, particularly low and



middle income countries. Therefore more funding is needed to promote mental health to increase people's awareness of the issue.

According to WebMD.com, being depressed can make you feel helpless but along with therapy and sometimes medication, there's a lot you can do on your own to fight back.

"Changing your behavior -- your physical activity, lifestyle, and even your way of thinking -- are all natural depression treatments".

WebMD gives these tips as solutions that can help you feel better -- starting right now.

- Get in a routine. If you're depressed, you need a routine, says Ian Cook, MD. He's a psychiatrist and director of the Depression Research and Clinic Program at UCLA.

"Depression can strip away the structure from your life. One day melts into the next. Setting a gentle daily schedule can help you get back on track".

- Set goals. When you're depressed, you may feel like you can't accomplish anything. That makes you feel worse about yourself. To push back, set daily goals for yourself.

"Start very small," Cook says. "Make your goal something that you can succeed at, like doing the dishes every other day."

As you start to feel better, you can add more challenging daily goals.

- Exercise. It temporarily boosts feel-good chemicals called endorphins. It may also have long-term benefits for people with depression. Regular exercise seems to encourage the brain to rewire itself in positive ways,

Cook says.

How much exercise do you need? You don't need to run marathons to get a benefit. Just walking a few times a week can help.

- Eat healthy. There is no magic diet that fixes depression. It's a good idea to watch what you eat, though. If depression tends to make you overeat, getting in control of your eating will help you feel better.

Although nothing is definitive, Cook says there's evidence that foods with omega-3 fatty acids (such as salmon and tuna) and folic acid (such as spinach and avocado) could help ease depression.

- Get enough sleep. Depression can make it hard to get enough shut-eye, and too little sleep can make depression worse.

What can you do? Start by making some changes to your lifestyle. Go to bed and get up at the same time every day. Try not to nap. Take all the distractions out of your bedroom -- no computer and no TV. In time, you may find your sleep improves.

- Take on responsibilities. When you're depressed, you may want to pull back from life and give up your responsibilities at home and at work. Don't. Staying involved and having daily responsibilities can help you maintain a lifestyle that can help counter depression. They ground you and give you a sense of accomplishment.

If you're not up to full-time school or work, that's fine. Think

about part-time. If that seems like too much, consider volunteer work.

- Challenge negative thoughts. In your fight against depression, a lot of the work is mental -- changing how you think. When you're depressed, you leap to the worst possible conclusions.

The next time you're feeling terrible about yourself, use logic as a natural depression treatment. You might feel like no one likes you, but is there real evidence for that? You might feel like the most worthless person on the planet, but is that really likely? It takes practice, but in time you can beat back those negative thoughts before they get out of control.

- Check with your doctor before using supplements. "There's promising evidence for certain supplements for depression," Cook says. Those include fish oil, folic acid, and SAME. But more

research needs to be done before we'll know for sure. Always check with your doctor before starting any supplement, especially if you're already taking medications.

- Do something new. When you're depressed, you're in a rut. Push yourself to do something different. Go to a museum. Pick up a used book and read it on a park bench. Volunteer at a soup kitchen. Take a language class.

"When we challenge ourselves to do something different, there are chemical changes in the brain," Cook says. "Trying something new alters the levels of [the brain chemical] dopamine, which is associated with pleasure, enjoyment, and learning."

- Try to have fun. If you're depressed, make time for things you enjoy. What if nothing seems fun anymore? "That's just a symptom of depression," Cook says. You have to keep trying anyway.

As strange as it might sound, you have to work at having fun. Plan things you used to enjoy, even if they feel like a chore. Keep going to the movies. Keep going out with friends for dinner.

- Avoid alcohol and other drugs. Substance misuse is common in people who have depression. You may be more likely to turn to alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs to deal with the symptoms of your depression. It's unclear if drinking and using drugs causes depression. But long-term drug use could change the way your brain works and worsen or lead to mental health problems.

When you're depressed, you can lose the knack for enjoying life, Cook says. You have to relearn how to do it. In time, fun things really will feel fun again.



# EYE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

## Living

### Make your partner feel secure being with you

**N**OW that we have put some things in context, this is how to make your partner feel secure in a relationship.

**1. Communicate with them**  
Communication is an essential part of every type of relationship. When you communicate, you help someone else understand how you are feeling. One of the many misconceptions we have held in our lives is that the most effective way to deal with things is to keep our emotions bottled up.

However, if you are with the right person, this can backfire and create more friction in your relationship.

One effective way to make your partner feel secure in your relationship is to talk to them. At the same time, honesty is necessary. **Appreciate and celebrate them**

Another way to make your partner feel secure in a relationship is to appreciate and celebrate them intentionally. If you are committed to them, you must never assume they know how much you love and celebrate them.

Constantly say the magic words with your mouth.

**Let your actions reflect what you say**

You can't be saying "I love you" to your partner every day, but your actions say otherwise. Non-verbal communication is as essential as the words that tumble out of your lips in your relationship.

If you say that you love, appreciate, and celebrate them, ensure that your actions tally with your words. Then again, another way to show that you are serious about what you say is to appreciate and celebrate them publicly.

**Take yourself out of the market**

Nothing screams 'relationship insecurity' more than a refusal to get out of the dating market. One sure way to make your partner feel secure in the relationship is to let everyone know that you are no longer on the hunt for a significant other.

There are many ways to send these signals out to the public.



taking out the trash every morning as you leave for work?

As little as that action seems, it sends the information that you are mindful of their well-being and want them to be comfortable in the relationship.

**Extend this warmth to their friends and family as well**

Another way to make your partner feel secure in your relationship is to extend your warmth to their friends and family. In addition to leaving a positive experience in their minds, you show your partner that you are willing to make things work with their family.

When they believe this, they will be more open to treating your relationship as a long-term commitment, not just a fling.

However, while you try to ensure that your partner feels secure in a relationship, please don't overshoot.

The subject of friends and family can be touchy, and you want to approach it with diplomacy. Let your partner lead this conversation.

**Introduce them to the people that matter in your life**

This is a big step, but it is one of the fastest ways to build a secure relationship with your partner. This feeling of assurance comes when your partner knows they have met your family and closest friends.

Then again, before they arrive, ensure you have put in good words for them.

By doing this, you send a subtle signal to your tribe that you are bringing someone special to you.

**10. Show your partner that you have big plans for the future**

Being secure in a relationship is not all about what happens now. Relationship security is also a result of how goal-oriented and driven you are.

When you let your partner see that you are headed somewhere in life and your future has a space that only they can fill, you introduce a level of security that only compliments cannot bring.

For one, you may want to start by deleting all your accounts on dating sites. Then again, as you build secure love with your partner, you should also consider stopping flirting with anyone who isn't the one you are in a committed relationship with.

When you flirt with others, you

make your partner feel like you need something else they cannot give, and this usually spells 'disaster' in relationships as they may start getting jealous and withdrawn. **Don't leave them hanging**

We all love to be chased and to feel desired at some point in our lives. It is okay to keep someone in the friend zone (for a limited time) as you decide whether you want to date them or not.

However, it becomes cruel when you allow them to hang on for the longest time when you know that you have no intentions of dating or committing to them.

These mind games are cruel and can cause them to distrust you deeply, even if you finally accept their proposal to commit to a relationship. **Don't give them room to doubt your sincerity**

Have you suddenly changed the passwords to your devices without letting them know?

Do you now come home late from work, smelling like another person?

Do you always have to step out of the room to take calls - no matter how casually you do this?

Rest assured that your partner is taking notes, and one day, they may confront you.

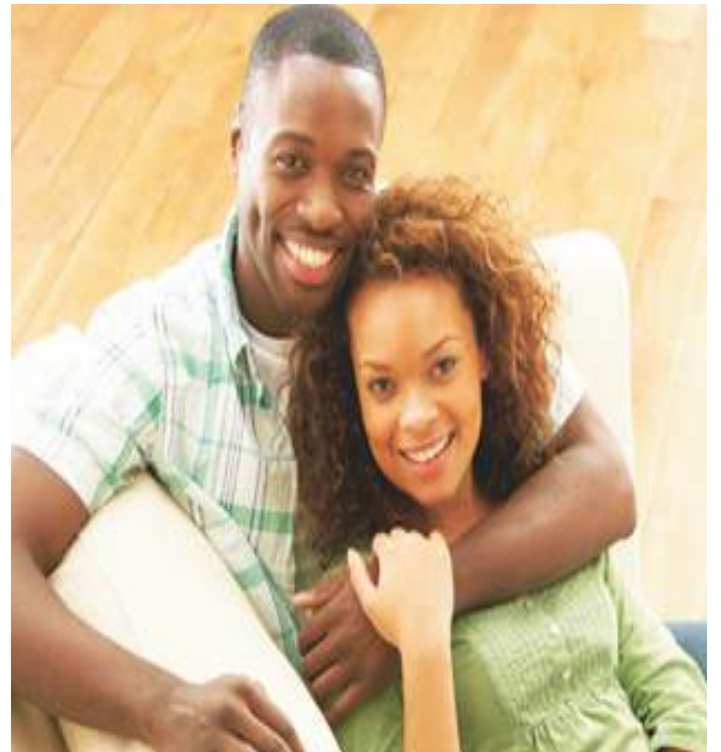
As you try to help your partner feel secure in a relationship, you have a responsibility to ensure that you never give them room to doubt your sincerity.

**Little thoughtful actions show them that you listen**

Another way to make your

partner feel secure in a relationship is to carry out those little thoughtful actions that show them how attentive you are. For example, your partner may have mentioned that taking out the trash every other morning is a bit stressful.

How about you consider



## BUSINESS WORLD

# Independence anniversary and Nigerians obsession with foreign goods

**There is no better time to reflect on some of the self-sabotaging habits of Nigerians than a period the country is marking her independence anniversary. There is no better period to do so other than a time we are marking the 62nd anniversary of that historic ceremony that saw the British Union Jack lowered and Nigeria's Green White Green raised, proclaiming our independence from the British. Rasheedat Shuaib writes.**

**B**UT like Afrobeat icon, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, noted in his evergreen song, "Kolo Mentality," are we truly independent? The white men freed us 62 years ago, have we freed ourselves from colonial mentality? Have we liberated ourselves from inferiority complex and low self esteem?

Do we believe in ourselves, our enviable human resources, the potential and talents of our massive youth population? If we do, why then is the obsession with foreign goods and services at the expense of locally made ones? Why do we prefer to go abroad in search of what can be sourced locally, even for things in which we have comparative advantage over other countries?

Do we know that why our naira keeps depreciating is because we have left local industries to rot away while we chase foreign goods? We are not export competitive, we import everything and export almost nothing. And if we don't earn foreign exchange, our currency can't be strong.

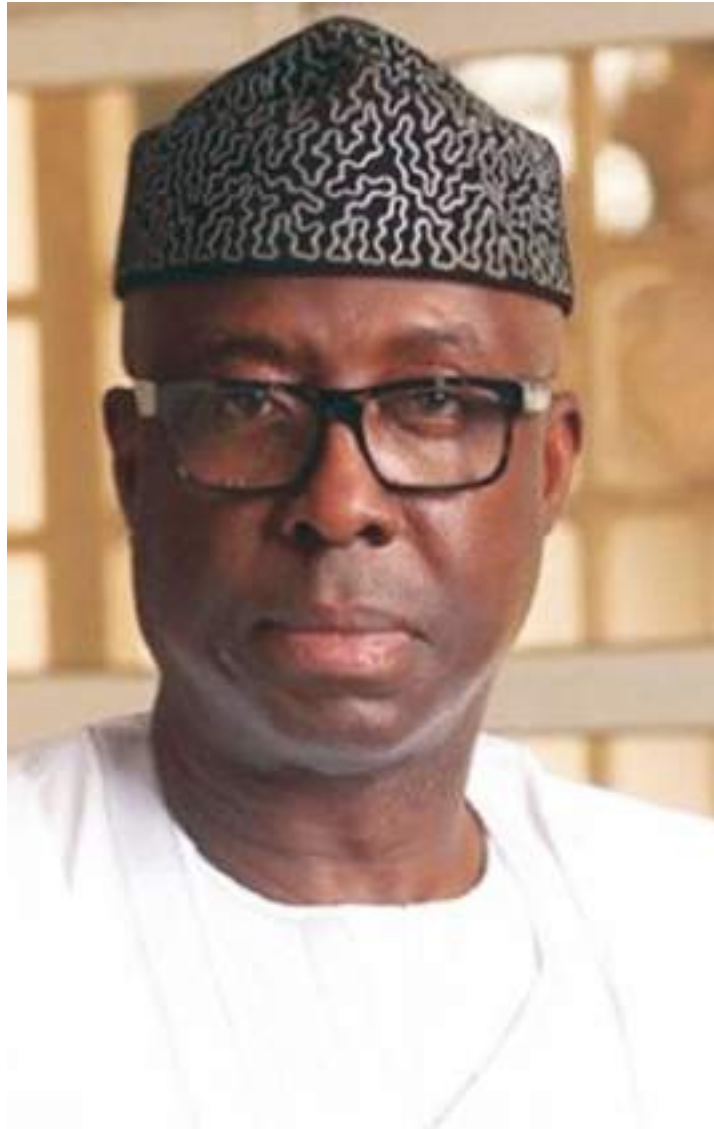
The only source of our foreign exchange is oil and gas but we are not able to meet our OPEC quota due to the organised crime called oil theft. We also killed the local refineries so that we can import refined petroleum products for local consumption. And we use the meagre resources from the sale of refined products in the international market to fund the government scam called fuel subsidy or under-recovery. Sometimes, one is tempted to think we are cursed with importation.

It is disheartening that while other African countries are looking inwards and helping their local industries to grow, our elite here brag about importing food items, source medicals and education from even less endowed nations.

Nigeria, a country where foreigners used to come for medical and educational tourism in the 60s and 70s, has now become a shadow of its old self. Even though we have qualified doctors and committed teachers, our leaders fail to make the jobs easy for them for the selfish reason that they can always go abroad to access these services for themselves and family members.

History has it that Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, University of Ibadan, the University of Nigeria, and other first-generation universities used to admit foreigners from different parts of the world. Sadly, decades later, Nigeria has now deteriorated to the extent that Nigerians prefer to send their children to neighbouring countries such as Benin Republic, Togo, Ghana, et cetera, to acquire education. How Nigerians don't feel ashamed to do this will continue to baffle me.

Nigerians who just manage to make some little money seem to



**Adebayo**

like to send their wards to tiny African countries just for the purpose of bragging among friends that "my daughter is studying Medicine in Sudan."

The truth is an average Nigerian that can afford to send his/her child to Morocco, Sudan, Ghana etc can afford private universities in Nigeria but they prefer the former. Because of this obsession for abroad, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar made it easier for those that want American standard education by establishing the American University in Yola (AUN) but Nigerians still choose to patronise same American Universities in Sudan and other unstable, less endowed African countries just for the purpose of the 'abroad effect.' This 'abroad madness' is prevalent in every facet of our national life. It is now almost a law in Nigeria that all private primary and secondary school must import school uniforms from Europe and force parents to pay exorbitant fees for those uniforms. For God sake, why must we import school uniforms from London? Why can't the government and private sector come together to revive the textile industry and make it churn out quality, long-lasting stuff and make it export competitive instead of keeping European factories busy and making our local factories redundant. Sometimes I wonder how a

group of people will hate themselves like this and turn out to blame the devil for the country's woes or pray to God to help fix the unemployment and poverty they caused with their eyes wide open when they are exporting jobs to other countries and importing poverty into their own country through the importation of just anything.

