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Performance review: Buhari scores self-high

President Muhammadu Buhari, Monday, awarded his administration high marks, saying that it has implemented high-impact projects across the country, which he said have met the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians.

It serves as forum for self-assessment, evaluation of progress made, and measurement of the impact of work done, in ensuring that the government remains focused on delivering the promises it made to Nigerians.

The two-day exercise is being attended by the

immediate past President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta as the keynote speaker; the leadership of the National Assembly, all members of the Federal Executive Council (FEC), defence chiefs, among others.

With this year's theme being "Enhance security, fight corruption, transform the

economy," the President told participants and guests at the retreat that over 3,800 KM of roads have been constructed across the country, while 38 new aircraft were acquired for the Nigerian Air Force to boost the fight against insurgency.

President Buhari said that 38.7 million Nigerians have been fully vaccinated against

COVID-19, representing 35 per cent of the total eligible population target for vaccination.

On infrastructure, the President said: "In recognition of the importance of critical infrastructure in economic development and the quest of this administration to leave a

lasting legacy, we have implemented high-impact projects across the length and breadth of the country that meets the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians.

"Some of the notable achievements include the completion of 326km Itakpe-Ajaokuta-Warri rail line and

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Declaring open the 3rd Ministerial Performance Review Retreat at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, he highlighted the progress made in the areas of agriculture, economy, infrastructure, security, health, and anti-corruption among others.

The retreat is designed to review the progress of the administration since the second edition in October 2021.

Osinbajo seeks synergy between fiscal, monetary policies



The DG Presidential Campaign Council, All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon Simon Lalong (CON) presenting the APC Candidate and his running mate at the Northern stakeholders meeting in Kaduna on Monday.

Human Rights Commission opens hate speech register

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is to establish a national register against hate speech and to promote normative principles, as well as a framework for the 2023 general election.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission, Tony Ojukwu (SAN), made this

known on Monday at the public launch of a project tagged, 'Mobilising Voters for Election (MOVE)' in Abuja.

Ojukwu said, "The NHRC will develop guidelines for the protection of voters' access principles in security operations at elections and organise consultations and sensitisation for the Nigerian

Police on the protection of voters' access principles at elections.

"The MOVE project is expected to increase citizens' participation in elections and integrate human rights principles into the electoral process to ensure access.

"It will also increase participation and ensure

human rights oversight in law enforcement and security before, during and after the elections."

Ojukwu said the commission was moved to initiate this project due to its concern over the rising voter regression and political apathy that has descended into the political landscape

since the 2011 general Elections.

He added that statistics available to the Commission indicated that about 10 percent of eligible voters participated in the 2021 governorship election in Anambra State.

"The rising voter regression

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News

Performance review: Buhari scores self-high

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railway ancillary facilities; the completion of over 156.5km Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge railway modernisation project with extension to Lagos Port, Apapa.

"On road projects, this Administration has constructed 408Km of roads; 2,499Km of SUKUK roads and maintenance of 15,961Km of roads across the Country

"Key among these projects are the construction of 1.9km 2nd Niger Bridge linking Anambra and Delta States with 10.30km approach road; rehabilitation, construction and expansion of Lagos-Shagamu-Ibadan dual carriageway; the ongoing rehabilitation of Abuja-Kaduna - Zaria - Kano Road, among others."

While stressing that he has sustained commitment to infrastructural development for the past seven years, President Buhari said over 941km of completed SUKUK road projects nationwide have been handed over.

Furthermore, he said that his government has embarked on the reconstruction of 21 selected Federal Roads totalling 1,804.6km, under the Road Infrastructure Development & Refurbishment Investment Tax Credit Policy.

He explained that the roads, which are funded by the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited, are in addition to similar existing collaboration with Messrs Dangote Industries Limited and other corporate organisations to improve the stock of the country's road infrastructure.

On aviation, the President assured that the establishment of a National Carrier for Nigeria is at 91 per cent completion, and is expected to commence flight operations before the end of this year.

He said the feat is being boosted with the certification of Lagos and Abuja International Airports by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, while Kano and Port Harcourt Airports are undergoing similar certification processes.

On the economy, the President restated that the country had witnessed seven consecutive quarters of growth, after negative growth rates recorded in the 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 2020.

He added: "The GDP grew by 3.54 per cent (year-on-year) in real terms in the 2nd Quarter of 2022. This growth rate represents a sustained positive economic performance, especially for the Non-Oil GDP which fell by 4.77% in Q2 2022 against Oil GDP which grew by -11.77 per cent.

"Most sectors of the economy recorded positive growth which reflects the effective implementation of the economic sustainability measures introduced by this Administration," he said.

On the Communications & Digital Economy Sector, the President noted that giant strides have been made

through broadband coverage which currently stands at 44.32 per cent, reinforced by 77.52 per cent 4G coverage with the establishment of 36,751 4G base stations nationwide.

Similarly, the President declared that the Power Sector has remained a critical priority for the Administration, adding that the implementation of a 'Willing Buyer-Willing Seller' policy introduced by the Federal Government has opened up opportunities for increased delivery of electricity to underserved homes and industries.

He further said: "We are also executing a number of critical projects through the Transmission Rehabilitation and Expansion Programme, which will result in achieving the national goal of improved power supply by 2025.

"It is important to state that the partnership between the Federal Government of Nigeria and German Siemens AG through the Presidential Power Initiative to increase electricity generation to 25,000 Megawatts (MW) in six years is on course, as the first batch of the transformers has arrived Nigeria already."

On the oil and gas sector, the President recalled that on 16th August 2021, he signed the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) into law, providing a legal, governance, regulatory and fiscal framework for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, as well as the development of host communities and related matters.

He noted that to achieve the objectives of the PIA, the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation was unbundled while the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission and the Nigerian Midstream & Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority were established.

On efforts towards strengthening national security, the President said his administration has substantially invested in arms, weapons and other critical military hardware as well as continuous training for the Armed Forces.

"The Nigerian Air Force has acquired 38 brand-new aircraft and is expecting another batch of 36 new ones, while the Nigerian Navy has been equipped with new platforms, sophisticated riverine, Rigid-Hull Inflatable, Seaward Defence, Whaler & Fast Attack Boats as well as Helicopters and Capital Ships. "To boost the number of our Police personnel, 20,000 policemen have been recruited, trained, fully integrated and deployed in 2020 and 2021. This exercise has strengthened our community policing strategy which is enshrined in the Police Act, 2020."

On the fight against corruption, the President promised that the administration would continue to review and prosecute high-profile corruption cases and ensure speedy completion.

Concerning Social Investment Programmes, the President said 9,990,862 pupils are being fed through the School Feeding Programme, which employs 128,531 cooks in local communities.

"Following the passage of the National Health Act in 2014, this Administration began the inclusion of the 1 per cent minimum portion of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to cater for the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF).

"Consequently, 988,652 poor and indigent Nigerians have been enrolled in the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF).

"We should also note that a total of 7,373 primary health facilities have been accredited and capitated under the National Health Insurance Scheme pathway, while 7,242 Primary Health Care facilities are receiving Decentralised Facility Financing under the National Primary Health Care Development Agency - Basic Health Care Provision Fund gateway," the President said on milestones in the health sector.

President Buhari also lauded Nigeria's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, noting that the country's achievement has been commended by the World Health Organisation.

He said at the end of September 2022, 51,713,575 eligible people had received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing 46.3 per cent of the eligible population.

"Out of this number, 38,765,510 people have been fully vaccinated, and this represents 34.7% of the eligible population.

The President urged all eligible Nigerians to ensure that they are fully vaccinated as Nigeria's vaccine stock balance stands at about 27 million doses.

On agriculture, the President expressed delight that as a direct result of investment, the sector has experienced significant growth.

"The shortfall in food production and food importation bills have both been reduced significantly. Along with the production of other staple crops, we have reached our goal of self-sufficiency in rice production.

"We are exerting a lot of effort to solve the problem of the rising cost of food that is related to inflation, being a global crisis."

President Buhari directed Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and all Heads of Agencies to reinvigorate their efforts in ramping-up delivery of flagship programmes and projects contained in their Ministerial Mandates.

He acknowledged the efforts of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and his team in sustaining the Annual Performance Review Retreats, adding that this has enabled the cabinet to maintain focus on the nine-point Agenda and more importantly, providing solid evidence that supports the achievements.

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is a consequence of the mismanagement of Nigerian elections in the past "Characterised by violence, rigging and disenfranchisement of voters, failed elections bring about a lot of negative outcomes which ultimately erodes voters' confidence in electoral process.

"The lack of effective voter participation in elections robs citizens of their fundamental role in a democracy, which is the freedom to choose their representatives.

