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Flooding will worsen food insecurity, inflation -IMF warns

The International Monetary Fund has warned that the recent incidents of flooding in some states in Nigeria will worsen food insecurity and lead to further increase in food prices across the country.

Mai Farid, African Department, IMF gave this warning during the analytical corner on

"Climate Change and Food Insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa"

Highlighting the possible economic impact of floods in Benue, Kogi and Anambra states of Nigeria, Farid said: "We are very cognizant of the challenge that the flood of that magnitude and how it affected Nigeria in neighbouring countries.

We also recognise Chad

and Cameroon have also been hit. And absolutely, you're totally right in terms of the supply of agricultural production, it is going to drop which will put even further pressure on prices. And in addition, it the floods have affected some of the transportation networks which means makes it even harder for food to transfer into the country or even out in any

essence storage."

Noting that Nigeria and other countries in the sub Saharan Africa are the most food insecure region and also the region most vulnerable to climate change and yet the least prepared to pay, Farid said there is need for governments to invest in early warning system technology and infrastructure that is

climate resilient.

Also speaking John Spray of the Asia and Pacific Department of the IMF stressed the need to provide social assistance to moderate the impact of floods and food insecurity on the people.

He said, "One thing our model tells us is that there can be permanent effects and short term shocks. And so getting people to food

and cash early, getting that social assistance out to people can have a really big impact in the long run. So there's a kind of urgency where we think it's important that when there is a shock that people can get access to food. They don't have to take more drastic measures, pulling children out of school or sacrificing other assets."



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, flanked by his right, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase, Deputy Speaker, House of Reps, Prof. Mrs. Mary Lar with other national award recipients yesterday in Abuja. Photo: DOPPA's Office, Government House Rayfield, Jos

PHOTO: PLATEAU DIRECTORATE OF PRESS

Lalong, Wase, Lar, others bag national honours

By PALANG KASMI

For their outstanding sacrifice, patriotism and hard work to their country, the Federal Government has conferred national honours to 447 Nigerians.

Among those that made the list are Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong who was given Commander of the Niger (CON), Deputy Speaker House of representatives, Rt. Hon. Idris Wase, CON, Prof. Mary Lar, Wife of first Civilian Governor of Plateau State,

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News

Doctors, others in UK hospitals lament exploitation

Doctors recruited from poor countries to work in UK hospitals have lamented that they are being exploited.

They also say they are so overworked they fear that they might put patients' health at risk.

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

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

Meanwhile, no fewer than 6,068 medical doctors have moved to the UK since Muhammadu Buhari became Nigerian President in 2015.

According to data obtained from the General Medical Council of the UK, the total number of Nigeria-trained doctors who migrated to the UK as of August 30, 2022 stood at 10,096, The PUNCH reports.

Checks showed that the General Medical Council in the UK licensed at least 353 Nigerian-trained doctors between June 10, 2021 and September 20, 2021.

The BBC has spoken to several foreign medics - including a young Nigerian doctor who worked at the private Nuffield Health Leeds Hospital in 2021.

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

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

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

Nuffield Health disputes those working hours, saying its doctors are offered regular breaks, time off between shifts, and the ability to swap shifts if needed. The company adds that "the health and wellbeing of patients and hospital team members" is its priority.

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

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

Augustine is not alone; there are many other medical practitioners facing similar problems. The BMA and the front-line lobbying group the Doctors' Association has given the BBC's File on 4 and Newsnight exclusive access to the findings of a questionnaire put to 188 Resident Medical Officers. Most of the doctors were employed by NES but some were with other employers.

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

For years now, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned against the "active recruitment" of doctors and nurses from developing countries with severe shortages of medical personnel. The WHO has compiled a list of 47 such countries - most of them in Africa. The UK government has incorporated that list into its own code of practice - calling it the "red list". In effect, it makes Nigeria a no-go destination for British medical recruiters.

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

In an exam hall in Lagos,

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

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

The GMC also offers the exams in several other red-list countries - Ghana, Sudan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Both the GMC and British Council deny they are involved in "active recruitment" and say they're simply helping provide a service for doctors wanting to come to the UK independently - something that is allowed under the guidelines.

In Augustine's case, he was studying for the second part of those PLAB exams in the UK, when he was approached by NES Healthcare and later offered visa sponsorship and a potential job.

While that does appear to have been "active recruitment" - NES says it wasn't, because it is not a recruitment agency and, as



Wase

such, only engages with doctors from overseas once they've already committed to practising in the UK. But the Department of Health and Social Care told us the UK code of practice did apply to NES - so the company was in breach of it.

BBC spoke to several African doctors recruited in this way by NES. They all had similar stories about what the terms and conditions of their contracts meant in reality, once they had been hired out to private UK hospitals.

"It's not humanly possible to do that every day for seven days," says Dr Femi Johnson.

Dr Femi Johnson was sent to a different hospital to Augustine, but says he was also expected to work 14 to 16-hour days and then be on call overnight. "I was burnt out," he says. "I was tired, I needed sleep. It's not humanly possible to do that every day for seven days."

But when he needed a break because he was too exhausted to continue, NES were entitled to deduct money from his salary. The company says that is to cover the cost of finding a replacement doctor, but Femi says it leaves NES doctors in a terrible dilemma.

"In situations like that, I always make that internal discussion with my inner self - 'Femi are you doing right by yourself and are you doing right by the patient?'" he tells us. "Unfortunately, I haven't always been able to answer that question."

He commended the recipients, Buhari said despite challenges being faced in the country, there are still Nigerian men and women of integrity and honour who made the list of National awardees, for displaying honesty at their humble duty post as cleaners and airport workers.

He urged Nigerians not included in the batch of

national honours and investiture committee for doing a good job, displaying patriotic duty, by going through over 5,000 submissions, which had piled up since 2015 and coming up with 447 recommendations.

He said the recipients were chosen for their outstanding performances in areas like business, entertainment, hospitality, good conduct and character, community service, and specifically praised one of the awardees, Iman Abubakar for being a shining example to Nigerians and displaying a character of religious tolerance by hiding Christians in his mosque during a crisis in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State.

He also commended Nigerian personalities like Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala and Hajiya Amina Mohammed for making their country proud while working for multinational agencies and the United Nations.

Commending the recipients, Buhari said despite challenges being faced in the country, there are still Nigerian men and women of integrity and honour who made the list of National awardees, for displaying honesty at their humble duty post as cleaners and airport workers.

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Osinbajo lauds Julius Berger



Osinbajo

The Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, has commended Julius Berger AFP's product quality, enjoining them to keep up great product quality and services.

Prof Osinbajo gave commendations at the Archibuilt Expo 2022, the annual conference organised by the Nigerian Institute of Architects.

The Vice President also spoke on the goals of the National Infrastructure Plan. He highlighted the exponential population growth in Nigeria and Abuja. The implication according to Professor Osinbajo is that the necessity for sustainable and innovative

infrastructural planning is a 'categorical imperative.' Capital expenditure and investment in roads, rails, energy pipelines and industry in general both by the public and private sectors have become even much more compelling than ever before.

According to the Vice President, the goal of the administration's National Infrastructure Plan is to grow the country's infrastructure stock by at least 70%, which he said is the global best practice.

Professor Osinbajo called on the Nigerian Institute of Architects to collaborate with other professionals in the built environment to boost Nigeria's infrastructure stock for national development.

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The General Manager of Julius Berger AFP, Mr Oliver Cohnen, who led the company's team to the conference, also received the Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo GCON, to the Julius Berger AFP exhibition pavilion at the venue of the event. The Vice President commended AFP's product quality and enjoined AFP to keep up its great product quality and service.

Oliver Cohnen thanked the Vice President for his gracious visit and for his kind and encouraging words to AFP.

Other important dignitaries that graced the conference and exhibition included the Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and Planning, Hajiya Zainab Ahmed and her husband, Architect Shamsudeen, the Honourable Minister for Water Resources. The National Coordinator of Nigeria's Social Investment Programme, Dr Umar B. Bindir, Professor Uche Uwaleke, an exponent of the use of Infrastructure Bonds for infrastructural development, the President of the Sierra Leonean Institute of Architects, as well as the current and past presidents of the NIA were in attendance at the event, which was held at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja.

Lalong, Wase, Lar, others bag national honours

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Order of the Niger (OON) including former Nigerian Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, and Popular Nigerian musician Burna Boy.

The national honours awardees cut across religious, ethnic, geographical and gender lines including six foreigners.

The recipients were awarded titles of the Grand Commander of the Niger (GCON), Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR), and Commander of the Order of the Niger CON, Order of the Niger, among other categories.

Speaking at the event, which took place at the International Conference Centre in Abuja, President Muhammadu Buhari who personally presented the awards to the deserving personalities said the award

was conferred on Nigerians who distinguished themselves in different sectors and areas of work, community development, bravery in defence of their country, remarkable achievements, contributions to development of their communities, and innovations to their country.

He said since inception of his administration in 2015, there has not been such investiture and recognition to honour outstanding Nigerians except the one his administration conducted in honour of Late Chief Gani Fahewnmimi and Late MKO Abiola.

The President appreciated the citizens who have in one way or the other exhibited honesty, hardwork and contributed to national development saying they deserve to be honoured.

He commended the

recipients to be patient and continue service to their nation, saying at the right time, they will be duly recognised.

Senate President, Ahmed Lawan, in a speech on behalf of the recipients thanked the President for inspiring citizens of the nation for the future with his gesture.

He thanked the President for recognition of citizens for their loyalty and commitment to service adding that the awards will serve as motivation to others.

He however challenged Nigerians to realise that the call to duty is to everyone and such great sacrifice by Nigerians will help the nation surmount its numerous challenges.

Emir of Lafia, Justice Sidi Bage Mohammed I and Chairman 2022 National Honours Award Investiture Committee, in a vote of thanks appreciated the President for giving them the opportunity to serve nation, and for accepting their recommendations.

Among post humous recipients were Dr. Stella Adedevoh, the Doctor who saved Nigerians from what would have become a deadly outbreak of Ebola, and Late Hajiya Gambo Sawaba.

Iman Abdullahi Abubakar also bagged the prestigious award of recognition for exhibiting religious tolerance and saving the lives of over 200 Christians during crisis in his mosque in Plateau State.



Business & Economy

Nigeria's transport sector 62 years into independence

Transport infrastructure is imperative for the economic and social development of any nation. This is the reason why countries all over the world invest heavily on it. Countries like China, United States of America, Japan, United Kingdom have invested massively to develop their road, air and water transport infrastructure SALISU SANI IDRIS writes.

MANY governments in Nigeria since 1960 have made tremendous efforts towards ensuring growth in the transportation sector.

However, Nigeria's transport infrastructure has continued to yearn for expansion as the population and purchasing powers grow.

According to Statistic, a data bank, as at 2018, the Federal Government has built 36,000 kilometres of road crisscrossing the length and breadth of the nation. This is in addition to several thousand state government-constructed roads and those of local governments.

In the aviation sub-sector, Nigeria today has 32 airports with Malam Aminu Kano International Airport being built in 2021.

The Managing Director, Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Capt. Rabi'u Yadudu, said recently that airport passenger traffic grew by 6.5 million in 2021 alone.

Yadudu who spoke at the recently held Airlines Business Summit and Expo 2022, said that traffic figures improved significantly after the COVID-19 pandemic, growing from 9.3 million in 2020 to 15.8 million in 2021.

Just like the other components of the transport sector, the water transport



facilities have also improved significantly post-independence, with more seaport and water ways being opened to enhance trade and communication.

In spite of the progress, stakeholders contend that Nigeria's transport sector still faces lots of challenges, including poor maintenance culture, lack of increased investment and the need to open up more wharfs to decongest Lagos wharfs and accelerate international trade.

An investment and transportation consultant, Mr Segun Obayendo, said Nigeria's transport sector has the

potential to contribute more to the economic growth of the nation.

"The Nigeria transportation sector, when professionally managed, is a vast sector for revenue generation.

"I always believe that a vibrant and efficient transport system will enhance Nigeria's economic, developmental and strategic roles in the global system/economy", he said in a recent media report.

Mr Reynold Shodeinde, Assistant Director of Administration of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and

Transportation (CILT), called for a robust national transport policy that will place Nigeria among comity of nations.

"Nigeria does not even have a working document as a National Transport Policy. What we have is a draft, so where do we want to begin, how can transport landscape be organized", he said in a recent interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

The Muhammadu Buhari administration said it is conscious of the dire need to improve the sector and place it among the global elite.

This view was canvassed recently by the Minister of Transportation, Alhaji Mu'azu Sambo, during a presentation on financing Nigeria's transport infrastructure at the Nigerian International Economic Partnership Forum in New York.

"We remain resolute in our ongoing efforts to use infrastructure to build an economy that leaves no one behind.

"Poor maintenance and insufficient investments have put an enormous strain on transport infrastructure and services. Yet, the demand for transport services has grown exponentially along with the increase in socio-economic activity," he said.

On maritime, the minister explained that the sub-sector hosts six major

seaports that are engaged in international maritime trade with the rest of the world.

He acknowledged that port infrastructure had suffered dilapidation over the years and they now required massive capital investments for upgrade and rehabilitation.

On rail, the minister reiterated the achievements recorded in the sub-sector among which is revamping of some existing lines and inauguration of new ones.

They include the inauguration of and commercialisation of the Abuja-Kaduna; Warri - Itakpe - Ajaokuta and Lagos - Ibadan double track standard gauge rail lines.

President Muhammadu Buhari also acknowledges rail transportation as a potent economic driver.

Speaking at the ground breaking of the Kano-Maradi Rail line, said his administration recognised Buhari said railway infrastructure development had been accorded the greatest priority it deserved by his administration.

A transport and logistics expert, Ms Nnenna Akor said Nigerians the post-independence Nigeria has seen Nigerians moving around in bicycles to driving exotic cars and improved boasts service delivery. NAN.

PROBATE NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA

PROBATE DIVISION

PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
David Jatau Abika, late of Jos Plateau State. Died on the 6th May, 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Vincent Peter Zachariah of behind St. Muruba Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	A b d u l l h a m i d Mohammed Idris late of Plateau State. Died on the 31st January, 2022 at Pushit, Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	Halima Muhammad Idris of Dengi Dutse Bunwur, Kanam LGA, Plateau State, lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Zakka Badung Damba late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th June, 2022, at Dakunpyam, Turu Vom, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Choji Lucas Gideon of COCIN LCC Dakunpyam Turu Vom, Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased.
Pwajok David Pam late of Plateau State. Died on the 31st August, 2020, at ECWA Evangel Hosp, Jos.	Daniel David Pwajok of opposite Army Engineer Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Martina Monde Dalang late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th November, 2021 at Cottage Hosp, Kwalla, Qua'an Pan LGA, Plateau State.	Dalang Williams of Bakin Ciyawa Qua'an Pan LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Obida Gotau late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th May, 2022, at Gen. Hosp. Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Obida Wulengah Gotau of Kwal Kanke, Kanke LGA Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.
Engr. Emoka Chibuike Jonathan late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th April, 2021, at Awka Anambra State.	Kingsley Chijioke Emoka of Glo Headquarters Abuja FCT, lawful son of the said deceased.	Israel Isa Arewa late of Plateau State . Died on the 16th June, 2022, at Tudun Wada, Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Bulus Jamaka Isa behind JMDB, Boy's quarters Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased.	Magdalene Dongtiem Shaiyen late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th March, 2013, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Shaiye Shagyem Henry & Samuel Katmwol Guyit of Angwan Bwan, Shendam LGA, Plateau State, lawful sons of the said deceased.
Simon Ohondah late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th August, 2022, at OLA Hosp. Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Raymond Ohonda & Ado Grace of Rukuba road Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	Catherine Mwanger Torkwembe late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th March, 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Kenneth A hide Torkwembe Plot 7574, behind Federal School of Forestry, Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Idris Salihu late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th March, 2020, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Idris Buhari Salihu of Chanso, Mangu LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.
Robert Onyenekwe late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th June, 2007, at Jos, Plateau State.	Onyenekwe Malachy Nnaemeka of Rhawol Kanang Bukuru, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	<p>Signed (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) AG: PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</p>			



Business & Economy

Global recession tops IMF/World Bank discussions

TALKS around how to navigate a looming global recession next year is already highlighting conversations at the 2022 annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank which began on Monday in Washington DC.

The meeting which is expected to host hundreds of delegates is the first in-person gathering since COVID-19 pandemic erupted in 2020, bringing with it, unprecedented global disruptions, which is now exacerbated by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Already the IMF predicted that about one third equivalent of the world economy would have at least two consecutive quarters of negative growth between this year and next year.

The Fund further predicted that the total amount that could be wiped out by the slowdown of the world economy between now and 2026 would reach as much as \$4 trillion- the size of Germany's GDP.

The World Bank on its part is concerned that up to 70m million more people have fallen into poverty in the last two years, with also a 4 percent reduction in median income on record.

Kristalina Georgieva, IMF managing director and David Malpass, World Bank Group President raised recession concerns during a conversation they called a "curtain raiser", going into the meetings and titled: "The Way Forward: Addressing multiple challenges in and era of volatility."

"...The risk of global recession has gone up," Georgieva warned, identifying the drivers to include the impact of COVID pandemic on supply chains, and when she called the senseless Russia-Ukraine war that is pushing up prices, especially in energy and food, as global inflation surges stubbornly high more than originally anticipated and necessitates tightening of financial conditions.

"For these last two years, we lived through unthinkable events that are having significant consequences- covid is still with us, Russia's evasion of Ukraine with dramatic consequences everywhere, climate disaster on all continents and all of these have driven people into a very difficult place. People are exhausted and will have to cope with cost of living crisis," said.

"We are seeing a slow down in all three key economies of the world Eurozone because primarily of gas prices shooting up; in China, because of COVID disruptions. Due to the volatility of the housing sector we see a very significant problem in China, dragging down growth. In the United States, still very strong labor market, but also losing a bit of momentum because interest rates are starting to bite."

She said the two Bretton Woods institutions would be advocating three major policy actions; first of all to tame inflation, because the world would be taking a huge risk if strong actions are not taken to check inflation upsurge, which affect mostly the poor.

However, on flip side, tightening too much would materialise the fear of recession on a large scale.

Secondly, she observed how many people are currently going



Kristalina IMF boss

through tough economic times globally, noting that some support is necessary, which must be well targeted, failure of which "we would be adding fuel to the flames of inflation."

She said this is not the time for laxity as strong collaborations between the monetary policy fiscal policy is critical this year to avert the looming economic crisis.

She said thirdly, all concerned must join forces to help emerging markets and developing economies that are particularly hard hit by tightening of financial conditions, and also to get the big scary danger of debt crisis under control because "otherwise, not only countries affected by it would suffer, the whole world would suffer."

Her World Bank counterpart, Malpass equally reiterated fears of a possible recession and how the poor and developing economies continue to suffer the most.

For him, "The advanced economies are taking a lot of the world's capital, that comes in the form of the fiscal deficits that have heavy borrowing by big corporations and the central banks themselves, buying only the bonds of the very advanced countries. That puts a strain on development from the macro side.

He noted world bank poverty report last week, which shows that for the last two years, 70 million more people have fallen into poverty and is concerning, as well as a 4 percent reduction in median income.

He said the solution would require a global community effort, including how to intensify production, get more growth, beginning with advanced economies, which have more capital and that the ability to really apply it to various sectors would help with inflation.

According to him, markets look ahead, so if there if there can be a concerted effort to describe growth policies going forward once that add to supply, then that immediately begins to address some of the concerns about inflation expectations, which are so important to get down.

"We have to face the starting

point that interest rates were probably too low at the beginning of the cycle, substantially too low. So some parts of the world are still getting back to what might be a neutral spot. So getting there quickly is important," Malpass observed.

He said it would be good to have subsidies but must be targeted since there's only so much fiscal space available both in advanced economies and developing countries.

Malpass noted that the World Bank has worked hard on individual developing countries, and is primarily supporting the emergency situation, especially with with big food programs.

The bank is also trying to help the countries have better policies that had fewer subsidies for the upper ends, and more availability of inclusive financing for women, for new and small businesses within their economies.

He further observed the need to even accelerate work to create space for the climate problems that are facing many of the developing countries most.

Gas price hike imminent as Forex scarcity increases

THERE are indications that gas prices will further rise and Nigerians may pay more as marketers have hinted that the high exchange rate of dollar to naira is having a negative impact on importation.

National Operations Controller, the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) Mike Osatuyi on Sunday, said independent marketers sourced dollars for importation from the black market, hence, gas price would continue to increase until naira strengthened at the exchange market.

According to sources close to the matter, the drop in output was majorly due to the high-level theft as well as oil and gas pipeline vandalism which had left NLNG operating at 60 per cent capacity.

The source also cited "feed gas constraint and high maintenance activities" as part of the causes.

Output and export from

NIGERIANS grappling with rising prices of goods and services have one more headache to contend with: the hike in internet prices.

Two telecommunications companies, MTN Nigeria Communications and Airtel Africa Plc, have increased prices for their data bundles by 10 percent.

The telcos confirmed the hikes through their Twitter handles, @MTN180 and @AirtelAfrica.

"Airtel has increased the price of their data plans. Why #airtel? Not fair to be honest. We've got no value for what we are paying so much for," tweeted @ayinkesteph, an Airtel subscriber who noticed the price increase on Saturday.

The upward price review follows months of agitation by telecommunications operators over inflationary pressures on commodities like diesel, which is needed to provide electricity for operations, and the high volatility in the exchange rate system.

Subscribers who complained about the upward reviews said the telcos added between N10 and N50 to different data bundles. The price of a daily data bundle has increased to N550 from N500; a monthly bundle of 20GB now sells for N5,500, up from N5,000.

The new price hike could see the country struggle with meeting the set target and improving digital inclusion. Nigeria set a 70 percent target for 2025.

At 44.7 percent penetration, broadband needs to grow by about 25 percent in three years to achieve the 70 percent target. This means that between 2018, the year the Nigerian Communications Commission recorded 31 percent, and 2025, broadband needs to grow by at least 6.6 percent every year. However, four years later, about 13 percent has been achieved, an average of 3.25 percent in a year.

Operators such as MTN Nigeria with 42 percent internet subscribers in August accounted for the largest share. Globacom,

lowest level on record, according to statistics from OPEC. The country was 700,000 bpd behind its OPEC quota in August.

As a result, it was learnt that foreign customers, who had booked for gas supplies, are currently experiencing fears as the country's Bonny Island output falls to a record low.

Portugal, one of Nigeria's major importers, has expressed concerns over supplies.

Portugal's European Union, EU Environment and Energy Minister, Duarte Cordeiro, said his country could face supply problems this winter if Nigeria did not deliver all its supplies.

Economic Confidential learnt that Nigeria's other European countries are also considering alternative supplies due to uncertainties from NLNG.

Oil and gas expert and analyst, Dr. Dauda Garuba, described the low gas production as "double tragedy for Nigeria," adding that the country faced tougher times in

terms of revenue.

"This means the country should expect lower revenue. These are tougher times for Nigeria because when we have less to export, then, we would be counting our losses," he said.

Faculty Member at the Lagos Business School, LBS, and Head, Centre for Applied Economics, Pan African University, Dr. Austin Nweze, said "it is sad that Nigeria has been unable to meet its customers' demand."

He said this meant loss of revenue for the country, noting that everything should depend on planning so that the country would not depend on just one source of production.

"And, it is not a good business strategy to disappoint one's customers because they will be forced to look for alternatives just as it's happening now," he said, adding that the Federal Government should have a business recovery plan that allowed the country to bounce back so as not to wallow in revenue losses.