It is not only the fact that people seek medical attention and sound education from abroad that bothers me, but the unpatriotic attitude that some Nigerians display is worrisome. While we have productive, young Nigerians that are making nice shoes and bags, some people would still rather buy China-made, with lesser quality, as part of the 'abroad madness' that we have been talking about all day.

Abroad-crazy Nigerians have recently hit an all-time low. It will shock many to discover that even toothpicks and eggs are now imported. Cow-skin used for 'kpomo' are also imported from outside the country by Nigerians who do not wish the country well. Other countries generate revenue by attracting foreigners to visit their country for vacation, and other purposes, because they are always innovating and making new things that will attract people to their countries. Sadly, Nigeria barely receives tourists from other countries

these days. We do not even have modern-day tourist centres anymore, to begin with. The few ones we used to have, have either been destroyed during ethno-religious clashes or have been left to rot away by successive governments.

The sad truth about our obsession with foreign stuff at the expense of locally-made ones is the fact that we export employment and import poverty and unemployment into our country. It can be argued that the standard and quality of foreign goods are more often than not better than what we have at the local level but there is nothing wrong with boosting the quality of local ones and making them export-competitive. We have the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Council (FCCPC) which are responsible for assuring that goods manufactured in the country are of acceptable standards.

It is understandable that no country can stand on its own irrespective of its level of development as we need one another in the comity of nations. But in serious countries, people do not import things they have comparative advantage in over other countries. As they rely on other countries for certain imports and services, they also have something to export to the other countries and earn foreign exchange. But Nigerians want to import everything, they want to go abroad for everything, even for things they have readily available in their own country. For patriotic citizens of sane countries, importing stuff and going abroad to access certain services is a matter of necessity but for Nigerians, going abroad or patronising foreign made stuff is a matter of luxury, class, taste and bragging rights.

**"It is disheartening that while other African countries are looking inwards and helping their local industries to grow, our elite here brag about importing food items, source medicals and education from even less endowed nations. Nigeria, a country where foreigners used to come for medical and educational tourism in the 60s and 70s, has now become a shadow of its old self. Even though we have qualified doctors and committed teachers, our leaders fail to make the jobs easy for them for the selfish reason that they can always go abroad to access these services for themselves and family members."**

The education and health care sector in Nigeria are on crutches, because the people that are supposed to repair and maintain them allow them to rot, knowing full well that they can seek better and quality treatment/education outside the country. It does not bother them that the doctors and lecturers' unions are always on strike every year to complain of the same infrastructural and welfare issues. In the midst of ASUU strike, they will even parade their wards who are graduating from foreign universities on social media. They don't care.

Nigerians must look inwards. The past crusade about patronising made-in-Nigeria goods and services must come back so that people will know the economic gains of supporting local industries and escalating their capacity in the international market.

There should be a ban on the importation of certain products which we can manufacture in the country, such as toothpicks, textiles, sachet tomatoes, toothpaste and lots more. It is embarrassing that a country as large as Nigeria imports such items. Government and other stakeholders must also find a way to boost the quality and acceptability of local goods and services.

Nigerians must purge themselves of inferiority complex and slave mentality. They must believe in the greatness or potential of fellow citizens, and learn how to buy local goods.

But on the issue of medical and educational tourism, until there is a law that forbids political office holders from patronising foreign hospitals and schools, the political class will not be forced to do the needful.

May God bless Nigeria.

**Source: Economic confidential.**

## BUSINESS WORLD

## Buhari seeks return of stolen assets

**I**N a renewed effort to reclaim monies and other assets stolen from Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari has written for the return of assets taken away from the country and stashed away in foreign countries worldwide.

In an article published in the Financial Times of London, the President revealed that money stolen from Nigeria, by former Military leader, Sani Abacha, is estimated at about \$5b.

The President who queried the rationale behind the Western country's decision to retain the funds stated that African countries need the funds to develop their infrastructure.

The President noted that Nigerians were delighted by the news this summer that 72 artefacts, known as the Benin Bronzes, held by the Horniman Museum in London were returning home, 125 years after being plundered by British troops.

He, however, noted also that the clamour for repatriation of looted treasures is becoming irresistible, adding that "billions are still stashed away in Western bank accounts"

"There was once a similar clamour for the return of Africa's stolen assets, and I see both as part of the same struggle to bring back to Nigeria what is rightfully ours. "Siphoned from the continent by corrupt former leaders, countless billions remain stashed in western bank accounts.

"Although Nigeria has arguably been the most successful among African nations in securing the return of stolen money, it has recovered only a fraction of what remains in the west.

"Earlier this year, Nigeria was forced to take legal action against the UK National Crime Agency, after repeated delays to the return of money taken out of the country in the 1990s by former dictator General Sani Abacha. "However, the court case reveals the scale of the challenge before us. Abacha is thought to have siphoned off up to \$5bn to the west.

"This case concerned just £150mn"

He noted that given the levels of corruption across Africa, there will be a concern as to whether funds returned will be used appropriately, adding that "But we should not forget that it was through western jurisdictions that the money was laundered in the first place"

He said not "trusting Africans to spend their own money properly echoes the argument that we can't be trusted to look after our cultural heritage"

In the case of both looted cultural heritage and stolen assets, western museums and authorities largely seem to agree that the loot should, in principle, be handed back.

"However, the technicalities of repatriation leave plenty of room for maintaining the status quo.

Museums say that treasures should be returned if it can be proved that they were looted. Of course, they argue, it is



Buhari

different if artefacts were acquired through purchases and other legitimate means.

"But it is the same museums that are responsible for assessing the provenance of artefacts.

"They have a vested interest in keeping them, encouraging a lackadaisical approach and murky criteria"

President Buhari revealed that in 2025, a new museum will open to showcase the treasures of the Kingdom of Benin.

The Museum which was designed by Ghanaian-British architect David Adjaye, the Edo Museum of West African Art will sit in Benin City, the former capital of the Edo kingdom.

He however reminded us that without the return of more bronzes held in the west, we may struggle to fill the museum. "Nigeria also has an infrastructure gap to fill — as the World Bank and other international development institutions have highlighted.

"Though my administration has undertaken the largest infrastructure programme since our country gained independence, the hold-up in repatriating stolen assets held in the west will make it difficult to finance new projects that help to alleviate poverty.

On the Abacha loots, President Buhari recalled how in 2017, Switzerland returned \$321mn to Nigeria's Social Investment Programme to fund the national social safety net. Monitored by the World Bank, adding that "the money has now been disbursed through conditional cash transfers to 1.9mn of Nigeria's most vulnerable citizens.

"Three years later, the US and the British Channel Island dependency of Jersey returned \$311mn to the Presidential Infrastructure Development Fund, managed by the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority.

"The first projects financed by the fund, expressways and bridges, are due to be completed later this year.

"With stolen assets, the precise means by which institutions return such funds — whether they deliver them to the state, a government, an ad hoc fund or some other body — elicit endless discussion rather

than action. "We know corruption persists across Africa, as it does across the world. But we cannot afford to wait for unspecified "progress" to be achieved before this money is released."

## Buhari storms NASS, presents N19.76trn 2023 budget

**P**RESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari stormed the National Assembly where he is presenting before a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives, the 2023 budget proposal of N19.76 trillion.

Buhari arrived at the temporary chamber of the House of Representatives where the budget will be presented and laid at about 10:05 am in company of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and top government officials.

Buhari had written a letter to the National Assembly read

## Fuel queues: Don't panic, we have enough

**T**HE Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) has informed the public that it has sufficient stock of petroleum products and the public should not give in to panic buying.

The company in a statement signed by Garba Muhammad, Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs Division, NNPC Ltd. said the current queue situation in some parts of Abuja and its environs was as a result of delays in arrival of fuel trucks.

Muhammad said this was happening as a result of heavy flooding that had submerged parts of the highway passing through Lokoja, Kogi.

He also said that an incidence of a failed road section around Badegi-Agaie highway in Niger State also contributed.

"Consequently, vehicles, especially fuel tankers, are finding alternative roads to get to their intended destinations. "NNPC Ltd is working assiduously, in collaboration with relevant government agencies, to open up this major highway.

"While we do that, we urge the

**T**HE Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) said Nigeria's energy transition journey must be driven and guided by credible information and data on the country's energy security.

NEITI said Nigeria must not be allowed to be rushed into hasty energy transition without a thorough analysis of its comparative advantage and implications, resources, economy and livelihoods of citizens.

The Executive Secretary of the agency, Dr Orji Ogonnaya Orji, said this at its National Stakeholders Dialogue on Energy Transition on Thursday in Abuja.

Orji said NEITI had commenced work along with other partners to make Nigerians and stakeholders gain insight into the risks and opportunities associated with energy transition.

He said NEITI, working with international Secretariat of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), had commissioned a study to examine actual implications and impacts of energy transition on the Nigeria's oil and gas sector of the economy.

According to him, the report of this study will soon be published and will be widely

## Energy transition journey must be driven by data

- NEITI

disseminated to all the stakeholders present at the dialogue.

"As the world transits from the use of fossil fuel to cleaner and sustainable energy, transparency and accountability is critical to the process, including the reporting of emissions, disclosure of climate risks and overall governance of the energy industry.

"Nigeria must prepare to mainstream transparency and accountability mechanism into her energy transition agenda to avoid the pitfalls of her past and present energy sector," he said.

Orji said Nigeria, being an oil and gas dependent country, was vulnerable to the risks and challenges of energy transition, adding that, the global energy transition agenda was already reshaping the oil and gas landscape.

He said the outcome of the dialogue was expected to feed into the country's transition plan and its implementation.

Ms Nafi Chinery, West African Regional Manager, Natural Resources Governance Institute (NRGI) Anglophone, appreciated Nigeria's desire for energy transition.

According to Chinery, African continent's average per capital

electricity consumption sits at about 600 kilowatt hours per year, compared with the world average of about 3.200 kilowatt hours.

She said when compared the consumption with the European Union, U.S and China, it threw up much stark variations.

"The current global discussions around energy transition places a responsibility on Africa to develop robust plans that will aid the transition towards Net-Zero emissions.

"This will mitigate future impacts of climate change on the continent and reduce the costs of adaptation.

"Nigeria's emphasis on gas as a transition fuel aligns with the thinking of most countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and the African Union Commission in the run up to COP27," he said.

Also speaking, Mr Gabriel Okeowo, Country Director, Budget Foundation, an NGO, said transition to renewable energy would be a great potential for Nigeria and the continent at large.

He said the private sector would continue to support the Nigerian government to achieved its aims. (NAN)

session," the letter read.

Buhari started reading his budget speech after remarks from the President of the Senate and Chairman of the National Assembly, Lawan.

The House of Representatives had on Thursday considered and approved the 2023-2025 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper (MTEF/FSP) report by the committee of finance.

It approved the aggregate federal government expenditure of N19.76 trillion; made up of Total Recurrent (Non-debt) of N8.53 trillion;

Personnel Costs (MDAs) of N827.8 billion; Capital expenditure (exclusive of Transfers) N3.96 trillion; Special Intervention (Recurrent) amounting to N350 billion; and Special intervention (Capital) of N7 billion.

The House also reduced the fiscal deficit of N11.3 trillion to N10.5 trillion for the next financial year, based on the expected savings from the subsidy regime amounting to N737.31 billion, as the federal government projected that the scheme will last only in the first six months of the year.

It approved N9.3 trillion revenue as a result of increase in the benchmark as the ceiling oil subsidy of the year in review, and the daily crude oil production of 1.69mbpd, 1.83mbpd, and 1.83mbpd for 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively and the oil price of \$73 per barrel of crude oil due to continuous increase in the oil price in the global oil market and other peculiar situations such as continuous invasion of Ukraine by Russia as that will result in saving of N155 billion.

The green chamber further approved the exchange rate of N437.57 as contained in the MTEF FSP document with continuous engagement between the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning with the view of bridging the gap between the official market and parallel market.

It equally approved: "the projected GDP growth rate of 3.75% be approved; the projected Inflation rate of 17.16%; projected New Borrowings of N8.437 trillion (including Foreign and domestic Borrowing), subject to the approval of the provision of details of the borrowing plan by the National Assembly; fiscal deficit of N10.563 trillion (including GOEs).



Kyari



# ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

## How Nigeria's business crisis is affecting MSMEs

*Africa's biggest economy is facing a fresh cost of doing business crisis as energy prices and production costs make rapid climbs. Chinedu Ndigwe and Josephine Okojie writes.*

**N**IGERIA'S inflation has accelerated to 20.5 percent in August, the highest in 17 years, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). This is set to go even higher if the government fails to act on soaring food, and diesel prices, analysts say.

To gauge the economic impact of the country's fresh cost of doing business crisis, to some operators of Micro Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) across major cities share their experience.

Oluwalobamise Orafidiya is the founder of CreativiTees, a start-up operating in the fashion industry.

**How are you coping with the rising input prices?**

It is not really easy because product prices cannot be changed too often for the sake of uniformity. So this affects the profit on my end.

**Are customers buying your products?**

Yes, customers buy my products. As a growing business I have sold about 50 CreativiTees and I am very proud of this feat. I am connected to a number of Creatives who love and patronise my brand. Besides sales of my original brand designs, I also make custom designs for customers who request for it.

**How is the worsening power supply affecting your cost of production?**

Without mincing words, it is affecting business badly. The fluctuating status of power keeps increasing the cost of branding. The lack of power coupled with the high price of diesel makes production much more expensive.

**What strategy did you adopt as a business to survive the COVID-19 pandemic?**

My business is quite new. It started towards the end of 2020, September to be precise. By this time, the lockdowns had eased, but the effect of the pandemic was definitely still there.

Ugah Chukwuemeka

Chukwuemeka is the executive director of Legacy Building Solutions – a supplier of aluminium composite panels, operating in Ibadan, Oyo State.

**How are you coping with the rising input prices?**

The current cost of doing business is as difficult as starting up. Last year, our suppliers increased their prices four times. It created some strain on our finances and reduced our profit margin since we have to add up money to repurchase. In order to manage these regular price increases, we are more vigilant in the market, follow economic trends and effect a price increase when necessary.

**Are you making more money compared to before?**

Compared to last year, we are making about 40 percent less profit per good.

**Are customers buying your products?**

At the moment, customers still patronise us, but they understand that the situation is general.

**How is the worsening power supply affecting your cost of production?**

Our business does not really rely on power because we supply aluminium composite panels.



**What strategy did you adopt as a business to survive the COVID-19 pandemic?**

We dealt majorly in supplies and had to keep a good rapport with our suppliers and the logistics company. Construction works were still ongoing, therefore, customers needed goods.

**Is the Nigerian business environment improving?**

The Nigerian business environment is worsening because many start-ups from 2020 have not been able to survive. One would need strong capital with a good business strategy to cope now.

Adelaide Adesote

Adesote is the founder of Suwacloset- a fashionable online eyewear store operating on Instagram and WhatsApp.

**How are you coping with the rising input prices?**

The persistent fall in the value of naira compared with the dollar has affected so many businesses, including mine. Sometimes even the profit gotten from sales might not be enough to restock, so there is a need to increase the price of goods. Yesterday's price is not today's price; everything keeps adjusting day in and day out.