"We believe that this MOVE project will enable the Commission to integrate human rights into democracy and as well ensure citizens' participation in the upcoming 2023 general elections," he said, adding that the project will promote increased participation of citizens in the voting process through access to permanent voters' card.

"This will be achieved by conducting high-Level advocacy Outreach to INEC

Osinbajo seeks synergy between fiscal, monetary policies

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, Monday, sought effective synergy between the Fiscal and Monetary aspects of Nigeria's economy.

Speaking at the Ministerial Retreat, declared open by President Muhammadu Buhari at the State House Conference Centre, at the Presidential Villa in Abuja, Osinbajo also canvassed better ways to manage the country's foreign exchange rate.

According to a statement by his media aide, Laolu Akande, the annual retreat was attended by all Federal Ministers and heads of agencies and parastatals.

In his presentation titled, 'The Buhari Administration: Reflections on the Journey So Far,' the VP, who detailed some of the game-changing achievements of the Federal Government, said there were some areas of concern in the economy.

According to him, "the first is the synergy between fiscal and monetary policy. The failure of that synergy has led to unnecessary drawbacks in our economic performance and planning.

What imports are eligible for foreign exchange must agree with the fiscal ambitions for manufacturing and industry."

He said currently such decisions on import

Human Rights Commission opens hate speech register

and conducting PVC Collection Campaigns amongst other activities.

"We will also mobilise the electorate and create awareness on the right to vote and its associated human rights which the commission intends to achieve by monitoring the voting process and carrying out a voter mobilisation campaign", he said.

Ojukwu disclosed that the commission also intends to build partnerships for the integration of human rights on the agenda of political parties and candidates as a measure to building voter confidence and participation.

He highlighted the role of the citizen in relation to the issues that are being discussed.

"One's power as a citizen is a huge responsibility that must be exercised soberly.

"We must engage in the political process while respecting the fact that the Political space is filled with



Tony Ojukwu (SAN)

plurality of ideas.

"You are more likely to convince someone to see things your way and possibly cast a vote for your favoured candidate when you respectfully try to persuade them rather than when you insult them or cast aspersions on agree with us," he said.

efforts at controlled price discovery that had been made in the past include the Foreign Exchange Market (FEM), interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM), and various iterations of the Dutch Auction System. (DAS), Wholesale Dutch Auction System (W-DAS), Retail Dutch Auction System (R-DAS).

"While they may not have been perfect it would appear as if the rules were clear and there was relative stability. When people know how they can access foreign exchange competitively, this will boost confidence and inward flows will increase", he added.

Among the game-changing achievements of the Buhari administration that the VP listed include the development of infrastructure "with the creativity we have introduced to infrastructure financing."

He also spoke about the success of the Socially Investment Programmes and the improvements in generating capacity in the power sector and the Solar Power Naija, which is in the process of providing off-grid power to about 20 million Nigerians. He also spoke about the progress in the Digital Economy with the sector contributing over 18% to GDP in the second quarter of 2020, almost three times the oil and gas contribution.

"I think that a more market-driven approach will be best, some price discovery within the context of a managed float is certainly required. Some

statement issued on Monday that the injured persons are currently receiving medical treatment at the Federal Medical Centre, Lokoja.

Gunmen attack Kogi church, kill 2 worshippers

At least two worshippers were killed and three others injured during an attack on a branch of the Celestial Church of Christ located behind the NNPC Mega Petrol Filling Station in the Felele area of Lokoja, Kogi State.

The suspected terrorist attack occurred on Sunday. The spokesperson of the Kogi State Police Command, William Aya, confirmed in a

"Two people were confirmed dead in the hospital, while three are receiving treatment.

"The Commissioner of Police has deployed our operatives and ordered the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the investigation to unravel the cause of the attack, with a view to arresting the perpetrators."



Business & Economy

Nigeria caught in the web of dwindling revenues

In spite of the dwindling oil revenue, the federal government continues in its resolve to bridge the country's huge infrastructure gap, which invariably has led to Nigeria's high debt profile; BENJAMIN UMUTE ME writes

IN what has become the proverbial between the devil and the deep blue sea, the federal government continues to borrow to fund its infrastructure which is almost collapsing. Everywhere one goes in the country, one would not fail to see what the federal government is trying to achieve.

However, in the face of falling revenue from the country's manor revenue source -oil, it has become obvious that there is a need for new and innovative ways of bridging the country's humongous infrastructure gap.

Falling revenue

For instance, the federal government raked in revenue of N3.344 trillion in 2019. In 2020, the federal government generated N3.42 trillion as revenue as against a projected amount of N5.365 trillion, indicating a shortfall of N1.947 trillion or 36.29%. Analysts attributed the 2020 revenue shortfall to the effect of Covid-19 pandemic on the global economy.

However, last year (2021), revenue fell to N3.9 trillion, with many attributing it to massive crude oil theft and oil pipeline vandalism which affected Nigeria's ability to meet its OPEC+ production quota. The amount was against targeted revenue of N7.9 trillion for 2021.

Already, in 2022, the situation may likely be worse than 2021, with Nigeria's daily crude production dropping to less than one million barrels per day at a certain point.

In the January-April fiscal performance report, Nigeria's total revenue stood at N1.63 trillion.

What worries analysts is the fact that debt service obligations of the federal government are eating up a large chunk of revenues that should oil the wheels of government's obligations to citizens.

For instance, while the government generated revenue for 2020 was N3.42 trillion. And according to a non-governmental organisation, BudGIT, "In 2020, the federal government projected total revenue of N5.37 trillion; however, the actual total revenue eventually stood at N3.42 trillion. This represents a 63.71% revenue performance."

"The cost of servicing the federal government's debt is drowning Nigeria as the cost continues to grow, gulping a total of N3.34 trillion (97%) from the total revenue," it noted.



Buhari

In 2021, the federal government spent N3.43 trillion on debt servicing. In the first four months of 2022, debt servicing already stood at N1.94 trillion, higher than revenue generated by the federal government by over N300 billion.

This analysis poses a huge challenge to the government's inability to fulfill its mandate of provision of critical infrastructure to Nigerians.

And this fear was voiced earlier this year by the Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba, at the public consultation for the MTEF/FSS 2023-2025, when he said the federal government may not be able to execute capital projects due to debt servicing obligations which he linked to subsidies payment that is estimated to gulp over N6 trillion next year.

Speaking exclusively to this reporter, the CEO of SD&D Management Limited, Gabriel Idakolo, said the issues such as fuel subsidies payment, continued allocation to revenue generating agencies, and low tax revenues should be quickly resolved by the government, if the government wants to come out of its present quagmire.

According to Idakolo, finding new ways to finance critical projects will lessen the burden on the government's shoulders that comes with continued borrowing.

He said: "The recent measures

undertaken by the government to curb crude oil theft will help to increase revenue.

"Nigeria also needs to stop budgetary allocations to all revenue generating agencies of the government because most of these agencies can sustain themselves from their revenue collection. JAMB is a perfect example.

"Nigeria also needs to critically look at our tax structure with a view of adequately taxing the rich and bringing more organisations and individuals into the tax net. The FIRS target on tax revenue should be doubled.

"The government as a matter of urgency should stop subsidy payment and put mechanisms in place to ensure Nigeria achieves self sufficiency in crude refining with both the government-owned and private refineries working at full capacity.

"Finally, we need to review our anticipated borrowing plan with a view of reducing our exposure and borrowing for infrastructure projects that can generate revenue to repay the loan," he added.

For political economist Adefolarin Olamilekan, the situation the country now finds itself is not only sad but difficult to understand. According to him, the government must change the ways it allocates funds to different sectors as well as adopt a pragmatic approach to revenue



Ahmed

generation.

He said: "It sad and very difficult to believe as a nation we are completely finding it difficult to fund our budget except through borrowing. This really calls for a rethink on the part of managers of our political and economic affairs.

"Imagine the humongous allocation of N6.31 trillion to service debt. And the estimated revenues of N16.87 trillion that we are not even sure of meeting half of it, going by the tragic failure of 2022 N10 trillion revenue, of which less than N7 trillion was achieved.

"For us this raised a lot of concerns, especially with the burden of N1.11 overheads cost. Meanwhile, the capital component that is supposed to drive the economy and increase productive activities across the country is allocated N5.35 trillion.

"Although, the 2023 budget critically was not different from the previous budget of this current administration, the biggest challenge remains meeting up with set revenue targets.

"This is achievable, only that the government's focus is still on the petro dollar income, which it set for itself in 2023, a whopping N1.9 trillion from 1.67million barrels of crude oil production daily at \$70 exchange of N435. This scenario of using earnings from crude has been the bane of revenue failure from non oil sector accountability."