Internet price hike threatens Nigeria's broadband penetration



Danbatta

Airtel, and 9Mobile were responsible for 28 percent, 27 percent, and 3 percent of internet subscribers respectively.

Income levels have dropped in Nigeria, where the inflation rate rose to its highest in 17 years in August at 20.52 percent. The country is also grappling with dollar scarcity due to low foreign capital inflow. The shortage affects every sector of the economy that depends on the importation of raw materials and equipment. The costs are transferred to the prices of commodities which affects consumer wallets and spending on broadband.

In an August report, the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), a global coalition working to drive down the cost of internet access, said the prices of smartphones remained unaffordable for many people, especially women and people living in rural areas. Smartphones became even more unaffordable over the last year, despite dropping 2 percent points between 2021 and 2022.

The ITU, in another study in 2019, narrowed it down to Africa, showing that a 1 percent increase in mobile penetration is estimated to increase GDP by 0.25 percent.

Mobile broadband penetration in Africa increased from just under 30 percent in 2018 to just over 40 percent in 2021, and this percentage-point increase corresponds to an increase of 2.5 percentage points in GDP. Nigeria's GDP stood at N45 trillion in the second quarter of 2022, with a growth rate of 3.54 percent.

The cost of a smartphone remains a barrier to connectivity in Nigeria. Nigeria is ranked 40th on the list of countries where citizens have to spend a higher percentage of their monthly gross national income (GNI) on a smartphone. The citizens would need to spend 33 percent of GNI on a smartphone and 12 percent on a feature phone.

The hike in internet prices adds to the pressure subscribers are facing. While MTN and Airtel are the two telcos that increased prices, experts say it is only a matter of time before other operators join the train.

He said this meant loss of revenue for the country, noting that everything should depend on planning so that the country would not depend on just one source of production.

"And, it is not a good business strategy to disappoint one's customers because they will be forced to look for alternatives just as it's happening now," he said, adding that the Federal Government should have a business recovery plan that allowed the country to bounce back so as not to wallow in revenue losses.

By JIDAUNA DARING

THE importance of providing people with good road network, particularly the rural communities cannot be under measured since it is a link between places which vehicles and other road users take advantage of in such given areas.

It is not in doubt that where people are well connected with good roads network, they always have a sense of fulfillment as everything seems to go smoothly. This is because good roads remain the life wire of any society when it comes to social change or development.

However, the dilapidated nature of our rural roads have become an eye-sore, considering what the rural people produce as farmers.

This situation has subjected many to untold hardship especially when it comes to transporting their goods, from one place to another.

What is equally sad about this issue is the fact that a journey that should have taken 30 minutes, particularly during the rainy season sometimes takes people an hour or more before reaching their destination, especially those who ply such roads with cars.

The existence of our rural settlements is connected with the people's movement in search for greener pastures which is predominantly farming.

It is clear fact that without the contribution of the rural populace in farming activities, the entire state or nation would not survive hunger as agriculture is backbone of human existence anywhere in the world.

It is also on record that bad road network in the rural areas has badly contributed to the lost of lives in communities. People have lost their lives while transporting the sick to health care centres for urgent medical attention.

A lot of farmers have suffered loses as a result of goods not safely taken to designated markets. The point is that such cannot go on without some form of compensation which dampens the zeal of most farmers.

This unpalatable situation has made life very unbearable for our teeming rural dwellers. It is their right to have accessible roads as citizens of the state or the country.

It therefore behooves on government at all levels to ensure that full attention is always accorded to rural roads construction and rehabilitation so as to enable the rural populace who are predominantly farmers to move their goods, particularly farm produce with ease.

What is worthy of note is the ongoing efforts on sector Reforms under the Rural Access and Agricultural marketing Project (RAAMP) supported by the World Bank (WB) and the French Development Agency (FDA) which is geared at opening up or increase

accessibility to rural roads and Agricultural marketing in Plateau State. This is no doubt a welcome development of rural communities in the state.

This important and life touching proposed project development objective (PDO) is to improve rural access and agricultural marketing in participating states while strengthening the financing and institutional base for effective

said that, this would further ensure continuous maintenance of roads and guarantee sustainability of the roads after the project.

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



RAAMP: Rural roads expansion to boost agric market



development, maintenance and management of the rural road network.

It was in this regard that 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 Plateau State, Dr. Hosea Finangwai gave the charge while declaring open the sector reform workshop, organized by the state ministry of agriculture in collaboration with plateau RAAMP supported by the World Bank (WB) and the French Development Agency (FDA) held at Crest Hotel Jos, recently.

Dr. Finangwai 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 sector were to critically look at areas of benefits for the establishment of the Rural Access Road Agency (RARA) and the avenues for generating funds for the State Road Funds (SRF). He further

WB and AFD are profitable.

He also put on record that RAAMP has brought about hope in the rural areas, adding that they are doing everything humanly possible to ensure full implementation and sustainability of the project.

According to Finangwai, the project mandate would bring relief to the 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 the infrastructure to be put in place by the project for the betterment of the lives of the citizens of the state.

Dr. Finangwai commended Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State for his persistence at ensuring better life for the 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 to 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 delight with the conduct of the workshop and thanked the development partners for having the rural populace at heart as an important intervention project.

Some of the stakeholders who spoke with **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** expressed happiness with the project, adding that if implemented, it

would go a long way in reducing the difficulties being faced by rural dwellers who are predominately farmers.

They added 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.

They further explained the RAAMP intervention would also address the issue of post-harvest losses which have always been a major problem of the farmers.

Our correspondent reports that the event featured presentations on RAAMP consultants Maysam Abedin on state of roads, road agency and state road funding, revenue and group work among others.

Politics

Chairman eulogizes governor for developmental strides

From Mohammed ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE Executive Chairman of Keffi Local Government Council of Nasarawa State Hon. Muhammad Baba Shehu has appreciated Governor Abdullahi Sule of the state for the remarkable developmental projects and programmes his administration has undertaken across the area.

Speaking during the swearing in ceremony of key officials of the council at the secretariat recently, the chairman who described the Governor as "an ardent lover of Keffi," stated that the landmark projects the Governor is pursuing in the area and even the state at large have made the people to reap the dividends of democracy in proper terms and appreciated him in return.

He cited the construction of the Keffi Neighborhood Market, construction of the Antau Bridge, ongoing construction of the bridge near Audu Namalam's House, ongoing construction and expansion of dual roads within the Keffi metropolis and man others, to mention but a few.

"Infact, the Governor's effort which led to the unprecedented visit of President Muhammad Buhari on 24th and 25th February, 2022 and the commissioning of some laudable projects executed which has put Nasarawa State



Sule

and Keffi Local Government Area in particular on the map of history is still fresh in our memories," he stated.

Indeed, he is a man of great understanding of the essence of power, he knows what power is and how to use it for the good of the people he governs and he is very much at home with indices of good leadership.

Indeed, he is a Messiah for a better Nasarawa State, exceeding all expectations, he further stated.

Shehu therefore assured that to reciprocate this kind gesture, he and the people of Keffi Local Government Area and indeed Nasarawa State would do their very best

towards the actualization of his second term in office as the Governor of the state come 2023 which is non-negotiable as part of reciprocating the gesture.

The Chairman also appreciated the fatherly role the Emir of Keffi, Alhaji Dr. Shehu Chindo Yamusa III, other community leaders, responsible parents/guardians as well as security operatives in the area played by working round the clock in order to nip in the bud the activities of some criminal elements in town known as "Yan Shara".

emulate. The Chairman stated that having known the new appointees as men with track record and unblemished reputation, he has every believe and conviction that they would bring forth their experiences to bear in the course of discharging their official responsibilities in order to consolidate on the achievements, among others, showcased and celebrated during his first 100 days in office.

Shehu however reminded them that since in every organized social formation, community or society requires leadership with focus that would help facilitate the process of organizing, planning, coordinating and identifying the needs of the members as well as translating these needs into accomplished tasks in order to achieve the organization's goals and objectives.

He then wished them success during their stewardship in office. "I charge you to live above board in order to achieve the dream of a better Keffi; bearing in mind that to whom much is given much is equally expected," he stressed

While expressing his gratitude to the All

Member of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly representing Kokona East Constituency Hon. Daniel Ogah Ogazi (APC) Kokona East has donated over thirty motorcycles worth millions of Naira to his constituents as part of his efforts to support their rural transportations and other socio-economic activities both in the rural and urban communities.

Speaking during the ceremony that took place recently in Garaku, the headquarters of Kokona Local Government Area, the lawmaker stated that the action was in fulfillment of his campaign promise to his constituents whom he pledged to always ensure their welfare.

Ogazi who is also the Deputy Majority leader of the House, pledged to continue to give his people the best representation in the legislative body by presenting their demands and aspirations as well as ensure that he attracts meaningful developmental projects and programmes that would enhance their socio-economic activities infrastructure, amenities and patronage.

He however solicited for their support especially that he is now set to renew his mandate in the house under the platform of his party, the APC. He stated that his re-election would strengthen his abilities to continue to provide

Lawmaker donates motorcycle to constituents

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

unto them more dividends of democracy that would enhance their socio-economic wellbeing.

Ogazi also solicited for their support for all other candidates of his party to include Governor Abdullahi Sule of the state, the presidential and senatorial candidates of the party, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Architect Shehu Ahmed Tukur as well as other members of the national and state assembly in order to keep Nigeria going.

While expressing gratitude to his constituents for what he described as their constant and encouraging support the

lawmaker assured that very soon he would embark on rural roads construction with a view to further open-up rural communities to enhance their movement especially that they are predominantly farmers which will enable them transport their agricultural commodities to the markets and reap the fruits of their labour.

The Lawmaker was full of praise for his constituents for their peaceful co-existence, unity and harmony, despite their differences.

He however urged them to sustain such noble attributes and continue to support constituted authorities with a view to attract more meaningful developmental activities and patronage.



Abdullahi

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has described the former President of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, as the best leader Nigeria ever had.

Bala Mohammed made the expression recently in Bauchi when the former President paid him a condolence visit over the death of his elder brother, late Abubakar Bappa Mohammed, a retired staff of CBN.

In his words, "You remain the best thing to have happened to this country called Nigeria. Your selfless service and sacrifice have made Nigeria greater than how you met it".

Earlier while condoling the governor and his entire family, Goodluck Jonathan said "It is a solemn assembly to pay condolence but one would have loved to visit here to commission a project. We are mortals and must die one day. I am here to condole with a

Goodluck Jonathan best Nigeria's president

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

younger brother who lost his elder brother," he said.

The former President added that, "The world is just a stage where we all came to play different parts. Our late brother had played his part."

The former President also paid condolence and respect to the Emir of Bauchi, Dr. Rilwanu Suleiman Adamu, after which the emir expressed gratitude to the former president of Nigeria for finding time to travel to Bauchi to condole with the state for the loss of the royal son.

The Emir prayed to Almighty God to bless him and reward him abundantly for the show of concern to government and people of Bauchi state.

Chairman charges appointees, subjects on sacrifice

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE Executive Chairman of Keffi Local Government Council of Nasarawa state, Hon. Muhammad Baba Shehu has tasked the appointees in his administration and indeed the people of the area to always ask what they would do for Keffi not what they would get from Keffi since everything is all about collective responsibility, patriotism and sacrifice in order to make the society great.

The chairman, gave the charge during the swearing-

in ceremony of Secretary to the council, Chief of staff, Clerk to the legislative arm, Senior Special Assistant on Emergency and relief management and Senior Special Assistant on special duties at the council's secretariat.

Shehu who quoted from the 23rd President of the United States of America John F. Kennedy (1961), who said and I quote, "Ask not what America will do for you but ask first, what you will do for America" and it was in the same spirit that he tasked the appointees and people of Keffi Local Government to



Shehu



Jonathan

Politics

Eid-El-Maulud: Plateau APC congratulates Muslim Ummah

THE Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC, Plateau State Chapter, Hon. Rufus Bature, has congratulated the Muslim Ummah in Plateau state and beyond on the occasion of this year's Eid-El-Maulud celebration.

This was contained in a release signed by Hon. Sylvanus Namang, APC State Publicity Secretary and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**.

According to the release, the occasion being marked in memory of the birth of Prophet Muhammad, provides Muslims the unique opportunity to rededicate their lives to the service of Allah and to live a life worthy of their faith's calling.

Hon. Rufus Bature enjoined the Muslim Ummah to see this year's celebration as that of sober reflection and to pray for peace, unity and progress of the state.

The APC Chairman also challenged Muslims across **Atiku vows to banish hunger, insecurity in Nigeria**

THE presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar has urged Nigerians to vote for the party in the 2023 elections.

He said: "there will be no more hunger" in the country if voted into power.

Mr Atiku stated this on Monday in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, at the flag-off of the PDP presidential campaign.

"Today we have inaugurated our campaign to rescue Nigeria from hunger, poverty, and also to bring back the unity that we require in this country.

"If you vote for PDP it will be a return to prosperity, unity. There will be no more hunger and there will be security.

"I swear, if you vote for PDP you will all go back to school. You will get jobs."

Mr Atiku, a former Vice President of Nigeria defeated 12 other candidates in a keenly contested presidential primary held in May at Abuja to emerge as the party's presidential flag bearer.



Bature

the state to fervently pray for the success of next year's general elections.

He added that, all hands should be on deck to ensure the crucial exercises are conducted in a peaceful manner devoid of the attendant rancour and bitterness which visited them in the past.

The party chairman also charged security agencies

to work round the clock and be vigilant to protect lives and property from evil-minded individuals who may want to use the holy celebration to perpetrate evil.

He polled 371 votes while his closest challenger, Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State, came second with 237 votes.

A former Senate President, Bukola Saraki, scored 70 votes to occupy the third position while Governor Udom Emmanuel of Akwa Ibom State, came fourth with 38 votes.

Speaking amidst cheers from party supporters, Atiku reminded the people that when the PDP came to power in 1999, it lifted Nigeria from bottom to top and that the country became the biggest economy in Africa.

"When PDP came to power in 1999, we met Nigeria in a state of poverty, insecurity, hunger and lack of education. We lifted Nigeria from the bottom to the top. We became the biggest economy in Africa.

"We had peace, we had progress and Nigerians said they wanted change. They voted for change in 2015, what have we seen? - Poverty, insecurity, lack of job and disunity. Our children are no longer going to school," he said.



Atiku

PART of Kogi House of Assembly Complex located at Crusher Area of Lokoja, the Kogi state capital was at the early hours of Monday razed down.

The section of the complex which was burnt include; its Chambers, Gallery and Roof.

It was gathered that the fire started in the middle of the night but the security agents were able to know at about 7 am on Monday.

The chamber was razed down completely including the chairs, tables and roof of the building.

The Speaker of the House of Assembly, Prince Mathew Kolawole and the State Security Adviser, Commander Jerry Omodara were among the early callers at the assembly complex.

Kolawole, while speaking with newsmen said that he suspects sabotage but fell short of where the suspected sabotage might be from.

Asked whether it might have been linked with the recent happening between the Assembly and Dangote group, he said that is left to the security to determine.

Part of KGHA Complex burnt down

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

"We should leave security people to do their work and give us a report going

forward," the speaker said.

However, a source who does not want his name in print said he suspected an explosion but couldn't say who might be responsible.



Kolawole

First Lady urges APC women, youths to close ranks

FIRST Lady Aisha Buhari has urged the All Progressives Congress (APC) Women and Youths Presidential Campaign Team to close ranks and work as a team to ensure victory in the forthcoming general elections.

Buhari, who is the leader of the party's women campaign team, made the call during a strategic meeting with the wife of APC Presidential candidate Sen. Oluremi Tinubu and wives of APC Governors recently.

The strategic meeting which was held at the State House in Abuja also had in attendance the wife of APC Vice-Presidential Candidate Mrs Nana Shettima, the Director-General of National Centre for Women Development Mrs Asabe Velita-Bashir, among others.

The first lady said, the aim of the meeting was to strategise ahead of the start of the party's campaign.

"APC women have to be united to create a formidable force towards galvanising support to ensure victory of the party at the polls.

"The APC Tinubu/Shettima Women and Youths Presidential Campaign Team have been constituted to fashion out modalities for the 2023 campaign, I therefore solicit for your cooperation in driving our party to victory.

"Tomorrow, the APC women and youth presidential campaign team will be inaugurated to work with the Presidential Campaign Council to galvanise support for our dear party.

"We depend on you to anchor this movement, as Chief Patron of the women and Youths Presidential Campaign Team," Buhari said.

She therefore charged APC women to be determined an



Aisha

resilient in the task of delivering the party to victory in the forthcoming general elections.

We can't afford to lose but work together as a formidable force to achieve success at the 2023 elections, the APC has chosen its candidates for all political seats, it is now time to re-activate our movement.

The movement of women and youths of Nigeria, as mothers and leaders of our states, your experiences of the last and current dispensation is needed so that we avoid the pitfalls of the past and build a more formidable movement.

"I believe that your presence at this meeting would renew our bond of understanding and reassure ourselves that we can all work together again, in driving our great party to victory come 2023 elections," she said.

Buhari also informed the gathering of the commitment and support the APC women

rendered during the 2015 electioneering campaign. "In 2015, Nigerian women mounted a strong electoral movement, engaging women and young people.

"This formidable force had led the party to victory; the establishment of the APC government since 2015 to date is because of the efforts of those women and youths.

"The success story recorded in 2015 and 2019 was as a result of our unity of purpose, putting into consideration the synergy of work in harmony for the success of our great party," she said.

In her remark, the wife of the APC Presidential candidate, Tinubu expressed gratitude to the first lady for her commitment towards supporting the course of women and girls.

Tinubu informed the gathering that they were at the state House to brainstorm and solicit the support of the first lady ahead of the party's

campaign.

"As you know, the Party's primary election was keenly contested and I want to use this opportunity to thank all of you who stood with us and gave us all the support on that very long night.

"At the end of the free, fair and completely transparent process we emerged victorious and now we have before us the difficult task of running a nationwide campaign and securing victory at the polls.

She therefore urged the first lady and the APC women to support, lend their voices in the campaign to deliver the APC TINUBU/SHETIMA 2023 during the Presidential election.

"This is a journey that I cannot embark on alone, and I asked that you support me and my sister, Her Excellency, Nana Shettima, with that very spirit of oneness that has made APC first ladies the envy of everyone else.

"I stand before you, today to seek your support for my husband in his quest to consolidate on the many achievements recorded by our father President Muhammadu Buhari and deliver on the promises of good governance.

"It is common knowledge that the in the APC, our first ladies work as one and this cohesion is something that is admired by many, as Governor, my husband stopped at nothing to empower women," Tinubu said.

Some of the APC governors wives, who spoke at the event, expressed their determination to mobilise and sensitise the electorates in their various states on the need to vote for Tinubu/Shetima ticket in the

IMAGES

LALONG AT OTU RIGWE 2022

The 2022 Otu Rigwe (Rigwe Day 2022) was witnessed by the Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governor's Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong with other dignitaries at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos, last week end



Governor Lalong and Irigwe Development Association, President, Prince Robert Dodo acknowledging cheers from the crowd



A cross section of Rigwe dancers with masquerades entertaining guests at the Otu Rigwe



APC Candidate for Governorship, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe (left) shaking hands with former Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Peter Ajang Azi and APC House of Reps Candidate, Rt. Hon. Ibrahim Baba



L - R: Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos of Jos South/Jos East, Federal House Reps, Hon. Musa Agah Avia of Jos North/Bassa and Hon. Musa Umar Garo Kabo/Gwarzo, Kano State at the Irigwe Day



PPC Board Chairman, Chief Ismaila Ransa, Talban Rigwe (left) flanked by other personalities at the Otu Rigwe 2022



Representative of Gbong Gwom Jos, HRH Da Samuel Jok, Gwom Rwey Riyom, Air Commodore (Rev. Dr.) Dogo Gani, Adagwom Izere Jos North, Ada Emmanuel Ajik, Alhaji Garba Abdukabir, Leader of Hausa Community of Jos North, Makaman Jos, Alhaji Sani Mu'azu with the Ujah Anaguta of Jos North, Pozoh Johnson Jauro Magaji



Secretary to Government of the State, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (left) putting heads together with the Chief of Staff Government House, Hon. Noel Dongjur



HRH, Rev. Dr. Ronku Aka, Brra Ngwe Rigwe (rtd) decorating the Governor with traditional title of the Rigwe Nation while Gen. Martin Luther Agwai (right) applauding with admiration

Photos: DANLADI DUK

An Honour Well *Deserved*



The Chairman Civil Service Commission Plateau State, **Chief Luka Fwangyil**, Management and the entire staff of the commission, heartily congratulate the Executive Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. Barr. Simon Bako Lalong** on the conferment of the National Merit of Honour of the Commander of the Order of the Niger, (CON).

The award is a proof of your unwavering commitment to the development, unity, peace and prosperity of our dear state and Nigeria as a whole.

We are very confident that the award will spur you to do more even as you continue to make your immediate family, Plateau State and Nigeria at large proud.

We equally want to use this opportunity to congratulate all other sons and daughters of the state who were conferred with these National Merit of Honour.

May the Almighty God continue to protect our Governor and keep you in divine health for greater accomplishments.

Once more, congratulations.

Signed
Chief Luka Fwangyil
Chairman Civil Service Commission



NEWS

PSC approves 40 Deputy commissioners promotion

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

POLICE Service Commission has approved the promotion of 40 Deputy Commissioners to the substantive rank of Commissioners of Police.

In a statement released to journalist in Abuja by Ikechukwu Ani. Head, Press and Public Relations Unit it said that the Commission also approved accelerated promotion for two Assistant Commissioners due to existing vacancy in the medical cadre. The new Commissioners of Police were promoted after an interactive session/interview with the Commission in Plenary chaired by Justice Clara Bata Ogunbiyi JSC (rtd).

The Commission also approved the promotion of CP Abdul Yari Lafia and CP Rudouf ECHEBI to the rank of Assistant Inspector General. The date of promotion of CP Yari who was until his elevation, Commissioner of Police, Training was earlier considered and adjusted by the Commission which qualified him for promotion.

According to the statement, the leadership of the Commission also paid a courtesy visit on the Minister of Police Affairs, Mohammed Maigari Dingyadi and had visited the Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba on Wednesday at the Force Headquarters, Abuja.

The new Commissioners of Police are; Adebola Ayinde Hamzat, presently DCP, SCID, Ondo state Command; Idegwu Basil Okuoma, DCP Federal Operations, Force Headquarters Abuja; Zachariah Dera Achinyan, National Defence College Abuja; Sule Balarebe, DCP DFA, Sokoto State Command; Zango Ibrahim Baba, DCP SFU, FCIID Annex, Lagos; Maiyaki Mohammed Baba, DCP Admin, Kebbi State Command; Ishiaku Mohammed, DCP Finance Force Headquarters; Margret Agebe Ochalla, Team Leader, IGP Monitoring Unit and presently Gender Coordinator of the Nigeria Police Force; Benneth Igwe, DCP OPs FCT Command and Mohammed Abdul Suleiman, second in command, Force Education Officer.

Others are; Ajala Elijah Ayoola, DCP FMIU, Lagos; Romokere God's Gift Ibani, DCP SCID, Abia State Command; Akika Augustine, Deputy Commandant, Police College, Ikeja; Peter W. wagbara, DCP Admin, Rivers State Command; Ogundare Dare Emmanuel, DCP SCID, Kebbi State Command; Chris Omonzokpea Aimionowane, DCP Ops Zone 13 Ukpou; Augustina Nwuka Ogbodo, former DCP Admin, FCT Command and presently in FCIID, Abuja; Polycarp Chilaka Dibia, DCP Zone 6 Benin;

Ogunrinde Banji, DCP Force CID, Annex Lagos; Sybil Olufunmilayo Akinfenwa, DCP Homicide, FCIID Annex Lagos; Ita Lazarus Uko-Udom DCP DFA Zone 12 Bauchi; Samuel Titus Musa, DCP SCID, Nugu State Command and Ochogwu Abbas Ogbah, second in



Akali

command, Force Legal.