**Are you making more money compared to before?**

For a business that started less than six months ago, the cash inflow is fair. I am still in the process of getting people familiar with my brand but so far it's been fair.

**Are customers buying your products?**

Yes, customers buy my products. One person's preference might not be another person's. But then, customers still come around. I reach these customers by speaking to people about my business, running ads and basically showing up for my business every day.

**How is the worsening power supply affecting your cost of production?**

To be honest, the worsening power supply has very little effect on my business at the moment.

**What strategy did you adopt as a business to survive the COVID-19 pandemic?**

My business was not yet in existence during the Covid-19 pandemic. If it were, I'd say my strategy would have been to use social media more.

During the COVID -19 pandemic, social media became very significant as everyone had to use it for one thing or the other.

The best way to reach anyone during the pandemic was through social media as everyone had to be active for work purposes, entertainment, communication, and even basic household items.

**Is the Nigerian business environment improving?**

As much as entrepreneurs are putting in efforts and showing up for their businesses, the Nigerian economy has made it really tasking.

Some business owners end up incurring losses, debts etc. So I'll say that I expect the Nigerian business environment to be improving because entrepreneurs

keep putting in the necessary work for business growth regardless of the present economy. Nigerians know how to adjust to any kind of situation they find themselves and the same is playing out in the Nigerian business environment.

Lilian Chinwendu Managwu Managwu is the founder of Luxurybycl. She sells non-tarnish, hypoallergenic female jewellery online via Instagram.

**How are you coping with the rising input prices?**

An increase in the cost of production is such an issue for every business owner and it is resulting in the closure of a lot of businesses. To cope with these issues and sustain my business, I ensure that I keep a proper record of what comes in and goes out. I make sure that all business funds are properly accounted for so that I don't run at a loss. In terms of customer retention, I run some discounts and try to maintain a steady price range for my products, this may involve cutting down a little on the profit margin. However, despite doing this, I still ensure that I make a reasonable profit on each item. This is why I take business records very seriously; it is the metric that allows me to calculate the best ways to go about it in order to not run at a disadvantage.

**Are you making more money compared to before?**

My business is a fairly new business. I have been running it for a year and about two months. If I

have to compare the profit margin I make on each product now to what I initially made from the first set of goods, I will say I am not making much. This is because of the increasing costs of operation and increase in import fees and the general state of the economy. I cut down a bit on the profit margin to enable me to still sustain a good price range in order to retain customers.

**Are customers buying your products?**

Sales have been quite slow. I market on my various social media platforms but the turn-up has not been as much as I would hope, but at the stage that I am now, I would say that my business is gradually gaining traction. I have shipped outside of Nigeria to countries such as the USA, the United Kingdom and Ghana. I'm still very optimistic about my business potential and I know that with time and implementation of strategies that I have learnt along the way and also with more exposure such as a feature on your platform, my brand would definitely begin to make its mark and the buying audience would increase.

**How is the worsening power supply affecting your cost of production?**

I would say that the major area that power supply affects my business is in terms of content creation. I use a ring light to shoot content and as a result, this is limited to when there is power supply because the ring light works with electricity. Also, as an online business, my gadgets are very important to the running of my business and as such the worsening power supply affects the smooth running of my devices as my battery might get low while creating content or checking in on my page and my business.

**What strategy did you adopt as a business to survive the covid-19 pandemic?**

I started my business in 2021 and as such, I was not directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Is the Nigerian business environment improving?**

In my opinion, I would say no. But Nigerians as a people are very talented. Nigerians as creative entrepreneurs are really taking bold steps and making bold moves in terms of the ideas and innovations that people come up with. It is really refreshing to see the level of creativity Nigerians have. However, a lot of this is strangled by the poor state of our economy and the lack of support from the government. The economy makes it difficult and frustrates scaling. There are not a lot of resources available to small business owners compared to other countries and this is really eating into the business environment and the entrepreneurship space. Also, government policies are not helping; it's almost as if the government is trying to frustrate people out of business with some guidelines and this is killing businesses.

It is really not encouraging, especially to new entrepreneurs who are just beginning or are considering starting their entrepreneurial journey.

**Source: Business Day**



*Web* **BULUS GAMBO**

# 'Music is my life and happiness'

Continued from page 18



Civil Defence, I sponsored all my projects by myself as there was no help from outside.

**After coming this far, what do you plan to do apart this?**

Aside music, already I have a Job which is with civil defence and I am not sure music is something I will want to quitting for now. Music is my life and happiness.

**Any advice for upcoming Gospel artists?**

My advice to all upcoming music artists is to never give up. We all should go for what we believe in, though the journey might be rough; but keep pushing as nothing good comes easy.

**What kind of support are you getting?**

For now, the support that keeps me going is the love from my fans. when you are doing anything, you believe in and people also believe in you; that should give you more reason to keep going.

**Your appeal to the church and other wealthy individuals in our society?**

My advice to the church is that they should be an encouragement to the various talents in the church and our communities, because most churches and communities don't value talents. We have lots of talents that are wasting for lack of support from the church and the rich. So, please the church and the rich in our communities should help.

**What next for you?**

I am working on a musical video titled ZAKI which is coming out soon and also, I have some new singles which are out. You can Google G-azenna and listen to them.



making time out and there is no excuses. My gift is from God and God gave me this gift for a purpose, and the purpose is to preach the gospel of Christ.

**You have been in the gospel music industry for some time now, how has it been in terms of challenges?**

The challenges are really much. It has not been easy. You know, as Gospel artist the devil fights us through lots of trials. Sometimes, I feel like quitting. You know spreading the gospel through music is not an easy task because it needs finance, recoding in the studio, paying the sessions, promotions and the rest. But thank God for the Job with the

## Nigerian celebrities who quietly ended their marriages

Continued from page 16

**Mofe Duncan, Jessica Kakkad**

Mofe Duncan and Jessica Kakkad had one of the most discreet breakups in the history of celebrity marriage crashes. It had to take a die-hard fan of Jessica to burst the bubble in September 2019.

A few hours after the news broke, Mofe Duncan took to his Instagram page to release a statement where he revealed that the marriage had crashed a year earlier and that he still maintains a cordial relationship with Jessica and her family.



**Anita Iseghohi, Tom Iseghohi**

Another celebrity marriage collapse that was very discreet was that of former Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria, Anita Iseghohi, and her business executive husband, Tom.

The former beauty queen took to her Instagram page in November 2018 where she revealed that her 11 years marriage to the former MD of Transcorp Corporation had ended. The union is blessed with three children.



**Damilola Adegbite, Chris Attoh**

Just like Osas and Gbenro, Damilola Adegbite and Chris Attoh had one of those onset beautiful love stories. The couple got hitched on February 14, 2015, in Accra, Ghana.

In April 2017, Chris Attoh slammed divorce rumours in a radio interview. The couple had earlier unfollowed each other on Instagram.

The actress remained silent about their separation after that. However, in September that same year, Attoh finally revealed that their marriage had crashed.



**Blossom Chukwujekwu, Maureen Esisi**

Blossom Chukwujekwu's split from Maureen Esisi was probably the most shocking separation gist in 2019. Social media will not forget in a hurry how Blossom and Maureen showcased their beautiful and 'happy marriage' to the admiration of many.

In September 2019, the news broke of their separation.

While blogs gave different accounts of the reason behind their marriage collapse, the couple remained mute. Although Maureen has made several cryptic comments about their failed marriage.

Blossom on the other hands has done a great job keeping conversations about his failed marriage out of his way.



# Change of Name

OLUWATOYIN	JIKUKAH	AFAN	ABDULLAHI	KHAMIS	SUNDAY
I, formerly known as <b>OLUWATOYIN KEMI SEGUN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OLUWATOYIN SEGUN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DEWAN YELWACE LUKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JIKUKAH YELWACE GOBES</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AFAN BULUS, ATSI ISHA AFAN</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AFAN ATSI BULUS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ABDULLAHI HANNATU ABUBAK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABDULLAHI HANNATU MUHAMMAD</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the	I, formerly known as <b>HAMISU KABIRU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KHAMIS KABIRU ABUBAKAR</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY SHAGIYA GOMNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SUNDAY KUNLE GOMNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
OJIMBA	MADAKI	TOMA	AFOLABI	FRANCIS	YAKUBU
I, formerly known as <b>OJIMBA CHIDERA JOVITA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OJIMBA FRANCIS JOVITA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MICHAEL MADAKI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MADAKI MICHAEL KAZE</b> . Correct date of birth 1/3/1967 not 27/11/1957. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DOMINIC TOMA BUNJI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TOMA GOBONJI DOMINIC</b> . Correct date of birth is 17/12/1965 not 01/02/1987, 02/01/1984, 02/02/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AFOLABI ZAKARIA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AFOLABI OLANIYAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the	I, formerly known as <b>PATE DAVOU WAK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>FRANCIS DAVOU DUNG</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YAKUBU MARYAM MUHAMMAD</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YAKUBU MARYAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
GOLJI	CHIKA	DORCAS	AJANG	ANNI	GODFREY
I, formerly known as <b>GOLJI ENDURANCE ROTDUNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GOLJI STEPHEN ROTDUNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CHIKA PHINA ELOCHUKWU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHIKA PHINA ELOCHUKWU OKONKWO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DORCAS EKOJONWA MOSES</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DORCAS JIMMY-MATTHEW</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YUSUF ADANG BULUS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AJANG PHILIP BULUS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DAVOU CHINEYE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANNI BELESSING JOHNSON</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GODFREY AYOKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GODFREY SAMUEL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
GAROS	UMMUL	ESTHER	SEAH	MARYANN	YAHAYA
I, formerly known as <b>ROSEMARY BRIDGET SAMUEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GAROS SAMUEL ADAMU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>UMMA MUHAMMAD TAHIR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UMMUL KHAIRI ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ESTHER ICHI YAKUBU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ESTHER STEPHEN BULUS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SEEH ALBERT</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SEAH ALBERT</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MARYANN CHOJI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARYANN AYUBA ADUDU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YAHAYA ZAINAB</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YAHAYA ZAINAB EJIMA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
DANIEL	DALA	PANSHAK	CHETSHAK	ASAH	AUGUSTUS
I, formerly known as <b>DANIEL ABBA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DANIEL ABBA IDOKO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MAREN EZEKIEL UTARAN NAOMI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DALA MAREN NAOMI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>RAYMOND PATIENCE KAMDAND</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PANSHAK PATIENCE RAYMOND</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GRACE DANIEL MATHIAS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHETSHAK ALHERI YOHANNA</b> . Correct date of birth is 5/11/1984 not 5/11/1986. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the	I, formerly known as <b>KEFAS CHARLES</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ASAH CHARLES KEFAS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>UCHENNA ONYEKWURUJE EMMANUEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AUGUSTUS UCHENNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
RABIU	RASHIDA	SANDRA	DABONG	UMARU	KUNLE
I, formerly known as <b>RABIU UMAR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RABIU UMAR SHUIBU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>RASHIDA HALIRU GARBA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RASHIDA HALIRU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CHRISTOPHER MAFENG SANDRA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. SANDRA EMMANUEL CHUWANG</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MOHRREY PRINKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DABONG MOHORRET PRINGKA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>HARUNA RIFKATU(MRS)</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UMARU RIFKATU HARUNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>KUNLE MARTIN IPINS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KUNLE MARTIN IPINDAMITAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
NJIN	SARAH	NSOFOR	JOESPH	STEPHANE	ANLONG
I, formerly known as <b>SYLVESTER DONGDA NJIN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NJIN DONGDA SYLVESTER</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SARAH LYOP GYANG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SARAH GYANG MWANTI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NWANKWO ONYIYE GLORIA, NWANKWO GLORIA .O,</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NSOFOR GLORIA ONYEKACHUKWU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JOSEPH O.E. AJAYI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOSEPH EMMANUEL AJAYI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AMADI STEPHANIE OGECHUKWU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>STEPHANE JOHN-OKONKWO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ALFRED AGATHA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANLONG AGATHA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
GOAR	SA'AL	DAGONG	MARY	INNOCENT	EMMANUEL
I, formerly known as <b>ANTHONY PIRITMWA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GOAR YITPIMWA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AGIRUM MARY IBRAHIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SA'AL MARY SIMON</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MARTHA FRIDAY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAGONG MARTHA GIDEON</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MARY ABRAHAM GAGARA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARY TOMA GWOM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>KANDE HASSANA INOOCENT</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>INNOCENT, HASSANA KANDE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>LABARA EMMANUEL DOMINIC</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EMMANUEL DOMINIC</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
PATIENCE	OLADEJO	OKERULU	NANSAH	AHMED	DOUGLAS
I, formerly known as <b>PATIENCE BREMAH DAMTER</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PATIENCE BREMAH DAVOU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AYENI ABIMBOLA CHRISTIANA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OLADEJO BIMBOLA CHRISTIANA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>OKERULU OGOCHUKWU EKWEZUGO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OKERULU PATRICK OGOCHUKWU EKWEZUGO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NASH NANSH YAKUBU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANSAH YAKUBU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AHMAD SHAMSUDDEN USMAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AHMED SHAMSUDDEN USMAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ZAITU PATIENCE RANGE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DOUGLAS PATIENCE JACK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
NYANGO	MOHAMMED	ALIYU	SANI	AMINA	DADET
I, formerly known as <b>BITRUS PETER</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NYANGO BITRUS BOYI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>KHADIZATU JUMA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MOHAMMED KHADIZATU JUMA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>IBRAHIM ALIYU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ALIYU IBRAHIM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>IBRAHIM SANI TORO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SANI IBRAHIM MOHAMMAD</b> . Correct date of birth is 1/9/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>HAJIYA AMINA ADAMU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AMINA ADAMU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JAR PLANGNAN CHRIS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DADET PLANGNAN CHRIS</b> . Correct date of birth is 21/10/1995 not 22/10/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

NEWS

# Lalong praises Police officer for rejecting bribe

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**G**OVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong, of Plateau State has praised State born Police Officer, CSP Daniel Itse Amah, who made the state proud and rejecting \$200,000 bribe from armed robbers and was recently honoured by Investigation of Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC).

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Governor of Plateau State, Dr. Makut Simon Macham, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the State capital Thursday.

The statement stated that, "CSP Daniel Itse Amah, is an indigene of Jos-East Local Government Area of the state. He joined the Nigerian Police Force as a Cadet Inspector in 2002 and is currently serving as a Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in the Nasarawa Local Government Area of Kano State".

Governor Lalong while congratulating the officer for his honesty and patriotism to



Lalong

reject the temptation to participate in corruption and conceal crime, said he has made his family, Plateau State and Nigeria proud by his actions saying, I am not surprised because the action of CSP Itse is in tandem with the Plateau spirit of diligence,

honesty, patriotism and hardwork.

According to the statement, the Nasarawa LGA Divisional Police Officer (DPO), is said to have rejected the bribe in the course of investigating a robbery matter which was reported to the Police Division in Kano State

# Kogi to recover cement company from Dangote

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

KOGI State Government, on Thursday, presented to the public, the report of the Specialised Technical Committee on the Evaluation of the Legality of the Alleged Acquisition of Obajana Cement Company Plc by Dangote Cement Company Limited.

The detailed report to Governor Yahaya Bello of the state, last month, was presented to the public by the Secretary to the State Government, Dr. (Mrs) Folashade Ayoade. She revealed that the purported transfer of Obajana to Dangote Industries Limited, was "invalid, null and void".