Medium, long-term approach

Olamilekan is of the opinion that in the medium to long-term, the government must adopt a more pragmatic approach to revenue projection.

The development researcher said the government must endeavour to improve revenue collection efficiency as well as monitor closely MDAs and other government independent revenues sources diligently.

"Another is that implementation of the budget would require courageous fiscal policies to address and reduce the deficit so as to avoid further increases in our debt profile, but to ensure calibrate our macro-economic stability, grow confidence in the system and guarantee sustainable economic growth.

"Again, our case for the capital component is not far from a national strategic interest rather the importance of infrastructure to the stimulation of economic activities.

"Critically, dealing with corruption in our budget system must be reevaluated. We are concerned that the N2.42 trillion gifted to Government-Owned Enterprises (GoEs) as retail income must be thoroughly accounted for," he said.



Business & Economy

Flood: Gas scarcity looms as NLNG shuts operations

A spokesman for Nigeria Liquefied and Natural Gas said the company has declared force majeure due to widespread flooding that has disrupted supply.

Force majeure is a common clause in contracts which essentially frees both parties from liability or obligation when an extraordinary event or circumstance beyond the control of the parties, such as a war, strike, riot, crime, epidemic or sudden legal changes prevents one or both parties from fulfilling their obligations under the contract.

According to Reuters report, the declaration could worsen Nigeria's cash crunch and would curtail global gas supply as Europe and others struggle to replace Russian exports due to the invasion of Ukraine in February.

NLNG said all of its upstream gas suppliers had declared force majeure, forcing it to make the declaration as well.

"The notice by the gas suppliers was a result of high floodwater levels in their operational areas, leading to a shut-in of gas production which has caused significant disruption of gas supply to NLNG," spokesperson



Kyari

Andy Odeh said. Odeh said NLNG was determining the extent of the disruption and would try to mitigate the impact of the force majeure.

Flooding in Nigeria has killed more than 600 people, displaced 1.4 million and destroyed roads and farmland.

Officials have warned that the flooding, caused by unusually heavy rains and the release of water from a dam in Cameroon, could continue into November.

Also, Refinitiv data had revealed that NLNG's

supply had already been limited due to prolific oil theft that has slashed output from what is typically Africa's largest exporter. NLNG had exported roughly 18 cargoes in September.

Nigeria relies on fossil fuel exports for 90 per cent of its foreign exchange and roughly half its budget. Crude oil exports fell below one million barrels per day on average in August, the lowest level since the 1980s, due to theft that has exceeded 80 per cent on certain pipelines.

effects such as job creation, and poverty reduction both of which enhances Nigeria's social and economic condition."

BOI plans €1bn facility to support MSMEs

The Bank of Industry (BOI) has assured its customers in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises segment of the economy of more financing to grow their businesses.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the bank, Mr Olukayode Pitan, gave the assurance in Abuja during the 2022 SME directorate customer engagement forum.

A statement said the forum, which was organised by the Bank of Industry had the theme, 'Strategic initiatives for SMEs survival and growth in today's dynamic and challenging macro-economic environment'.

He described the theme as apt, considering the pivotal role SMEs play as the engine room of the global economy.

The BOI boss told participants at the forum that despite the high interest rate regime in Nigeria which was fuelled by inflationary pressure, the bank would continue to support businesses with lending that was not more than 10 per cent interest rate.

He noted that the bank remained committed to supporting the funding needs of its customers and assured them of sustained intervention with

successful completion of the €1bn guaranteed facility.

He explained that the facility, like previous ones, would be utilised to provide the much-needed medium to long term Nigerian MSMEs and large enterprises with transactions at affordable naira interest rates.

He said, "This year's customer forum is unique coming on the heels of the international customer service week which celebrates the importance of customer service and the people who serve and support customers on a daily basis."

"The bank places high premium on its customers and stakeholders, hence it created this platform where it interacts, share experience, and obtain feedback for the development of better products and services."

"The theme for this year's event strategic initiatives for SMEs survival and growth in today's dynamic and challenging macro-economic environment is apt considering the pivotal role SMEs play as the engine room of the global economy."

"BOI as the largest and most successful DFI in Nigeria has continued to support SMEs to generate considerable multiplier

Inflation rises again for the 8th time

THE National Bureau of Statistics report shows that Nigeria's inflation has risen to 20.77 per cent in September, maintaining a rise which started since March.



Adeniran

The NBS said the figure was 4.14 per cent points higher compared to the rate recorded in September 2021, which was (16.63%). The new figure puts the country's

Lifting 100m people out of poverty still possible - UN report

THE UN says lifting 100 million people out of poverty by 2025 is still possible in spite of recession threat.

A UN poverty study released on Monday shows that significant poverty reduction is possible, and new ways of calculating the problem can help humanitarians and governments better target aid.

The report was released to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, celebrated annually on Oct. 17.

The report- The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)- reveals that significant poverty reduction is possible, and new ways of calculating the problem could help humanitarians and governments better target aid. MPI was jointly analysed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.

The report goes beyond measuring poverty as a measurement of poverty, and looks at other indicators, from access to education and health, to living standards such as housing, drinking water, sanitation and electricity.

Using this way of calculating the issue, the study shows that, even before the COVID-19 pandemic and the current cost-of-living crisis are accounted for, some 1.2 billion people in 111 developing countries are living in acute multidimensional poverty - nearly double the number who are seen as poor when poverty is defined as living on less than 1.90 dollars per day.

Because there are different aspects of poverty in different regions, the study calls for the development of strategies that tackle the issue to be tailored to specific countries and regions.

It also identifies recurring patterns of poverty ("deprivation bundles"), that commonly affect those at risk. For example, more than half of those living in poverty lack both



Guterres

electricity and clean cooking fuel, whilst a third are deprived of nutrition, cooking fuel, sanitation and housing at the same time.

The experience of families in Lao PDR, for example, shows the interconnected nature of living in poverty, and the complexity of reducing it.

Children are sent to collect firewood because of a lack of cooking fuel, so they can't go to school. Simply providing funds to build a school would, therefore, make no sense, without first fixing the fuel problem. In spite of the scale of the challenge, significant improvements have been made in reducing poverty.

The study, he continued, will be "vital to inform UNDP's efforts across the globe as we work with our partners from the United Nations and beyond to reach our bold objective of helping lift 100 million people out of multidimensional poverty by the year 2025".

Before the pandemic hit, 72 countries had significantly reduced poverty. Yet the report anticipates that some of the

efforts to end poverty in line with Sustainable Development Goals are likely to have been derailed as a result of recent overlapping crises.

Identifying poverty profiles relies on a solid evidence base of data on poverty in all its dimensions and the report stresses the need to resume efforts to regularly update poverty data, especially in the poorest countries and in the places where the poorest people live.

In his message marking the Day, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, warned that the goal of eradicating poverty is being undermined, and "the world is moving backwards". The UN chief declared that the COVID-19 pandemic set back more than four years of progress, and also cited widening inequality, the "gathering shadow" of a global recession, and the climate crisis as reasons for the faltering efforts.

Guterres said that the theme for this year's Day - "Dignity for all in practice" - must be a rallying cry for

urgent global action, to finally "consign poverty to the pages of history".

inflation figure at a 17-year high.

It said the increase was due to a disruption in the supply of food products, an increase in import cost due to the persistent currency depreciation and the general increase in the cost of production.

Similarly, food inflation increased to 23.34 per cent on a year-on-year basis; which was 3.77 per cent higher compared to the rate recorded in September 2021 (19.57%).

The bureau stated that food inflation was caused by increases in prices of "bread and cereals, food products like potatoes, yam, and other tubers, oil, and fat."

However, the report said there was a drop in inflation when compared

to the previous situation.

On a month-on-month basis, the headline inflation rate in September 2022 was 1.36 per cent, a 0.41 per cent lower than the rate recorded in August 2022 (1.77%).

It said, "Over the past two months, there has been a decline in headline inflation on a month-on-month basis due to a decline in the changes in the food index relative to the reference month index which is due to the present harvest season."

Also, on a month-on-month basis, the food inflation rate was 1.43 per cent, a 0.54 a fall compared to the rate recorded in August 2022 (1.98%).

It attributed the decline to a reduction in prices of some food items like tubers, palm oil, maize, beans and vegetables.