The newly promoted Commissioners also include; John Ayuba Babangida, DCP DFA, Ekiti State Command; Kayode Adetunmbi, DCP Ops, Zone 9 Umuahia; Aderemi Olufemi Adeoye, DCP OPs Anambra State Command; Dayo Ariyo, DCP Boarder Patrol; Stephen Olarewaju, DCP, DFA, Nasarawa State Command; Remigius Okwor, DCP, DCP Force Headquarters Police Accounts and Budget Annex Lagos; Kenekukwu Onwuemelie, DCP SCID, Ogun State Command; Fayodade Adegoke Mustapha, DCP SCID Lagos State Command; Adegboyega

Funsho Adegboye, DCP OPs Ondo State Command. Others include Umar Shehu Nadada, DCP OPs Nasarawa State Command; Mustapha Mohammed Bala, DCP SCID Imo State Command; Taiwo Olatunde Adeleke, DCP OPs PAP Western Command Lagos; Ibrahim Abdullahi, DCP General Investigation FIICD; Akinwale Adeniran, DCP DFA, Zone 8 Lokoja; Mamman Dauda, DCP OPs

Zamfara State Command; Mohammed Bala Labbo, DCP Communication, Kebbi State Command; Umaru Madaki, DCP Nursing, Kano State Command; Nkechi Eze, O/C Medical Rivers State Command and Garba Emmanuel Nzukwen, O/C Medical, Taraba State Command.

The Commission further approved the promotion of three Assistant Commissioners of Police and one Superintendent of Police to Chief Superintendent of Police.

The acting Chairman of the Commission called on the beneficiaries of the new ranks to rededicate themselves to the service of their fatherland. She noted that they should bring into their new offices their varied experiences to help mitigate the ravaging security problems in the country especially now that the nation is going into another round of national elections.

Justice Ogunbiyi said the Commission will continue to ensure that police promotions are not delayed and that the exercise will be fair, just, and based on seniority and availability of vacancies.

By: EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Director General and Chief Executive Officer of National Metallurgical Development Centre (NMDC) Jos, Engr Prof Linus Asuquo, said there is need to have an all inclusive effort in the fight against Corruption and inaugurated a 7 Man committee of the Anti Corruption and Transparency Unit.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the Head, Press and Relations of the National Metallurgical Development Centre (NMDC) Jos, Sunny Eweama, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital Friday.

While welcoming the Hon Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Prof Bolaji Owasonye, represented by the Resident Anti Corruption Commissioner, ICPC, Benue State Office, Mr Menge Tiku, the DG/CEO recounted the adverse effect of corruption on the Nigeria Economy since independence.

He said, "from 1963 when Nigeria got political Independence, fight against Corruption has been very conspicuous in the blue prints of successive administrations. I recall that the bane of Military thwarting the democratic government of first and second republics were not unconnected to the issue of corruption.

"Despite humongous financial resources injected by both successive Military and Democratic Governments to fight corruption, lasting therapy has not been administered to cure the plague. For any meaningful development to take place in any country, all hands should be on deck to defeat the parasitic 'Monster' called corruption", he enthused.

The Director General, however, thanked former President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration

Uprooting corruption requires all inclusive effort -Asuquo

for establishing a statutory organization like the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) charged with the responsibilities of prohibiting and prescribing punishment for corrupt practices and other related offences in ICPC ACT of 2000.

Asuquo, also applauded the present administration of President Mohammedu Buhari for its relentless effort in reducing to the barest minimum wastages in public funds through the establishment of Efficiency Unit, Presidential Continuous Audit, (PICA) Treasury Single Account (TSA) Cash Management Office etc.

He said, these and other measures are frantic efforts of the present administration to curb and if possible eradicate corruption and block leakages that abet corruption to thrive in public sphere of Nigeria and that, a better day awaits our country if such fight continued.

The NMDC Helmsman, assured the ICPC Chairman that, NMDC as a Research and Development Centre was charged with the responsibility of adding value

to all Minerals and Metals in Nigeria and would leave no stone unturned to ensure that Corruption has no hiding place in the Centre.

Responding, the representative of the ICPC Chairman, Mr Menge Tiku, thanked the Director General for his passion in the fight against corruption and for providing a conducive Office and logistics for ACTU Committee Members in NMDC.

He said, "although the fight against corruption has been an aged-long one, but the fight could only be won totally if it starts from families to public institutions. There is need for the Committee members to carry out thorough investigation and always reports facts beyond reasonable doubt.

While administering the other Office to the Seven man Committee of ACTU in NMDC, with Mr Bulus Ewa as the Chairman while Mr Bala Bosan is to serve as Secretary, the Representative of the ICPC Chairman, reminded them about the efficacy of Oath taking for public offices and urged them to synergize with the Zonal office for updated information that would aid them in the discharge of their duties.



Asuquo

Bill establishing NIDA passes second reading

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

A bill which seeks to establish the Nigerian Industrial Development Authority, passed second reading in the Senate.

Specifically, the proposed legislation, sponsored by Senator Sani Musa (APC Niger East) would help to diversify Nigeria's economy, and address the fundamental infrastructural impediments hindering production activities in the country.

Leading debate on the bill, Senator Musa said the proposed law would also move the country beyond selling raw materials to a more value added processing and manufacturing one, create jobs, generate wealth, boost export and broaden the tax base.

"Revenues from oil have recently economic hampered efforts to diversify recession which has brought about all this economic stagnation and legislation".



Lawan

According to him, the bill, as part of its objectives, would "accelerate the build-up of industrial capacity within Nigeria; increase manufacturing contribution to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product; drive the process of intense industrialisation based on sectors where Nigeria has comparative and competitive advantages."

The lawmaker further said that the Bill, when passed and signed into law would "facilitate job and wealth creation, provide for economic and revenue diversification, ensure import substitution and export diversification and broaden government's tax base."

He described the bill as one of the most ambitious legislation that puts together a comprehensive

industrial plan to diversify the economy, achieve industrial growth and reduce poverty.

"This bill will address the age-old constraints that have persistently limited manufacturing. If enacted into law, it will build up industrial infrastructure, prioritize power for industrial use, reduce borrowing and mobilize funding the real sector."

"It will also facilitate youth training in industrial skills, improve our investment climate, raise productive standards, link innovation to industry and enhance local patronage of made in Nigeria goods," he said.

After the bill was read the second time, the Senate President, Dr. Ahmad Lawar referred it to the Committee on Industry for further legislative scrutiny.

News

BACAS '84 old students reunite for progress

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Director-General of the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC), Dr. Balarabe Shehu Ilelah has observed that the purpose of reuniting old school or classmates is not just to meet, enjoy theatres and disperse, but also to exchange particulars with the aim of making differences in their own lives.

According to him, some of the mates might be in very privilege positions in both public and private sector, engaged in what can make difference in somebody's life or positively impact either directly or indirectly in our children lives.

The NBC Director-General at a reunion of former Bauchi State College of Arts and Science (BACAS) '84 old students at Zaranda Hotel in Bauchi weekend, stressed the need for the old boys to assists one another in life and in one way or the other towards making life appreciable.

Dr. Balarabe Shehu Ilelah explained that for one who was privileged to assume a high public office in life but could assist a mate or old friend, such privilege or life of that particular public officer leaves much to be desired

especially when measured on a scale of school or classmate.

Ilelah described school or classmates as friends for life and it's the basis upon which one's livelihood squarely rests. He said that once such opportunity of reunion to assist one another is lost, the entire life may presumed to be perished in its entity.

The Rector of the Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic (ATAP) which the former BACAS eventually metamorphosed into, Dr. Adamu Sa'idu described the old students' reunion as one of the privileges that one can really have in life.

"You are gathering here today to recoup your memories as students of BACAS. So thank God for the part that you have departed for long and God in His Infinite Mercy preserved you, gave you life and health, for you to be here today to celebrate your successes and achievements after a period of 40 years".

Dr. Adamu Sa'idu said that looking at people with exemplary characters and positions, there is the need for them to understand that the baby (BACAS) they left has grown to the point that ATAP is presently undertaking courses that involves Diplomas, NCEs and Degree courses, hence much is needed in the institution to give the quality

education they have hitherto acquired.

Sa'idu therefore invited the old boys to visit ATAP and identify other areas that their organization or institutions, individual focus would jump in form of some corporate social responsibilities or individual contributions, as the institution needs much from them.

Two papers were presented during the BACAS old students reunion namely 'Together Once Again' by Dr. Hamza Sule Wurobokki, and 'The Role of Old Students' Association in Fostering National Unity and Revival of Education in the Country' by Dr. Mohammed Inuwa Musa, Unibuja.

The first paper was presented by a permanent Secretary in Gombe State Civil Service, Shifra Luka on behalf of the presenter, Dr. Mohammed Inuwa Musa who enumerated seven dimensions of wellness as physical, spiritual, occupational, environmental, social, emotional and intellectual.

The Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), Mohammed Sani Mohammed has earlier in a welcome address expressed gratitude to his colleagues who came from various walks of life and callings, saying the initiative has achieved its purpose.

NUJ commends Buhari for conferring MFR on Osiguzo

By **HOSEA NYAMLONG**

NATIONAL Executive Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists has expressed its gratitude to the President and Commander in Chief, Muhammadu Buhari for conferring on the Union's President, Christopher Ikechukwu Isiguzo the award of Member of the Order of the Federal Republic (MFR).

This was contained in a press release signed by Shuaibu Usman Leman, National Secretary and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD on Tuesday in Jos.

He equally commended President Muhammadu Buhari for honouring Alhaji Yakubu Ibn Mohammed, immediate past DG of NTA and Mr Femi Adesina, Senior Special Adviser to President Buhari on Media who received the award of the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) and Malam Halilu Ibrahim Dantiye, former President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors-NGE who was conferred with Member of the Order of the Niger (MON). We felicitate with these worthy ambassadors of the union.

The Union's NEC joins him in feeling proud for his most recent achievement. Warm congratulations to our dear leader, they said.

Buhari commend the ability of the NUI President to relentlessly search for solutions to problems and find innovative ways to improve the fortunes of the union. These were the keys

to his success and many more to come.

He maintained that It should be also noted that the President's perseverance is an inspiration to everyone in the National Executive Council of the Union and undoubtedly, has earned all the accolades coming his way.



Isiguzo



Is it possible to stay?

BEING neutral signifies not being involved and clearly not taking sides. It means staying away, aloof and not participating in an event that would probably shape a particular situation making the non participant to look at the whole process from the standpoint of someone capable of making dispassionate and clear judgement about the situation. But is possible for a grown adult to stand aloof and watch his society drift away and do nothing to stem the drift?

True, it is often very difficult to stand aloof and watch without mingling and contributing in however small a way one can especially in today's contemporary Nigerian politics because the political actors have shown that they lack the capacity to lead, yet, the responsibility of reporting the society lies squarely on the journalist who is expected to be fair to all manner or shades of opinions. But is neutrality possible?

The answer is both yes and no. Yes, because the ethics of the journalism profession expects the person on the field to helm- in his opinion and reflect that of the news

True, it is often very difficult to stand aloof and watch without mingling and contributing in however small a way one can especially in today's contemporary Nigerian politics because the political actors have shown that they lack the capacity to lead, yet, the responsibility of reporting the society lies squarely on the journalist who is expected to be fair to all manner or shades of opinions. But is neutrality possible?

maker whether or not he believes in it. No, because as a part and parcel of that society, he cannot stand by and watch his society drift and does nothing to stem the drift. If he does, history will not be kind to him at the end of the day because he did nothing when he was expected to act.

This is the dilemma that the journalist finds himself in when faced with the reality of politics. He is compelled to report events he does not believe in for the sake of his society and is often at the receiving end of societal backlash when things do not get done as is expected. I am looking at this from the build up to the 2023 elections and the part expected of journalists in the process. Lately, a number of journalists have been enlisted as publicists for people running for political offices. I do not have a problem with that. Whether we like it or not, somebody must do the job.

What is our major concern here however, is whether as professionals we are able to meet the requirements of the society and help it grow? I would not concern myself with the theories here but would prefer to speak to the morals and allow us judge for ourselves. Can we in truth be trusted to stand in the gap for the people? Do we have the moral high ground on which to stand, moralise and challenge society to tow the path of justice, truth and fairness? This is often the difficult and not too easy task society expects from the journalist. He is expected to be a moral compass for the society.

Often, publicists have been called journalists. This is not right. What is even more nightmarish is the evolution of online platforms that have tended to drag journalism into disrepute. Many of these online platforms are to say the truth, owned by a single individual who is the reporter, editor and gatekeeper. There are

often no second eye to question certain postulations of the platform. For instance, anything can be churned out without cross checking and dished out to the reading public. This does a lot of harm to the people and if not checked, causes trouble for the larger society. And, because a large number of publicists now own blocks, society is at its tipping point.

Fake news has become the order of the day and since these owners are the content providers, the gatekeepers and the all in all. In this condition, neutrality becomes a difficult ingredient in the service of the society. That underscores the performance of the press in the present circumstances where biases and taking sides have become the order. Also ownership determines to a large extent the focus of the various media platforms. The biases of the owners often shape the content of the outfit.

Lately, what we see gracing the various platforms is not sultry at all. Charlatans have taken over the media space and are doing great disservice to the once cherished profession. Something needs to be done fast to rescue the situation. The things being churned out to the reading public is not healthy at all. Divisive and hate literature have become the order. Visit any site and you will understand what I am talking about.

Our fault lines are being taken advantage of, and, the divisions are being thrown to our faces. It appears all these years nothing positive has happened to us as a people. Yes, our leaders have shown that they do not have the capacity to steer the ship of state to safety but can we as a people not act and take back our heritage? The time to turn a new leaf is now. Let us all determine to change the narrative and do what is expected of all of us.

News

Military confirms release of abductees

From DORCAS PANKYES
Abuja

DEFIANCE Headquarters has said that the Nigerian military with other security agencies have secured the release of 23 remaining passengers by using the non-kinetic approach, adding that, terrorists who attacked the Abuja- Kaduna train on March 28, 2022, killing about eight passengers, injuring many others and took between 60 and 150 passengers into captivity for ransom will face the full wrath of the law.

Director, Defiance and Media Operations, Major General Danmadami made this known at the Defence Headquarters bi-weekly press briefing, when fielding questions from journalists on troops activities and operational successes being recorded in various operational theaters of the 6 geo-political zones of the country.

General Danmadami who confirmed the release of remaining 23 victims of the attack, reassured of the readiness of the armed forces of Nigeria in synergy with other security agencies to apprehend and neutralize all terrorists involved.

"In our operations, we told you that, there are kinetic and non-kinetic operations. Non kinetic approach was used for the release of 23



Irabo

remaining victims. You didn't know the trauma that those adoptees and their family members must have gone through, looking for details now my equally subject them to another trauma. And we want to assure you that the those terrorists involved will be neutralised soon", he reaffirmed.

When President Buhari met in Abuja with representatives of victims of the train abduction he said that his decision to stop maximum use of military force against terrorists

rescue the remaining victims of the Kaduna train attack and to avoid collateral damage.

Consequently, the armed troops in the past 2 weeks have conducted kinetic and non-kinetic operations in the various theatre of operations which has recorded significant results.

NUJ Correspondents Chapel re-elects exco

MEMBERS of the correspondents Chapel of the Nigeria Union of

A non Governmental Organisation (NGO), Doyin and Suzan Foundation, has again distributed foodstuffs to over 300 vulnerable women in some rural communities in Isanlu, Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State.

It would be recalled that the foundation had in September fed over 250 widows in some other rural communities in Isanlu.

The NGO's founder, Chief Mrs Adedoyin Ibikunle-Eshanumi, while addressing journalists after the distribution in Isanlu at the weekend, thanked God for the opportunity to reach out to the vulnerable group in the society.

She said that the initiative was prompted by her burning desire to alleviate the suffering of the less privileged especially the vulnerable women in this difficult times.

She said, the food empowerment was in fulfillment of her promise to reach out to vulnerable women on monthly basis as a way of alleviating their suffering and reduce hunger in the land.

"The gesture is part of our organizations humanitarian vision to help indigent and the vulnerable people in order to alleviate their suffering in time of need.

"This is not our first time of carrying out such humanitarian activities in Isanlu and the entire Kogi West Senatorial District. We will continue to improve on the wellbeing of the indigent citizens"

Foundation distributes foodstuffs to 300 women

From AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

"In September, we fed over 250 widows and in this October we thank God that we are able to reach out to over 300 vulnerable women.

"We promise to reach out to more beneficiaries in November by God's grace," Ibikunle-Eshanumi said.

She urged corporate organisations and well-spirited individuals to partner with the foundation in reaching out to more vulnerable people in the society.

She commended governments' efforts in alleviating the suffering of the people especially those

affected by the current flood disaster in the state.

The philanthropist sympathised with the government and the people of Kogi on the devastating effects of flood disaster across the state.

Two of the beneficiaries, Mrs Ruth Adedeji and Mrs Mary Oladele, thanked the foundation for alleviating their sufferings by feeding them and their children.

They prayed God to continue to bless, protect her, and grant all her heart desires, so that she could continue to do more.

The items distributed were rice, noodles, spaghetti, tin tomatoes, salt, semo-vita, among others.



Bello

... troops rescue other abducted victims

TROOPS of Operation HADIN KAI in the North East Zone rescued 2 Chibok girls Yana Pogu and Rejoice Senki on of the abducted Chibok girls with their children.

"Troops also neutralized 246 terrorists, arrested suspected terrorist logistics suppliers, rescued 3 civilians while a total of 418 suspected Boko Haram Terrorists/Islamic State of West Africa Province terrorists, who claimed to have lost interest in the ideology of Boko Haram Terrorists surrendered to own troops at different locations with their families comprised of 44 adults males, 135 adult females and 239 children," he said.

He also revealed that the air component of Operation HADIN KAI between 23 and 28 September 2022 carried out air interdiction operations at identified terrorists enclaves at Kolaram and Bukar Meram both in the Southern Lake Chad region of Borno State. The air strikes resulted in the neutralization of several terrorists with several of their structures destroyed.

"Troops of Operation HADARIN DAJI in the North West during operation troops neutralized 5 terrorists, arrested 7 terrorists and rescued 8 civilians, conducted precision bombing on identified notorious terrorists leaders Gwaska Dankaramis

camp at Mashekari area in Zurmi Local Government Area and Sani Dangote Camp in Farara village in Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina State.

"Following the airstrikes, a suspecte, terrorists leader identified as DogoRabe and 7 members of his gang were reportedly neutralized in the encounter while other fled in disarray", he said.

"Troops of the Joint Task Force Operation DELTA SAFE in the South South Zone of the Country denied criminal elements freedom of action, essential to sustain a conducive environment for economic activities to thrive while ensuring a relative peaceful environment for the operations of IOCs and the protection of oil and gas infrastructures in the general area.

"The troops of Operation DELTA SAFE in the conduct of Operation OCTOPUS GRIP conducted operational activities at creeks, waterways, communities, villages, town and cities within Delta, Bayelsa, Cross Rivers and Rivers State respectively.

"82 Garrison troops raided a suspected Indigenous People of Biafra/Eastern Security Network criminal hideout at Enugu South Local Government Area of Enugu State and arrested 8

suspected Indigenous People of Biafra/Eastern Security Network criminals. They also recovered substance suspected to be cannabis, drug soaked in alcohol, 2 mobile phones, 2 ATM cards and the sum of Eleven Thousand Naira (N11, 000.00) only.

"Troops of Operation AWATSE in a joint border patrol at Gbaji-Isahi-Badagry in Badagry Local Government Area intercepted a vehicle conveying 350 50kg bags of foreign rice along Dangote-Ilaro road in Yewa Local Government Area of Ogun State.

"Troops of Operation Dakatar DA Barawo within the weeks under review denied oil thieves a total of Two Billion One Hundred and Forty Six Million Seven Hundred Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Two Naira Forty Two Kobo (N2,146,795,472.42) in the South South Region", he said.

The military urged Nigerians to continue to provide prompt and creditable information on the activities of terrorists and other criminal elements, in their respective locality.

From MOHAMMED
ABDULLAHI, Keffi

JOURNALIST in Nasarawa State have re-elected their officials for the second term of office in appreciation of their remarkable performance during their first tenure.

During the electional/endorsement that took place at the headquarters of the Correspondents Chapel in Lafia during the week, it saw the return of all the members under the leadership of Mr. Isaac Opaju except the Vice Chairman, Mr. Gambo Ahmed who has successfully completed his two tenures

and was replaced by a female member, Mrs Amina Mohammed of the Voice of Nigeria (VON).

Performing the exercise, the Chairman of the Electoral Committee, Malam Abdullahi Shuaibu stated that with the absence of members who have purchased form, or indicated interest to contest and the total endorsement by members, as such, going by the constitution of the union the officials who have already purchased their forms to contest, they were declared elected or returned.

While congratulating the officials for their endorsements, he however

urged them to re-double their efforts towards justifying the confidence reposed in them.

Performing their swearing in ceremony, the state chairman of the NUJ, Malam Salisu Mohammed congratulated the re-elected members of the correspondents Chapel for the confidence reposed on them by their members and urged them to continue to exhibit good leadership qualities and sustain their good synergy with their mother union.

While giving assurance of the state council of the NUJ to continue to push for welfare and good working conditions of its members, he however tasked them to strictly abide by the ethics of their profession.

Responding, the re-elected chairman on behalf of their members, Mr. Isaac Opaju of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) thanked members of the chapel for the confidence reposed in him and other officials and promised to rededicate themselves towards the general peace and wellbeing of members.

He then use, the occasion to reel out the various achievements recorded by his leadership and promised to consolidate and even break new grounds for the betterment of members.

Highlights of the occasion include the distribution of certificates of returns to all re-elected officials.



Chris

Feature

Oswald Waller College : An untapped goldmine

BY FRANCISCA ADIDI

OSWALD Waller College of Education is a higher institution of education which was established by the Catholic Diocese of Shendam in September 2013 under the leadership of the then Bishop, Late Most Rev Dr James N Daman.

Named after the leader of the first Catholic missionaries to the northern Nigeria to arrive Shendam in 1907, the college is presently at its temporary site at the premises of the Catechetical Training Institute, Shendam town, while the permanent site is at Lifidi in Mikang Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Like other colleges, Oswald Waller College of Education is aimed at providing education that prepares citizens for teaching opportunities at the basic level.

The college also exists to mid-wife all round robust education including sound moral formation to the teeming youth of its immediate environment and beyond for nation building.

Since the establishment of the college, it has existed amidst many challenges of underfunding and poor students enrollment which is presently between 300-500 instead of 2750 earlier estimated. The enrollment cannot cover the cost of running the Institution. This informed the present efforts to make it known to the public.

Some of the present challenges that need immediate attention are over due re-accreditation of the college programme which are running to over #40 million. Backlog of staff salaries which have mounted to over #15 million.

The school is in dire need of completion of two blocks of academic and administrative blocks at the permanent site which is also standing at the sum of over #300 million, while fencing and development of other structures like classes and laboratories stand at over #150 million.