Ayoade disclosed in the report that three Certificates of Occupancy for Obajana Cement

Company Plc, which was solely owned by the Kogi State government at that time, were used to obtain a loan of N63 billion by Dangote.

According to her, the Committee, in view of its findings has therefore recommended that Kogi State should take steps to recover Obajana Cement Company from Dangote Group.

The Committee, chaired by the SSG, also recommended that: "Kogi State government should take steps to recover all accrued dividends from profits made over the years, including accrued interest on same."

"Kogi State government should take steps to cancel the existing seven Certificates of Occupancy in the name of Dangote Cement Company."

Stressing the aberration in the arrangement, the SSG said, "Agreement between Kogi State Government of Nigeria and Dangote Industries Limited, dated 30th July 2002 and supplemental agreement dated 14th February 2003, as contained in Exhibit 71 of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry Report, purporting the transfer of Obajana Cement Company Plc to Dangote Industries Limited, are all invalid, null and void."

"There is no evidence of consideration paid by Dangote Industries Limited to Kogi State government from the alleged transfer of Obajana Cement Company Plc and no dividend was paid to the state from the profits realised from the inception of Dangote Cement Company Plc to date..."

"By the assignment of the three certificates of occupancy, the title in

Obajana Cement Company Plc, still vests in Kogi State Government as the sole owner. The three documents were used to obtain a loan of sixty-three billion naira only (63,000,000,000.00) to finance the construction of the cement plant in Obajana. Speaker of the Kogi State House of Assembly, Matthew Kolawole, specifically noted that the acquisition of the Obajana Cement Company by Dangote was without the resolution of the House of Assembly, which made the process null and void.

"It is clear that you cannot sell a state government property of any form without the resolution of the Kogi State House of Assembly."

"All the transfer process of the share capital to Dangote from Obajana by the previous administration was without any law backing it by the state House of Assembly," Kolawole stated.

In his remarks, Governor Yahaya Bello said that he had taken the bold step, in line with his mandate to safeguard the lives and livelihood of the people of Kogi State, including residents, and to ensure their wellbeing.

Bello said this was also coming on the heels of protests by the people of the state who felt they had been suppressed and marginalised by the Dangote Group which had come to rip them off. The governor, however, said that the state was open to discussions once Dangote Company Plc is ready to come clean.

"We received several petitions from the general public over this particular subject matter. In the past five to six years, all efforts to sit with the proprietors of the

From - Gyang Pam, Yola

**T**HIS year's World Teachers Day was celebrated in Adamawa State with showered praises on the state government for doing the needful for its teachers.

In his speech, Comrade Rodney Nathan, Chairman Adamawa State Chapter of the Union leaped praises on Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri for being the first Governor to approve an additional five years for teachers of science and languages.

Accordingly, says Nathan, "it is our believe that you will be the first to implement the

# Teachers Day: Fintiri commended for setting pace

elongation for all categories of teachers in the state, thereby setting another record." This he says would not only boost the morale of their members but will equally enhance their living condition.

The N.U.T called for the implementation of a new minimum wage for teachers in Primary Schools which is being enjoyed by their counterparts in the Post Primary Schools since 2019. Other request made include the need to implement the

promotions for teachers in Primary Schools, payment of professional allowances of 27.5% to teachers who have acquired the requisite professional qualifications.

Governor Fintiri was represented by his SSG, Alhaji Bashir Ahmed who said Government would look into all the requests made. Highlights of the ceremony was the presentation of gifts to nine outstanding teachers across the state.

# Army innauguarates 12 members court Marshal

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

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

truth prevailed in the principles of fair hearing based on merit.

The 12 members Court Marshal are Col. Clement Iyere as its President. General Bassey stressed that the Court must ensure that truth prevailed by evaluating all evidences on their merits.

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

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

According to him, "the proceedings would be in accordance with the cardinal principles of criminal justice. General Bassey who is the

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

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

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

# PAWC working to eradicate poverty, create wealth

From - Gyang Pam, Yola

ADAMAWA State Poverty Alleviation and Wealth Creation says many youth have benefitted from its wealth programmes.

According to Hajiya Aishatu Bawa Bello during a ceremony at the Mahmud Ribadu Square in Yola, the Adamawa State capital Thursday, the programme is targeting 62,443 poor and vulnerable individuals as direct beneficiaries in the state, 1,073 small and Micro Businesses and 156 Wet Market to be upgraded.

Aishatu disclosed that NG-Cares programme had since received the support of the government.

She stressed that Adamawa was one of the first three states that released funds to the DPs barely one week after receipt of advance from the world Bank in March 2022.

"These achievements according to her, wouldn't have been possible without the brilliant support provided by the Governor especially in the timely release of funds totaling



Fintiri

N932 million to the DPs".

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri who was represented by his Chief of Staff, Professor Maxwell Gidado said, it was right to Governance when the youth are participants.

His administration he says has done much in the area of ICT, health, agriculture and

many others and appealed to the recipients to make good use of the ICT equipment given to them.

In his message delivered by Nsofor Akpobine, Minister of State urged Adamawa State to kick out poverty out of Nigeria.

## CHANGE OF NAME

### ABIGAIL

I, formerly known as **ABIGAIL PETER GYANG POLYCARP**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABIGAIL AZI MARKUS**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

### MARYAM

I, formerly known as **MOHAMMED MARYAM IYAMI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MARYAM MUSA MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

### ONUORAH

I, formerly known as **NWAFOR TOCHUKWU ONYINYECHUKWU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ONUORAH TOCHUKWU ONYINYECHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

## NEWS

## Buhari tasks service chiefs to replicate success recorded

From DORCAS PANKYES,  
Abuja

**P**RESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has directed the Nigerian Service Chiefs to replicate in other parts of the country the successes recorded in the fight against insurgency in the North East. President Buhari said this was bolstered by unprecedented acquisitions in military platforms and hardware in the past few years.

He stated this while addressing the passing out Parade and Commissioning Ceremony of Cadets of 69 Regular Course (Army, Navy and Air Force) of the Nigerian Defence Academy, (NDA) in Kaduna on Thursday. President Buhari listed comprehensive and systematic acquisitions by his administration within seven years, describing them as 'unprecedented in the past 38 years of the Nigerian military.'

He also used the occasion to commend the military for the safe release of the remaining 23 victims of the March 28 Abuja-Kaduna train attack. President Buhari told the cadets that it was an honour to serve as the Reviewing Officer of the Passing Out Parade of 69 Regular Course for the last time as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He said; "When this government came in 2015, we inherited a country at crossroads, with bombs going off with frightening frequency



Buhari

even in our cities, and we came in to confront and manage the crisis.

"This administration has since coming on board procured over 550 naval platforms, out of which 319 have been delivered, as part of the aggressive fleet recapitalisation of the Nigerian Navy.

"We have also increased the number of Nigerian Air Force platforms by more than 38% and enhanced the serviceability rate of aircraft in the NAF inventory by over 70%.

"In pursuing this same objective, the Nigerian Army has received more than 2000 units of various Armoured fighting vehicles, guns, and equipment. These are in addition to improved funding of the three Services along with

other security and intelligence agencies.

"These comprehensive and systematic acquisitions within 7 years are not only unprecedented in the past 38 years, but they also align with our pledge to safeguard and strengthen the security architecture of our country."

"Although this is not a forum to introduce you to the military hardware; you are stepping out to inherit. It is imperative to identify the magnitude and complexities of conflicts surrounding us.

"While acknowledging that our measures have yielded results and we remain ever grateful for the sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces, we must brace up for the dimensions this conflict has taken," President Buhari said.

**H**OODLUMS in the early hours on Saturday attacked New Life Gospel Church, Sarikinoma, a suburb of Lokoja, the Kogi State capital.

Our correspondent gathered that the hoodlums who came in their numbers attacked the church when the elders converged to hold prayers.

Narrating the ordeal, the Resident Pastor of New Life Gospel Church, Sarikinoma, Pastor Olorunfemi Ojo said they noticed that three unknown men were trying to force their way into Victory Primary School beside the church and were confronted before they left.

Ojo said, "shortly after, some hoodlum numbering up to about fifteen alongside the three that came earlier, invaded the Church by destroying the windows and forcing their way into the church

## Hoodlums attack church, injure 2

From AMEDU JOSEPH,  
Lokoja

building, hitting them with planks, broken bottles and stones, hurting the elderly men before they ran for their lives.

"Two of the church elders sustained several degrees of injury and have been rushed to an undisclosed hospital for treatment."

Pastor Femi Ojo said that the attackers, after unleashing mayhem went away with some of the church properties, collected phones and cash, leaving the church building full of broken bottles, stones and planks and in shambles.

The cleric noted that while they scamper for safety, he went to the road to seek help from the vigilante in the area but was told that they had just gone on a patrol.

"The men were later caught by vigilantes as they tried to carry out another

round of robbery in the area, some of the perpetrators have been nabbed while others are at large," he added.

Pastor Femi Ojo who appreciated the vigilante group, told our correspondent that the police had been contacted and came to see the level of damage in the church.

The cleric, however, thanked the Nigeria Police for their prompt intervention while urging them to intensify efforts to bringing the perpetrators to book.

When contacted, the Kogi State Police Public Relations Officer, SP William Aya said, his office had not been briefed about the incident by the Nigeria Police B Division, Lokoja.

He however, promised to revert back when he obtain information about the incident.

## DG, PLBPP interface with journalists

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

**D**IRECTOR General of the Plateau State Bureau of Public Procurement (PLBPP), Mr. Peter Dogo has assured journalists and citizens of the agency's readiness to enhance transparency in procurement processes in the state.

Dogo expressed this during a 3 day workshop

training on Anti-Corruption Hackathon for participants from Tech-preneurs, Media and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), at Valada Hotel and Resorts in Jos, last Thursday. He stated that his office was open for constructive engagement to both Journalists and the

general public.

He thanked the Accountability Lab Nigeria, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme ((UNDP), Nigeria and Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), for creating such a platform for journalists and others to interact and inform citizens about the activities on the public procurement processes.

He believes that with the cooperation and collaboration of other relevant authorities, his agency would attained to greater heights in best practices of procurement process in the state.

In a chat with Journalists during the programme, he said that only 4 out of the 85 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in Plateau State are profiled for e-procurement while others are still on paper form.

He called on contractors to hasten up the e-procurement processes to enable the public to have access to open tender and bidding details on the agency's Portal

Dogo urged journalists to make use of the knowledge gained during the programme to enhance reportage mechanism of the agency

## Air connectivity, key to unlocking tourism potentials

**M**inister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, has said effective air connectivity within Africa was key to unlocking the potentials of tourism in the continent.

The Minister made this assertion at the 65th

From DORCAS PANKYES,  
Abuja

Meeting of the United Nations World Tourism Organization-Commission for Africa, UNWTO-CAF which opened in Arusha, Tanzania, on Wednesday.

"There is no doubt that air

transportation is pivotal for any international tourism development (more so in Africa), owing to the need for tourists to move to the product destination. Air travels continue to be the dominant mode of travel for international tourists, accounting for over 50% of all international arrivals

"It is obvious, therefore, that growing air transportation into and within the African region, including effective connectivity through the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on a Single African Air Transport Market is key to unlocking Africa's tourism potential," he said.

Alhaji Mohammed urged African Ministers of Tourism to co-operate and collaborate with their colleagues, African Ministers of Aviation to achieve this (Single African Air Transport Market).

Reeling out statistics to back his assertion, the

Minister, who also listed unfavourable visa regimes, insecurity, high cost of air transport and low quality of tourism support services among other factors hindering the growth of tourism in Africa, said Africa's share of global international arrivals remains a paltry 5%

"The truth is that the performance of the region's aviation industry, though improving, continues to lag behind that of the rest of the world, accounting for a dismal 3% of the global air transport traffic. Of the 1,431 country pairs between the African Union countries, only 19% had some form of significant direct service in 2019 (that is operated at least once weekly on an annual basis).

"As of 2019, only 35% of the African routes were operated daily, and only 13% were operated twice daily while many operated at less than daily frequency. Such services

offer passengers very limited choices in terms of their journey timing and prevent passengers from obtaining a convenient itinerary.

"This negatively impacts productivity and ultimately has a cost implication. New routes and more frequencies will shorten flying time between many cities in Africa. For example, as of 2019 there was no regular direct service between the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The most convenient routing available then was via West Africa or Morocco. This could take between 9 and 15 hours while a direct service would take about 2 hours only!" he said.

Alhaji Mohammed said the liberalization of Air Transport in Africa is so important, because it will lead to an additional 145 country pairs that will receive direct service, boost tourism and also increase frequencies on existing routes by 27%.



Mohammed

## NEWS

## Senate rejects reduction of proposed subsidy in 2023

From DORCAS PANKYES, ABUJA

**S**ENATE on Wednesday rejected the recommendation of its Committee on Finance to reduce N3.6trillion proposed for subsidy in the 2023 budget by the executive to N1.7trillion.

President Muhammadu Buhari had in the 2023-2025 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper, MTEF/FSP, proposed N3.6trillion for fuel subsidy from January to June in 2023.

But the Senate Committee on Finance in its report on the proposals presented for consideration by the Senate, recommended N1.7trillion for fuel subsidy for the entire 2023 which was however rejected by sustaining the earlier proposed N3.6trillion earmarked for subsidy.

The committee, chaired by Senator Solomon Adeola (APC Lagos West) recommended \$73 per barrel oil price benchmark for the proposed N19.76 2023 budget which was however, approved against \$70 per barrel proposed by the executive in the MTEF/FSP documents.

Recommendation on exiting of 10 out of the 63 Government owned enterprises, GOEs, made by the committee was also approved by the Senate. The affected GOEs are the Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC; Corporate Affairs Commission, CAC; Nigeria Port Authority, NPA; Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, JAMB and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA.

Others are the Federal Inland Revenue Service, FIRS; Nigeria Customs Service, NCS; National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC; Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, NUPRC and the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Agency, NMPDRA.

The recommendation states: "That 10 out of the 63 GOEs be placed on cost of collections to serve as a test case for other GOEs which can be added in the future.

"The list of these GOEs includes, NCC, CAC, NPA, NIMASA, NUPRC, FIRS, Customs, NMPDRA, JAMB and NAFDAC with immediate effect through the proposed Finance Bill 2023 coming up with amendment on the existing Act of agencies.

Senator Adeola in his presentation, said scenario 2 of the 2023 budget proposed by the executive in the MTEF/FSP document, was adopted by the committee because of lesser vote for budget deficit and over N1trillion for capital votes for the various ministries, departments and agencies, MDAs.

The scenario two has a



Lawan

expenditure profile of N19.76trillion and deficit of N11.30trillion as against scenario one which has a proposed total expenditure profile of N18.75 trillion with deficit of N12.41trillion and zero allocation for capital projects for the MDAs.

The scenario two proposed recommended by the committee for approval by the Senate and accordingly approved is based on other critical parameters like 1.69million barrel oil production per day, N437.57k exchange rate to a US dollar and 3.75% Gross Domestic Product, GDP growth rate.

Others are projected inflation rate of 17.16% and new borrowings of N8.437trillion, N6.31trillion for Debt Service, N722.11billion as statutory transfers etc.