Energy access: Common positions for Africa Bloc

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), over 640 million Africans, representing 40 percent, have no access to energy. The World Bank reports that only about 42 percent of the West African population has access to electricity, making the region with the lowest rates of electricity access in the world. With less than 40 days (Nov. 6-18, 2022) to the Conference of Parties (COP)27 in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt, Africa Bloc should have one voice on these issues while they negotiate: financial assistance for energy projects; clean energy investment; bio-energy expansion, and gas as a transitioning fuel. FEMI OGUNNIGBO and KAHINDE OGUNTALE writes

ONE of the international financial flows to developing countries is clean energy development assistance. At COP15 in Copenhagen, developed countries pledge to mobilise \$100 billion in public and private funds annually for climate adaptation and renewable energies in less developed countries before 2020. However, the target was missed. But at COP26 in Glasgow, they adjusted the window period to 2025.

In 2019, "Nigeria, Guinea, and India were the top receiving countries in support of clean energy through international public financial flows." The question is, how is this fund being utilised? The African Bloc should explain to the world how the financial support received has been helping or will help the continent in solving its energy poverty. Energy poverty cripples' development prospects. For example, the rise in diesel prices, unstable electricity tariffs, and irregular power supply in Nigeria have affected businesses. These are taking a toll on operating expenses, and making some commercial banks reduce hours of operations.

African Bloc should also prepare to present or project social or economic returns on investments. As this will motivate funders' nations or agencies to further provide financial aid and climate finance. It will also help the continent to self-finance its climate investment through Debt-For-Climate (DFC) Swap as propounded by Vice President of Nigeria, Yemi Osinbajo. DFC is a proposed deal in which "bilateral or multilateral debt is forgiven by creditor country or institution in exchange for a commitment by the debtor country to use the outstanding debt service payments for national climate action programmes."

Clean energy investment

Unlocking the potential of renewable energy sources in Africa is imperative to the continent's energy security. According to the AfDB, Africa has almost unlimited potential for solar capacity (10 terawatts), abundant hydro (350 gigawatts), wind (110 gigawatts), and geothermal energy sources (15 gigawatts) as these could put the continent at the forefront of renewable energy generation in 2030, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimates. Unfortunately, the continent's weak investment policies on renewable energy have reduced countries' ability to tap into this potential.

As COP27 is around the corner, African leaders should also make national policies to catalytic finance, which will unlock renewable energy potential and attract investments in the country. Recently, President Joe Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, a climate bill that centred on energy security and climate investments. One takeaway from the bill to Africa Bloc is the tax breaks and incentives including bonus credits for businesses to



promote the use of American-made equipment for clean energy production, electrification, and green technology.

Bio-energy expansion

Access to energy plays a key role in economic development and technological advancement. However, most energy consumed within Africa is generated from solid biomass. This dependence increases deforestation in most countries despite its sufficient resources to transition into renewable energy which is highly sustainable and kills the harmful emission from greenhouses which contribute seriously to climate change and adverse health implications for people.

Technological advancement has proven that biomass, the primary source of energy for people within the region, can be converted into high-energy fuels such as biofuel, biogas, and many more that can provide electricity, heat, and transportation fuel which in turn would replace fossil fuels. It has also been found that landfills for municipal solid waste are a source of biogas.

Lynd and Woods said that this process contributes to employment; development of marketable and transferable skills for the rural population; introduction of agricultural infrastructure and know-how; improved balance of payments and currency valuation; energy democratization, self-sufficiency, and availability of agricultural machinery and processing; and an economically rewarding way to regenerate Africa's vast areas of degraded land.

In Africa, both the rural and urban areas highly depend on biomass as the main source of energy with over 80 percent of the total energy supplied is used for heating, cooking, and processing of agricultural produce which is derived from

biomass, such as fuel wood and agricultural residues. The use of biomass has contributed to deforestation, land degradation, and desertification on the continent.

How then does the continent transition? Africa is rich with energy resources but transforming them into a renewable and sustainable one still remains a major problem. First, the continent would need to develop bioenergy injuries that are economically capable to meet the demands of the people. In doing this, countries would have to create an institutional framework where policies can be synergised. This framework includes regulations from the government as well as support from private organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Gas as a transitioning fuel

African leaders have been at loggerheads in coming to a conclusion on whether to use gas as a transition fuel or not. The use of natural gas means that high-content fossil fuels such as coal and oil will be divested and phased out while investing in natural gas to generate electricity, cook, and fuel transportation vehicles.

These indecisions by African leaders or stakeholders are tied to the belief that transition would collapse several countries' economic systems. While there are visible implications for climate change, the leaders are alternatively pushing for using fossil fuels to develop their own economy. Early this year, European Union labelled gas (from fossil fuel) as green to replace dirty fuel temporarily until 2030 if they meet criteria including emissions limits, and a requirement to progressively burn more low-carbon gases, starting in 2026 and eventually switching to 100 percent low-carbon gas in 2035, Kate Abnett

countries.

However, it is clear that African countries need to invest in renewable energy to reduce the impact of climate change and health complications in their countries. There is also a need to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels as the primary option for energy generation. While the cost of building a gas terminal might be a challenge for underdeveloped countries, its benefits affect not just the country but the global space at large. Recently in Dakar, the US climate envoy, Kerry cautions against long-term gas projects in Africa. Last month, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources in Nigeria, Timipre Sylva, stressed that an attempt to limit international financing of oil & gas projects could jeopardise Africa's energy transition.

Eme Okang, the director of Standpoint initiative, noted that Africa has to be on the same page in deeply analysing, synthesizing, and proffering long-term and sustainable processes and even alternatives to not just transition but sustain the transition and no African government should take the back burner when it comes to the implementation of any such solutions that would be agreed upon by parties. It is doable with the right prescriptions.

In conclusion, Africa is hosting the annual COP27 in the next few weeks. This can be a good opportunity to advocate clean energy finance, investment, and solutions that better fit into the economic, political, and developmental structures of the continent. The effect of climate change is crumbling several countries' development and a unified standpoint can help these countries' sustainability.

Source: Business Day

"However, it is clear that African countries need to invest in renewable energy to reduce the impact of climate change and health complications in their countries. There is also a need to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels as the primary option for energy generation. While the cost of building a gas terminal might be a challenge for underdeveloped countries, its benefits affect not just the country but the global space at large. Recently in Dakar, the US climate envoy, Kerry cautions against long-term gas projects in Africa. Last month, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources in Nigeria, Timipre Sylva, stressed that an attempt to limit international financing of oil & gas projects could jeopardise Africa's energy transition."

Politics

Chairman eulogizes governor for developmental strides

From Gyang Pam, Yola

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) in Adamawa State said it rejects totally the verdict by the Federal High Court judgement barring its Governorship Candidate Senator Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed Binani from contesting the 2023 election.

At a full house meeting of the state Executive and local government chapter Saturday, they said it rejected the courts, nullification of its primaries and says it has since concluded plans to approach the appellate court to reverse the lower courts judgment.

Addressing newsmen at its secretariat after their meeting, Secretary of the party Dr. Raymond Chidama speaking on behalf of the party assured that they will take back the seat.

Dr. Raymond while assuring party members not to panic but to be rest assured that they will come on to take over from the PDP led government in the state come next election.



Fintiri

Adamawa State APC however believes that they were happy over the lapses noted in the courts judgment but will however appeal the court's judgment.

In the whole, the APC in Adamawa State will field its candidate.

It would be recalled that shortly often the APC Primaries on May, 25th that produced Senator Aishatu as its candidate, a former EFCC boss Malam Nuhu Ribadu not Satisfied, went to court to protest some irregularities in the

processes.

Among some of the allegations were over voting and inducement of the people with money.

Ribadu himself did not succeed in his Prayers to have the primaries done again but to which his prayers were not assured.

TARABA State governor, Darius Ishaku, has lamented over the crisis rocking the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and said he wished the problem would be solved so that the party would win the 2023 elections and give Nigerians the change it deserved.

Ishaku while speaking to journalists in Jalingo shortly after his arrival to the State, also stated that the conferment on the national honour on him by Mr President came as a surprise.

Speaking on the PDP crisis, Ishaku said, "politics is all about negotiation. It is about settlement and about winning and losing. It is like a football match, once you are not a winner, you would concede to those who won the match. PDP is one big family and I wish that this problem would solve itself and we would win the election because all Nigerians want a change this time and not an empty change".

He was however optimistic that the current crisis would "fizzle out". "We would get our house in order because we want to win election. Quarrels in a party are normal and I assure you, this would come

PDP crisis: I wish this problem would solve itself -Ishaku

From Victor Gai, Jalingo

and go," he stressed.

On the recent conferment of Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) on him, Ishaku described it as a surprise considering that he was in the opposition and dedicated it to Taraba people.