However, it is important to note that the present Administrative Block at the permanent site was



Administrative block



Academic block

constructed by the Late Bishop, His Lordship, Most Rev Dr James N Daman while the Academics Block was constructed by the present Bishop, His Lordship, Most Rev Dr Philip Dung.

It is due to its numerous needs that the college in conjunction with Shendam Diocesan community in Diaspora, Jos Chapter is organizing a launching of Five Hundred Million Naira to

raise funds for infrastructural development at the permanent site of the college in Lifidi.

The launching is coming up on Saturday the 15th of October, 2022 by 10 am. The Chief Launcher will be Hon Yusuf Gagdi, the Special Guest of Honour is the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Hon Dr Simon Bako Lalong, CON; KSGG while the Chairman of the occasion is Hon Augustine

Bako, Chairman Mikang Local Government Council.

Other dignitaries for the launching are Prof Dame Nora Daduut, who will be the Chairlady with Sir Fidelis Tapgun, KSM; KSGG as the Father of the Day; Dame Pauline Tallen will serve as the Mother of the Day.

The Governing Council of the College is appealing to spirited individuals, sons and daughters, other well wishers to support the

college to stand firmly on its feet like other sister colleges to serve our youth and young ones to produce would-be teachers with relevant practical skills and competence for further studies.

The college has a 3 year NCE programme, a one year Pre-NCE programme that is designed to help students with deficient entry qualification to prepare for SSCE and JAMB.

Foreign News

Lebanon, Israel reach agreement on maritime borders

LEBANON and Israel have reached an "historic" deal to end a long-running maritime border dispute in the gas-rich Mediterranean Sea, according to negotiators from the two countries.

Lebanon's deputy speaker Elias Bou Saab said on Wednesday, after submitting the United States-brokered final draft of the deal to President Michel Aoun, that an agreement had been reached that satisfies both sides.

Lebanon's presidency voiced hope that "the agreement on the demarcation will be announced as soon as possible". Aoun had previously said that a deal would not signify a "partnership" with Israel. The two countries are technically at war.

Israeli National Security Adviser Eyal Hulata, who headed the Israeli negotiating team, echoed Saab's remarks.

"All our demands were met, the changes that we asked for were corrected. We protected Israel's security interests and are on our way to an historic agreement," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid's office hailed "an historic achievement that will strengthen Israel's security".

A signing date for the deal has not been set yet.

While limited in scope, an agreement might ease security and economic concerns in the countries, whose shared history is rife with conflict.

The deal would resolve a territorial dispute in the eastern tip of the Mediterranean Sea in an area where Lebanon aims to explore for natural gas, and near waters where Israel has already found commercially viable quantities of hydrocarbons.

Lebanon had previously had a number of concerns about the border. The first related to a borderline marked by buoys that was created by Israel as its forces withdrew from Lebanon in 2000. Beirut asked for language in the draft to be changed to avoid this becoming an international maritime border.

Secondly, Lebanon objected to the Qana gas field in a southern Lebanese exploration block extending into Israeli waters. The field is yet to be explored. And while Lebanon refuses to pay any profits from its share of that field to Israel, Israel says it may fall under its exclusive economic zone.

Finally, the Lebanese government wanted French oil giant TotalEnergies to work with it independently of any projects with Israel.

Khodr said that in the past, international companies refused to begin the exploration process over security concerns in the absence of a deal. "In fact today, a delegation from Total is in Beirut; they met the caretaker prime minister who told them to start immediately exploring and drilling the area once the maritime border deal comes into force," Khodr said.

An Israeli military boat patrols Mediterranean waters off Lebanon.

Officials from both countries were in close contact via US mediator Amos Hochstein over the past few days to resolve outstanding differences. A major source of friction was the Karish gas field, which Israel insisted fell entirely within its waters and was not a subject of negotiation.

The US text has not been made public but under terms leaked to the press all of the Karish field would fall under Israeli control, while Qana would be divided but its exploitation would be under Lebanon's control. Total would be licensed to search for gas in the Qana field, and Israel would receive a share of future revenues.

Bou Saab said Lebanon will "get its full rights from the Qana field", and Israel might receive compensation through Total. There will be no direct partnership in gas exploration or exploitation between the two enemy states, he said.

On Sunday, London-listed firm Energean began testing the pipeline linking Karish to the



Guterres

Israeli coast, a key step before production can begin. Israel has said production would begin at Karish as soon as possible, regardless of Lebanon's demands.

Hezbollah, a Lebanese political party backed by Iran, has threatened to use force against Israel should the country explore for gas near the disputed area before Lebanon is allowed to do so.

Smith said the deal is in Israel's security interest as Lebanon currently relies heavily on Iran for energy, Israel's archrival in the region.

Smith said Israel will hold a

North Korea says nuclear test is warning

NORTH Korea has said its recent barrage of missile launches were "tactical nuclear" drills personally overseen by leader Kim Jong Un, and a response to joint United States-South Korea naval exercises.

North Korea carried out its seventh launch in two weeks when it fired two ballistic missiles early on Sunday morning.

Showing the first pictures from the launches, state broadcaster KCNA reported Kim Jong Un guided the exercises, which involved ballistic missiles with mock nuclear warheads and were led by "tactical nuclear operations units".

The various tests simulated targeting military command facilities, striking main ports, and airports in the South, KCNA added.

"Even though the enemy continues to talk about dialogue and negotiations, we do not have anything to talk about nor do we feel the need to do so," KCNA quoted Kim as saying.

Kim has long wanted to develop tactical nuclear weapons, and made it a

The country revised its nuclear laws last month, envisaging a wide array of scenarios in which it could use such weapons, with Kim declaring North Korea an "irreversible" nuclear power.

Since then Seoul, Tokyo and Washington have held combined naval exercises, including deploying the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier the USS Ronald Reagan to the area twice, infuriating Pyongyang, which sees such drills as rehearsals for invasion.

In response, North Korea "decided to organise military drills under the simulation of an actual war... in order to check and assess the war deterrent and nuclear counterattack capability of the country," KCNA reported.

North Korea released multiple photographs of the recent missile

security cabinet meeting on Wednesday, and then the proposed deal will go to the high court.

Ukraine war: US condemns 'brutal' Russian strikes on Ukraine

THE US said the "brutal" attacks had hit non-military targets, including a university and children's playground, and promised further military aid.

United Nations chief Antonio

THOUSANDS of people in the crisis-torn Haiti have taken to the streets of the capital Port-au-Prince against the government's decision to seek foreign military assistance to quell gang-related violence, with police using tear gas to disperse protesters.

Demonstrators shouted against the "foreign occupation" and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who asked international partners for "the immediate deployment of a specialised armed force, in sufficient quantity" to stop the "criminal actions" of armed gangs across the country.

Several people were shot and one person was reported to have been killed during the rallies. Protesters blamed the police for the death.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on Monday for the immediate deployment of a special international force in Haiti to help the Caribbean state, which has been facing a biting fuel and water shortage.

Haiti's ambassador to the United States also said on Monday that the US and Canada should take the lead in forming a force to confront Haitian gangs.

"We wish to see our neighbours like the United States, like Canada, take the lead and move fast," Bocchit Edmond told Reuters. The US on Saturday said it was reviewing Haiti's request for support.

Canada's foreign ministry on Friday said 19 of the members of the Organization of American States were committed to helping Haitians "overcome the complex security challenges facing the country".

Many Haitians have rejected the idea of another international intervention, noting that UN peacekeepers were accused of sexual assault and sparked a cholera epidemic more than a decade ago that killed nearly 10,000

Guterres said he was "deeply shocked".

Vladimir Putin said the attacks were retaliation for Saturday's explosion on a key bridge linking Russia to Crimea.

Ukraine says 83 missiles were launched, of which more than 43 were shot down.

In a defiant video, Ukraine's

could carry out its first nuclear test since 2017 as soon as this month.

North Korea also said it had carried out "a large-scale combined air-attack drill", also overseen by Kim, in which it said "more than 150 fighter planes of different missions took off simultaneously for the first time in history".

Seoul's military said it had scrambled 30 fighter jets on Thursday after 12 North Korean warplanes staged a rare "formation flight north of the inter-Korean air boundary [and] conducted air-to-surface firing drills".

"Kim probably wants to tell the US and South Korea that any demonstrations of alliance solidarity and readiness will be in vain," Rand Corporation analyst Soo Kim

The US and South Korea held joint maritime exercises involving the USS Ronald Reagan on Friday, after the aircraft carrier was redeployed in the wake of the IRBM test over Japan.

The two Koreas remain technically at war because the 1950-1953 Korean war ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty.



Jong Un

Haitians protest against call for foreign forces



Moïse

people. Haiti's National Police has struggled to control gangs with its limited resources and chronic understaffing, with only some 12,800 active officers in a country of more than 11 million people.

One of the poorest countries in the world, Haiti has been suffering from periodic natural disasters and a longstanding political crisis made worse after the killing of Moïse.

Since then gangs have only grown more powerful.

Many Haitians have demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Henry, whose government is serving in an interim capacity after he indefinitely delayed an election previously scheduled for November 2021 due to the rising political instability.

Protests and riots have broken out around Haiti since the government announced last month that it will cut fuel subsidies.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said that "Ukraine cannot be intimidated. It can only be more united."

The deadly barrage included strikes on the cities of Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia, and were some of the worst Ukraine has seen for months.

At least 14 people were killed and scores more were injured, officials said.

Several regions were left without electricity and water after missiles hit energy infrastructure.

Residents in the capital Kyiv said Russia appeared to be targeting civilian areas which were busy with Monday morning commuters, including a children's playground, a university and the popular Taras Shevchenko park.

Mr Guterres described the strikes as "another unacceptable escalation of the war" for which civilians were paying the highest price.

The EU said a war crime had been committed, while European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Russia stood for "terror and brutality".

US President Joe Biden was one of many foreign leaders to speak with President Zelensky, and he "pledged to continue providing Ukraine with the support needed to defend itself, including advanced air defence systems", the White House said.

Mr Biden said the attacks demonstrated "the utter brutality" of Putin's "illegal war".

After the phone call, President Zelensky vowed to strengthen Ukraine's armed forces and "make the battlefield even more painful for the enemy".

China and India, which have not condemned the war, called for a de-escalation.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly in New York, Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ukraine's Ambassador to the body, said his family had been in a residential area in Ukraine when it was attacked by the latest Russian missiles and they were unable to go to a bomb shelter.

He said Russia had already killed some of his relatives, calling it "a terrorist state" that must be deterred in the strongest possible ways to prevent further atrocities. He added that Moscow's delegation to the UN left "a trail of blood" whenever it entered the General Assembly hall.

The General Assembly is holding an emergency meeting following

Russia's latest attacks. Although the session was convened because of the Kremlin's annexation of four partly-occupied Ukrainian regions: following sham referendums, it has been overshadowed by Monday's attacks.

Putin said the attacks were retaliation for Saturday's explosion on a key bridge linking Russia to Crimea

Russian missiles began hitting targets across Ukraine around the morning rush hour on Monday, in the most widespread bombardment of the war.

Ihor Zhovkva, deputy head of President Zelensky's office, said they were designed to sow panic.

The strikes were more intense than had previously been seen, he told the BBC, and in some ways resembled the early days of the war

He added that this had not come as a surprise, and was a sign of things to come during the "very difficult" winter ahead.

Mr Putin warned he was ready to authorise more "severe" attacks while deputy head of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev said that "the first episode has been played. There will be others".

Ukraine has not confirmed it was behind that strike. Mr Zhovkva said he did not entirely believe that the Russian attacks were a retaliation as Kyiv has been hit before.

Meanwhile, Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko - a close ally of Mr Putin - has agreed to deploy his forces to link up with Russian soldiers at Belarus' border with Ukraine in response to what he said was a threat to his country from Kyiv.

"We need to figure out what else needs to be done to strengthen the security of our state, given the rapidly changing environment," he said according to comments carried in the state-run Belta news agency.

Mr Lukashenko, who held a one-on-one meeting with President Putin in St Petersburg, said he had been informed through unofficial channels of a "Crimean Bridge 2" being planned against Belarus, a reference to Saturday's explosion on a key bridge linking Russia with Crimea.

Without providing any evidence he said: "Ukraine is not just contemplating, but planning strikes on the territory of Belarus," adding that Kyiv was being "pushed by their patrons to unleash a war against Belarus" and Russia at the same time.

Feature

When spirit of the dead seeks justice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also, a middle-aged businessman, Salau Taiwo Hussein was said to have been whisked away from his resident around Brighter Road in Minna, the Niger state capital by unknown gunmen who stormed the area in their numbers heavily armed, as they were said to engage the local vigilantes in the area in a sporadic gun shot to achieve their aim. Our Reporter gathered that the security operatives comprising the police, local vigilantes, and operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) are already assessing the situation and are still trailing the unknown gunmen. An independent study launched into the



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

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

This was as some whistleblowers were subjected to threats of life, harassment and victimization by their employers and colleagues for daring to expose corrupt practices. It should be noted that over six years after the Nigerian government introduced the whistleblower policy to help combat corruption in the country, Nigerians are now reluctant to report incidences of corruption following cases of threats and killings by unknown gunmen and lack of protection on the whistleblowers. In 2021, the Executive Secretary, Presidential Advisory Committee on Anti-Corruption PACAC, Prof. Sadiq Isah Raddah, stated at the public presentation of the report of a

survey on five years of whistle-blowing policy in Nigeria which was undertaken by the African Centre for Media and Information Literacy, (AFRICMIL) in Abuja that an overwhelming majority (98.2%) of Nigerians perceived corruption as a serious problem and menace in the country. He said "although, majority of Nigerians are aware of the whistleblowing policy, one quarter of the respondents are unwilling to report any form of corrupt practices while 3 of every 4 respondents have stopped reporting cases of looted funds for fear of being killed". Since 2018, killers of a young man identified as Kingsley Ekene Iwuoha who was attacked and shot dead by suspected gunmen in Owerri, Imo State capital are yet to be identified and arrested. Families and friends have wept bitterly since Kingsley popularly known as Don King was murdered and are seeking for justice. While some of his friends claimed he must have been assassinated by those who envied his success growth, his relatives claimed he was murdered for being a whistleblower. Kingsley's sister, Helena Iwuoha while lamenting that after four years the Police is yet to make any arrest claimed that, before he was murdered, there were death threats because he (Kingsley) tried to expose corruption. "Kingsley's death is not

unconnected with his being a whistleblower". Accordingly, she said "Kingsley was a whistleblower and he was killed by suspected cultists working on the perceived orders of highly placed individuals for exposing corruption in the oil sector. I know about this because prior to his killing, Kingsley had complained to me concerning death threats he was getting. My brother had to leave Lagos State and ran to Imo state where he was eventually traced and killed." Reports have it that Kingsley was murdered on the 10th of September 2018 in Owerri after he moved from Lagos a few months earlier because of continuous death threats he was getting from cultists. One of his friends, Ajuonuma Wilson who spoke to our Correspondent in Minna, lamented the delay in apprehending killers of innocent Nigerians by the security agencies in the country. According to him "Kingsley was my best friend. He was a very promising young man who was murdered by unknown gunmen. The matter was since reported and till date no arrests have been made by the Police." He told me then that his life was in danger for exposing corruption. He left Lagos for Imo State and was murdered. Obviously, the protection of our lives cannot be guaranteed by security agencies". Reports have it that, beyond the death recorded, hundreds of people were said to have been kidnapped in the Southeast within the same period under review thereby creating more apprehension amongst residents. It should be noted that the policy in theory states that whistleblowers' "confidentiality will be maintained to the fullest extent possible within the limitations of the law." The policy offers protection for any whistleblower "who has made a genuine disclosure" in good faith, and promises that "restitution shall be made to the whistle-blower for any loss suffered" as a result of harassment, intimidation or victimization. But the case of Kingsley was not so, as over four years, his killers are yet to be apprehended. No doubt, our security forces are trying to save the day, but the truth be told, the security situation in the country has overwhelmed them.

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



National Honour Award



On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, I hereby congratulate the Executive Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG** on the conferment of National Merit of Honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger, (CON) by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**.

We also want to celebrate the following eminent sons and daughters of the state who were equally honoured:

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

These are well deserved honours which recognize the patriotism, service and passion with which you have continued to serve the people of Plateau State and Nigeria at large.

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

Congratulations.

Hon. Sylvanus Tappun Dankano mni.
*Commissioner,
Ministry for Local Government and
Chieftaincy Affairs,
Plateau State.*





Congratulatory Message

TO A COLOSSUS AND NATIONAL FIGURE



Your Excellency,

AS the cool morning sun rises, Tuesday 11th October 2022 and you are conferred with the well-deserved and prestigious National Honour of Commander of The Order of The Niger (CON), my family, self and Entire Office Staff celebrate and heartily congratulate you.

A National Award, distinctive as it is, marks a recognition of Excellence, Loyalty, Commitment and Service to Nation and Humanity. It is also an auspicious clarion call to greater services to Mankind and to the glory of God; just as God has destined, over the years, in your gradual and phenomenal rise through life struggles from childhood to stardom and still counting.

May this National Honour and Investiture be the beginning of much deeper reflections on confronting greater challenges and expectations on you to continue to be of service to mankind and defender of faith for the common good, blended with your call to duty as a papal Knight of the much-revered Saint Gregory the Great (KSGG).

Once again, CONGRATULATIONS and may God, in His Infinite Mercy and Kindness, continue to Bless, Guard and Guide you as you receive this honour and hold forth in all future endeavours.

PAX CHRISTI!!!

PROFESSOR JOHN W. WADE, KSM, mni.
*Director-General, Research, Strategic Planning
And Documentation, Government House,
& Secretary, Steering Committee, State
Livestock
Transformation Plan (SLTP).*



Editorial

FG: Give flood the desired attention

FLOOD has again ravaged some communities in Nigeria resulting in loss of lives, property, colossal lost of farm lands, sacking of communities and destruction of critical infrastructure. This has become a reoccurring decimal annually with negative impact on the economy of the country. The states most devastated by this natural disaster are Kogi, Anambra, Kwara, Bauchi and Gombe.

HE who does not plan, plans to fail, a popular adage says. It aptly describes Nigeria's situation in the face of this natural disaster which some communities have been experiencing over the years. Unfortunately, it catches us unawares in spite of warnings from experts.

IT is also a known fact that at the height of the rain, Lagdo Dam in Cameroon would free its over flowing banks. An action that always causes flooding in neighbouring states like Benue, Kogi, and Borno. Yet preventive measures to forestall future occurrence only become an option after the communities have been devastated by flood.

WE throw our weight behind Governor Bello of Kogi and call on President Buhari to declare a state of emergency in the affected states. The economic devastation cannot be quantified, neither can the loss of human lives and the psychological effect.

THE Nigerian Meteorological Agency had predicted that the prevailing weather pattern in the country would cause above normal rainfall in about 19 states, between August and October this year. In this regard, affected states and National Emergency Management Agencies were advised to intensify adaptation, mitigation and response mechanisms to curb the impending danger.

SADLY, the prediction was not hearkened to and regret, pain and colossal loss have been our lot. Government did not walk their talk and neither did those at the riverine areas relocate because of harsh economic situation and government's nonchalance, lack of will in providing temporary shelters and initiating the movement.

PRESIDENT Buhari in August said the destructive floods recorded in about 22 states and the Federal Capital Territory had affected 508,721 people since January 2022, displaced 73,379 people, with 115 casualties and injured 277 people. In addition about 37,633 houses were destroyed or severely damaged.

THE President emphasised that the tragic events had intensified the need for states and local governments to step up their level of preparedness in handling emergencies. These words seemed to have fallen on deaf ears, as the consequences are glaring.

THE catastrophe flood experienced in Kogi has had ripple effects which is being felt all over the country. The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDRPA) has blamed the current reappearance of queues at filling stations across Nigeria especially Abuja on the flooding in Lokoja, Kogi State. It explained that the flood had submerged a greater part of the city and grounded all vehicular movements.

THIS in turn had affected the distribution of fuel to the FCT Abuja and environs.

At this juncture, we wonder: where are their representatives? Where is their voice at the centre?

TO forestall future occurrence, government should revisit the building of the proposed bumper dam to cushion the effects of Lagdo Dam release of its surging waters. Drainages should be built for smooth passage of water, people should avoid building on waterways, waste management must be at the top of government's priority to avoid blockage of drainages.

FOLLOWING these revelations, Nigerians have demanded that the federal government names and prosecutes suspects to serve as deterrent to others. It is heartrending that this has not happened months after the said revelation. Some of the insinuations by Nigerians is that the federal government was being deceitful by the claims, and in some quarters, it was alleged that the revelation was just a diversionary tactic. With the latest revelation by Manu, therefore, it is expected that the federal government will take the bull by the horn and do the needful by making the list of the said sponsors public.

WE sympathise with the various affected communities, business men and women and also motorists who are trapped on the high way as a result of the flood, and those that have lost their source of livelihood.

ALCOHOL is a liquid substance containing chemical mixture that when consumed to the system it changes human behavior and mode of action, is a distilled or fermented drink that can make you drunk. Scientifically alcohol is a liquid made up of distilled hydrocarbon that is also known as ethyl alcohol or ethanol, alcohol beverages like whiskey are produced by fermentation of yeast, sugar and starches and also have the power to make a person intoxicated.

Knowing the effect of alcohol to the body system most especially the human brain, according to research alcohol slows down the central nervous system, the central nervous system controls thought and how the brain communicates to the body system, and also the most immediate effects of alcohol are on brain affecting the way they think, feel and behave any time they consume excess of it.

According to statistics, the number of mad people roaming around in markets and highways most especially the youths who are supposed to be our leaders of tomorrow is all as the result of drug abuse and excess consumption of alcohol that affect their mental health. Taking, alcohol also impact on the ability to process thoughts and make rational and reckless decision which can lead to increase in violence or any form of aggressive behavior, this is because alcohol can make one lose self-control and self esteem and ability to process multiple issues and decreased the ability to resolve conflict.



Consequences of alcohol intake on youth

Some people take alcohol to help them forget their worries and also enables them sleep peacefully, while alcohol may help induce sleep in short time and first half of the night, they likely experience more sleep disturbance in the second half of the night which is the heavier part of the night and the most importantly hour during sleeping hours.

Also, quality sleep is critical to positive mental health and wellbeing, and lack of quality sleep can negatively impact to our daily functioning and reduce our overall quality of life.

He later added that some people take alcohol to make them courageous in terms of approach, for example some young boys that are not bold enough to stand confidently to express love advances to a lady, some of them take alcohol to help erase tension in terms of approach, in our tertiary institutions some students take alcohol before presentation on stage which may you maid end up staying something contrary.

Moreso, looking at the rampant cases of accidents on roads which is as the result of excess

consumption of alcohol where driving under the influence of alcohol has send many young people to their early grave which is a great lost to the society.

Knowing the consequences of alcohol to the system, it is advisable that alcohol should not be taken in excess to the extent that will make someone lose self-control to avoid especially in facing some problems and challenges.

Ngot Bwehmasi Caleb I. is an IT Student from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.

The collapse of our educational system

EDUCATION they say is the bedrock of every society and should be taken seriously, but the reverse is the case now because of how poor the system is being managed these days.

Instead of focusing on how to improve the system, we are busy politicizing the future of our children and it is gradually consuming us. It is sad that the educational institutions that have baked and groomed our leaders who are at the helm of affairs today are in dhambles.

Worthy of note is how our primary schools are left with pupils sitting under trees on

stones to receive lesson, with half-baked teachers whose qualifications are questionable. In a country called "giant" of Africa, it is shameful that we are still operating a "stone-age" style where pupils still sit under the tree to learn in this modern age.