Many of the Senators in their submissions before the adoption of the report, expressed their reservations on the N437 exchange rate to a dollar which according to

## APC condemns PDP's reactions to Lalong's award

**T**HE attention of the All Progressives Congress in Plateau State has been drawn to a press release by the isolated PDP in Plateau State condemning the conferment of national honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger, CON on the Governor of Plateau State, Rt.Hon. Simon Bako Lalong by President Muhammadu Buhari. This was released in a press statement by the leadership of APC in the state.

The statement read in part, "The condemnation of the award on the governor on the well-deserved honour based on his trajectory and track record of performance, can only come from a party which is out of touch with happenings in the state and the nation.

For the PDP to say that Lalong is not a performing governor and therefore not deserving the national award is as uncharitable as it is the figment of imagination of the clueless PDP in the state."

In the governor's defense, the statement rolled out his antecedents which include earning himself the status of a political figure whose name is

them gives over N300 difference to the N 730 or N740 to a dollar it is at the parallel market.

Senator Adeola in his response to the reservation, said the committee attempted to increase the exchange rate from N437 to N550 to a US dollar but threaded caution, in avoiding further devaluation of the Naira.

In his remarks, the Senate President, Dr. Ahmad Lawan said based on observations and findings made by the committee, Nigeria is a war situation as far as crude oil theft is concerned and also under revenue remittances by many of the MDAs.

"The scenarios proposed are very challenging ones and all hands must be on deck to stem the tide," he said.

The passed MTEF/FSP documents will be the basis upon which President Buhari will anchor projections and proposals of the 2023 budget scheduled for presentation to joint session of the National Assembly Friday this week.

the most mentioned in political discourse in the country.

That he has served Plateau State commendably by restoring relative peace and rescued it from the fangs of its tormentors can only be disputed by a dead party like the PDP in the state.

According to the statement, Governor Lalong who is now the Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign is well rooted in national politics which is unacceptable to his predecessor.

Governor Lalong who is now the Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign is well rooted in national politics which is unacceptable to his predecessor.

The governor, more than any of his immediate predecessors deserves this national honour which President Muhammadu Buhari rightly bestowed on him at this moment.

It also pointed out that Plateau State for the first time in its history, has the largest number of beneficiaries of the National Honours at this moment which the credit must go to the hard working

Form DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**T**HE Chief Of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya has charged Commanders at all levels to intensify Warrior ethos and regimentation in the Nigerian Army towards creating bonds, cohesion and discipline required for successful military operations.

Acting Deputy Director Army Public Relations 3 Division, Major Ishaku Takwa made this known in a press statement made available to SUNDAY STANDARD newspaper recently.

Takwa said, the COAS made this known on Thursday 6 Oct 2022, when he declared open a seminar on Intensifying Warrior Ethos and Regimentation in the Nigerian Army organized by the Department Of Transformation and Innovation Army at Headquarters 3 Division Jos.

Represented by the General Officer Commanding 3 Division Nigerian Army and Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN, Maj Gen Ibrahim Ali, the COAS charged commanders at all levels to redirect their efforts towards rejuvenating team work, training, discipline and show leadership by example to achieving the desired goal.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the Chief of Transformation and Innovation, Department of Transformation and Innovation Army, Major General Charles Ofoche stated that the aim of the seminar was to sharpen the fighting Spirit of troops and boost the tenets of basic soldiering, strict adherence to the customs, traditions and ethics

## FEC endorses 2023 budget proposal

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**T**HE Federal Executive Council (FEC) has endorsed the 2023 budget proposal for onward presentation to the National Assembly.

Mr. Femi Adesina, the President's Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, reveals

Governor who has placed the state at the centre stage of national politics instead of the helpless antagonistic and confrontational stand of his predecessor which led to capital and project flights from the state.

The PDP was reminded of the problem brewing within the party at the national level which has been torn into four

## Nigeria unveils electronic Mining Cadastre System-eMC

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**T**HE Director General and Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office, (NiRA.ng Award Winner 2022), Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom, disclosed that an electronic Mining Cadastre System-eMC+ would be unveiled to ease doing business in Nigeria Mining Sector November 1, 2022.

He disclosed this Wednesday in an interview with Journalists in Jos, the Plateau State capital shortly after a 2 Day Sensitization Workshop for Stakeholders on the adoption of the electronic Mining Cadastre System-eMC+, held at the conference

## COAS charges commanders on warrior ethos, regimentation



Farouk

of the Nigerian Army to enhance troops patriotic posture to defeat adversaries.

Gen Ofoche posited that the department remains the hub for creative thinking and ideas for the Nigerian Army and charged participants to make good use of the opportunity to tap from the wealth of knowledge of resource persons and refresh their memory on regimentation and warrior ethos as pillars of military profession.

He said the Army profession has no place for cowardice and urged personnel to rise up to security challenges by completely annihilating the enemies of the state.

Delivering their lectures on "Regimentation as a Critical Enabler For Combat Efficiency

in the Nigerian Army" and "Enhancing Warrior Ethos in the Nigerian Army for improved combat effectiveness", guest speakers, Brigadier General Hassan Lai (rtd) and Brigadier General John Temlong (Rtd) said the primary function of a soldier is to fight and defeat the enemies of the state.

The lectures posit that, integrity, professional competence, transparency, teamwork, ethical performance as well as mental, physical and emotional attributes are necessary threats that reinforces warriors ethos.

Highlights of the event were interactive session, group photograph and presentation of souvenirs to resource persons and moderator.

aided, the president will lay the budget proposal before a joint sitting of the National Assembly on Friday.

He said: "It was virtually a one item Federal Executive Council meeting in which the budget proposals for 2023 was presented and discussed at length.

"That budget proposal would be taken to the National Assembly on Friday morning by the President."

Adesina, however, declined to give details of the Council's decision, "as a mark of respect for the National Assembly.

"It will not be proper to begin to discuss the content of what will be officially presented on Friday.

"We want to give the National Assembly the honour of receiving it first then there will be a breakdown on a later date by the Minister of Finance."

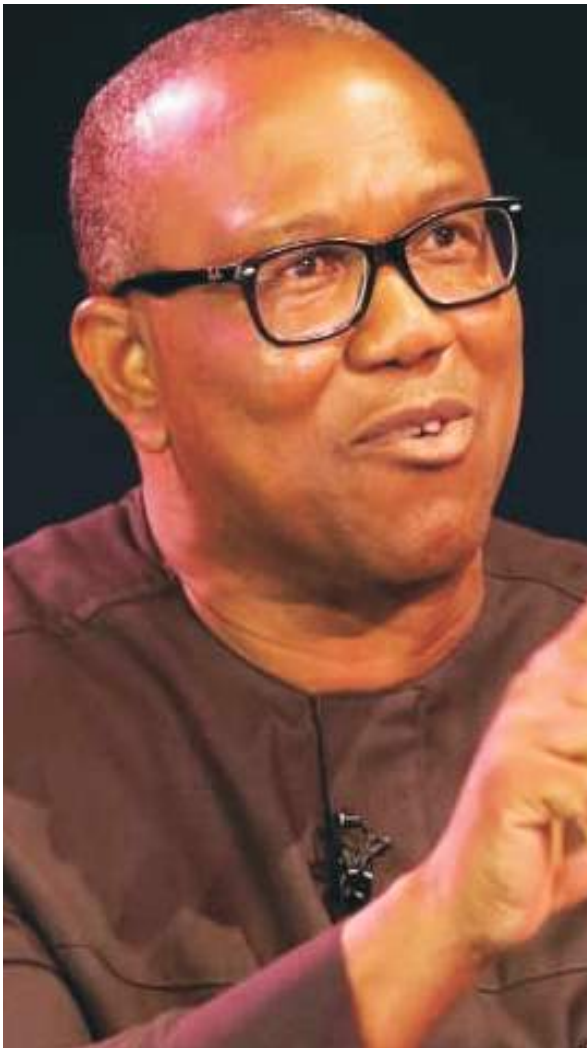
write. We need to be able to put up a system that will ease VISA collections and submissions where you will have people who will assist you. It will also enhance online Mineral Title Administration and ease of usage by all stakeholders.

"We are going to have Dedicated Centres in all the Six Geopolitical Zones whereby, if you have difficulties in submitting your applications, you can now go to your zone. But if you are learned enough to be able to have ITC person who can help you, you will be able to now do it yourself.

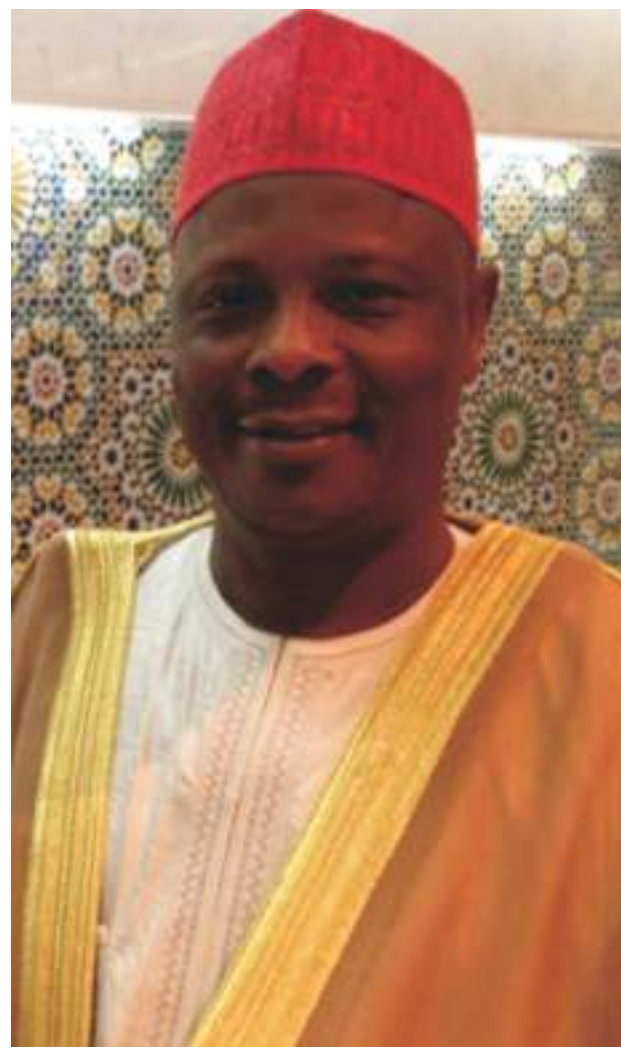
## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Atiku



Obi



Kwankwaso

## 2023 elections, parties and crisis

*Continued from Page 10*

Governor, Nyesom Wike with his few governors-colloquy. Wike who equally contested the presidential primaries may have been displeased and disappointed hence, his resolve to have his pound of flesh.

With the leadership of the party still shaky and with Wike's belligerent and shunning of all overtures aimed at reconciliation, the PDP must up its ante in order to reinvent itself if it must regain power. With some of his colleague governors in his camp, Wike is sure ready for a showdown. Will he succeed? Can the party amicably broker peace? Though the PDP is in a good stead to give the ruling APC a good run for its money, the internal crisis now bedeviling the party portends an ominous.

Similarly, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) is not immune from controversies and crisis as one of the major disquiet amongst the rank and file of the party after the National convention was the issue of the Muslim-Muslim ticket of Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu and Kashim Shettima. In a multi-cultural and multi-religious society like Nigeria, this, ostensibly, is bound to

raise eyebrows. How the party weathers the storm remains to be seen.

Again, one would have expected that as the party in power, the All Progressives Congress (APC) ought to have kick-start its presidential campaigns before others. That was not to be thereby leading to rumors and insinuations. However, the Director-General of the Tinubu Shettima Presidential Campaign Council and Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Simon Bako Lalong said the adjustment of the time-table and schedules of activities is in order to accommodate growing interest shown by various political tendencies. Being part of the campaign council, he said in a statement that a new date would be announced soon? (Vanguard, Wednesday, September 28, 2022).

The statement read: "Recall that we had earlier earmarked a peace walk and prayers for Wednesday, September 28, 2022 to officially kick off our campaign for the 2023 presidential election. We had also announced that the members of the campaign council report at the

campaign Head quarters on that day to collect their letters of appointments.

"However due to the expansion of the lists to accommodate more stakeholders and interests within the APC Family, we have decided to adjust the timetable of these activities in order to ensure everyone is on board before activities officially commence. Consequently, the activities earlier announced for 28<sup>th</sup> September will no longer hold. As the ruling and most attractive party in Nigeria, we understand the sacrifices and understanding of our teeming

members who are more than ready for the task ahead. It also shows the enormous love that the party members have for our candidates. A new date and time-table will be announced soon.

While APC members and indeed Nigerians await the new date for the kick-off of the APC presidential campaign, other parties have since swung into action, while the PDP and APC are literally perceived as the dominant parties, 2023 may spring some surprises. Other parties like the Social Democratic Party (SDP), African Democratic Congress (ADC), Labour Party may just spring

surprises. Indeed, it is an interesting moment for Nigerian politics and the polity.

In as much as the game of politics is a matter of choice, campaigns should be issue-based devoid of hate speech, sentiments and fake news.

After 2023 general elections, Nigerian democracy should be seen to have matured. There is no room for mouthing "scent" democracy or making caricature of government of the people, by the people and for the people campaigns would surely show the direction of the elections proper.

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***"Similarly, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) is not immune from controversies and crisis as one of the major disquiet amongst the rank and file of the party after the National convention was the issue of the Muslim-Muslim ticket of Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu and Kashim Shettima. In a multi-cultural and multi-religious society like Nigeria, this, ostensibly, is bound to raise eyebrows. How the party weathers the storm remains to be seen."***

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METRO-FOCUS

# Thugs: Taking advantage of political activities

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA/  
NGOT BWEHMASI CALEB

**W**HAT appeared to be a peaceful unveiling of party secretariat in Jos, the Plateau State capital by the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP)'s Presidential candidate, Senator Musa Kwankwoso, on the eve of Nigeria's 62nd Independence celebration, turned out to be a security threat as political thugs invaded shops around Terminus.

On that fateful evening, while traders and customers were busy trying to retire home after the business of the day, these political thugs from nowhere came with dangerous weapons attacking and chasing people in the heart of Tin City, causing commotion as people ran shelter skelter for their lives.

A reliable source who pleaded anonymity disclosed that these thugs were from the unveiling of Sen. Kwankwoso's campaign office at the Dogon Karfe in Jos. After waiting patiently for his arrival from morning to evening, the visiting presidential candidate did not play the usual political rituals of dropping what could take them home.

He said, "You know, these thugs always frequent any political gathering believing that something must come for them to transport themselves home, but the opposite happened. They were there from morning to evening chanting and dancing, demonstrating their allegiances to the presidential candidate but nothing came out after the unveiling of this campaign office."

"I think what triggered their anger most was the commissioning of the state party office around Channel 7, Yakubu Gowon way. The party's supporters and some of these political thugs were there under the rain and sun waiting to receive the candidate, but he did not show up. When these thugs waited and could not see him, they became furious and started removing the party's flags and banners."

"We heard them saying in Hausa language that, 'Dan Rudu ne', meaning; a fake politician. It was from there that they took to violence after meeting another angry group at the Dogon Karfe. I am sure some of them decided to take the path of violence to scare people away and steal. If not, why would they attack innocent people who are doing their legitimate businesses?" he questioned.

According to the source, the candidate on arrival went to the mosque to pray because it was Friday and could not meet the Gbong Gwom Jos and President, Plateau State Traditional Council, His Royal Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, who had waited for him in the Palace to receive him, but he did not show up on time. So he left for another important assignment.