"It was surprising to me being selected for CON by Mr President. It is even

gladdening that I am in the opposition and Mr. President has sighted me and selected me among those qualified...That is an award that is bigger than all the awards that I have gotten. We appreciate God, we appreciate Mr President, we appreciate all the people of Taraba without whom I wouldn't have gotten this award. I want to tell them that this award is for them," he added.



Ishaku

Northern Govs. Congratulate Fayemi over successful tenure

By PALANGKASMI

THE Northern Governors Forum (NGF) have congratulated former

Governor of Ekiti State, Dr. Kayode Fayemi for a successful tenure and a record

of achievements.

Fayemi was also the immediate past Chairman of Nigerian Governors Forum (NGF).

Chairman of the Forum and Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bakolalong

said Fayemi had discharged his duties with passion, commitment and excellence during his tenure as governor and head of governors in the entire country.

"Fayemi carried out many people-oriented projects that impacted the citizens of Ekiti State and put the state on the path of progress".

"This assisted in ensuring a smooth transition with the emergence of Hon. Biodun Abayomi Oyejobi".

"Fayemi as the former Chairman of the Governors Forum took the body to a higher level by mobilizing and galvanizing all governors irrespective of their party affiliations towards addressing the security, economic and political challenges of the nation".

Lalong recalled among other things how Governors Fayemi worked assiduously with his

colleagues to collaborate with the Federal Government in tackling the impact of Corona virus pandemic, global economic crisis, insurgency, and other national issues.

Lalong also commended Governor Fayemi for also ensuring that state governments partner with development agencies towards addressing health, education, empowerment and energy challenges among others for the benefit of their citizens.

While wishing him well in his future endeavours, Lalong assured him that the Northern Governors Forum will continue to leverage on his experience, wisdom and knowledge in working for the interest of its people and Nigerians at large.

Meanwhile, the Northern Governors Forum has congratulated new Ekiti State Governor, Hon. Biodun Abayomi Oyejobi as he assumes office, urging him to continue in the footsteps of his predecessor by pursuing practical development and also building bridges across the nation. He assured him of the willingness of the forum to collaborate with him.

APC challenges PCAC to investigate N30bn allegation

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

All Progressives Congress (APC) in Bauchi State has challenged the newly created Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission (PCAC) in the state to immediately commence investigation and expeditiously prosecute the corruption allegations on the N30 billion loan from United Bank for Africa (UBA) for projects execution by the state government.

The APC also questioned the rationale behind the N3.6 billion vehicles supply contract Governor Bala Mohammed gave to himself, his family and friends through Adda Nig. Ltd; the recent sales of Bauchi State assets and companies to his family and friends; and the over N1.2 billion monthly security vote mismanagement.

The opposition party in Bauchi in a press statement tagged, "Bauchi State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission (PCAC): 'PHYSICIAN, HEAL THYSELF'", also asked the PDP-

led government to explain the expenditure on the N8 billion Federal Government refunded funds for road construction;

APC similarly queried the N11 billion the PDP government inherited in the FCMB Account belonging to the state, details explanation on N6.2 billion renovation of Government House, as well as the contract for outsourcing of salary payment to a consultant, a company alleged to be his son's or his proxies, thereby fleecing Bauchi State of billions of naira monthly.

Also in the query is the demand for explanation on the sale of students' hostel by the Governor's wife to the Adamu Tafawa Balewa College of Education, Kangere while she continues to collect rent after sale from students; and the over N8 billion Covid-19 intervention fund;

Malam Adamu Jallah also demanded for APC's

explanation on the N5 billion contract for the renovation of (20) LGAs secretariats, and the N1.35 billion the governor used to buy goats for the state government's economic empowerment programme

The APC said that failure to investigate and prosecute these allegations will only re-enforce its reasonable suspicion that the anti-graft agency is created to fight the governor's personal battles, witch-hunt political opponents and protect himself from the EFCC, ICPC and other federal agencies fighting corruption.

Jallah said that while the APC fights against corruption as a cardinal objective enshrined in its constitution and would have otherwise unreservedly welcomed the anti-corruption agency, it strongly suspects the motive for the creation of the PCAC by the governor at this point in time.

"Given the governor's antecedents, intolerance to opposition and desperation to hang on to power by all means, we believe he will most likely use the agency to witch hunt, intimidate and oppress public servants (past and present), PDP members who are leaving him for the APC, and everyone he views as a threat to his doomed re-election quest and his well-known appetite for corruption".

The APC spokesperson recalled that right from the outset, the governor has shown his true colour as a legalistic autocrat and succeeded in undermining the state House of Assembly when he enabled 11 out of 31 members to "elect" the

speaker.

According to him, the governor's aim was to neutralize the second arm of government constitutionally created to check and oversight his actions and hold him to account, as he has already weakened the chain of constitutional control on his executive powers, hence it's doubtful whether PCAC has followed the due process of law.

Jallah alleged that the governor has waged a sustained war on the state bureaucracy in order to intimidate, silence and covered the state civil service to passive submission so as to rule Bauchi State like a corrupt amoral king without due regard for due process, rule of law or democratic norms.

APC also noted that with the passage of the anti-graft agency law, the governor is now the investigator, prosecutor and judge in Bauchi State, observing that, "Nothing can be more dangerous than this for the state and the good people of Bauchi".

The opposition party summed it thus, "More importantly, Governor Bala is trying to oust the jurisdiction and/or Impede the EFCC and ICPC to prosecute corruption allegations against him or his family and friends".

The APC media man expressed optimism that APC will vote out the corrupt, nepotistic and neo-patrimonial government of Senator Bala Mohammed and replace it with the party's governorship flagbearer Air Marshal Sadique (rtd) in the forthcoming elections for the good of Bauchi State insha - Allah.



Adamu



Fayemi

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 |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Esther Nanre Zakka late of Plateau State. Died on the 31st December, 2018 at JUTH, Plateau State. | Zakka Nenrot Goldit of COCIN LCC Kufang Dadin Kowa, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased. | Tarkumbul Priscilla Mwuese late of Plateau State. Died on the 2nd August, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State. | Tarkumbul Isaiah Msendoo of Behind St. Judes Anglican Church Farin Gada Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased. | Dayong Patrick Sabo late of Plateau State. Died on the 27th March, 2021 at Umuia, Abia State. | Sabo Briska Patrick of State Lowcost Housing Bungaha Dawo, Mangu LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow of the said Deceased. |
| Bilyaminu Ahmad late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th March, 2022 at Hospital, Dengi Kanam LGA, Plateau State. | Yasir Umar Dashe of Gamu Ga Dengi Kanam LGA, Plateau State. The lawful brother of the said deceased. | Danladi Tanti late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th February, 2020 at JUTH, Plateau State. | Ruth Danladi Tanti of G.R.A. Phase 2 Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow of the said deceased. | INSP. Monday Ingah late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th March, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State. | Blessing Ochaka Monday & Emmanuel Monday Ingah of 'A' Divisional Police Barrack Jos, Plateau State. The lawful son/daughter of the said deceased. |
| Peter Laitu late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st March, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State. | Ajinai Peter Ezekiel & Daniel Peter Ajinai Gidan Sarki, Kangang, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful sons of the said deceased. | Martina Naanlong Paul late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th February, 2022 at National Hospital, Abuja. | Naanlong Humphrey Hommen of Kwata Zawan, Jos south LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Immaculate Chinomso Anthony late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd July, 2022 at Tabat, Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. | Anthony Gador Lapyen of Tabat Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful husband of the said deceased. |
| Pam Hurung Stephen late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th September, 2020 at Hospital, Abuja. | Pam Nzemkwis Davou of Dagwom Palace Kuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Nanfas Nden late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th October, 2021 at Hospital, Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. | Nandang Nden Nanfa C/O COCIN Pil-Gani Langtang LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Patrick Asabar Ngwen late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st May, 2019 at JUTH, Plateau State. | Philip Fadi Ngwen of No. 125 New Layout Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. |
| Abdullahi O. Ayuba late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th July, 2007 at Dengi, Kanam LGA, Plateau. | Abdulhazad Ayuba of Dengi Kanam LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Haruna Madaki late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th September, 2022 at Shere Naraguta Village, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. | Yohanna Haruna of Naraguta Village Uni-Jos, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Samuel Gyang Chung late of Plateau State. Died on the 23rd August, 2022 at Vom Christian Hospital, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. | Samson Samuel Chung Gyang of Nyango Gyel Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. |
| Mathias Salami Besand Dashon late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th October, 2021 at Cotage Hospital, Mangu LGA, Plateau State. | Freedom Mathias Dashon & Esther Mathias Dashon of Daika Mangu LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Diyal Zumle Stephanus late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st August, 2022 at General Hospital, Wase LGA, Plateau State. | Diyal Victor of Poly Quarters Angli-Di Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Dafes John Mwelbish late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th November, 2021 at Cottage Hospital, Kwalla, Quaan-Pan LGA, Plateau State. | Dafes Nanzum John Lagurut Kwande Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. |
| Al-Khamis Ala A. Bala late of Plateau State. Died on the 2nd January, 2016 at Jos, Plateau State. | Muhammad Khamis Saeed of No. 38 Adebayo Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Peter Laraba Makwin late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th April, 2019 at Luna Hospital Bokkos. | Makwin Godwin Peter of Tangur Mom, Bokkos LGA. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Shaibu Usman Mall late of Kogi State. Died on the 9th September, 2021 at Benue State. | Usman Abubakar Sadiq of Close to Water Board Byazhi A, Abuja. The lawful son of the said deceased. |
| Gokum Chorbak also known as Chorbak Gokum Gokawat late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd May, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State. | Jospeh Chorbak Nengi & Blessing Chorbak of Langsh Village Kanke LGA, Plateau state. The lawful son/widow of the said deceased. | Peter Achir also known as Achir Akombo Peter late of Benue State. Died on the 25th May, 2022 at Jato-Aka Benue State. | Akombo Tersoo Mark of Jenta Adamu, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. | Agatha Laankwap late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th September, 2019 at Jos, Plateau State. | Ari Mercellinus Laankwap of Abattoir Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. |
| Inusa garba late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st November, 2019 at Jos, Plateau State. | Nandom Inusa Garba & Jiwul Inusa Garba all of Hwolshe, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful sons of the said deceased. | Signed (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) AG: PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS | | Chirban Nankap Nimkat late of Plateau state. Died on the 27th April, 2022 at Timshat Wase LGA, Plateau State. | Manfa Nankap Nimkat COCIN Timshat, Wase LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased. |