The secondary schools are not left out of the dilemma, most government owned school have poor structures poor funding, low quality teaching and are without enough teachers. Imagine, having a teacher, teaching all subjects that he or she is not professionally trained.

This has grossly contributed in producing students of low quality where could hardly read and write effectively. They had no option than to engage in examination malpractices to scale through to the University or any higher educational institution.

The most worrisome of all is how students are clustered in a room in the name of accommodation. It has been on record that, more than four to five students are kept in a room and it has forced so many to look for alternative means of renting an apartment off campus where

their safety is guaranteed.

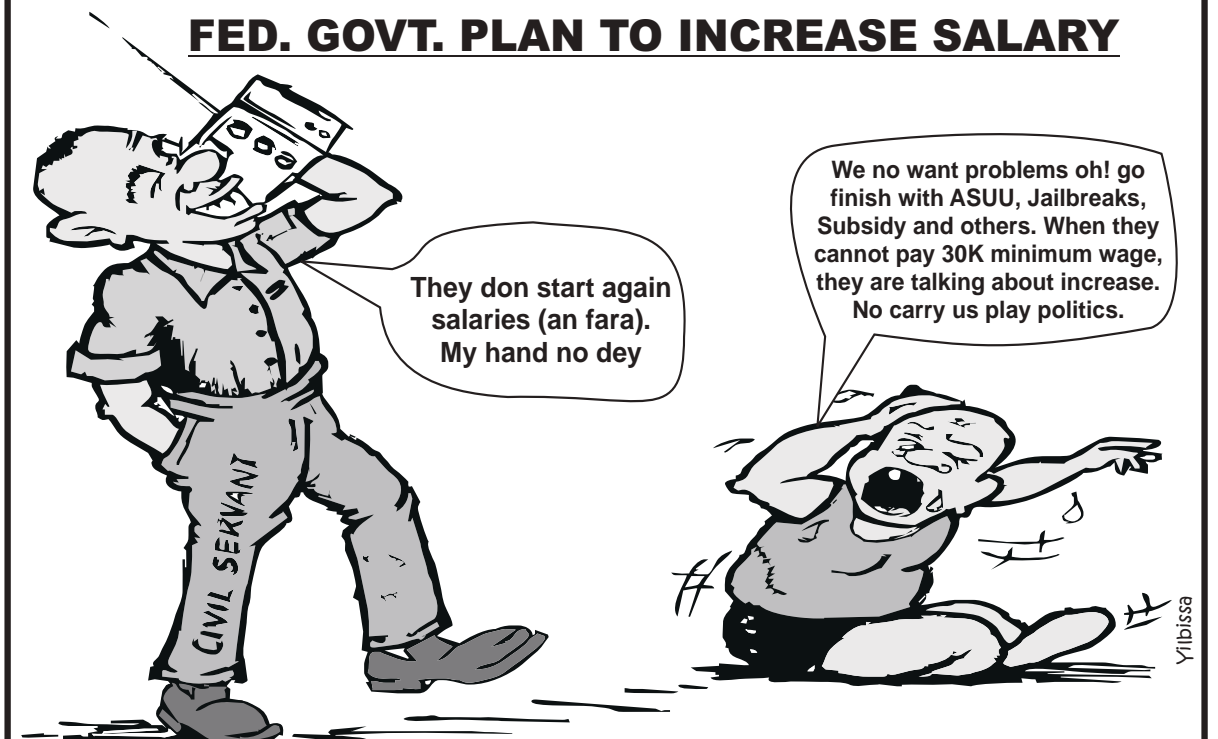
Therefore, we should stop playing politics with such a sensitive sector and focus more on building strong and functional education system that will take off our younger generation off crime and vices.

Government should prioritize or put more funds on repositioning our educational sector so that, our schools will have other countries coming to learn in Nigeria instead of embarking on shameless educational tourism to other schools abroad.

Ayuba Bulus Apata, Jos.

Standard Cartoon

FED. GOVT. PLAN TO INCREASE SALARY



Opinion

Education sector and Nigeria's revolving underdevelopment doors

By JEROME-MARIO UTOMI

ONE recent occurrence that typifies the nations' education sector as an area in dire need of rehabilitation is the current shoddy state of Ologbo Primary and Secondary schools, Ologbo, Obarentin community in Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area of Edo state, formerly called Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria Primary and Secondary school, Ologbo.

In addition to signaling the gory tale of poor leadership, neglect and outright abandonment of responsibility by the Edo state government, the pictures and accompanying commentaries diverted attention from a real threat deserving of healthy and appropriate fear, Federal Government's failure to resolve its impasse with the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). More than anything else, the ugly awareness at the school sowed confusion that portrays Edo as a state where leadership has drained then people's will and now left them with weakened character.

Expectedly many have risen in staunch defence of Governor Godwin Obaseki, saying that blame in the present circumstance may not be the smartest thing to do. They argued that when a verdict is passed on someone, it blocks the possibility of knowing who the person is and definitely creates biases, sentiments, prejudice, and also makes the mind become impervious and closed towards either seeing the good sides of the person or the bad sides of the person.

To others, the governor should in the interim be excused because when it comes to making decisions or pursuing purposeful initiatives, leaders

naturally fall victim to the trap of unexpected limitations such as inadequate funding, among others. To the rest, achieving sustainable development in a sector such as education takes time. Therefore Obaseki needs to be given more time to perform before subjecting his performance to critical scrutiny.

Whatever the true position may be, the truth is this piece's latest condemnation of Governor Obaseki's poor leadership habit is both natural, neutral and perceptual.

The reason is simple. Experience via observation has shown that in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region, leaders are never mentally prepared for the task of leadership. They seem to forget that the more preparation, planning and activation of the execution process they make, the better they perform in the task of leadership.

Supporting the above assertion is the awareness that when one spends time to think about how we approach leadership in Nigeria and asks important questions about how leaders in Nigeria set their priorities, time and funds, it becomes easy to situate the fact that the hallmark of poor performance in Nigeria is not Obaseki specific.

Take as an illustration, a while ago, in a particular intervention, this author highlighted pictures of a similar shoddy state and wicked neglect of Oyoko Primary School, Abavo, Ika South Local Government Area of Delta state.

Like the Ologbo Primary and secondary schools situation, the referenced piece underlined disturbing pictures which showed visibly distressed structures with fallen

ceilings, windows and doors.

The piece concluded by pointing out that from the pictures and accompanying commentary, it cannot be deemed an overstatement to describe such a 'scenario' as deplorable, dehumanising, troubling, in bad light and brazenly in contravention of international best standards and most importantly, a reality that all well-meaning indigenes of Delta State, including our dear governor, should worry about.

Broadly speaking, there are so many reasons why this writer is particularly interested in bringing to the fore these poor courses of action/inaction chosen ahead of logic by public authority to address the nation's education sector; their definition of the problem, the goals to be achieved, or the means chosen to address the problems and to achieve the goals.

By analysing each of these elements in turn, it becomes easy to understand the essential ingredients that made great nations what they are today, as well as answer questions as to why others, such as Nigeria, are unsuccessful.

To explain this point, it is believed that policies, plans and strategies are fundamental to progress and development of countries, yet, right from independence, the problem with education in the country very much lies with underfunding, payment of lip service to, and inconsistency in policies driven by several panels set up by the government to recommend measures to enhance the quality of education in the country. This problem is not so

much with the recommendations of the various panels but their poor implementation by those entrusted to do so.

If not bad policy and poor implementation, how do we explain governments' inability to heed the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) budgetary recommendation on education? What other expression shall we say of a country's education where researches are not adequately funded and yet, the President allowed hundreds of millions of naira to be spent replacing his plates and cutlery yearly. And what shall we expect from an educational ministry headed by someone who is not an educationist? This may however not be the only explanation.

As to what should be done, we must recognise two realities.

First and very fundamental, that like in business where no organisation can grow consistently faster than its ability to get enough of the right people to implement such growth. Likewise, we must admit that with the education sectors' present state, it will be difficult if not impossible to develop disruptive or constructive concepts that can shatter set patterns of thinking and provide solution to the nagging challenges in the country until policy makers consider education as bedrock of development; that with sound educational institutions, a country is as good as made -as the institutions will turn out all rounded manpower to continue with the development of a hyper-modern society driven by well thought out ideas, policies, programmes and projects. But such a

tendency is clearly different here.

Secondly, policymakers must admit the fact that our children enjoy the right to education as recognised by a number of international conventions, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which recognizes a compulsory primary education for all, an obligation to develop secondary education accessible to all, as well as progressive introduction of free higher education/obligation to develop equitable access to higher education.

The nation must stop playing 'casino' with funding of the sector and in its place, come to the realisation that it is our collective responsibility to ensure that our schools work and our children are properly educated at the right time and place.

As to closing the nation's revolving underdevelopment door, there is an urgent need to rework the university system to meet manpower demands by the industrial sector as a strategic consequence of this failure has made Nigerian universities and other tertiary institutions in the country continue to turn out, every year several thousands of graduates that the industry do not need. This is made worse by the fact that here is a nation where uncalculated importance is attached to the possession of university degrees as against possession of skills necessary for self-reliance and national development.

***** Jerome-Mario Utomi, Utomi is the Programme Coordinator (Media and Public Policy), Social and Economic Justice Advocacy.**

Nigerian media: Last estate standing

By TOLA ADENIYI

SAY what you like, but for the Nigerian media, those who were hell-bent on destroying the country would have succeeded a long time ago. It was the design of the destroyers, right from the inception of the so-called amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria, not to allow the peaceful and all-trusting indigenous inhabitants of the space now called Nigeria to have a future.

We are again in the season of thoughtless rituals when we celebrate the flag-and-paper independence given to us by brutish British colonial masters who had planted inescapable land-mines with rigged population census figures, rigged parliamentary elections and irredeemably screwed regional boundaries before the take-off.

Thank goodness, we are still breathing; which is about the only commodity left, due largely to the heroic activities of the press before, during, and ever since the so-called deceptive independence. Every civilised community normally thrives on four inter-dependent pillars of governance: the Executive, Legislature, Judiciary and the Watchdog which ensures checks-and-balances so that none of the first three would lose its head and run amok.

The term 'Fourth Estate of the Realm', a descriptive term for the press, is almost unanimously agreed to have been coined by Edmund Burke, a 19th Century British statesman and orator, who championed many human rights causes and brought attention to them through his eloquent speeches.

The role of the mass media as the "fourth estate" of the realm implies that the media is also a lawmaker in itself. In addition to its core functions as informer, educator, entertainer, advertiser, critic and influencer, the media is supposed to be an agenda setter through its editorialising of opinions. A paper's editorial is sometimes called 'leader' because of its powerful role of setting alternative agenda for the state.

During the medieval era, the fourth

estate was also referred to as the press because the press was the only prevalent form of media prior to the coming of television and radio.

"Though the media and press have a persuasive authority, yet their ability is not a secret to the world. The existence of a free, independent and powerful media is the cornerstone of a democracy, especially of a highly mixed society like India. The pivotal role of the media is its ability to mobilise the thinking process of millions" says Prabhat Ranjan.

The Nigerian media has lived up to its reputation and, as mentioned inter-alia, it has been performing its role creditably long before Independence and throughout the unforgettable interregnum of the jackboot.

Nigerians will never forget the role of the media in confronting and stopping the obnoxious Anglo-Nigerian Defence Pact stoutly opposed by the valiant Nigerian Students of the 1960s; the quartet of Rasaki Solaja, Julius Adelusi-Adeluyi, Hayford Alile, Dapo Falase and Co. Nigerians will never forget "If you Tarka me, I'll Daboh you" and "Laup Ongonu Minister of Steel shall steel no more" captions and articles that forced ministers out of the cabinet. Or the provocative columns, "Let Me Fall" and "May We Never See It Again" [Daily Times, 1974], which saw Gowon tumbling down less than six months after!

When the press was chased off the streets by military juntas, especially in the infamous period between 1993 and 1998, the media led by the Osifo-Whiskys and Onanugas moved their operational bases to the jungle and perfected what was known as 'Guerrilla journalism,' while Radio Kudirat sited its operational base on the Moon!

With all the courageous activities of the legendary NADECO forces, it was the media that announced and popularised their yeoman activities to the world and made Nigeria ungovernable for the Google.

I cannot and should not attempt to list the media heroes of that era, or indeed

the media heroes of all time in Nigeria, simply because they were/are numerous and secondly, one is bound to inadvertently leave some big players unmentioned. Suffice it to say that they know themselves, Nigeria remembers them and of course, the God they serve recognises them. And posterity applauds them.

Let me say with all modesty that my pedigree qualifies me to appreciate which medium is good and which one is not up to its billings. Having worked at the very top level of some media establishments as Executive Chairman, Proprietor, Editor-in-Chief, as Features Editor, Columnist, Investigations/Reviews Editor and Chief Correspondent not only in Nigeria but also in Britain, the US and Canada, I feel confident that the Nigerian media stands tall in the comity of media industries throughout the world. The informed Editorials and columns dished out by Nigerian Journalists over the years can hardly be beaten by any Journalist anywhere in the world, especially in their thoughtfulness and the robustness of their argument and scholarship.

Forget the so-called free press in the so-called free world. It is all hype, exhibition of uninhibited racism, profiling, propaganda, irreverent and hedonistic social values, severe self- and governmental censorship, hero-worshipping and always towing government line.

Back to Nigeria, a country in the throes of death, for about 23 years since it was fed with pretensions of democracy, Nigeria has been kept under lock and key by 'misrulers' who like to deceive themselves that they were and now practising democracy where the mandatory doctrine of separation of powers exists.

There was no pretence in the first 8-years of the experiment of democratic rule. It was merely the donning of agbada robes over starched khaki and jackboots. It was almost a full-blown

military dictatorship where towns and communities were sacked at the command of the President without resort to the legislature or the judiciary. It was the media that exposed the Ghana-Must-Go bags stuffed with US dollars for the purchase of a notorious 3rd Term.

It was the Nigerian media that put paid to one man's ambition to keep Nigeria under his armpit 'for life!' The legislature and the judiciary went to sleep when another President was gasping for life far away in Saudi Arabia or God knows where. The media was the only estate standing. But for the media, the dead, like the shrouded spirit of the Yoruba Egungun pantheon, would have been left to rule Nigeria ad infinitum.

It was the Nigerian media that rescued the country from the jaws of naira-eating predators under the cover of a huge umbrella, which ravaged the country for four and half good years under the blindfolded watch of the legislature and the judiciary.

Regrettably though, and here was a huge minus, the media colluded with comen and con-women to impose a 'See-nothing-hear-nothing-and-say-nothing' absolute ruler with draconian decrees on the country, as an alternative.

Nigerians must thank God that the media, immediately thereafter, woke up from their slumber and recovered their senses and have since resumed their watch-dog role in the face of the absentee executive, absentee legislature (recently chased out of Abuja by imported terrorists) and absentee judiciary (until recently headed by a Sharia-bag carrying messenger of the gods). I didn't say vulture.

In the last seven years there have been a relentless war on the Nigerian economy, security, education, ancestral lands and waters by a single individual who had commandeered the three Estates of the Realm and collapsed them under his boots.

Never in the chequered history of Nigeria has there been one man who

bestrides the landscape of the country with absolute disregard, scorn and arrogant condescension as we are currently witnessing. Never in the history of Nigeria has there been a ruler who is hardly seen by even his own appointed ministers nor a country where the ruler does not know and cannot recognise the faces of some members of his cabinet.

But for the media, we would not have known that the ruler while on a visit to Cairo, invited terrorists all over Africa to descend on Nigeria and proclaim the hapless country their own. It is the media that allowed us to know that the ruler harbours internationally acclaimed terrorists in his cabinet.

It is the Nigeria Media, the last Estate Standing, which has made it possible for Nigerians and the entire world to be aware of the systemic pogrom and ethnic cleansing which has virtually swallowed up the entire country. It is gratifying that regardless of the shenanigans of the Enablers of Terrorism, the whole world through various Embassies, High Commissions, International Agencies and sundry Representatives as well as foreign media correspondents domiciled in Nigeria have enough dossier that would be used in the fullness of time.

It is the same media that made Nigerians to know that rats, rodents and snakes feed on billions of dollars in Buhari's Nigeria. There is no criminality committed by governments that has not been exposed by the media. Nigerians everywhere in the country are aware of everything going on and they may appear seemingly helpless, but they are very conscious and prayerful for the imminent implosion.

If not for the courage, steadfastness, investigative skills and relentlessness of the Nigerian media, those who set out to ruin the country and hand over the ancestral lands to their kith and kin would have succeeded in their insidious agenda of mass annihilation.

Change of Name

MARIAM	NAOMI	COMFORT	YOHANNA	DUNGUS	YUWA
I, formerly known as MARIAM PUNGNI IBRAHIM , now wish to be known and addressed as MARIAM PUNGNI AJAYI (MRS) . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as NAOMI YUSUF , now wish to be known and addressed as NAOMI SELKAP DASHE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as EWEH ALEE COMFORT , now wish to be known and addressed as COMFORT SILAS-OKUOFU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as BITRUS CHOMO SAMSON , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA CHOMO BITRUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ALLAH YAKAWO SHEDRACK MAIKUDI , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNGUS MAIKUDI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as OKORUWA PRISCILLA ANAIVEREN , now wish to be known and addressed as YUWA - OKORUWA PRISCILLA ANAIVEREN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
AISHATU	ADBULRAHEEM	MANGKAM	YOHANNA	LONGJEL	BLESSING
I, formerly known as AISHATU MOHAMMED ZAKARI , now wish to be known and addressed as AISHATU ZAKARI HALADU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ADBULRAHEEM SADIQ SURAJO , now wish to be known and addressed as ADBULRAHEEM SADIQ . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MANGKAM RHODA KACHOLLOM , now wish to be known and addressed as MANGKAM KACHOLLOM PAUL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DUGUZA MAILALE , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA MAILALE DUGUZA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as LONGJEL JOHN AMOS , now wish to be known and addressed as LONGJEL LONGNAN JOHN . Correct date of birth 28/11/2001 not 4/11/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as SUNDAY ACHIBU AWAHARAJAH , now wish to be known and addressed as BLESSING SUNDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
OLANIYI	AFOLABI	AYINA	SHEL BUT	MUHAMMAD	NANCY
I, formerly known as OLANIYI EZEKIEL PRAISE , now wish to be known and addressed as OLANIYI EZEKIEL OLUWADAMILARE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as AFOLABI ZAKARIA , now wish to be known and addressed as AFOLABI ZAKARIA OLANIYAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as AINA KENNETH ACHAM , now wish to be known and addressed as AYINA KENNETH ACHAM . Correct date of birth 20/8/2002 not 20/8/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as WILLIAM MAMICIT SHEL BUT , now wish to be known and addressed as SHEL BUT MAMICIT MAGANI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as BABA KHADIJAT MUHAMMAD , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD KHADIJAH BABA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS NANCY NANSUK YAKUBU , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS NANCY SAMSON PHILIBUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
UDE	NIMFAK	YARLING	ABBAS	SUNDAY	YUNUSA
I, formerly known as CHUKWUEMEKA CHARITY IFEY , now wish to be known and addressed as UDE CHARITY IFEYINWA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as TANTI LOHDAK NIMFAT , now wish to be known and addressed as NIMFAK LOHDAK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as YARLING VONGMA , now wish to be known and addressed as YARLING VENDEP VONGMAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ABBAS RABIU , now wish to be known and addressed as ABBAS RABIU ABDULLAHI . Correct date of birth 05/05/1999 not 01/01/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as SUNDAY KATVIL , now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY KATVIL DAWAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as YUNUSA ISMAILA LAMBA , now wish to be known and addressed as YUNUSA ISMAILA ABDULLAHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
DANGANA	AKUBEN	DACHOMO	JULIANA	CHRISTOPHER	DABONG
I, formerly known as MUSA GRACE , now wish to be known and addressed as DANGANA GRACE MOSES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ANITA RAWAYA , now wish to be known and addressed as AKUBEN ANITA RAWAYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as EMMANUEL BWEDE , now wish to be known and addressed as DACHOMO EMMANUEL BWEDE . Correct date of birth is 20/11/1976 not 20/11/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as JULIANA EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as JULIANA BITRUS SHUT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as CHRISTOPHER KARGWAK PYENNAR , now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTOPHER KARGWAK MONDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as MOHRRET PRINKA , now wish to be known and addressed as DABONG MOHORRET PRINKA . Correct date of birth is 8/2/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
KUMWEN	SALEH	OTETAH	RABIATU	PUBLIC NOTICE	
I, formerly known as KLINGWUM NANDI SALEH , now wish to be known and addressed as KUMWEN NANDI EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as SALEH MUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as SALEH MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as IDUH CECILIA ENE , now wish to be known and addressed as OTETAH CECILIA FAITH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as RABIATU YAKUBU , now wish to be known and addressed as RABIATU YAKUBU MUSA . Correct date of birth is 19-7-1977 not 17-3-1976. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	OGANIRU SOCIAL WELFARE CLUB OF JOS	
KUNGPAT	KALLA	KHAMIS	LYDIA	This is to inform the general public that the above named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). Abuja for registration Under Part "C" of Companies and Allied Matter's Act, 2020.	
I, formerly known as KUNGPAT JANTIM MARTINS , now wish to be known and addressed as KUNGPAT JANYIM MARSTINS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as ISIAKU MUSA KALLAH , now wish to be known and addressed as KALLA ISHAQ MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as DAWAKI KAMIS INWA , now wish to be known and addressed as KHAMIS INWA DAWAKI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as LYDIA ABIMIKU , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. LYDIA PATIENCE NAMO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	THE TRUSTEES ARE:	
EKE	USMAN	PUBLIC NOTICE			
I, formerly known as EKE ESTHER QUEEN , now wish to be known and addressed as EKE QUEEN NNEKA . My correct date of birth is 17/04/1994 not 17/04/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as USMAN ANAS , now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN ANAS HASSAN . My correct date of birth is 6/12/1996 not 22/12/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	OMENYAGWUWA PROGRESSIVE CLUB			
PUBLIC NOTICE		This is to inform the general public that the above named Club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). Abuja for registration Under Part "C" of Companies and Allied Matter's Act, 2020.			
GROUND OF GLORY INT'L HEALING AND DELIVERANCE MINISTRY		THE TRUSTEES ARE:			
This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). Abuja for registration Under Part "C" of Companies and Allied Matter's Act, 2020.		1. Mohammed Abdulkareem Onoruoyiza -Chairman 2. Omananyi Ibrahim Suleiman Lex -Secretary 3. Jimoh Yahaya Eneji -Trustee 4. Ibrahim Nasiru Onimisi -Trustee 5. Saeed Faruk Itopa -Trustee			
LIST OF TRUSTEES		AIMS AND OBJECTIVES			
1. Pst James Audu Ijamu 2. Mr. Emmanuel I. Ijamu 3. Mrs. Lucy James 4. Mrs. Josphephine Peter 5. Mr. Francis Ogbu 6. Philip Onuh Ijamu 7. Joseph Emoekpere 8. Jeremiah Adah Oyi 9. Sunday James Ojorungba		1. To foster and encourage the spirit of oneness and companionship among members and between the club and other friendly associations 2. To provide for and engage in acts of philanthropy in favour of the needy members of the society at large 3. To act as a forum for discussing matters affecting the progress and well-being of members, their families and communities 4. To unite members in the bond of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding			
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES		PUBLIC NOTICE			
1. To Deliver and lead people to Christ as the only way to salvation 2. To Equip people to fulfil their divine destiny in life. Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar, General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication		EXPRESS IMAGE OF CHRIST CHURCH			
SIGNED: SECRETARY		This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). Abuja for registration Under Part "C" of Companies and Allied Matter's Act, 2020.			
SIGNED: SECRETARY		LIST OF TRUSTEES			
SIGNED: SECRETARY		1. Pastor Andrew Onoja 2. Theophilus Abete 3. Rev. Mike Ogbh 4. Bar. Edwin Abel Onoja 5. Mrs. Rejoice Onoja 6. Demort Kubua			
SIGNED: SECRETARY		AIMS AND OBJECTIVES			
SIGNED: SECRETARY		1. To raise children of God into full consciousness of their identity in christ.. 2. To teach believers the truth of God's Word so their hearts are established in God's grace. 3. To make converts and disciple them with other believers. 4. To reach out to immediate community, the Nation and the World with the world of his grace through the media, book publishing, support services and other relevant avenues. Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar, General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication			
SIGNED: SECRETARY		SIGNED: DEMORT KUBUA (SECRETARY)			

News

Lalong eulogises Gbong Gwom Jos, SGS on birthdays

By PALANG KASMI

Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State has described the Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba as a Key peace figure in the state, Northern region and entire country.