"When the Presidential candidate came to pay the Gbong Gwom Jos homage, he was told he had waited and left so he wasted most time there to see if the paramount ruler would return but it was not possible. I think that was what delayed his coming to commission the party office at Channel 7", he explained.

Also in an interview with one Stephen Onyema, a trader around Terminus Market, he said, "I don't know what happened that day because fortunately for me, I had already closed my shop and was on my way home when I saw people running for their lives. At first, I thought it was another crisis, but I later discovered that it was political thugs who returned from party office that were



attacking people.

"Plateau State has faced series of crises in the past and we cannot afford to face a repeat of that ugly incidence. We need to caution our youths about such habit or it may one day bring us back to those ugly days. God forbid! Community and religious leaders should caution their wards against this barbaric act", he advised.

All efforts to reach the Plateau State Party Chairman, Hon. John Mandim Tokji, proved abortive as he was not picking his calls for over two days. However, we want to use this opportunity to caution all political parties to educate their supporters on the danger

this attitude portends considering how dicey and perilous times are these days.

We also want to draw the attention of government to this security threat so that it should place a standing order on all political parties for them to advise their supporters or be forced to pay for any harm done to any person or be held responsible for any breach of law in Plateau State and Nigeria as a whole. Because human life is not worth any desperation of a politician.

Everyone must say no to this politics of thuggery! We must also say no to desperate

politicians who think they can manipulate young Nigerians to force their ambitious minds on them. We have gone through a lot as Plateau people and Nigerians and cannot allow some crop of criminals to take advantage of politics to destroy us.

We must do all we can to stop such desperate politicians from coming if they cannot promise us peace. The Rescue Administration of Governor Simon Bako Lalong, has invested a lot in peace building and it is our duty as Plateau people to complement this effort by saying a capital NO to criminal minded persons!

However, this is not in anyway penciling the NNPP Presidential candidate, Senator Musa Kwankwoso, as the master mind of what happened that fateful day. But it is aimed at cautioning other politicians who may wish to visit Jos, the Plateau State capital ahead of this forthcoming general elections.

We are peaceful people and would not risk being a trigger to any unrest that would pitch Nigerians at logger heads. Yes, agreed, Plateau is known for being the determining state of Nigeria's politics, but will not allow any group of people to paint us black. In God we trust! Let us play a save one for all for the sake of generations to



# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## SEN. DADU'UT RECEIVES YOUPAD PRIZE

*The Distinguished Senator representing the Southern Senatorial District at NASS, Prof. Nora Ladi Dadu'ut recently received the Youth Partnership for Africa's Development (YOUPAD) in Abuja*



**Sen. Nora Dadu'ut being decorated with YOUPAD medal**



**YOUPAD recipient, Sen. Nora Ladi Dadu'ut (middle) flanked by her staff in a photograph**



**YOUPAD President, Comrade Coulibally Bn Hameed (right) with Sen. Dadu'ut receiving the award**



**The celebrant in another photograph with YOUPAD delegates, friends and family members**



**The YOUPAD award recipient, Prof. Nora Ladi Dadu'ut in a photograph with delegates from the Thomas Sankara Pan African Leadership Prize for Excellence**



**Sen. and Dr. John Dadu'ut (her husband left) with the certificate received from YOUPAD**



**Prof. Nora Dadu'ut displaying the medal received from YOUPAD**



**Sen. Nora Ladi Dadu'ut in a group photograph with her supporting staff after the presentation of YOUPAD award**

**Road Runner**  
 Michael Agada  
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 SAFER TOGETHER

# Attitude survey

**Check your driving attitudes**  
 Use this questionnaire below to assess your driving attitudes. Try and be as truthful as possible- the more truthful you are, the more accurate the result will be. If the table shows you have a high crash rate, you need to think seriously about what you

can do to change the attitudes that put you at risk. Attitudes to driving Listed below are some statements about driving. For each one, show how far you agree or disagree with it by ticking the appropriate number. For example, 1 means that you strongly agree with the

statement, 2 means you agree 3 means you are neutral and undecided, 4 means you disagree while 5 means you strongly disagree accordingly etc. (SA-Strongly Agree-1, A-Agree-2, UD-Undecided-3, D-Disagree-4, SD Strongly Disagree-5)

S/N	Item	1. SA	2. A	3. UD	4. D	5. SD
1	Reducing the speed limit on expressway is a good idea	1	2	3	4	5
2	Even at night time on quiet roads it is important to keep within the speed limits	1	2	3	4	5
3	Drivers who cause crashes by reckless driving should be banned from driving for life	1	2	3	4	5
4	People should drive lower than the speed limit when it is raining	1	2	3	4	5
5	Cars should never overtake by the right lane even if a slow driver is blocking the left lane	1	2	3	4	5
6	Penalties for speed violation should be made more severe	1	2	3	4	5
7	In built-up areas where there are a lot of pedestrians, the speed limit should be 20km/h	1	2	3	4	5
8	Drivers caught driving against a one-way lane should be subjected to	1	2	3	4	5

When you have finished, you can add up the numbers which you have ticked, if you scored less than 15, you tend to agree with the statements. If you scored between 15 and 21, you are generally neutral on the average. If you scored above 21, you tend to disagree with the statements. Drivers who tend to disagree with these statements turn out to have approximately five times the

crash risk of those who agree. **Acknowledge resistance to change**  
 Most drivers would accept that developing a safety conscious attitude is important, but a problem exists when we believe our own attitudes are right and are reluctant to accept evidence to the contrary and embrace the need for change. Attitude to speed is a key area where there is often resistance to change. To

access your own attitude to speed, complete the following questionnaire:  
**Driving speed**  
 For each question, tick the number corresponding to the answer that applies to you during your normal day to day driving (not during emergency driving). 1-Never or very infrequently, 2. Quite infrequently, 3. Infrequently, 4. Frequently, 5. Always.

S/N	Item	1. N/VI	2. QI	3. I	4. F	5. A
1	How often do you exceed 90km/h on the highway?	1	2	3	4	5
2	How often do you exceed the speed limit in built-up areas?	1	2	3	4	6
3.	How often do you drive fast?	1	2	3	4	5

When you have finished, you can add up the number which you have ticked. If you scored less than 7, you tend to speed infrequently. If you scored between 7 and 12, you tend to speed a little more frequently. If you scored more than 12, you tend to speed often. Driver who indicate on this survey that they speed often have about three times the crash risk of those who speed infrequently. If you had scored more than 12 on the second survey, do you agree that you have a greater risk of causing a crash? Or do you think there are

mitigating circumstances in your case? If yes, make a list of these and then decide whether they are genuinely mitigating or they spring from your reluctance to accept change. Discussing this with a colleague could help to make your research - based assessment more objective. Many drivers who are fast, aggressive and inconsiderate are quite happy with the way they drive and do not accept that it is unsafe. They tend to think that their behaviour is more common than it really is, and that it is a function of external

pressures than any choice of theirs. These rationalizations create barriers to attitudinal change and need to be challenged from complacency to allow for change. **Recognize your own vulnerability**  
 If you have inappropriate attitudes towards driving and are able to acknowledge this, the remedy is to identify safety as your primary concern. Consider the elements that improve your unsafe driving attitudes and how you can change them.

## NEWS

### UNDP, OCP organise training on accountability

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

AS part of efforts to strengthen the accountability and transparency, in the processes of public procurement procedures in projects for effective delivery within the government and private circle, UNDP, OCP organised a training lab on accountability.

The Accountability Lab Nigeria in partnership with the United Nations Development Programs (UNDP) and Open Contracting Partnership (OCP), organized a three day Anti-Corruption Hackathon workshop for participants from Tech-preneurs, Media and Civil Society Organizations(CSOs), at Valada Hotel and Resorts in Jos, recently.

In a welcome speech by the country Director Mr. Friday Odeh explained that the training was aimed to equipped participants with the right information and tools in promoting integrity and accountability in public procurement.

He added that the organization is currently working in three states of the federation with the procurement agencies in Edo, Ekiti and Plateau states as pilot states to deploy tech-based open contracting and monitoring to transform their public procurement processes.

Odeh charged participants to use the opportunity of the

training to add value to the global network of Lab that would improve governance in the service delivery to citizens and their active participation in the processes of public procurement procedures.

The project officer, Mr. Shiiwua Mnenga, facilitator of the training said that the Lab, support change makers to develop and implement positive ideas for integrity in communities to positive social and economic change.

He stressed that the burden of the organization is to have a world in which people with power are accountable and transparency in their leadership roles.

Mnenga maintained that

participants at the end of the workshop would contribute towards a decrease in incidence of impunity for corruption practice in the public procurement and increase more accountability, transparency in the use of public resources.

According to him "Government should involve citizens, CSOs, Media, etc, in addressing the loopholes within the procurement processes that would contribute towards the broader goals of accountability and transparency by improving accessibility of good monitoring of risk or corruption red flags in the procurement processes within the Government and private sectors".



Buhari

### NDE trains 30 enviropreneurship graduands

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

IN its efforts to reduce unemployment to the barest minimum, the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), has organised a 4-day capacity building training for 30 Enviropreneurship Graduands in Kogi state on business skills.

The initiative is geared towards enabling beneficiaries to be self-employed and impact on the economy of their immediate society.

The Director General of NDE, Mallam Abubakar Nuhu Fikpo represented by the Kogi state coordinator, Mallam Abubakar Zakari while speaking during the commencement of the training in Lokoja on

Thursday, gave an assurance that the training will boost the participant's knowledge in setting up businesses of their own for self-reliant.

The Director General commended President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration in Nigeria for its doggedness in the fight against unemployment.

He also hailed Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi state for providing adequate security to boost accelerated development and enabling environment for socioeconomic activities in the state to thrive.

He urged youths across the country to shun cultism, thurgery and other social vices that could ruin their career."

Youths across the country should avail themselves of the federal government intervention programmes tailored towards improving their living standard" the Director General further

admonished. Also speaking during the event, the Director of Small Scale Enterprises Department of the NDE, Mr. Apakasa Sunday David who was represented by Mrs Chikodi Ike, called on the participants to make good use of the opportunity as white collar jobs are difficult to come by.

According to the Director "No knowledge is small, use this rare privilege to better your life and bold steps to do some meaningful that will touch on the lives of others as well"

The facilitator of the programme, Mrs Monica Abuh from NDE headquarters, Abuja charged the participants to take their destinies in their hands and make good use of the opportunity.

Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr. Bola Omoniyi applauded President Buhari for fulfilling his promise and desire to tackle unemployment in Nigeria and expressed gratitude to government in its quest to meet the yearnings and aspirations of the down throdden.



Fikpo



## GOVERNMENT OF PLATEAU STATE OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE

### DESIGN AND RE - CONSTRUCTION OF PLATEAU STATE TREASURY HOUSE ALONG WASE ROAD, GRA, JOS

#### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/PRE QUALIFICATION

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Plateau State Government through the Office of the Head of Civil Service wishes to remodel and convert a building into the Plateau State Treasury House. The Treasury House is to serve as the Office of the Accountant General of the state who is the Administrative Head of the Treasury of the State Government.
- 1.2 The Office of the Head of Civil Service in furtherance of its statutory mandate and in accordance with the Plateau State Procurement Act, 2018, hereby invites interested and competent Construction Contractors to submit prequalification/expression of interest (EoI) documents for the project under Design and Built.

#### 2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

- 2.1 Site Investigation
- 2.1.1 Visit and identify the proposed project site/structures.
- 2.1.2 Identify the dilapidated state of the building.
- 2.1.3 Take physical measurement of the existing building and produce as built design.
- 2.1.4 Conduct Integrity test on the existing structure
- 2.1.5 Take site photographs and Produce Condition Survey Report.
- 2.2 **Redesigning, Remodelling & Costing**
- 2.2.1 Produce designs (Architectural, Civil/Structural, Mechanical and Electrical) for the remodelling of the existing building to suit a Treasury House.
- 2.2.2 Based on the drawings, produce detail Bills of Quantities.
- 2.3 **Construction**
- 2.3.1 If successful, carryout the construction/refurbishing of the buildings.
- 2.4 **Handing Over**
- 2.4.1 Hand over the refurbished and certified building to the Office of the Head of Civil Service

#### 3.0 COLLECTION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 Interested Contractors are to collect the Pre-qualification document upon the presentation of evidence of payment, a non refundable fee of **\_\_N 100,000\_\_** to be paid into the Plateau State Consolidated Revenue Account; 50300080670 Fidelity Bank Plc.

#### 4.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 4.1 This request for expression of interest is not an invitation to bid;
- 4.2 All costs incurred in the preparation of EOI documents and submission of same is to be borne entirely by the applicants.
- 4.3 Condition Survey Report, Designs and Bills of Quantities etc. are to be produced;
- 4.4 Late submission will not be accepted;

- 4.5 The Office of the Head of Civil Service reserves the right to verify the authenticity and accuracy of claims made in the submission;
- 4.6 The Office of the Head of Civil Service reserves the right to accept or reject any application for pre-qualification if deemed necessary to do so;
- 4.7 Failure to meet any of the pre-qualification requirements will lead to automatic disqualification of the firm/company.

#### 5.0 SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DOCUMENTS (EOI) AND PRE QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT

- 5.1 The Expression of Interest (EOI) should be in two (2) bound copies in a sealed envelope and submitted on or before **\_\_25<sup>th</sup> October, 2022** and clearly marked "**EOI FOR PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACTORS FOR DESIGN AND RE - CONSTRUCTION OF PLATEAU STATE TREASURY HOUSE**" and addressed to;

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE,  
J.D. GOMWALK SECRETARIAT, JOS, PLATEAU STATE.

All Expression of Interest (EoI) and Pre - Qualification documents received will be opened on **\_\_29<sup>th</sup> October, 2022** In the Conference Hall of the Office of the Head of Civil Service, J.D. Gomwalk, Secretariat, Jos by 12noon.

#### 6.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 6.1 Only pre-qualified contractors will be invited to submit detailed Technical and Financial Proposals upon inspection and shall include: Condition Survey Report (including photographs), detailed Designs (existing and proposed), Bills of Quantities and Building Integrity Test Report.
- 6.2 Successful pre-qualified contractors have **two weeks** to conduct site investigation, prepare condition survey report, produce drawings, conduct integrity test on the buildings and submit all documents including financial bids
- 6.3 Financial Bids will be submitted with an evidence of payment of a non-refundable fee of **\_\_N\_150,000\_\_** to the Plateau State Consolidated Revenue Account; 50300080670 Fidelity Bank Plc.

#### 7.0 ENQUIRIES

Interested Contractors may obtain further information from the Office of the **HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE** during working hours 08:00 am 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday.