IMAGES

TINUBU AT A MEETING WITH AREWA GROUP

The All Progressives Congress (APC), Presidential Candidate, his running mate, Sen. Kashim Shettima, Northern Governors on Monday met with Arewa Groups in Kaduna, Kaduna State



Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu is seen addressing the group at the Arewa House, Kaduna



APC Vice Presidential Candidate, Sen. Kashim Shettima (right) and other Governors listening to the Presidential candidate's speech with rapt



Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, APC Presidential Candidate (left) with his Director General of the Campaign Council, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON), Plateau State Governor



Governors Simon Bako Lalong (CON) of Plateau State and Malam Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna State listening with keen interest



Northern Governors' Forum Chairman, Governor Simon Bako Lalong (CON) delivering his speech at the meeting



A cross section of Governors and other dignitaries at the meeting



A cross section of Northern Governors and Deputy Governors listening to speeches



Former Governor of Zamfara State, Abdulaziz Yari (left) with Nasarawa State Governor, Engr. Abdullahi Sule

Ministry of Information and Communications

Congratulations Your Excellency Sir

On behalf of the Management and entire staff of the Ministry of Information and Communication Plateau State, I **Hon. Dan Manjang**, heartily felicitate with His Excellency, **Rt. Hon. Bar. Simon Bako Lalong**, Chairman Northern Governors' Forum, DG, Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council on his conferment with the prestigious National Merit of Honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger, (CON), by the President, and Commander-In-Chief of Armed Forces Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**.

Our amiable Governor Sir, you have made us proud as a people following your magnificent years of sacrifice and service to the people of Plateau State and Nigeria at large.

It is also with great delight that we celebrate other sons and daughters of our state who were also conferred with these National Merit Awards.

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

Our Governor Sir, your dedication to your respective tasks are beyond measures, which indeed have earned you a place on the list of our great National Heroes.

We are confident that this honour will inspire you to greater service for God and Humanity.

Once more congratulations!!!

Signed:
Hon. Dan Manjang,
Commissioner, Information and Communication.



News

MUCABI, CASS unveil Value-Based Education in prisons

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Mulapnen Capacity Building Initiative (MUCABI) and CASS Education Foundation, have unveiled a grant programme tagged: "Value-Based Education in Prisons" in commemoration of the International Day of Education in Prison 2022.

This took place recently at the Sacred Heart Hall of Pastoral Centre of the Bishop's Court, Jos, Plateau State capital, where stakeholders were drawn from Civil Society Organizations, (CSOs) and various security agencies.

Welcoming participants, the Executive Director of CASS Education Foundation, His Grace Salika Dasa, explained that they were moved by the decline in essence of

establishing Correctional Centres in Nigeria and thought it wise to intervene because less attention was given to the education in prisons. The founder of MUCABI, Mr. Necodemus Samson Biska said, "CASS Education Foundation saw the need for advocacy to influence decisions and policies that will bring about prison reformation and had started, visiting some government agencies lobbying for a bill to establish prison trust fund that will cater for education of incarcerated individuals and other related matters.

On his part, the Commander, Operation Safe Haven, represented by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Muhammad Rabiu said, education was a right of every Nigerian including those imprisoned in various Correctional Centres,



Aregbesola

hence the need to make these agencies more of educational institutions than just regimental calculation. One of the representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSO), Abdulsalam Salis, charged the Correctional Centres to employ Information Officers who would be able to tell the world what they were doing, because the high number of inmates in these Correctional Centres was an indication of how the country was sick.

Representative of the NDLEA, ACN Grace Goyol, who is the Head of Drug Demand Reduction Department, commended MUCABI and CASS Education Foundation for organizing this programme. She called on Correctional Centres to focus more on juveniles as they would collaborate with them to control the high level drugs usages. Director General of Plateau State Peace Building Agency, Joseph Lenmang, represented by Mr. Elkannah Izam, said their intervention has been on schools, but promised to partner with

them to see that inmates were educated through this programme, and described the programme as apt and timely.

There was a paper presentation by Prince Charles Dickson, on the topic: "Holistic Education and the Needs of People in Correctional Centres".

Thousands benefit from Oyedepo's relief material

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

OVER 1,000 households in Kogi State have received relief materials from the founder of Living Faith Church, Bishop David Oyedepo to cushion the effects of flooding which ravaged ten local government areas in the state.

Apart from the headquarters of Winners Chapel in Lokongoma, Lokoja, other branches within Lokoja metropolis including LFC Adankolo, Gadumo, Ganaja, 500 Housing Units and other local governments areas like Ibaji, Ankpa, Ajaokuta, Bassa benefited from the relief materials.

Members from across all their network of churches in Kogi State were beneficiaries

AS floodwater recedes, flood victims in Lokoja are gradually returning back to their original homes apprehensive on how to be safe from reptiles which have taken over their residents.

Reptiles, particularly snakes, have reportedly taken over many homes in Lokoja, the capital of Kogi State, causing panic among residents who are returning home after the gradual receding of water that had flooded their home.

Our correspondent reports that residents of Ajara Quarters in the Marine area of Lokoja, Adankolo, part of Army Barracks area, Gadumo and Ganaja areas, whose homes were flooded, have been battling with influx of snakes in their homes.

A resident of Ajara Quarters, Abdulmaliki Usman, told our correspondent that he returned to his house due to receding floodwater, but there was no day they would not kill two to three snakes in their compound.

"We returned on Monday as the flood water started receding gradually in our area. Since then, we have killed up to 10 snakes, some in the compound and others in the rooms. We are now living in fear. But we thank God that we have not recorded any incident of snake bite," he

Snakes take over flood victims' homes

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

said. Equally, travellers plying the Ganaja-Lokoja road were reported to have encountered a big snake in their boat shortly after taking off to cross to the other side of the town on Thursday.

A snake was said to have been sighted by a passenger in the boat, few metres from the shore, causing passengers to jump into the water.

"We were lucky that the place was not deep. The snake was later killed by the boat owner with his paddle," a passenger, Joseph Benjamin said.

In the same vein, a family in the Army Barracks area was reported to have killed a big snake in their room on Wednesday.

It was reported that the snake was sighted under a chair by a little girl and quickly brought it to the notice of her parents, who later killed it.



Bello



Ayokunle

as non-members who registered as flood victims were also captured in the

distribution. The food packs contained rice, beans, and garri and a sum of 10,000 was given to each beneficiary.

While flagging off the distribution of the relief packages, the local pastor of Living Faith Church in Kogi, Pastor Fred Attabo described the gesture as an initiative of the president and founder of the Church, Bishop David Oyedepo.

His words: "We thank God for the leadership of this commission and the apostle of this commission, Bishop David Oyedepo who heard about the flooding and immediately mobilized resources to ensure that something gets to you. The prophet over the commission is praying for you and the testimony of this prayer is that we have not lost any member."

"I bring greetings to you from our father the apostle over this Commission who

sent the relief materials that we are distributing today. It is my prayer that as you receive this package, you will begin to receive greater help from above."