The Governor has also hailed the Secretary to the Government of the State (SGS), Prof. Danladi Atu on his 63rd birthday describing him as the engine room of his rescue administration.

Lalong gave the birthday felicitations on Monday in separate statements.

He said, the Gbong Gwom who is also the Chairman of the Plateau State Council of Chiefs and Emirs is a revered monarch that has played a key role in promoting peace, diversity and the culture of the State and its people.

"As Member of the Plateau State Security Council, you have brought enormous experience and wise counsel from your background as former Comptroller General of Customs in assisting the State deal with many security challenges".

"As a Royal Father, you have equally used your position as one of the key figures within the Northern Traditional Council to reach out and synergise with your counterparts in other parts of the country towards promoting peace, security, good governance and



Lalong

harmony".

The Governor wished him good health, long life and God's protection as he continues to serve the people and work for the good of humanity.

In his eulogy to SGS Atu, Lalong appreciated the key administrative and supportive role he is playing in his administration and wished him good health.

He commended him for using his vast experience as a teacher, administrator and politician to serve the State and Nigeria with total commitment and loyalty.

"You are a reliable and committed person who has

continued to organise the engine room of Government and ensure that the Rescue Administration delivers on its mandate".

"I celebrate you for continuously mentoring the younger generation in the act of service and politics thereby making it possible for them to aspire to serve in various capacities and also contribute to the development of the State", the Governor said.

While wishing him God's blessings, protection and good health in the statement, Lalong urged him to continue to remain committed to serving the State and Nigeria at all times.

Nigeria Customs Service, Federal Operations Unit, Zone "D" Bauchi has successfully seized contrabands worth over N200 million from August to date.

This revelation was made public by the Public Relations Officer, NCS, FOU, Bauchi, Mallam Umar Abdullahi, in a press release signed and made available to journalists in Bauchi on Monday where he stated that the Federal Operation Unit comprises of Bauchi, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Borno, Plateau, Benue, Gombe, and Nasarawa States; with headquarters in Bauchi.

He said that some of the items seized include: 542 bags of 50 kilogrammes of foreign parboiled rice, four sacks containing 165 kilogrammes of pangolin shells, 487 bags of Urea fertilizer and 250 cartons of foreign spaghetti.

Others are 191 bales of second-hand clothing, 110 Jerrycans of Petroleum Motor Spirit popularly

NCS seizes N200M contraband goods

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

known as petrol, 70 cartons of foreign soaps, 32 Jerrycans of 25 litres of Kerosine, 130 Jerry Cans of 20 litres of engine oil and 10 bags of dried donkey skins.

The Zone's spokesman said that no fewer than seven vehicles of different brands used in conveying the prohibited items were also seized by the operatives of the Service, adding that the actions of the Customs operatives are in line with the provisions of Section 8 and Section 158 (Power to Patrol Freely) of Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) Cap C45 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 as amended.

He added that the unprecedented seizures within this short period were achieved as a result of sharing of information, intelligence gathering and

doggedness of the Officers and Men of the federal Operations Unit Zone D in making the zone unbearable for smugglers.

"Let me use this medium to plead with well-meaning Nigerians to assist in providing genuine information that could aid in eradicating the menace of smuggling in the zone and the country at large. They have to know that eradicating smuggling in this country will boost the economy which will make the Federal Government provide social amenities to the citizenry" he said

The NCS Spokesman warned smugglers to repent from their criminal activities because the Federal Operations Unit of the Nigeria Customs Service, Zone 'D' under the able leadership of the Comptroller, Musa Ibrahim Jalo, will not relent in its efforts at ridding the zone of smugglers.

Butura killings: "Fish out killers"

By PALANG KASMI

Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has ordered security forces to immediately fish out marauders that attacked

Butura communities in Bokkos Local Government Area (LGA) leading to loss of lives.

The governor in a statement Monday said the heinous acts of the perpetrators must not be left to go unpunished.

"Confront the attackers threatening the lives of people in villages around Bokkos LGA," he said in the statement.

He described the recent spate of attacks on some villages leading to loss of lives as unacceptable.

He said: "The attackers must be fished out and not allowed to go unpunished".

The NIGERIA STANDARD reports that on Saturday 8th October 2022, gunmen attacked Kuliya Village in Butura, Bokkos LGA killing 4 persons including the village head.

The incident is coming after other reported isolated killings

"Lalong

in other villages of Follo, Karara, Bokkos, and Mangor as well as the kidnap of some students at All Nation's Academy who were eventually rescued by security forces.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, the Governor used the forum to commend security forces whose combined efforts together with Vigilante and Hunter Groups led to the rescue of 10 persons kidnapped by bandits in Bashar, Wase Local Government.

He praised the prompt action of the Police, Operation Safe Haven and Community Watch Groups who gave the hoodlums a hot chase and ensured that all the kidnapped persons and other stolen items were recovered.

PCN seals 311 pharmacies, medicine shops in Kogi

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN) said it had sealed a total of 311 premises comprising 15 pharmacies and 296 patent medicines' shops (PMS) for breaching its guidelines and regulations in Kogi State. Pharm Stephen Esumobi, Director and Head of Enforcement Department, PCN, disclosed this at a press conference on Sunday in Lokoja. Esumobi noted that the PCN enforcement team had been in Kogi for some days as part of efforts to streamline the drug distribution system. "It was observed that so many premises in Kogi State still operate in breach of regulations. "These premises operate without registration with PCN while others have failed to renew their premises licence. "At the end of the exercise, a total of 390 premises were visited, which comprises 342 Patent Medicines' Shops (PMS) and 48 Pharmacies. "A total of 311 premises were

sealed, comprising 15 pharmacies and 296 patent medicines shops. "A total of two compliance directives were issued while three patent medicine vendors were arrested for breaking PCN seals," Esumobi said. He stressed that the premises were sealed for operating without registration or renewal of premises certificates, unauthorized sale of performance enhancing drugs and medicines of abuse, poor access control to the Poison Cupboards, among others. He emphasised that the PCN guidelines and regulations were designed to ensure that stakeholders continue to meet the required standards of practice in their operations in line with global best practices. He assured that the PCN would step up its enforcement activities to ensure that medicines remain safe, effective and of good quality as they move from one level of the distribution chain to the consumers. "All licensed premises are required to renew their licences on or before 31st January every year and it is an offence for any premises

to operate without registration or renewal of their premises certificates," he said. Esumobi advised the public to source all drug needs from registered and currently licensed pharmacies and Over-the-Counter medicines from registered Patent Medicine Shops. He thanked the Ministry of Health, the Nigeria Security

and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the Nigeria Police, Department of State Services (DSS) and the media for their continuous collaboration with the PCN. Our correspondent reports that PCN is the Federal Government parastatal charged with the responsibility of regulating the education, training and practice of pharmacy in all its aspects and ramification.

NSUK alumni swears-in new exco

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

THE Nasarawa State University Alumni Association has sworn in new exco to pilot the affairs of the association in the next three years.

The inauguration which took place at the University Assembly Hall was witnessed by the NSUK alumni members.

In a goodwill message, a member of the alumni BOT, Barr. Nuhu Egya, stressed that in every race, there must be a winner, as such all that contested should endeavour to exhibit the spirit of sportsmanship so as to build a peaceful and united association for their collective betterment.

Egya then urged the institution's management to increase the alumni dues, from 2,000 for undergraduates to 5,000,

while 5,000 of postgraduates students to 10,000, respectively to enable the association address most of its financial challenges.

Earlier, the President of the Alumni Association, Mustapha Isa expressed his gratitude for another opportunity given to him to lead the affairs of the alumni in the next three years and pledged his determination to do his best in order to justify the confidence reposed on him and other exco members of the association.

Mustapha Isa who was reelected after completing his first term will manage the affairs of NSUK alumni for another three years.

Those inaugurated as new exco are: Mustapha Isa President, Comr. Sani Omarku, Vice President, Emmanuel Akolo General Secretary, Joy Firi Usaini, Financial secretary. Others include Hauwa

Muhammad Auditor I, Umale secretary, Shuaibu Bashir Kaka, Treasurer, Hon. Assistant General Secretary Shuaibu Muhammad as PRO, and Barr. Moses Egyazo as Legal Adviser.



Sule

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

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Naomi Santos Ding late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th March, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Santos Benjamin Ding of Behind FT. 2 Atu Street Fudawa Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Gogwim James Dakom late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th January, 2022 at Nemel Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	Jidantok James of Bongah Kanke LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	John Dapo Oladosu late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th September, 2021 at Maranatha Clinic Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Abraham John of No. 48 'A' Ammah Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Bala Titi late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st May, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Izang Emmanuel of ECWA Church Nabor Gwong Jos, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Simon Omale Ogalekwu late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th June, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Omale Friday Joseph Zarmaganda Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Atawu Ajina Jonah late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th May, 2022 at Bassa, Bassa LGA, Plateau State.	Annah Emmanuel & Itara Titus Ajinah of ECWA Egbak Akoh Bassa LGA, Plateau State. The lawful grandson/son of the said deceased.
Gomwai Patrick Dungrit late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th August, 2022 at Amper, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	Bawa Ezra Danladi of Mado Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Nyango Joshua late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th December, 2011 at Vom, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Nyango Bitrus Joshua of Turu Dakumpyam Vwang District Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Lydia Murabkyes Frebbak late of Plateau State. Died on the 11th June, 2022 at PSSH, Jos.	Tat Catherine Isaac of Salem Baptist Church Mangu LGA, Plateau State. The lawful daughter of the said deceased.
Hassan Maigida Yunusa late of Kogi State. Died on the 3rd July, 2022 at Imane Olamaboro, Kogi State.	Nasiru Hassan Yunusa No, 12 Giginya Road Costain Quarters Kaduna State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Midah William late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th August, 2022 at Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	William Baksen of COCIN Church Amper Kanke LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Akushai Abigail late of Plateau State. Died on the 20th June, 2022 at Toff-Tudu, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State.	Catherine Thomas Samuel & Akoh Hannatu Jonah of COCIN Church LCC Toghomhol Mangu LGA, Plateau state. The lawful daughters of the said deceased.
Agatha Laakwap late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th September, 2019 at Jos, Plateau State.	Marcellinus Laakwap Ari of Abattoir Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Ropshikkah Dakom Okhe late of Plateau State. Died on the 31st August, 2021 at Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	Danjuma Shikrot Dakom of COCIN Zampet Kanke LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Isaac Oyebamiji late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th February, 2022 at USA, Minesota State.	Olutoyin Adetoun Oyebamiji of Ewagul Opp. ITF Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow of the said deceased.
Nengyi Fidelis Kassam also known as Kassem Fidelis Joseph late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th April, 2019 at Faith Alive Hospital, Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Kassem Nentawe Fidelis & Goladi Clifford of St. Donatus Catholic Church Wokkos Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brothers/son of the said deceased.	Abdullahi Eshimutu late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th August, 2022 at Makera Riyom LGA, Plateau state.	Aisha Musa & Sandra Abdullahi CTU Barrack Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widows of the said deceased.	Gagara Abu Haruna late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th June, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Bangkat Abu Gagara Nanchit Abu off No. 5 Peace Drive Rayfield. The lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.
Inuwa Emmanuel Vurak late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th September, 2022 at General Hospital, Dengi Kanam LGA, Plateau State.	Ebenezer Emmanuel of ECWA Church Gidgid Kanam LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Haruna Isa late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th June, 2021 at Dengi, Kanam LGA, Plateau State.	Isah Haruna Munkal of Angulu Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Joseph Ocha Takim late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th July, 2017 at Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital.	Richard Joseph of Rahwol Kanang Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
Bulus Dalyop Pam late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th April, 2022 at Gassa, Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State.	Dalyop Sunday Bulus of Gassa Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Emmanuel Ngamefula Omi late of Imo State. Died on the 27th July, 2014 at Enugu, Imo State.	Elendu Kevin Paul of St. Augustine Major Seminary Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful friend of the said deceased.	Chung Tija Tija late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th March, 2016 at Gwantu, Kaduna State.	Chung Tijah Manjel & Lucky Chung Tijah of Nyango Gyel Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful sons of the said deceased.
Bitrus Itse Izam late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th July, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Bitrus Ladi Kachollom & Bitrus Adawa, Atang Emmanuel of NESCO Quarters Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	Signed (ANDRWAUS MAIKAI) AG: PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS		Kaze Joseph late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th August, 2022 at Gwafan Lamingo Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Emmanuel Kaze Joseph of Gwafan Lamingo, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.



By JENNIFER YARIMA

THERE are certain professions that bring one in close contact with realities of what victims or survivors experience before others get the details. They mostly get first hand information by either witnessing incidences at the scene of occurrence or they are given narration by eye witnesses or survivors themselves. This looks attractive from outside because the public relies on the outcome of findings to be better informed. Some of these categories of people are health personnel, security agencies, Psychologists and Journalists etc.

Recently, yours sincerely was attracted to a lecture I keenly listened to online which highlighted the trauma journalists who report gender based violence go through as

they discharge their lawful duties. It's so good to keep the public well informed about certain things that are happening in the society, but no one understand the stress and pressure you undergo for the celebrated stories. That is to say that one should be mindful not to allow himself to be overworked.

The mental state of someone's well being is necessary towards achieving greater feat in everything one does in life. Health, welfare and emotional stability of the journalist need to be given attention to enable one does the work with ease. Every journalist should endeavor to make regular medical checkup a priority. This if done will help in understanding one's status to enable such a person work within specification. Don't be deceived by the remarks of people who term you a super person, the work is a thankless job. So go slowly and carefully.

Certain stories no doubt get one to think uncontrollably around the event. It didn't happen to you directly but because of your experience, you start thinking differently. It was interesting to note that it's not a weakness for one to say no to a story if your emotion is not strong enough to carry you through. The challenge here is that a reporter is mostly assigned to a bit or instructed to report an incident. This therefore means that in most cases; it's not optional but a must do work.

In journalism profession, the

significance of dateline need not be over emphasized because the editor gives the timeline that certain stories should be given due consideration for publication or to be aired depending on the medium where one works. This development entails that at

Relevance of mental health for journalists

certain times, one must work under pressure to meet up these datelines. The biggest question however is; what stories get you traumatic?

One is reminded of the much celebrated photojournalists Kevin Carter, whose fame in photography earned him a Pulitzer Prize award that he was globally recognized but it did not go down well with him at the end because he ended up killing himself as a result of the traumatic experience of his work. The agony of the photojournalist emanated when he reported the severe famine in Sudan where many lives were lost and many people struggled for survival.

While covering events that unfolded then, one of his best shots captured by New York Times on March 26, 1993 captured a vulture waiting for a starving Sudanese girl to die and feast on her carcass. He was celebrated on major news channels and networks world for such an exceptional photographic skill. The readers' reactions were intense and not positive. Some people said the photographer



who took the photo was inhumane. That he should have dropped the camera to run to the little girl's aid.

The interesting thing about journalism and the society is the fact that negative stories are best sellers for the public than any other. That of course was probably the driving force that diverted the humanity of Kevin than the thought of rendering immediate help. His depression started when during one of his interviews which he granted, someone asked him what happened to the child, Kevin replied that he didn't find out after the photograph because as he had a flight to catch. They replied him that there were two vultures on that day, one had a camera.

His constant thought of that statement and the gory images he saw almost on daily basis turned out that it took its toll in Carter's case fatally. Carter grew up in South Africa during apartheid; he became a photojournalist because he felt he needed to document the sickening treatment not only of the blacks by whites but

between black ethnic groups as well like those of Xhosas and Zulus.

In a few years, he saw countless murders from beatings, stabbings, gunshots and neck lacing, a barbaric practice in which a tyre filled with oil is placed around the victim's neck and lit on fire. It was evident that even if he had offered to help, the armed Sudanese soldiers wouldn't have allowed him. He talked about the guilt of the people he couldn't save because he photographed them as they were being killed.

To avoid trauma that comes with the stress of the work, experts have suggested some therapy to keep one on the job relevant. You need to know your limit or how far you can go. Disconnect from your normal schedules and do what works for you. Talking to a confidant is a healing balm, sharing your problem with a loved one matters a lot. Of course good time to hang out and have proper rest is of essence.

Celebrating yourself and the work you are doing gives you reason to keep on.



By KENNETH DARENG

JUST in a period of one and half years, four West African countries have witnessed five military coups in Chad, Mali, Guinea and the latest in Burkina-Faso which had two coups in a spade of nine months.

In 2021, Chad recorded a coup following the death of its long time ruler, President Idriss Derby, was succeeded by his son General Mahamat Idriss Itno.

The same year in Mali, a coup was led by the then vice-president Assimi Goita. While in neighbouring Guinea, also in 2021, President Alpha Conde after hours of gunfire, was ousted by the military junta and was replaced by Col. Mamady Doumbouya as Head of State.

West African coups: Has ECOWAS lost its sting?

Early this year, 2022, in Burkina-Faso, the elected Government of President Roch Christian Kabore was overthrown by Col. Paul-Henry Sandaogo Damiba who had barely spend eight months as Transition President was sacked by yet another junta headed by a 34 year old Captain Ibrahim Traore.

The usual excuses given by the juntas were those of incompetence in containing security, corruption and lack of basic social amenities and so on.

However, there is a great cause to worry as these rampant change of democratically elected Governments within the sub region by military juntas is now becoming an acceptable new normal just in the very eyes of the regional power bloc such as the Economic Community of west African states [ECOWAS, has in the wake of these military misadventure remained a mere toothless Bull dog.

Beyond the ECOWAS issuing statements condemning the coups and making fruitless and cosmetic diplomatic shuttles to the affected countries, nothing has been achieved to reverse

those military actions. I know that even in the usual use of diplomatic courtesies, and when such also fails, other military options can be exploited by the regional body to speak to these coupists in a clear language they would understand.

And as simply put by a columnist; [conversation with Azu, Leadership Friday, 07.10.22]," Times have changed. But it is fair to say that the sort of nonsense that happened in Ouagadougou and elsewhere, might have been unlikely when the class of President Olusegun Obasanjo was in power 20 years ago.

"The mice can now play because Africa's cats have lost their felinity. In 2003 when President Fradique de Menezes was visiting Abuja and a military band in his country of Sao Tome and Principe announced the overthrow of his Government, Obasanjo stepped up. He did not wait for orders to act.

"He simply returned to Sao Tome with the embattled de Menezes in a Nigerian aircraft, asked the thugs to stand down and reinstated the elected President. Nigeria's current leader, President Muhammadu

Buhari also rallied regional leaders of ECOWAS to shoo away Yahya Jammeh in 2017 when he tried to play games when he was defeated in the Gambian election.

"But after Banjul, Buhari, like other regional leaders, almost overcome by insurgency at his door step has gone soft. The shuttle diplomacy by ECOWAS since Mali fell to the soldiers almost two years ago and with the subsequent military incursions in some west African countries, has only produced talks and more talks. Consequences, the only language bullies understand, has been conspicuously missing."

The greater danger now is not what is missing, but also what is filling the gap. Unfortunately, most of the civilian population do not understand the dynamics of the juntas who ride to power at any slightest public outrage in order to stage coup.

Again the failure by the populace to demand for accountability from their elected leaders often ends in betrayal of trust especially by the political class. And as soon as the soldiers realized that the people have been pushed to

the wall and do not care who leads them to secure a better life line, they strike with such excuses even when they do not have the already made solutions to the problems.

History has shown that military regimes only come to proffer only first aid measures and before the same hailer realize, they only take care of just the interests of a few elements through primitive accumulation of wealth.

It is time for ECOWAS to take its rightful position as a power bloc in the region to regard this band of soldiers that they are as the same with bandits, and terrorists using the barrels of the gun to commit treason against the state or else, they may be setting a bad precedence that may overwhelm them collectively.

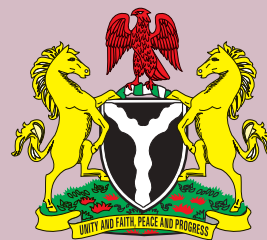
ECOWAS on the other hand, should order these young misled officers parading themselves as rulers to go back to the barracks, and by sending a strong warning to potential coup plotters that the worst civilian Government is better than any military regime which is no longer fashionable globally and by extension it is an aberration that cannot be accepted in whatever guise they call it.



Congratulations

To Our Dear

Governor



On behalf of the management and staff of Mikang Local Government Council, I Wish to felicitate with His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong**, Executive Governor Plateau State and Chairman Northern Governor's Forum on your conferment of the National Merit of Honours of the Commander of the Order of the Niger, (CON) by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR.**

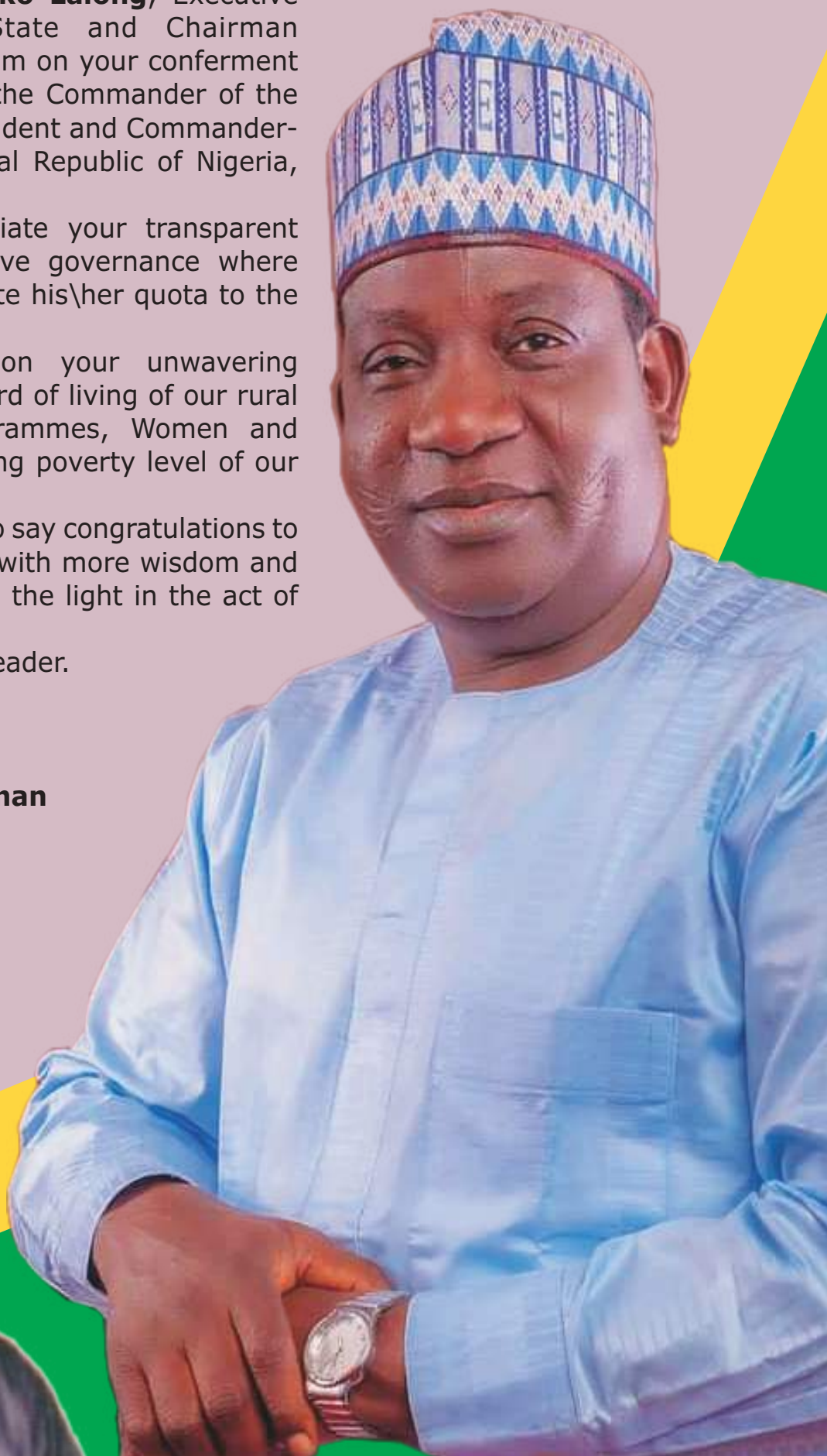
Your Excellency, we highly appreciate your transparent conduct of state affairs and inclusive governance where everyone is carried along to contribute his\her quota to the development of our dear state.