**Mr. Alfred Timkuk**  
**Director Planning Research & Statistics**  
**For: Head of Civil Service**

# SUNDAY SPORT

## LALONG TEES OFF 62ND INDEPENDENCE KITTY

The Governor of Plateau State and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong last week at the Lamingo Golf Course teed off the 62nd Nigeria's Independence Golf Kitty



Governor Lalong (right) shaking hands with Hon. Bitrus Kaze on arrival



Governor Lalong (right) with others watching Golfers play



A cross section of Golfers arriving at the venue of Kitty



Special Adviser to Governor Lalong on Legal Affairs, Barr. Jonathan Mawiyau teeing the ball



Lady Captain of Lamingo Golf Club watching the tee off



Thaddeus Yilmen, Chairman, Plateau Golfers Association, Board member, representing North Central Zone and Director, Media & Publicity, Nigeria Golf Federation (right) in a group photograph with Golfers



Major General Ibrahim Ali, GOC 3 Armoured Division who doubled as Commander, Operation Safe Haven (left) Barr. Jonathan Mawiyau and other Golfers in a group photograph



Governor Lalong, accompanied by the Captain of Lamingo Golf Club, Fr. Blaise Agwom and other golfers



Plateau State governor performing the tee-off ceremony



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (middle) flanked by the Captain Rayfield Golf Club, Barr. Steven Abar (3rd left) and other golfers after the tee-off, Captain of Lamingo Golf Club, Rev. Fr. Blaise Aawom (3rd left)

Photos: DANLADI DUK

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Threat of extinction of some cultural heritage

*Oral tradition remains an indispensable cultural heritage management strategy among pre-modern and pre-historic Africans which continues to be relevant in contemporary Nigeria. Most oral tradition obtained through ethnographic studies have been confirmed by archaeological and historical findings (Fasuyi, 1973). The clan & village heads, kings, chiefs, deity priests, aged/older men and women serve as repositories and custodians of their oral traditions. They include traditional proverbs, tales/dance by moon lights (known as akukoifo/egwuonwa among the Igbo of eastern Nigeria), adages, lullabies, poems, riddles, incantations, praise songs such as oriki, recitals of traditional religions like the Ifa verses among the Yoruba of western Nigeria and other facets of their individual community's cultural heritages. Oral tradition has proved to be a useful instrument to professionals like the archaeologists and ethnographers in locating and identifying cultural heritage sites/areas for further studies and preservation. Cultural heritage is, however limited to man-made artifacts and ideologies (Eluyemi, 2002). Rahina Garba Haruna, writes.*

CULTURAL heritages can be defined as the sum total of the people's cherished arts, customs, festivals, sacred or worship sites, norms, values, ideologies, dress and dress-patterns, traditional monuments & architectures, technology and technological sites and other artifacts which are cherished and conserved for their historical, political, educational, recreational and religious significance among others. Cultural heritages are therefore the sum total of material and non-material cultures of a particular society transmitted across generations.

The need to preserve Nigerian cultural heritage is best explained through the functionalist perspective as enunciated by Bronislaw Malinowski (1884-1942). Functionalist emphasize that society consist of inter related parts which work for the integration and stability of the whole system. Malinowski's functionalism assumes that all cultural traits are useful parts of the society they occur, in other words; all customary patterns of behavior, belief attitudes, and social structures perform a function within the society they occur. He emphasizes that social structures and social institutions exist in societies to meet or perform psychological and biological needs for the people. It provides cohesion in the social order by promoting a sense of belonging and collective consciousness, a point fervently argues by Emile Durkheim 1897.

Preservation of Nigerian cultural heritages is capable of promoting collective consciousness in terms of unity, oneness, nationalism and fostering peaceful co-existence among Nigerians. For instance, cultural heritages can be categorized into two namely material/tangible and non-material/intangible cultural heritages. This is because culture in itself is "both physical and non-physical in character" (Ogundele 2000, p.12).

Tangible cultural heritages include man's physical ingenious products which can be touched and seen such as architecture/buildings, defensive walls and ditches, crafts, tools, ivory, cowries, paintings, textiles, pestles, mortars, iron furnaces, knives, food, wooden objects, tombs & grave goods, temples, dresses, pottery & potsherd pavements, monuments, books, works of art, and among other artifacts. "Artifacts as a broad concept are objects and/or features made and/or used by man/humans in an attempt to cope with the challenges and problems of social and natural conditions. It is therefore important to state that man cannot survive without the construction and use of artifacts" (Ogundele, 2014, p.5).

This further gives a deeper explanation to the function of cultural heritages to society. On



the other hand, non-material or ideological cultural heritages include all intangible and invisible aspects of a peoples' ways of life such as ideas, folklore, kinship, norms, values, worldviews, philosophies of life, religious beliefs and practices, music, dance, festivals, traditions, language, and knowledge among others (Nnonyelu, 2009; Ogundele, 2000). The above enumerations show the complexity of cultural heritages, but for simplistic purposes they could also be classified as moveable (artifacts) and immovable cultural heritages (monuments) based on their nature of portability which requires different specialized skills for their preservation. It is however pertinent to stress that most of these Nigerian cultural heritages are threatened due to faulty efforts at preserving and conserving them. For instance, in south eastern Nigeria, the current status of the following cultural heritages should best be described as "endangered": Ikoro (slit drum) is a traditional medium of communication. Oriko- a traditional practice of re-integration among the Igbo through which social deviants are welcomed back to society after punishment such ostracism. Irumgbede- an Igbo traditional indigenous educational institution through which young maidens are initiated into womanhood (Mathias & David, 2014).

There are a host of other cultural heritages among communities in Nigeria that are under threat of extinction. There is therefore a need for a conscious preservation of some useful Nigerian cultural heritages, while negative ones should be discarded.

This generational pattern of preserving Nigerian cultural heritages was completely or partially truncated in most parts of Nigeria due to unsolicited incursion of colonialism. Colonialism ushered in an era of unrestricted negative human



activities such looting, vandalism, thefts, unscientific excavation of grave goods, iconoclasm, wars, illicit trafficking of cultural objects among others. The period 1900 to 1960 marked the era of colonization in Nigeria (Fasuyi, 1973).

The most remarkable of these destructive human activities on Nigerian cultural heritage occurred during the punitive expedition in 1897 when the British colonial administration attacked the Benin culture area, looted the rich bronze works and art treasures of the Benin royal palace and exiled the King to Calabar where he later died in 1914 (Eluyemi, 2002; Aremu, 2008; Fasuyi, 1973). Colonialism thus, waned the influence of traditional rulers and their role in preserving Nigerian cultural heritages. For instance, during the colonial period western educational systems were introduced to replace traditional educational systems such as Irumgbede among the Igbo. In schools, English language and foreign literatures were taught and read at the detriment of

Nigerian indigenous languages (Fasuyi, 1973). The current status of Nigerian indigenous linguistic heritages is best described as endangered and they are arguably almost at the verge of extinction. Also Missionaries introduced Christianity which relegated and designated Nigerian traditional religions as idol worship and branded practitioners as heathen and unbelievers (Eluyemi, 2002). In the entertainment industry, the traditional poets, praise-singers, clowns, comedians, dramatists, in the king's courts, traditional dance and dancers, songs, music, and local costumes, musical instruments such as drums have been replaced with western music, foreign dance styles, foreign dress and dress patterns, western musical instrument such as bands, microphones, guitars, pianos, etc. All these mindless replacements continued without Nigerians knowing its implications until a few expatriated sensed the need to preserve Nigerian cultural heritages during the colonial era (Eluyemi, 2002; Fasuyi 1973). These foreigners advised the then colonial government on the need

to preserve Nigerian cultural heritages, they suggested that museums should be created, also Nigerian arts, cultures and history should be taught in schools. For instance, E.H. Duckworth wrote in 1937, Help to build up an appreciation of old things; do not be afraid of them. Respect the past, record its history, treasure its sign posts, and help to build museums in Nigeria. The day may come when people will voyage from all parts of the world to see the museums and exhibition rooms in Lagos, Abeokuta, Ife and Benin City (Fasuyi, 1973 p. 24).

Another expatriate known as K.C. Murray on the other hand also made this suggestion; "Make a list of all works of art and gather them whenever possible into the safety of museum" (Eluyemi, 2002 p.6). "E.H. Duckworth who was the editor of the colonial government owned Nigerian magazine, this magazine was first published in Nigeria in 1923 as the Nigerian Teacher, its title latter changed to Nigeria in 1927 and later became the federal government cultural information journal" (Fasuyi, 1973 p.23).

Also other British colonial civil servants such as K.C. Murray who was an art teacher, B. E. Bernard Fagg, and S. Milburn among others also made contributions for the preservation of Nigerian cultural heritages (Eluyemi, 2002). "One result of wanton exportation of Nigerian antiquities was the emergence of museum creation in Nigeria, creation of Nigerian Antiquity Service in 1943 and the Office of the Surveyor of Antiquities in the same year" (Eluyemi, 2002 p.6). Systematic preservation of cultural heritages therefore gradually began with suggestions by colonialists and finally metamorphosed into a well formulated cultural policy in 1988 which necessitated the creation of museums. A museum is an institution that collects, studies, exhibits, and conserves artifacts or objects for cultural and educational purposes (Okpoko, 2011).

According to Eluyemi, (2002 p.7) "the first museum in Nigeria was created in 1945 at Essie known as Ileere (house of images)", followed by other museums such as Jos museum in 1954 (Fasuyi, 1973 wrote Jos museum was opened in 1952), Ife museum built in 1954, Lagos museum in 1957, Owo museum in 1958, Benin museum in 1959 and Kano museum in 1960 among all others.

In summary, preservation of Nigerian cultural heritages during the colonial era is remarkable that some commendable land mark achievements were made such as the creation of the "Nigerian magazine, establishment of museums of antiquities, the creation of the post of the federal art adviser, etc.

**Rahina is a Deputy Director and Curator - National Museum of Nigerian Traditional Architecture, Jos**

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Messi set for Barcelona return next summer

ARGENTINA skipper Lionel Messi will depart Paris Saint-Germain and return to Spanish LaLiga giants Barcelona next summer.

This is according to highly-respected Argentine journalist Veronica Brunati.

In a tweet, Brunati, who covers the Argentina national team, wrote: "July 1, 2023, Lionel Messi will be a Barca player."

In 2021, Messi left Barcelona to sign for PSG on a two-year contract, with his exit chiefly down to the financial difficulties the Catalan giants were facing.

Messi has begun the 2022-23 campaign in impress form, scoring seven goals in 12 club appearances across all competitions.

However, Italian journalist Fabrizio Romano said that while Barcelona "are dreaming" of bringing Messi back, nothing, as yet, has been agreed with the player and club.

Romano said: "Speaking to sources close to Leo Messi, there is still nothing agreed with any club; not with Barcelona - still no official bid."

"What is true is that Barcelona are dreaming of Lionel Messi's return. They are discussing about it internally but there is still no official bid."

"There is also still nothing agreed with Paris Saint-Germain who are loving Leo Messi's impact, especially in this second season. They want to extend his contract, but at the moment also, in this case, still nothing advanced."

"Why? Because Leo Messi wants to focus on the World



Messi

Cup with Argentina, wants to focus on Paris Saint-Germain's season, to win the Champions League with Paris Saint-Germain and then decide in 2023 what he wants to do.

"So Barca are dreaming of Messi, PSG, want to keep him. But at the moment, still nothing decided."

Earlier this week, Barcelona boss Xavi refused to rule out bringing Messi back to Camp Nou, with Messi's contract at Paris Saint-Germain set to expire at the end of this season.

"On Leo - we will see. Let's see," Xavi told reporters ahead of Barcelona's Champions League Group C fixture against Inter Milan on Tuesday night.

"I don't think it's the moment to talk about this. I love Leo a lot. He is my friend. I wish him the best. Barcelona is his home but I don't think it is the

moment to talk about Leo. "I don't think we are doing him a favour. He is happy and enjoying himself in Paris and I wish him all the best."

Meanwhile last week Barcelona vice president Eduard Romeu said it would be viable to bring Messi back to the club on a financial level.

"It would be possible financially because if he returned, it would be as a free agent," Romeu told Catalunya Radio.

"But it's a decision which has to be made by the coaching staff and the player. It doesn't correspond to me [to make those decisions], but it would be viable."

## Eagles slip by one spot, now World 32nd

THE Super Eagles of Nigeria have slipped by one spot to be ranked 32nd in the world in the October world ranking by

global football governing body FIFA.

Newsnow said that, in the ranking table released on

game, scheduled for the National Stadium in San Jose, will kick off at 8.00 p.m. Costa Rica time (3.00 a.m., November 10 in Nigeria).

Costa Rica hosted this year's FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup finals where Nigeria's

Falconets reached the quarterfinals, defeating France, Korean Republic and Canada in the group phase.

The Super Eagles have another prestige friendly lined up against Portugal in Lisbon on November 17.

Meanwhile, the duo of Okemakinde Toluani and Olisa Tennyson finished joint 3rd with 4.5/6 points.

In the Under-14 category, just like in the U-20 section, there is a clear leader as the ever-impressive Nwankwo Victor Chibuikem was victorious over his rivals.

He won the tournament with a brilliant 5.5/6 points, ahead of the super solid prodigy, Ekunke Goodness. Goodness finished in 2nd place, half a point behind the champion, having lost his round 2 match against the brilliant and efficient girl, Everestus Joy. Both Everestus Joy and Nigeria's China kid, Li Mo, had to settle for 3rd place with 4.5/6 points.

This category presented a boy that has been super impressive in his category throughout the year 2022. Ebuomwan Henry Oghogho cleared the field, and showed class, as he claimed a perfect 6/6 points in the category. Henry outclassed his mates to claim victory in this category, and he would relish the victory until the next major victory.

The duo of (strong lady) Nwankwo Michelle Chiamaka and Olanrewaju Obaoluwa settled for 2nd place with 5/6 points, after both of them lost to the eventual champion of the category.

### Friendly Match

## Falcons suffer another defeat in Japan

JAPAN'S female national team defeated the Super Falcons 2-0, Thursday. The female national team is yet to win a friendly game.

Newsnow said that, the Thursday's loss to Japan is their fifth in a row as they prepare for the 2023 World Cup.

The Super Falcons have become a shadow themselves as they fell to a second-half brace from Bayer Leverkusen's forward Tanaka Mina.

Despite the pressure from the hosts, the Super Falcons were composed in the first half but couldn't repeat the feat as the Japanese team, ranked 11th in the world, exposed the Falcons in the second half through Mina Tanaka's four-minute brace in

the 64th and 68th minutes. The first came from a well-worked free-kick and she got the second from the penalty spot.

Coach Randy Waldrum made four changes to the squad that lost 2-1 to the USA last month, starting Ashleigh Plumtre, Uchenna Kanu, Okobi Okeoghene, and Deborah Abiodun. Meanwhile, Rasheedat Ajibade kept her captaincy because of Onome Ebi's continued absence because of injury.

In the 15th minute, a shot

drew the first save from Falcons goalkeeper, Chiamaka Nnadozie, who parried for a corner. Ten minutes later, Nnadozie was on hand to save her team again.

Vivian Ikechukwu came on for Christy Ucheibe in the 36th minute as the Falcons continued to hold on.

Nnadozie continued to keep the Falcons in the match as she saved a Tanaka header and then the rebound.

The Falcons threatened briefly just before the interval through Ajibade's long-range shot, which went wide.

It took the Japanese 19 minutes into the second half to break the deadlock from a Tanaka finish to Naomoto's free kick.

Tanaka doubled the lead from a spot after Osinachi Ohale infringed Sugita Nina, who was ahead of the defender in the Falcons' box in the 68th minute.

Two minutes later, Miyazawa Hinata's shot was parried for another corner.

The Falcons were close to halving the deficit through Ifeoma Onumonu in the 71st minute, but the assistant referee ruled her offside.



Super Falcons

## Super Eagles to face Costa Rica November 9

THE Super Eagles will confront the senior national team of Costa Rica in a prestigious international friendly in the country's capital, San Jose on November 9.