Attabo added that it is not a welfare issue but a package for the victims of the flooding alone as over 24 local churches in the Ibaji Local Government Area were closed as a result of the flood.

"The token we are giving you is not to build another house but to cushion the effects of the flooding and ameliorate the suffering of the flood victims and it will be a continuous exercise that will be carried out from time to time," he said.

In his address, the Chairman of the Flood Response Committee, Elder Joseph Ipemida charged the beneficiaries to make use of the food pack as a way of starting the process of resettlement.

"We are mandated to ensure that everyone is captured and not being our member doesn't mean you will not benefit from the package."

Elder Joseph added that the list contains the names of over two hundred people and everyone will be reached. He maintained that the Emergency Response which runs into several millions of naira was simultaneously carried out in all the branches as their relief packages have also been sent to all their churches across the nine local government areas that have been affected by the flood in Kogi State.

NDA honours Barkin-Ladi LGA staff

By LONGWENTONGKAM

THE Director of Personnel Management of Barkin Ladi Local Government Council, Esther Palit has

received a meritorious award in recognition of her contributions to

community Development by the Ngas Development Association, Kufang branch in Jos South Local Government Area.

Speaking while presenting the award to the recipient, the chairman, Ngas Development Association Kufang branch, Jos South Local Government Area, James Fwenji, lauded Esther Palit as a great contributor to the growth and development of the association.

He said the association would continue to recognize spirited individuals who have made their mark towards the

progress of the community.

He enjoined her to see the award as recognition of her effort to the community.

In a vote of thanks, Esther Palit thanked members of the association for according her recognition.

She noted that it was a normal responsibility she was performing as a member of the community, little did she know that it had imparted in advancing the course of the community or that they would appreciate her that way.



Alamba

News

Special Adviser now Gombe Boys Brigade president

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Special Adviser to Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State on Legal Matters, Barrister Caleb Ubale, has been made the President of the Gombe State Council of Boys Brigade of Nigeria.

The Investiture, which included other officers of the state council took place on Sunday 16th October, 2022 at the ECWA Goodnews Church GRA, Gombe.

The ceremony was presided by the National President of the Boys Brigade of Nigeria, Professor Samson Duna in the presence of the Grand Patron, and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya.

In a goodwill message shortly before the Investiture, the Governor called on the President of the Gombe State Council and other members of the council to consider their ascension to leadership as an opportunity to sacrifice a lot for God and humanity.

Represented by his Deputy, Manassah Daniel Jatau, the Governor appreciated the role of the church with particular reference to the activities of the Boys Brigade in building discipline, morality and self reliance amongst the youth towards making them agents of positive change in the society.

He said "in Gombe State, we have enjoyed so many things because of the power of prayers. We have understood the importance of prayers by all faiths, the Muslim and the Christians alike, that is why we support them in praying for the peace, unity and progress of the state and the nation".

The Governor urged the leadership of the Boys Brigade to continue to encourage the youth to grow in the way of God so that there shall be a reduction of the vices and attendant socio-economic hardship being faced in the society.



Yahaya

Quoting the scripture, the Governor stressed that times are perilous as described by Paul and the Church should play the positive role of changing the tide through prayers and engaging the Boys Brigade.

The Chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev. Father Joseph Alphonsus Shinga, congratulated the new BB officials and prayed God to help them in the course of their assignment.

He called on the church to pray for peace, unity and progress of Gombe State and Nigeria, especially for the forthcoming general elections to be successful.

The National President, Boys Brigade of Nigeria, Prof. Samson Duna, expressed delight that he is the first President from Gombe State and this was his first official assignment after taking over office.

He appreciated the contributions of the Boys Brigade all over the world and stressed the need for people to support them in view of the positive role they play in advancing the course of God and humanity.

He however expressed dismay that Gombe State Council of the BB is lagging behind in terms of structural developments, urging

the well to do to come to their aid.

He charged Christians, especially the youth to participate fully in the forthcoming general elections by coming out to exercise their constitutional rights of electing people of their choice, pointing out that gone are the days when people pray and expect God to give them good leaders.

In a sermon delivered by Evangelist Mark Mijinyawa of Word Alive Kingdom Community and member of Gospel Centre, Billiri, he stressed the need for Christians to be rooted in the word of God which is the basis for sustainable freedom for believers.

He admonished the Church to be alert to spiritual deception that is released into the world, pointing out that, the amount of knowledge one has, determines the level of freedom from being deceived.

Taking his text from Mathew 24: Luke 19:13, the evangelist charges the congregation on the need to occupy, using the potentials deposited in them and avoid being complacent but proactive to allow the will of God be done on earth.

He decried a lot of negative things happening in the Church and called on couples to maintain their god-given responsibilities in the family.

NBC condemns Zamfara for NTA, FRCN shut down

From AIKE ANENE, Sokoto

THE National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) has condemned the Zamfara State government for ordering the shutdown of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Gusau, and the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN)'s Pride FM for allegedly violating government order and journalism practice.

The state government in a statement by the Commissioner for Information, Ibrahim Dosara on Saturday, had ordered the closure of other media organizations including Gamji TV, Gamji FM and Al umma TV, which are privately operated, based on approval by the State Security Council. "The Commissioner of Police had been directed to arrest and prosecute personnel of the affected stations caught violating the order," the statement

reads.

However, in its reaction, the NBC in a statement titled, 'Illegal closure of broadcast stations by the Zamfara State government with a reference, NBC/DGABV/PR/10/2022?' by its Director-General, Balarabe Shehu Ialah on Sunday, urged the security agencies to ignore the call to restrict staff of the affected stations from conducting their legitimate duties.

"The National Broadcasting Commission has noted with serious concern the illegal action of Zamfara State government by directing the shutdown of operations of licensees of the Commission in the State. The NBC has clearly notified the State Government of the gravity of the illegality and requested it to expeditiously reverse the directive and apologize to the people of the state.

"We also urge the security agencies to ignore the call to restrict staff of the

affected stations from conducting their legitimate duties." "The Commission wishes to further emphasize that it will resist ANY attempt to cause a breach of law and order ANYWHERE through the misuse of the broadcast media in Nigeria, before, during and after the 2023 national elections.

"We call on ALL industry stakeholders to resist ANY attempt to truncate the hard earned democratic gains in aggrieved Person or Institution with genuine complaint(s) arising from unprofessional conduct or action by ANY licensed broadcaster in Nigeria is hereby requested to follow the laid down processes enshrined in the Nigeria Broadcasting Code.

"The Commission will not relent to discharge its mandate according to the NBC Act, CAP. NII, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004. All broadcast license holders are urged to ensure strict compliance and avoid ANY action inimical to democratic governance and peaceful coexistence in Nigeria.



Is it possible to stay neutral?

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

Senate passes NPFTF 2022 budget

From DORCAS PANKYES,
Abuja

SENATE on Wednesday passed the N65,905,252,467 budget of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund, NPFTF for the 2022 fiscal year.

The amount is made up of personnel expenditure of N948,810,609.29, total overhead costs; N8,857,106,527.44 and total capital expenditure of N56,099,335,330.35.

Passage of the budget followed the consideration and adoption of the harmonized report of Senate Committee on Police Affairs and that of the House of Representatives.

Presenting the report, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Police Affairs, Senator Halliru Dauda identified the revenue sources for the proposed budget as; 0.5% of the total revenue accrued to the federation account that amounts to N52,569,086,241.00; 0.5% of total VAT at N11,720,616,226.00; 0.05% of Net Profit of Companies in Nigeria - N1,145,300,000.00 and aids, grants donations etc at N470,250,000.



Lawan

Explaining the reason why the fund was not able to implement its 2021 budget, Dauda attributed it to a court case filed by the River State government challenging the legality of deducting its money to finance the fund.

He said it was based on that litigation that a directive was issued that all the monies accrued to the fund be kept in an escrow account at the CBN

pending the resolution of the matter.

According to him, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice had waded into the matter by advising that henceforth, only the share of the Rivers State should be domiciled in the escrow account, while other deductions be remitted to the fund since it is the only state that filed the suit.

THE Director of Weights and Measures in the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Mrs Comfort Lenkat Emendu, has warned and vowed to deal ruthlessly with unscrupulous persons who deliberately alter the settings of their instruments unjustly to cheat their customers.

Mrs Emendu gave the warning through an Assistant Director in the Ministry, Engineer Geoffrey Jwan who led a team to Bauchi and Gombe States on a surveillance exercise of instruments used in weighing and measuring goods and products in markets, shopping malls, quarries, gas and petrol retail outlets.