We cannot thank you enough on your unwavering commitment in improving the standard of living of our rural communities through various programmes, Women and Youth empowerment, thereby reducing poverty level of our people.

We joint all well-meaning Nigerians to say congratulations to you and we pray God to shower you with more wisdom and good health as you continue to show the light in the act of good governance.

Once more congratulations our dear leader.

Signed:
Austin Bako
Executive Chairman
Mikang LGC



IMAGES

NATIONAL TROUPE OF NIGERIA PRESENTS ECHOES OF DRUMS

The National Troupe of Nigeria, a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture recently presented *Echoes of the Drums*, a play written by Ola Awakan and directed by Mike Anyanwu at Agip Hall, Muson Center, Lagos State



Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed, Artistic, Director/CEO, National Troupe of Nigeria (left) putting heads together with the reps of the Minister, Information and Culture, Hon. Bunmi Amao, DG, CBAAC



NTN drummers entertaining dignitaries at the occasion



National Troupe of Nigeria performing at the ceremony



A cross section of the National Troupe of Nigeria at the Echoes of Drums presentation



Artistic, Director/Chief Executive Officer of National Troupe of Nigeria, Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed (right) with Consul General of Spain in Lagos, Nigeria



Some of the Troupes dressed in hausa traditional attire performing at the ceremony



Hon. Bunmi Amao, (2nd left) DG, Centre for Black and African Arts Civilization (2nd left) delivering the Minister, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, flanked by other invited dignitaries



AD/CEO, NTN, Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed, DG, CBAAC, Hon. Bunmi Amao who stood in for the Minister, Information and Culture with other VIPs at the ceremony in a group photograph

Photos: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT, NATIONAL TROUPE OF NIGERIA, LAGOS

Odd World

'My kids don't wear shoes, don't judge me'

WHEN it comes to raising her two children, Alex Tucker is the first to admit her techniques are far from conventional. The 25-year-old and her boyfriend Paul have been criticised for many of their decisions about bringing up Berkley, two, and Freya, one.

The couple don't use prams or high chairs, and won't let the two children wear shoes. They've also decided not to teach them how to swim, even though they live by the water.

However, the couple claim their controversial choices fit in with their rural lives and urge people not to judge their lifestyle.

Alex's children don't go to day-care and she instead takes them to work with her. Sometimes the couple even sack off going to work to look after the little ones.

The rural mum refuses to teach her children to swim, despite living on the waterfront, and they both roam around their land barefoot.

Alex shared her rules online, and has since received plenty of criticism from other parents, with one commenting that social services should be called.

Despite the backlash, she's defended her position by claiming shoes distort feet shape and prams and high chairs are not essential to their way of living.

Defending her choice not to give them swimming lessons, she said they would encourage her water-fearful kids to get into dangerous water to swim.

Alex, who works in the fishing industry with her boyfriend Paul, and lives on the Hawkesbury river in New South Wales, said: "I'm not bothered by people who don't agree with my 'controversial' rules. Mothers are criticised no matter what they do, and especially online.

"I'm opening the conversation for everyone to start thinking outside the box before straight up criticising someone's parenting when they don't know how different someone's lifestyle can be. I'm not preaching 'my ways' - this isn't a 'how to' manual. This is what works for our family."

They spend a lot of time on the water - but neither of the children can swim

Mum goes on pricey tropical holiday alone to teach her kids 'vital lesson'

Passenger slammed for jumping queue at airport - but he thinks he's in the right

Mum blasted for letting young son play in the garden at 'unacceptable' time

People think 350-year-old painting is 'proof' time travel is real after spotting iPhone

The kids even roam barefoot across the beach, on pavements and even go shoeless when the family embark on 8km hikes.

Even though some parents may question

the choice, the mum insists going without shoes is better for her kids.

She said it "shocked her" that so many people saw it as a big issue, as she claimed it's "pretty normal" not to wear shoes in Australia.

Alex continued: "Even then, if you are from a coastal town like us, it's normal to not wear shoes at the shops, and working on boats, it's also common to not wear shoes.

"Shoes serve purpose, like if the ground is too hot or too cold, or if snakes and wildlife is a valid threat, or if something hurts to walk on."

She said when you don't wear shoes it can cause your feet to toughen, which enables you to learn how to walk on rough surfaces.

The mum said it's just a part of the family's "way of life."

Alex's boyfriend Paul owns a fishing business and Alex, who has experience working as a fisherman and commercial captain, often helps on the boat when he's in need of extra crew members.

The couple often take their kids along to work, with Paul having them by himself if Alex is needed to help on another boat.

If the weather conditions are too bad for the children to join Paul on the boat, and Alex is busy, the dad will miss his day of work entirely rather than send their kids to day-care.

Alex said: "We are a rural family working in primary production - I am a stay at home mother out of necessity, like most rural mothers.

"I'm needed at home for more than childcare and housework - we are the people at the frontline of feeding the nation.

"If it is not a desirable day for them to come to work, one parent stays home, that's rural life."

One of the main rules that has concerned other parents is said to be the decision to not teach the kids how to swim.

Some parents have deemed this as "dangerous", but Alex has said there is a strong difference between water safety and swimming.

Alex said: "Swimming lessons was a difficult one to decide on, but I came to the conclusion that a toddler probably couldn't swim out of the river on their own.

"In the river here, currents and submerged objects are a huge factor for drownings, and while they have a healthy fear of the water, I won't encourage them to enter it by doing swimming lessons.

"We play by the river a lot, and when a toy falls in, they freak out and come ask me to get it."

She also said she doesn't know if she would call her methods "rules", as the mum claims they are just doing what works best for them as a family.

Culled from The Mirror



Nigerians, there is need for 'church-shift'

ONE distinguished and quick-witted legal luminary I have continued to respect with all candor of persistence is none other than Prof. Dakas Clement Dakas, a former Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Plateau State and Senior Advocate of Nigeria, (SAN). Prof. Dakas, a former Dean, Faculty of Law at the prestigious University of Jos and also the fourth Professor of Law from the entire northern region of Nigeria has over the years unrelentingly become a pragmatic reservoir of knowledge. Intuitively, this scholar has continued to dazzle his contemporaries including others who care to listen to him about a more result-oriented shift in dynamism in the act of governance presently needed to save our nation from nose-diving into oblivion and total collapse.

Though some of his matter-of-fact recipe seems not logically achievable and crazily out of the box, it is becoming more evident that if prospective leaders of this nation do not take the bull by the horn and galvanize our collective thoughts devoid of any sort of sentiments; Nigeria would in no distance time find itself on a runway to total disintegration, chaos and anarchy. Let me however reemphasize for fear of perhaps misquoting Prof Dakas out of context that it is not in his character to proliferate any incisive notion that Nigeria can only achieve any such transformation through violent revolution. The erudite scholar however believes that Nigeria can attain greatness only based on a complete mind renewal by both the elites and the governed.

Just recently, I was privileged to be amongst quite a pocket few people who took him on how best we can intellectually remodel our thoughts and go against this traditional tide of doing business as usual and change our diminishing status. After a fruitful practicable enlightenment lecture on that fateful day, the scholar also suggested we read a book authored by Pastor Sunday Adelaja titled "Church Shift" which I reluctantly accepted. Unfortunately, my hands became full during the week and I could not search out for the book until a friend of mine eventually posted me a soft copy online.

The book, Church Shift is all about a struggle by a strong hearted Nigerian Pastor, Sunday Adelaja who found himself in faraway Ukraine but doggedly changed the ugly narratives of the country for the better. Before this great revival, the citizens of the country had psychological been hypnotized becoming mentally subservient to the caprices and intrigues of their leaders' political misrule. In a country which was proliferating unending tenets of socialist ideological philosophy and highly against civil disobedience; the citizens of the nation were victims of corruption, nepotism and other acts of personal aggrandizement.

The coming of the pastor who mobilized citizens of the country to stand their ground against the obvious subsequently affected a great change as it propelled about 125,000 members of the church to begin to see the act of governance from a different perspective. Rather than perceiving their political leaders as lords; the citizens began to take their fate in their own hands comprehending the apparent that they had the power to hold their leaders to account.

Consequently, before the ongoing Russian invasion, the nation was emerging to become one of the most focused nations in contemporary Europe. It was a nation

midwifed through civil disobedience against unabated injustice, oppression, nepotism, corruption and administrative ingenuity to become a more promising nation of the decade.

As I continued reading this book page after page, the present tragic, unpalatable and disturbing traumatic status of Nigeria kept on preoccupying my mind. To be honest, Nigeria has lost its bearing and it's only by the grace of God that things have not fallen apart. At the moment, there is no Nigerian citizen in his or her right senses who can testify that he or she is not feeling a pinch of this unending humanly created hardship and or catastrophe.

Evidently, both the poor and the rich are not happy over most recent developments. Most of the citizens are not happy as the fabric of our nation's economy is in shambles. If for nothing else, the reoccurrence of recession on the polity has devastated many families and rendered many vulnerable citizens hopeless.

Our universities have been in total shutdown for several months now making our children vulnerable to many social vices. Many of our idle children have been wept way into unbelievable crimes causing more havoc and calamity. Our economic collapse has left us at the mercy of several unimaginable and unpalatable situations. The issue of insecurity overwhelming this nation has forced us not to sleep with our eyes closed for a second.

More perturbing is the fact that with all the abundant economic and human resource which this country is blessed with; Nigeria has regrettably found itself in this pitiful situation. We as a people have become a laughing stock amongst the comity of nations for no fault of the ordinary man. Many innocent citizens are languishing in abject poverty and or want as the gap between the rich and the poor has continued to widen beyond comprehension.

A great number of our children have been killed in humanly created conflicts and unexplainable circumstances. By now, I am more than convinced that many Nigerians are tired of being slaves in their motherland. Yet, in the midst of these calamities, it seems that we are still far from recuperating and or gaining our grounds.

Just as Pastor Sunday Adelaja puts it, it will only take a people who know that power is in their hands to fundamentally effect a change for the better. These kind of people must put their lives at risk to ensure that the needful is done.

Without mincing words, many of us weary of all these happenings must begin to talk to our conscience. We must come to the reality of the fact that the people of this country must be liberated from the shackles of deception and erroneous thoughts of becoming spellbound that this nation is only for the elitists, the wealthy and the mighty.

The truth is that we must take a stand as a people in making our leaders accept the reality of the fact that power belongs to the ordinary man on the street. It is only by doing so that can we create a more convenient atmosphere for our nation to thrive. Even though we have suffered a lot in the past few years; we can still turn things around for the better in the interest of our future generations if we are willing to do so. Basically, we can create another euphoria of a church shift in Nigeria if and when we are determined to do so.

View Point

Nigeria: Waiting for workers' requiem

Since the present administration led by President Muhammadu Buhari assumed the throne of leadership, the citizens of the nation have continued to witness an overwhelming hardship never envisaged after the present democratic dispensation took over the mantle of leadership of the country in 1999. Though the present administration has done its best in the past towards turning around the fortunes of the country for the better, the precarious and ridiculous manner the citizens of this country have found themselves in as a result of unabated global economic meltdown and unprecedented rate of inflation has cast doubts on the minds of many people as to whether things will ever get better in the nearest future. BULUS GAMBO writes.

AS I was wondering on how my daughter would return back to school after the break, my mind was full of troubles considering the text I had earlier received from the authorities of the school warning all parents that all those who had not settled their outstanding school fees should not even think of showing their faces at the gate of the school as no defaulter would be given access to the premises. Though I had to split my last salary into two to ensure each of my children had something to give to their school authorities as a possible bail-out, I was troubled deep down my mind that something was and is still wrong with the unfortunate unfolding developments in the country. This is all linked to the issue of the epileptic payments of salaries to civil servants in Nigeria.

Feeling so embarrassed about my daughter's school resumption saga, I had to cunningly lure my wife to help me take the girl to school and beg the authorities for more time to enable me complete the rest of the required fees, which she did. Our daughter was allowed passage but with an assurance of a specific grace of time frame to settle the fees. Unfortunately for me, the girl on getting to her school subsequently discovered that she had forgotten some of her books at home and common sense this time round convinced me to shoulder the responsibility of taking the books to her. As I drove to the school the following morning, I could see students in some secondary schools adjacent to that of my daughter which have refused defaulters entry for study. Shocked about what I was witnessing, I turned to my left and



Nigerian workers are suffering and smiling

asked a colleague of mine who accompanied me as to why should government schools knowing too well that salaries had not been paid for months also send students out of school. Both of us thus kept on wondering why these innocent students would go through this traumatic experience for no fault of theirs.

Mind you, a day earlier, my wife had complained that she was in pains and anguish because of a suborn tooth which had refused to allow her sleep. Immediately after I got to know the predicament confronting her, I decoded that it is only money that would solve this problem. Without wasting much time, I had to call a dentist friend of

mine who told me to bring her to his hospital for treatment.

Without a kobo in my pocket, I drove my wife to the hospital and even summoned the courage to ask my dentist friend about the bill for the entire treatment. His response added to my already troubled mind.

After taking a look at me for a long time, my dentist friend smiled and informed me, "let's save your wife first after which we can talk of the bill later"

After my wife's tooth was eventually removed, I still summoned the courage to ask my dentist friend the second time about the bill which I was obligated to settle. Perhaps knowing too well the struggles in my life, he smiled and ask; have

you been paid any salary? Please take this prescription and get to the nearest pharmacy for the drugs, she needs it urgent.

So stung to my marrow with surprise, I was left in between thanking him for the treatment he had just offered without reciprocation and or saving my face before my wife as the bread winner of the house who should have with all pleasure pay this fee without much stress. After noticing how troubled I was, my wife's kind words temporarily restored the remaining hope left of me.

These experiences further humbled me beyond comprehension and further tempted me to take a glimpse into the sufferings of my other fellow workers in the country who hardly have anything to eat at their various homes in this moment of tremendous trial. I cannot imagine that the Nigeria we used to know is not the one we are experiencing as a people today.

Just a few days back, it was announced in our church that we should pray for one particular woman who was suffering from organs failure and was unable to settle her hospital bills running into four hundred thousand naira. I was eventually informed that the woman died a few days later at home living behind this huge bill for her family to settle.

Even as I mourn the demise of this courageous woman, her death kept on reminding me of many others who have found

themselves in such a precarious predicament in this country. People who due to lack of salaries are unable to buy drugs for themselves and are left at the mercy of death.

During the good old days, we used to rush paying lunch bills amongst ourselves in the office after we visit any restaurant at break periods. This time around however, hardly do I see any colleague of mine going for lunch break but rather prefers to remain in their offices taking pure water and a few biscuits instead.

It is against the background of this unfolding development that the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC is keeping mute. This development has left me gasping for breath as almost all the states of this country have not paid civil servants salaries constantly.

Just imagine a situation whereby a civil servant has not received his or her salary for close to four months and hungry mouths are waiting at home not wanting to believe that salaries are not forthcoming.

It seems therefore, this is perhaps the painful price we must all pay for the sins of voting our political class who care less about us and only loot our treasury at will so as to keep their family members in luxurious homes while the rest of us languish in abject poverty begging for bread to keep our body and soul together.

Just a few days back, it was announced in our church that we should pray for one particular woman who was suffering from organs failure and was unable to settle her hospital bills running into four hundred thousand naira. I was eventually informed that the woman died a few days later at home living behind this huge bill for her family to settle. Even as I mourn the demise of this courageous woman, her death kept on reminding me of many others who have found themselves in such a precarious predicament in this country. People who due to lack of salaries are unable to buy drugs for themselves and are left at the mercy of death.



Great moments @ the 'Otu Rigwe 2022'

SATURDAY 8th October 2022 was a joyous and memorable day in the lives of the Irigwe tribe of Bassa Local Government Area and Plateau State Government.

The day was memorable because all roads led the people, their kinsmen, allies, neighbours and friends to the Rwang Pam Township Stadium for the cultural festival of the people tagged "Utu Rigwe".

Cultural and food displays, dances, horse riding by Irigwe warriors, presentation of traditional titles and letters of recognition to deserving individuals were all part of events that spiced the day which was attended by cultural enthusiasts dignatories including politicians, party candidates, and government officials.

But what was more exciting as seen by the body language of the Irigwe people and all speakers was the return of peace to the area. After facing years of crisis, torment, killings of their kinsmen and loss of their livelihoods, everyone was glad that the event which had been put on hold due to crisis is eventually taking place.

Before presenting his speech at the forum, Governor Simon Bako Lalong asked for a minute silence to be observed in memory and honour of those who were lost in the crisis.

As the MC's controlled the very bulky line up of events, which had fund raising engrossed in the programme to rebuild destroyed communities and fund education of orphans who lost their parents during the crisis, even the rains could not defy the dancers who displayed their skills in a match past to thrill their guests.

The humour in the governor was ignited as he spoke. He repeated the Irigwe Development Association (IDA) President's tribal chant, and chanted the word "Irigwe Zrun Zru", meaning "Irigwe one" and he unanimously got a loud thunderous chorus response and applause from thousands of Irigwe's present at the venue.

He expressed happiness that the Fulani's and Irigwes, led by the paramount ruler of Irigweland, the Braa Nggwe Rigwe, Rev Ronku Aka are adhering to the peace agreement they signed and called him to witness in June 13, 2022. He assured the people that part of his agenda in governance is to ensure that "Every district and village must have a village head or leader no matter how little the settlement is".

Jokingly, he teased the Irigwes after their colourful cultural displays by expressing surprise and saying, "I didn't know Irigwes had a masquerade. If not for this cultural event, I may not have known this", and the crowd laughed.

The IDA National President, Prince Robert Ashi Dodo said politicians and people wanted to pitch them against the Governor and the General Officer Commanding (GOC), the 3rd Armoured Division, concerning the crisis. But when the Governor showed his real desires, intentions and actions on peace, by personally spearheading and supporting the process, they are now able to sleep with their eyes closed.

"We were told that the Governor, even the GOC, did not like the Irigwe people, but we came to realise it was not true. It was politicians trying to pitch us against him".

"The Governor personally facilitated the process of bringing peace to Irigwe land", the IDA President said.

He also appreciated the GOC, Major Gen. Ibrahim Ali, for supporting them with cash, and ensuring they return to cultivate their farms.

Being a junior student, and classmate of the Governor who slept over his head on a double bunk during their secondary school days, the IDA President said he tried his best to call for peace and calm and didn't want to disappoint the Governor nor his people

On his part, His Royal Highness, the Ronku Aka while conferring the Governor with a traditional

title: "Ambassador of peace of Irigwe people" and inviting him to officially be a member of council in the highly revered traditional institution, he said "For leaving his office and coming to Bassa to personally broker peace between us and the Fulanis, I have together with my Traditional Council, given you a title to be part of the Irigwe traditional Council as "Ambassador of peace".

Chairman Bassa Local Government, Engr. Stephen Andy Igmala, expressed sadness on how the crisis in Irigweland broke them down but thanked government and other stakeholders for collaborating and ensuring they have peace.

He recalled the Governor Lalong's strong worded speech to stakeholders during the peace agreement signing on 13th 2022 in Bassa.

"I recall the day we called on the Governor and stakeholders to Bassa and how during the signing of the peace agreement, the Governor had said, "You called us here today to witness this signing and if you break it, you are on your own. However if it works, I will use this agreement as a blue print for other communities to emulate".

The Chairman said since the signing of the peace agreement, "The Fulanis are coming to our markets and we have been going to their areas without any hindrance or barriers. We have been trying not to disappoint him".

Nigeria's former Chief of Defence Staff and Chairman of the Occasion, Gen. Martin Luther Agwai (Rtd.) who was introduced as a friend of the Irigwes expressed with nostalgia, his early youthful days growing up in the Local Government and state.

He said he misses his favourite delicacy of the Irigwes, 'Gwote', and expressed " I miss it, I will like to take it before I leave".

Highlights of the event was when the GOC was given an award of recognition alongside NGOs and individuals that supported the Irigwe land to advance and surmount its numerous challenges.

The good efforts of the IDA President was also recognised by the Governor and he was given an appointment to serve as a Special Adviser to the Governor to work with him on peace and inter-community relations.

Just like the other speakers, in his response, the GOC also chanted the popular phrase "Irigwe Zrun Zru" and got the usual applause from the mammoth crowd. He said, "Today I am an Irigwe man" and thanked the people for awarding and recognising his efforts, promising to continue to do his work with justice and fairness to all.

Aside personalities, cultural, religious, social, and tribal groups who graced the occasion, the presence of representatives of the Fulani community in Bassa including Ardo Wada Waziri, Co-Chairman of the 36 member Peace committee in Bassa LGA, Alhaji Ya'u Idris was commendable.



Governor Lalong, the Peace Ambassador of the Rigwe Nation (left) putting heads together with Prince Robert Dodo, President, Irigwe Development Association at the 2022 Otu Rigwe

News

Tinubu is a unifier, detribalized leader Nigeria needs - support group

Jagaba National Coalition (JNC), says that the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate, Ahmed Bola Tinubu is a unifier and detribalized leader that Nigeria needs at this point in time.

Coordinator of Plateau chapter of JNC, Mr Zakariyau Abdullazeez stated this shortly after the inauguration of the group on Tuesday in Jos.

Abdullazeez described Tinubu as a lover of peace that does not segregate on ethnic or religious lines.

"He is a detribalized Nigerian who works with people without minding where they came from.

"He is a political bulldozer that has proven himself beyond reasonable doubt.

"Tinubu is not tired of working for Nigeria, in fact he is the right man to lead Nigeria at this time in the nation's history," he said.