Newsnow said that, Nigeria Football Federation's (NFF) FIFA Match Agent, Jairo Pachon

of Eurodata Sport, told thenff.com, yesterday, that the three-time African champions have been invited to the Central American nation as part of major activities to send forth the Los Ticos to the FIFA World Cup finals in Qatar.

Thenff.com learnt that the

## Adebayo leads at National Chess Championship in Lagos

FORMER National Champion, Fide Master (FM) Adebayo Adegboyega, is in comfortable lead at the on-going National Chess Championship in Lekki, Lagos.

Newsnow revealed that, the veteran of several World Chess Olympiad, so far has overcome the trio of International Master (IM) Olape Bunmi, FM Akinseye Abiola, and Olanrewaju Ajibola within the

first four rounds. He was only forced to a draw by the current National Champion, IM Balogun Oluwafemi, during their matchup in the second round.

Adebayo is closely followed by both IM Balogun Oluwafemi and FM Akintoye and Abdurraheem Abdulrahman, who trail by just half a point. Both players (Oluwafemi and Akintoye) are yet

to lose a game in the rounds played thus far in the championship.

The duo of Candidate Master Atabor Job (Wildcard) and Fide Master Kigigha Bomo are yet to register victories at the championship.

Although, Bomo was able to secure a draw in his 4th round battle against Abdulrahman, who confessed (after the game) that Bomo was seemingly winning in the position.

In the female section, the Current National Champion, Ogbiyoyo Perpetual, lost her 4th round battle against Sampson Peace (Wildcard), who shares the lead (3/4 points) within the section.

While the quartet of Enomah Emmanuella, Suleiman Azumi, Woman Candidate Master Aramide Sandra and Ofowino Toritsemuwa, are only behind by half a point, Agbazue Miracle is yet to score a point in the female section of the championship.

In the Under-20 section, which was already in round six of classical Swiss-Round matches, it was Emmanuel Joy Idara who stood out from the pack to win the category of the juniors' tournament (with 5.5/6 points).

He was closely followed in second place by IM Okeke Isaac, who finished half a point behind Idara at the event.



Adegboyega



Super Eagles coaching team

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Liverpool try hot Arsenal at the Emirate



League leaders, Arsenal will be looking to make it eight wins from nine matches

NOT many would have expected that after eight matches Arsenal would be sitting top of the Premier League table, but against all odds, the Gunners have surprised every doubting Thomas. After deservedly getting the better of Tottenham Hotspur in the North London derby last weekend, Mikel Arteta's men would be facing another big test on Sunday as they come against a Liverpool side that is yet to find their right form this season but could not be written off on a big occasion like tomorrow's game at the Emirate.

Arsenal's expectations undoubtedly raised after acquiring Gabriel Jesus and Oleksandr Zinchenko from champions, Manchester City in the summer transfer window, even the most ardent Gunners fan may not have predicted such a fast start to the campaign from their side.

Mikel Arteta's side preserved their status at the top of the Premier League by beating their fiercest rivals, Tottenham Hotspur 3-1 in the North London derby last weekend, with Jesus, Thomas Partey and Granit Xhaka each on the scoresheet.

Emerson Royal's straight red card for a cynical challenge on Gaabriel Martinelli moments after the hour mark undoubtedly helped Arsenal ease to their victory, but they were the better side throughout and on current form look set for their first title challenge in several seasons.

Liverpool, of course, are the only team who have managed to keep pace with Per Guadiola's Man City in recent times, making Sunday's clash an extremely exciting and potentially telling one in terms of anticipating how the rest of the season may unfold.

The Gunners extended their winning run in all competitions at home to eight matches by beating Bodo/Glimt 3-0 in the Europa League on Thursday evening. If they can make it nine in a row on Sunday and keep ahead of Man City at the top of the table in the process, then what previously seemed to be wild dreams may become perceived as more realistic ambitions.

Liverpool, on the other hand, are suffering their poorest start to a season in several years, with Jurgen Klopp's side heading into Sunday's meeting 11 points behind their forthcoming opponents (albeit with one game in hand).

After taking just two points from their opening three games, the Merseysiders looked to have

turned a corner with successive home wins against Bournemouth and Newcastle United, but they have since been held by Everton and Brighton & Hove Albion.

The Reds showed great character to turn around a 2-0 deficit against the Seagulls at Anfield last weekend to lead 3-2 in the second half, with Roberto Firmino bagging a brace either side of half-time, but an inspired Leandro Trossard was not to be stopped on the day as the Belgian sealed his hat-trick - and snatched a point for his side - with only seven minutes of normal time remaining.

There were no prizes for guessing who broke the deadlock at the Etihad, as Erling Braut Haaland found the net after just seven minutes before adding a second shortly after the half-hour mark, taking his remarkable goal tally for the season to 19 after just 11 games in all tournaments.

An own goal put City three in front at the break, before goals from Riyad Mahrez and Julian Alvarez helped the hosts cruise to victory and maintain their perfect start in Group G. A win in the reverse fixture against Copenhagen next week would secure their place in the knockout rounds.

Pep Guardiola's side return to Premier League action today and they are the only team in the division who remain unbeaten from the opening eight matches this term. Understandably, the Citizens are in buoyant mood, but they will be wary of the threat that their next opponents Southampton are likely to pose.

City dropped points in both top-flight encounters against the Saints last season, playing out a rare goalless draw on home soil in September 2021 before drawing 1-1 at St Mary's in January. The Citizens did, however, secure a 4-1 FA Cup victory at St Mary's in March.

Since losing 3-2 at home to Tottenham Hotspur in February, Guardiola's men have put together a 15-game unbeaten run at the Etihad in all competitions, scoring an impressive 54 goals in the process, and they will be strong favourites to extend this run today against a Southampton side struggling for form.

Summer signing Joe Aribo put the Saints in front four minutes after half time, but their lead was short-lived as Conor Coady equalised just three minutes later before Dwight McNeil put the Toffees in front in the 54th minute. Only Arsenal and Man City had as many shots as Southampton (22) in last

weekend's round of fixtures, but the Saints lacked a cutting edge in the final third and came away from St Mary's empty handed.

The aim for Hasenhuttl and co is to return to winning ways quickly as they bid to avoid slipping into the relegation zone, but their chances of success today are slim considering both their opponents and form on the road.

Southampton have failed to win any of their last 11 Premier League visits to the Etihad since a 3-1 victory back in April 2004, while they have only ever won two of their 45 away league matches against reigning top-flight champions.

Clean sheets away from home have also been hard to come by for the Saints, as they have conceded in each of their last 18 Premier League matches on the road, both the longest current run and the club's longest ever run in the division.

Last season's goalless draw at the Etihad will at least instil some belief in the Southampton squad, and another resilient defensive display is required if they are to somehow keep Haaland and co quiet in front of goal.

THE Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development has secured a camping base for the U23 men's national team, otherwise known as Olympic Eagles, ahead of the team's Africa U23 Cup of Nations qualifying fixture against their Tanzanian counterparts this month.

Camping and prosecution of qualifying campaigns and tournaments of the U23 men and women teams for the Olympic Games and the African Games fall within the ambit of the Youth and Sports Development Ministry, but President of NFF, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau on Friday commended the Ministry for securing the camp as it will aid the preparation of the Olympic Eagles for their qualifying campaign.

Tanzania will host the first leg of the fixture in the weekend of 21st - 23rd October, with the return leg due in Nigeria on Saturday, 29th October. The NFF has already scheduled the return leg for the Lekan Salami Stadium, Adamasingba, Ibadan.

Head Coach Salisu Yusuf has invited 32 players who will resume camping in the Oyo State capital this weekend.

## 32 invited for Olympic Eagles camp



Yusuf

Nigeria won the Africa U23 Cup of Nations in Senegal in 2015, and then went ahead to win the bronze medal at the Olympic Men's Football Tournament in Brazil the following year. However, the class of 2019 failed to reach the knockout rounds in Egypt

and thus could not earn a slot at the Olympics in Tokyo last year.

Nigeria won gold at the Olympic Men's Football Tournament in Atlanta, the USA in 1996 and followed up with silver in Beijing, China 12 years later.

## Dikko hits back after property seized

NIGERIA'S anti-corruption Agency have seized the properties and he honoured and provided all proofs to show that all his assets are legitimate.

"Fundamentally, the fact is that my client own the properties long before he joined NFF in 2015," Katu told BBC Sport Africa.

The house in the capital Abuja is one of several properties previously seized from former president Amaju Pinnick, during a wide-ranging corruption probe in 2019.

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) confirmed the seizure of Dikko's property in a published advertisement in two national newspapers.

"The Commission is of the opinion based on the aforementioned investigation that this immovable property owned by Mr Shehu Dikko is excessive having regard to his present and past emoluments and all other circumstances," the ICPC statement said.

Back in 2019, the ICPC told BBC Sport Africa it was looking into a wide-ranging claims over how money meant for football development had allegedly disappeared.

Dikko, who became NFF vice-president in 2015 and who doubled as the former chairman of the Nigeria's top division (LMC), has hit back, with his legal representatives saying the allegations made against their client come with no evidence that any crime took place.

"This unfair media trial has been going on since 2019 when the ICPC published notices in newspapers for seizure of my client's and his colleagues' assets without any court order to back the forfeiture of my client's assets nor inviting our clients to explain," said Mohammed Sani Katu.

"We immediately engaged the ICPC and they invited our client to provide documents on

elections

The NFF, which receives its funding from the Nigerian government, has often been the subject of investigations as different anti-graft agencies probe how money meant for football development allegedly disappeared.

A source at the ICPC said the agency is still investigating Pinnick, former NFF first vice-president Seyi Akinwunmi, board member Yusuf Ahmed Fresh and general secretary Mohammed Sanusi.

Even though the quintet have always denied any wrongdoing, the ICPC said it remains resolute as it goes after one of the country's top football figures.

But Katu insists his client Dikko, a businessman and CEO of an investment, finance and project development company, wants the ICPC to close the matter once and for all.

"The ICPC has gone to the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) to try to confirm if our client has declared his assets, with the CCB ruling that our client is

not a public servant/official and thus not required under the constitution to declare any assets for being in the NFF executive committee.

"Hence the ICPC has no business with my client's assets.

"It's clear under the NFF statutes that to be a member of the NFF executive committee, the person must have an alternative means of livelihood as the NFF [role] is purely part-time and not a paid salary.

"Thus my client is allowed to be engaged in his private business and building his wealth while being an NFF executive committee member."

An ICPC spokesperson said the agency will not engage Dikko and his legal representatives, who want an apology, in the media about this particular case.

Meanwhile, Sanusi and Ahmed Fresh have retained their roles at the NFF, while Dikko and Akinwunmi both failed in their bids to replace



Dikko



October 9, 2022

# Ilechukwu assures of positive result against Esperance

By **ANDRE D. BISYIT**

**T**ECHNICAL Adviser of Plateau United Football Club of Jos, Coach Fidelis Ilechukwu has assured soccer-loving Nigerians that his team will get positive results in their CAF Champions League second round, first leg tie against former three-time champions, Esperance of Tunisia today at the MKO Abiola Stadium in Abuja.

This was contained in a press statement signed by Albert Dakup, Media Officer of the Club and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** sports desk. It stated that, Coach Ilechukwu who spoke to the club media, shortly before heading to Abuja in preparation to titanic clash, added that the though their opponents possessed pedigree in the African continental club football, it does not in any way intimidate his team.

According to the statement, the former MFM of Lagos Coach explained that his team has prepared well ahead of the match and with the full support of the club's management, assured that they are going to work hard to get a positive result against their opponents.

"We know it is going to be a tough game coming up against an experienced side with so many records in the CAF Champions League, but we are very

optimistic of our chances given the efforts we have put in to prepare the team," Ilechukwu said.

He maintained that in football, anything can happen and that is why the team is upbeat about securing a decent result against the Tunisian powerhouse who has won the competition on three occasions.

Plateau United, who are representing Nigeria in the African Premier Club Competition for the third time in five years are targeting the group stage of the competition having failed in previous attempts.

The Peace Boys edged out Aso Mandji of Gabon three-two on aggregate in the first round of the competition to book their place in the second round of the preliminary stage where they are pitched against Esperance of Tunisia.

The winner of the second round over two legs will qualify for the money-spinning group stage of the competition.



Plateau United celebrate one of their goals in their first leg tie against Stade Manji in Gabon

## I will focus on players' welfare, inclusive administration

**T**HE new President of Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau has given his pledge to run an inclusive administration, in which all stakeholders will be welcome to make suggestions and recommendations on the best way to deal with knotty and not-so-knotty

issues. "Administration at every level, that of football inclusive, requires the wisdom to be able to listen to everyone who has an idea and then pick the very best to deal with each situation at hand. Those of us in the Executive Committee are only privileged to be representing the entire fraternity.

"We will run an inclusive administration in which ideas and advice will be welcome from all quarters, and will be guided in our resolutions. It is very important to resuscitate the League and engender a massive football economy from which every stakeholder can benefit and also be happy to contribute to its growth."

A former Chairman of the Zamfara State Sports Commission, Ibrahim Musa Gusau served as a Member of the organizing committee for the African Nations Championship, and is today a Member of the CAF organizing committee for youth competitions, viz U17, U20 and U23. He is also a Safety and Security Officer of the Confederation of African Football.

Having served two terms as Chairman of Chairmen

and Member of the NFF Executive Committee under the Amaju Melvin Pinnick administration, Gusau says he is determined to focus hard on the welfare of players and officials of the various National Teams, in order to ginger and motivate

them for podium appearances at international competitions to the glory of the country. "It is important to prioritize grassroots football and youth development, and that we will take to heart. It is also important to win trophies,

- Gusau

and both can go side-by-side. Winning trophies is good for our country's image in the international sphere and also helps to motivate the upcoming stars at the grassroots level."



Gusau

### WORLD SEARCH Answer the clue and search for the word

Q	A	R	D	L	M	F	E	L	I	X	F	M
O	N	O	M	E	Y	O	D	C	K	D	R	I
C	P	Z	K	T	N	M	U	S	A	E	E	K
S	H	E	R	I	C	K	A	T	M	G	P	A
B	N	I	K	I	U	Z	U	Q	A	G	F	I
O	L	X	B	J	N	H	A	S	R	S	M	L
S	L	O	A	N	E	W	D	P	U	C	K	A
B	K	Y	S	I	G	X	V	A	R	T	V	Q
G	I	A	N	N	I	E	J	G	I	B	H	J
A	J	L	U	H	K	K	I	W	O	B	I	M
M	O	R	R	I	S	I	O	A	F	E	L	N
D	E	V	I	L	S	F	N	C	F	H	P	E

- Red.....(6) Super Eagles name in the 60s
- .....Usman (6) Nigeria UFC fighter
- Ahmed.....(4) Super Eagles captain
- Bala.....(5) Nasarawa United coach
- .....Infantino (6) FIFA President
- .... Ebi (5) Super Falcons Captain
- Alex.....(5) Nigeria/Eventon striker
- .....Mihambo (7) Jamaican Long Jumper
- ....Stephens (6) American WIA players who were super Eagles Jersey
- .... Jackson (8) Jamaican sprinter
- Sandi.....(6) American Polaraulter
- Allyson.... (5) Most decorated Female Olympian.
- Ice hockey ball (4)

By **IBRAHIM T. LOT**