According him, the APC presidential candidate

positively touched the lives of Nigerians within and in diaspora in ways that none of the candidates of other political parties did.

Abdullazeez stated that the aim of the coalition was to support presidential aspirations of Tinubu and all APC candidates from the highest level to grassroots

The coordinator announced that the coalition would embark on door to door campaign to sell APC candidates and orientate voters on how to vote without mistakes.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that other members of JNC include; Helen Gontur, Assistant State Coordinator, Mr Dachomo Dauda, General Secretary, and Jummai Gani, Assistant General Secretary.

Also inaugurated were; Anayo Basil PRO 1, Weng Bature PRO 2, Adeoye Tella, Financial Secretary, Ikechukwu Nwankwo, Assistant Financial Secretary

and Rhoda Aku as Director of Logistics/Mobilization-

The group also has Patience Shishang as its Women Leader, Jummai Sambo, Assistant Women Leader, Danladi Tasiu Alhaji, Youth Coordinator, Elijah Moses, Assistant Youth Coordinator.

The JNC Welfare Officer is Mr Mustapha Idris, Assistant Welfare, Azi Aisha Musa Auditor, Ezekiel Amao, Media and Publicity 1, Julie Chollom, Media and Publicity 2, Lare Baba

Meanwhile the Assistant Organising Secretary of the group is David Attah, Assistant Organising Secretary, Hassana Abdulhameed, Director of Research and Planning, Longzem Shaldas and the Assistant Director of Research and Planning, Abdurashheed Akano

The Patron of JNC is Mr Joshua Madaki, former Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly.

Nigeria has warned its citizens to be wary of the cough syrups linked to dozens of deaths of children in The Gambia.

The four syrups manufactured by Indian Pharmaceutical Company Maiden Pharmaceuticals are suspected to have been contaminated. The World Health Organization had issued a global alert over the paediatric medicines. Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has now asked people in Africa's most populous country to avoid the said medicines.

In a statement, the agency says anyone who has used the "substandard products" or has suffered any adverse reaction, should seek immediate medical advice and report to the health authorities.

It says effects of the toxic substances allegedly contained in the cough syrups include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache and acute kidney injury which may lead to death. But it has not said whether the syrups have been discovered to be in circulation in the country.

The products are Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold

NAFDAC warns against syrups linked to Gambia deaths

Syrup. Maiden Pharmaceuticals started withdrawing the had failed to provide guarantees about their safety, the WHO least 69 deaths of children have said. In a comment to the ANI News Agency, Maiden said it was shocked and saddened over the incident. The company said it followed Indian health protocols and was co-operating with an investigation.

The Gambia has already exported to. The WHO had expressed fears that the Gambia might not be the only country where the cough syrups had been exported to.



Adeyeye

THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Effective ways to child health and survival

By **CHRISTY TAMAI**

BREASTFEEDING gets one of the most effective ways to ensure child health and survival. However, nearly 2 out of 3 infants are not exclusively breastfed for the recommended 6 month - a rate that has not improved in 2 decades.

WHO and UNICEF recommend that children initiate breast feeding within the first hour of birth and be exclusively breastfed for the first 6 month.

BreastfeedingMotherhood is a blessing. The word breastfeeding week is organized every year by the world Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA). This year's theme is Step up for breastfeeding, educate and support. The world Alliance for breastfeeding Action is a global network aim to protect, promote and support breastfeeding around the world.

Breastfeeding has a lot of benefits to the mother and the baby which makes it mandatory for the mother to breastfeed her child for the stipulated time.

Breastfeeding is celebrated world wide to encouraged mother's to see the need of breastfeeding at all time. It was first celebrated in 1992 and it is observed every 1st



to 7th of August in more than 120 (one hundred and twenty) countries. Breast milk helps keep your baby healthy. It supplies all the necessary nutrients in the proper proportions. It protects against allergies, slickness, and obesity, it protect against diseases like diabetes, and cancer, it protect against infections like

ear infections. Every woman dream is to see her baby growing healthier, and the joy is found in exclusive breastfeeding which is very paramount. The benefits for breastfeeding for mother and child include, The breast milk provide ideal nutrition for babies. The breast milk contains everything baby needs for the first 6month's of life, in all the right proportions.

Its composition even changes according to the baby's changing needs, especially during the first month of life. During the first days after birth, the breast produce a thick and yellowish fluid called colostrum, its high in protein, low in sugar and loaded with beneficial compounds. Colostrum is the ideal first milk and helps the newborns immature digestive tract develop. The breast milk contains import antibodies, antibodies helps the baby fight off viruses and bacteria, which is critical in those tender, early months.

It may reduce the baby's risk for many illnesses and disease which includes;

(i) Middle ear infections - Breastfeeding may protect against middle ear, throat and Sinus infections well beyond infancy.

(ii) Respiratory tract infections- Breastfeeding can protect against multiple respiratory and gastrointestinal acute illness.

(iii) Exclusive breastfeeding for six months lower the risk of getting serious colds and ear or throat infections.(iv) It is linked with the reduction in gut infections.

(v) Allergies disease - breastfeeding helps to reduced risk of asthma, atopic dermatitis, and eczema.

(vi) Breast milk promotes baby's healthy weight, it promotes healthy weight gain and helps prevent childhood obesity.

(vii) Breastfeeding makes children smarter, exclusive breastfeeding helps baby to become more intimate with the mother due to touch, and eyes contact associated with breastfeeding as well as nutrient content. Breastfeeding helps

some women to lose weight while some gain weight during breastfeeding. The uterus grow immensely, after delivery, it goes through a process called involution which helps it return to its previous size. The body secretes high amounts of Oxytocin which helps deliver the baby and reduce bleeding. It can also help the mother bond with her new born baby. Oxytocin also increase during breastfeeding. Mothers who breastfeed have a lower risk for depression, women who breastfeed seems less likely to develop postpartum depression (PPD), this type of depression that can develop shortly after childbirth. Women are advised to see a doctor as soon as they have any symptoms of PPD. Breastfeeding is paramount because it lower risk for high blood pressure, Arthritis, high blood fats, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. It saves time and money because it is natural,

New horns often wants to feed every two, three, hours. By two months feeding every three to four hours is common, and by six months, most of the babies feeds every four to five hours. Mother's you and your baby are unique and the decision to breastfeed is up to you, based on the benefits attached to breastfeeding. The tips called ABCs of breastfeeding will help the mother and the baby get comfortable with the process of breastfeeding.

A= Awareness: watch for your baby's sign of hunger, and breastfeed whenever your baby is hungry. This is called on demand feeding. The first few weeks, the mother may be nursing eight to 12 times every 24 hours.

B=Be patient: Breastfeed as long as your baby wants to nurse each time, don't hurry your infant through feedings, they typically feed for 10- 20 minutes on each breast so be patient.

C= Comfort: This is the key. Relax while breastfeeding and your milk is more likely to let down and flow, get yourself comfortable with pillows as needed to support your arms, head, and neck and footrest to support your feet and legs before you breastfeed.

Challenges of Breastfeeding include; Sore nipples, mother's can expect some soreness in the first weeks of breastfeeding, make sure your baby latches on correctly, and use one finger to break the suction of your baby's mouth after each feeding, that will help prevent sore nipples.

Dry and cracked nipples, women should avoid soaps,perfumed creams, or lotions with alcohol in them, which can make nipples even more dry and cracked.



Sports

Lalong reaffirms commitment to Plateau United

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State has reaffirmed his support for Plateau United Football Club of Jos to enable them excel in the Confederation of African Football, (CAF) Champions League.

He made the assertion in an interview after the team defeated three times winners of the league, Esperance Football Club of Tunisia 2-1 in the first leg of their second match of the league, played at the M.K.O Abiola National Stadium on Sunday.

Governor Lalong who is the Chairman of Northern Governor's Forum, expressed delight that all the three teams representing the country won marches.

"I'm happy because the three Nigeria's representatives in the CAF Champions League have won their games, that's why I'm encouraged", he said.

"We can't reveal our plans for the games ahead now, but we'll go back and review what we've done today and then improve on it", the Governor emphasized.

Also, Ibrahim Gusau, the newly elected President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), who was equally full of



Plateau United

joy with the outcome of the game, gave assurance of his full support for the team in order to perform credibly well in the championship.

"We are happy today because the teams representing the nation won their today's marches. We will try and see what we can do to ensure that they have good preparation before going to the second league", the NFF President said.

On his part, Fidelis Ilechuwu, Technical Adviser, Plateau United Football Club of Jos, opined that the winning chances in the game was 50/50.

"To me, the winning chances in the match was 50/50, because it is football. Nobody believed that we are going to win the game, because of their

experience and record in league, but we thank God we emerged victorious and I must commend the gallant effort of the players", he concluded.

Nader Daoud, the Assistant Coach of Esperance said even though they lost the match but his team played according to instructions, especially in the first stanza which resulted to the first goal of the game.

"In the first half, my boys played well and scored the first goal of the game and made frantic efforts to increase the tally, but wasn't possible after missing a lot of chances. We'll go back to the drawing board to ensure we qualify to the group's stages", he promised.

Meanwhile, the return leg will be played next week in Tunisia.

NPFL stars would have qualified Nigeria to World Cup

EX-SUNSHINE Stars coach Samson Unuanel says Nigeria would have qualified for the 2022 World Cup if NPFL stars were integrated into the Super Eagles.

Inspired by the performances of Nigerian clubs in Caf-interclub competitions over the weekend, the veteran Nigerian coach stated the Super Eagles would have booked a place in Qatar 2022 if local-based professionals were combined with foreign-based stars during the qualification series. Plateau United and Rivers United secured comeback victories

over Esperance and Wydad Casablanca in the Caf Champions League, while Kwara United produced a shock 3-1 triumph over reigning Confederation Cup champions RS Berkane in Lagos.

In a chat with GOAL, Unuanel claimed the Nigerian sides proved that the country's top-flight boasts quality players that can make the Super Eagles stronger.

"It was a great weekend for Nigerian football because many must have written our teams off owing to the calibre of opposition they were going to face.

"However, the three teams got the job done despite conceding first. What we need to take home from the performance of Rivers United, Plateau United and Kwara United is that the Nigeria Professional Football League is blessed with great players who can make the Super Eagles squad.

"Trust me, the success of Jose Peseiro is based on the amount of local based professionals who are in his team. If there was a blend of foreign-based talents and NPFL stars, Nigeria would not have missed out on the 2022 World Cup." Despite winning the first

2022 Lagos Tennis cup ended on Sunday, with both Marylove Edwards and Uche Oparaoji successfully defending their titles.

Newsnow said that, while Edwards breezed past her group stage opponent, Oiza Yakubu, Oparaoji was put to the test by his Abuja-based counterpart, Peter Lawal.

Edwards, the 2021 winner, replicated the same feat with a two straight sets victory over Yakubu who finished better than her previous year. The No. 1 seed defeated Yakubu 6-1, 6-1 in 56 minutes.

Despite being the favourites, Oparaoji had to fight for four hours and 20 minutes to defend his title against Peter Lawal.

The game, which went to three sets, was a comeback for Uche who lost the first set 4-6 to Lawal before bouncing back with a 7-5 and 7-6 win.

Meanwhile, both winners, Edwards and Uche, carted

Lagos Tennis: Easy ride for Edwards



Young Nigerian tennis player

home N500,000 while the first runner-up earned N250,000. All semi-finalists and those eliminated at the group stages earned N125,000 and N50,000, respectively.

Rivers Utd plot to shock Wydad Casablanca

AFTER claiming their first famous win in Port Harcourt on Sunday, Rivers United's Joseph Onoja believes the Nigerian side can turn in another supreme effort against title-holders Wydad Casablanca this weekend to reach the CAF Champions League group stage for the first time in the club's history.

Newsnow said that, Onoja starred as the Pride of Rivers, who have been promised a financial windfall if they knock out their illustrious opponent, came from behind to defeat the Moroccans 2-1 in the first leg of their second preliminary round tie in the Garden City of Port Harcourt on Sunday.

Bouly Sambou gave three-time African champions Wydad a first-half lead that lasted only two minutes before Malachi Ohawume equalised, while Paul Acquah scored the 53rd-minute winner for the hosts.

"We bounced back from a debatable goal to win at home and we know what awaits us from their fans and the antics in Morocco," midfielder Onoja, 23, told BBC Sport Africa yesterday.

"One thing I am sure of is that Wydad fans won't come on the pitch to play. It's us against the players and as defending champions, they will be under pressure.

"The most important thing for us is to walk away from the Mohammed V Stadium with a group-stage ticket."

Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, the sole sponsor of Rivers United,

rewarded each player with \$20,000 for winning the Nigerian league for the first time in their history last June.

Wike has since doubled the incentive, with players expected to pocket \$40,000 each should they eliminate Wydad and become the first Nigerian club into the group stage since Lobi Stars in 2018-19 season.

"This is our job, career and profession. But for the governor to promise us such an amount of money, I think it's just an extra motivation," said Onoja.

"The main motivation for us is our careers because beating Wydad and making a name for ourselves by reaching the group stage will definitely lift our profile.

"Whether they like it or not, we're going with our own tactics. We know what we can do to get the game out of their hands, and to be the best we have to beat the best in Wydad."

Elsewhere, a joyful day for Nigeria in the Champions League was completed when Plateau United FC also came from behind to beat four-time winners Esperance of Tunisia 2-1 in Abuja.



NPFL Players



Rivers United players

Sports

European stars who could have played for Nigeria

Jamal Musiala

GERNOT Rohr commented last week that he would have loved to have recruited Musiala to represent the Super Eagles, and actively sought to integrate the teenage prodigy into the Nigeria set-up.

Ultimately, Nigeria failed in their bid to recruit the Bayern Munich wonderkid, and the Eagles' loss is Germany's gain.

He won't be the last potential Super Eagles star never to represent the national side, and he certainly isn't the first...

Bukayo Saka

There was genuine hope, when Saka burst onto the scene with Arsenal, that he would one day go on to represent Nigeria—the land of his parents.

Ultimately, however, he turned out for England and represented the Three Lions at the European Championships last year as Gareth Southgate's side reached the final.

Arnaut Danjuma

Villarreal's Danjuma was, for a long period, still eligible to represent Nigeria despite having made his Netherlands debut, with rules on nationality switching making a conversion possible.

Now that he has six caps to his name, however, that's no longer possible, with the versatile attacker now primed to enjoy his prime years with the Netherlands national side.

He's Samuel Chukwueze's teammate at club level, but will now never get the chance to feature alongside the Eagles wideman for the national side.

Tammy Abraham

Like Saka, there was tangible hope that Nigeria would snare Abraham from England's grasp, only for the Eagles to lose out on the talented youngster.

The forward hasn't become integral to the Three Lions—unlike Saka—and it remains to be seen whether he will make the cut for Qatar.

He's struggled to hit a dozen international caps; might he

Many soccer pundits have in the past few years continue to wonder over factors which motivated some Nigerian born foreign football players that abandoned the country to represent other nations of the world. Ed dove profiles some of these prolific players who refused to play for Nigeria, ED DOVE writes.



Bukayo Saka

regret not choosing Nigeria?

David Alaba

Austria's captain is approaching a century of caps for the national side, and he firmly belongs among the country's greatest ever players.

Alaba, who excels either as a left-back or centre-back, has won three Champions League titles and clinched the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich on 10 occasions.

Currently with Real Madrid, he won the Spanish title with Los Merengues last season, and he would have been the most decorated Nigerian player of all time had he opted for the Super

Karim Adeyemi

One of several exciting dual-

nationality players in the Germany ranks, Adeyemi has made four appearances for the European giants to date, having made his debut in September 2021.

The 20-year-old scored on his debut for the Mannschaft—in a 6-0 demolition of Armenia—but amidst immense competition, he has a battle on his hands to make the cut for the World Cup.

Manuel Akanji

Recently signed Manchester City centre-back Akanji is approaching a half-century of caps with Switzerland, having opted to represent the European side rather than the Eagles.

He could have forged a fine defensive partnership with William Troost-Ekong, for example, and could have brought

some class to the heart of the Nigeria defence.

Noah Okafor

Well-rounded centre-forward who lines up alongside Akanji with Switzerland at senior level.

Okafor, still only 22, has scored 23 Austrian Bundesliga goals in 58 league appearances with Red Bull Salzburg, winning three titles in the process.

Philip Billing

Like the aforementioned Danjuma, Billing remained on Nigeria's radar long after making his debut for a European nation, due to not having been capped in a competitive fixture.

The midfielder took 18 months to make his second Denmark appearance, having made his debut against the Faroe Islands in 2020, but is now tied to the Europeans after featuring in a

Nations League game earlier this year.

Despite having only three caps to his name, he'll fancy his chances of making the Danes' World Cup squad.

Dele Alli

Still only 26, Alli will watch the World Cup from home after suffering a startling fall from grace in recent years.

He was a key figure in the England side that reached the semis in Russia four years ago, but utterly lost his way at Tottenham Hotspur and is nowhere near the Three Lions squad today.

Could things have turned out differently if he'd have opted to build his international career with the Eagles?

Ross Barkley

There are quite a few parallels between Dele and Barkley, both of whom were—at one stage—tipped to be the future of the England national side after emerging as outrageously talented attacking midfielders despite their slender years.

Barkley, eligible for Nigeria via his grandparents, could have brought a lot to the Eagles midfield over the last decade, and it's not like he's enjoyed a particularly fulfilling international career with England.

Gavin Bazunu

Newly established Southampton No. 1 Bazunu represents the Republic of Ireland at senior level, and currently has 10 caps to his name.

He could have easily chosen to feature for the Super Eagles, but would he have represented an upgrade on the likes of Francis Uzoho and Maduka Okoye?



Tammy Abraham



Quest



writer

Dr. Kumbet John Sonny

FRAGMENT

One of the major problems we have as Nigerians is lack of planning for the elderly. Most of our people don't plan for their retirement and when it comes; it takes them by surprise. Some of them immediately fall ill because of no money. Some of them die just a few years after their retirement because of poverty, coupled with the fact that Nigerian government has no clear policy for the elderly, it affects retired people so much. Some of the elderly people die even before their pension is processed.

DR. KUMBET JOHN

Nigeria: Senior citizens' challenges, way forward

GLOBALLY, the number of elderly people is on a steady increase, as most people can now expect to live well into their sixties. The United Nations, (UN) defines a senior citizen, an elder, the aged, older adult as anyone aged 60 years and above, even though most of the developed nations and the World Health Organization, (WHO) agree that the elderly are a population of people with chronological age of 65 years and above.

The total number of people aged 60 years, and plus in the world have been estimated to be just above a billion. In Nigeria, the pattern is not different as the population of the elderly continues to increase and in fact, it is expected to be the only African country which will have an elderly populace of over 15 million by the year 2025. Currently, the number of older persons aged 60 and above stands at about 10 million.

The elderly population is important for proper nation building, they are the ones from whom culture can be learnt, the ones who calmly resolve conflicts. They keep the family together. They take care of their grandchildren and they have wealth of experience, wisdom and knowledge which the younger ones will learn from. They in spite of their lifetime deprivation, strive for the world to be at least a better place than they met it.

The challenges of the aged include social problems which include, poverty, isolation, ageism (stereotyping and discrimination based on aged). Other challenges of the senior citizens include medical problems such as; Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Arthritis, Chronic obstructive airway diseases, falls, dementia, depression, malnutrition, cancer, eye disease, hearing impairments and infections.

One of the major problems we have as Nigerians is lack of planning for the elderly. Most of



our people don't plan for their retirement and when it comes; it takes them by surprise. Some of them immediately fall ill because of no money. Some of them die just a few years after their retirement because of poverty, coupled with the fact that Nigerian government has no clear policy for the elderly, it affects retired people so much. Some of the elderly people die even before their pension is processed.

Urbanization and modernization has made a lot of family members lose their cultural and religious values of staying close to the elderly. Every members of the family is busy with phones, work and pleasurable activities. This factor has made the elderly really isolated. Recently, there was a picture of man who went to sleep and died in this own apartment without any one knowing he stayed there for about six months before people got to know that he was death.

Elder abuse which can be in

physical, psychological, economical form is another great menace, elderly people who have dementia with some memory loss, hallucination and irrational behaviors have been call witches many times. Some physically assaulted and others killed. Psychological abuse such as derogatory, name-calling by family members, neglect by family members, religious leaders and government are also sometimes recorded. Economic abuse such as underemployment, delayed payment of pension and stealing of money by family members capitalizing on their sickness such as cataract and mental health challenges through the use of ATM cards without their consents has also been noticed.

Hypertension naturally comes with age which if not properly managed can lead to stroke, heart problems, blindness, kidney failure and blood vessels problems such as aneurysm. Diabetes Mellitus which is a problem that has to do with sugar regulation in the body can also

give birth to complications of stroke, eye problems, heart problems, and are also sometimes results in erectile dysfunctions in men. Arthritis is the swelling and tenderness of one or more joints. The main symptoms of arthritis are joint pains and stiffness, which typically worsens with age. The most common types of Arthritis are steoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. Falls by the elderly is not a disease but can be a sign of a new and serious medical problem that needs treatment. For instance, an older person can be weakened and fall because of illnesses such as dehydration, serious urinary tract infection, visual impairment, delirium, orthostatic, hypertension, heart problems just to mention but a few. Dementia is not a specific disease but is rather a general term for impaired ability to remember, think, or make decisions that interferes with doing everyday activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia. Though dementia mostly affects older adults, it is not a part of normal aging. Cancers which are abnormal growth in the body can occur in the elderly, cancer of the breast in women, cancer of the prostate in men and liver cancer in both genders. Eye problems such as cataracts, glaucoma, and presbyopia may lead to visual impairment and even blindness which in turn poise the elderly on dependence on others with poor quality of life.

Anyone reading this may

probably get to the age of 60 years and beyond and at this time; we may feel same or even worse but just before we get to the age, we must better our lives so that ours may also be better as we age. Government should as a matter of urgency pay pensions and gratuity, pay monthly income for up keep, create medical insurance programs to reduce or even take away medical bills (many health problems concurrently going on at same time). Also, government should create Geriatric hospitals, train more specialist such as geriatricians, geriatric nurses, geriatric social workers, geriatric physiotherapist, gerontologist, and other experts in the field of ageing. Also, funding should be provided and channeled into research in ageing related problems and healthy ageing.

Other family members should have roles of caring for the aged via helping in staying around them, help in moving them, giving them their medication, stop calling them bad names and helping them with other activities of daily living.

Churches and Mosques can help the elderly with prayers, build social clubs, nursing homes and give aids which will better their lives in addition to speaking against any form of elder abuse.

School curriculums should capture things that have to do with ageing so as to ensure healthy ageing and good culture of taking care of the elderly.

Civil society organizations which are non-state actors whose aims are neither to generate profits or to seek governing power can help providing funding for training of actors in ageing, give aids and grants to better the lives of the older persons.

Healthy ageing which is the type of ageing the World health Organization is advocating for comes without dependence, frailty and much problem of the elderly. This healthy ageing comes with good lifestyle measures; such moderation in alcohol consumption, no smoking, health diet and nutrition, very good physical activities measured, good sleep hygiene, excellent stress management strategies and a robust periodic health checks will help a lot.

Dr. Kumbet John Sonny is a Consultant Family Physician and Geriatrician, Federal Medical Centre keffi.

Urbanization and modernization has made a lot of family members lose their cultural and religious values of staying close to the elderly. Every members of the family is busy with phones, work and pleasurable activities. This factor has made the elderly really isolated. Recently, there was a picture of man who went to sleep and died in this own apartment without any one knowing he stayed there for about six months before people got to know that he was death.