Addressing the press in Gombe in company of the Northeast Coordinator of the Department, Mrs Sah Ahmed, after the exercise, she also warned those who indulge in unauthorized breaking of seals affixed to instruments that were found not to be within the tolerance limit during the inspection.

According to her, the surveillance exercise was carried out to get firsthand information from the field from users of weighing and measuring instruments for trade as well as ensure proper enforcement of the weights and measures Act by staff of the Ministry.

It was also to create

FG warns traders against altering weights, measures

From
WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

awareness on the use of instruments stressing that the surveillance was part of the Department's mandate of ensuring measurements for trade are accurate, fair, legal, transparent and uniform to boost customers confidence to do business transaction in Nigeria and thereby build the economy.

The team observed that contraventions mostly committed in the two States included, inaccurate payments of verification fees and non compliance with allowance error limit of +/- 0.1 litre on each 20 litres of dispensed petroleum product by marketers.

Other contraventions discovered were, using weighing or measuring instruments for trading without obtaining certificate of verification as well as excessive hose length (above

4 metres) which can lead to a contravention technically known as Hose Dilation.

She explained that hose dilation is a situation where substantial quantity of petroleum product which has been measured and costed by the metre to be paid by the customer is trapped in the hose which expands under hot weather without being delivered to the motor tank or buyers container hence, the longer the hose, the more the cost incurred by the customer.

The Director therefore directed coordinators of her department's State offices in Bauchi and Gombe to liaise with the State Governments to implement the indigenous measures policy of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to facilitate the maximization of benefits realizable from the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) by farmers and traders of farm produce in the two states.

'Zulum is pride to the country'

BORNO State Governor, Prof. Babagana Umaru Zulum has been described as pride to the entire people of the Northeast geo-political zone in particular and the country as a whole.

"Your leadership has brought pride to all of us in this part of the country. You have done so much. No wonder you are the chairman of the Northeast Governors Forum where you look at all the developmental challenges of the Northeast and Northern Nigeria, and indeed the country".

Governor Bala was responding to the Borno Chief Executive, Babagana Zulum who paid him a condolence visit in Bauchi over the demise of his elder brother, Abubakar Mohammed who passed away last Sunday after a protracted illness at

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

the age of 69 years.

"You have really shown pedigree in your leadership. This is the leadership style you are showing in Borno State and in Nigeria. The courage you have, we try to emulate a little. They call me Kauran Bauchi, but I think you are the Kaura of the Northeast".

"You dared all the miscreants and charlatans that are bombarding us and today even Mr. President has the pride of being associated with you. You are the most visited person by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, that has spoken volumes".

Senator Bala Mohammed noted that his Borno State counterpart has driven Boko

Haram from the sub-region and its enclave of Borno in particular by securing the jurisdiction, the epicenter of terrorism and violence in the country.

Mohammed told his colleague, "We are proud of you, we are proud to associate with you. Let me say it to the press, when I intend to run for the presidency, I will make sure that the northeast has a say in the leadership of this country".

"I ask this gentleman, the Governor of Borno, are you running? If you are running, I don't have to run, because I know what you would do. You would do better than me. He is the beacon of hope".

The Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum has earlier told his Bauchi State counterpart, "We are here this evening on behalf of the Government and good people of Borno State, and on behalf of my family to commiserate and condole you over the demise of your senior brother".

Zulum who prayed for the repose of the soul of the deceased, also prayed that God will admit him in Jannatul Firdausi.

The elder brother to the state governor, Engr. Salmanu Mohammed while responding on behalf of the family, said that late Abubakar Mohammed diligently served the country for 35 years and retired as Assistant Director with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Engr. Salmanu said, "He

decided not to stay in Abuja or Lagos after the retirement, he came back to us here in Bauchi. He established all his businesses within the city. He also established himself as a political pundit. He was also very active during the campaigns of Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed to become the governor".

"He collapsed on the day of inauguration of the governor on May 29, 2019 and he never come back to his normal self until he died penultimate Sunday, leaving behind a wife and five children, one male and four females"

Over 60 orphans sponsored for primary education

From ANENE AIKE,
Sokoto

THE Qatar Charity Foundation has sponsored the education of 60 orphans in Sokoto State, the Chairman of the state Zakkat and Endowment Commission, Malam Muhammad Maidoki has stated.

The Chairman, Maidoki in a chat with our correspondent said that the 60 children will begin their primary school education on Monday 17th October, 2022.

According to him, the children are among 106 orphans being taken care of by the foundation.

He also disclosed that the mothers and guardians of the orphans should note that the intervention was to ensure better future for the children and not the other way round.

"The allowances paid to the orphans' account by

Adebayo



to vulnerable families in the state.

He also appreciated the decision of the Qatar Charity Foundation to support the livelihood of 1,000 orphans in the state while praying for peaceful coexistence in Sokoto State and the country at large.

Earlier, Malam Jabbi Ibrahim, the Director Endowment of the commission, explained that 34 of the beneficiaries from Gandhi IDPs Camp and Shagari were enrolled in Almajiri Boarding Primary School, Shuni.

He also revealed that 16 of the orphans from Sokoto will be attending Ahmed Sarkin-Gona Primary School while 10 others were admitted into Ubandoma Model Primary School, Hamma-Ali.



Zulum

By JIDAUNA DARING

IT was merry making atmosphere recently at the Rwang Pam stadium in Jos, the Plateau State Capital when the Irigwe we people in Bassa Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State came out in large number dressed in Irigwe traditional attires to celebrate and show case their rich cultural heritage tagged "Otu Rigwe-2022".

This epoch making event, which can best describe the Irigwe people as a people with a unique culture and tradition that has over the years remained progressive.

In this regard, the significance of our given cultural festival cannot be overemphasized since it is geared towards bringing people together to dance and rub mines after spending sometimes without seeing one another as brothers, sisters, uncles, aunties and friends among others.

This has further indicated that there is need for people to value their cultural heritage. It is through culture that people can be identified hence the need for people to know their root and culture. It has also been ascertained that the richness of the Irigwe land particularly in terms of their culture has indeed continued to be a source of attraction that has endeared them to many among many other communities in the state.

Unfortunately, the Irigwe people have traversed through turbulent times and other challenges which for the past 3 years did not allow them to come together and fraternize with one another especially celebrating their rich culture due to unprovoked attacks by unknown gunmen that bedeviled the cherished peaceful and hospitable Irigwe people.

At the commencement of this year's occasion, the paramount ruler of Irigwe, His Royal Highness, Rev. Ronku Aka (Rtd) who was the royal host on the occasion was ushered into the Rwang Pam Township Stadium venue of the festival with dances by a large crowd of Irigwe people as a mark of respect accorded to the paramount ruler. The Irigwe masquerades were also on hand to add excitement to the expectant guests, the dance of the masquerades equally kept people entertained.

Also as a mark of respect to the paramount ruler, some prominent Irigwe sons and daughters at home and in diaspora before the event commenced paid homage to the Braa Ngwe.

Earlier in his remarks, chairman Bassa Local Government Council (LGC), Hon. Stephen Andy Igmala said that the crisis that engulfed Irigwe land had caused serious setback to the entire LGA saying that a lot of activities were affected as a result of the unfortunate attacks which claimed several lives with property also destroyed.

Igmala commended the security agencies for standing firm to ensure that peace returns to Irigwe land. He urged the Irigwe to sustain the relative peace being enjoyed in the area.

As part of effort to secure peace in Irigwe land, Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has bagged a traditional title of "Ambassador of peace".

The Governor was decorated with the traditional title by the Paramount ruler of Irigwe land during the 2022 festival.

The Governor of Plateau State, Rt Hon. Simon Bako Lalong who was the special guest of honour at the event said there is no alternative to peace and commended the traditional ruler of Irigwe people, Braa Ngwe Rigwe, Rev. Ronku Aka for working for peace with the Fulani's in the area.

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

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

Lalong urged the Irigwe people to continue to harness their rich cultural heritage and values, by taking it a step further to the

Corporate organizations and spirited individuals to come to the aid of the victims.

He also commended the effort of Governor Simon Bako Lalong for championing the course of promoting peace. He urged the Irigwe people to sustain the relative peace being enjoyed in their area.

In the same vein, the Irigwe nation has honoured the General Officer Commanding 3 Division (GOC) Jos, who also doubles as commander operation safe (OPSH), Major General Ibrahim Ali for peace initiative which has brought relative peace to Irigwe community.

The Paramount Ruler of Irigwe



THE NIGERIAN STANDARD reports that highlight of the Cultural festival was the opening of traditional dishes, match past and cultural performance by nation in the past, the President however expressed hope that the fundraising will be a huge success, so that the funds realized will be used to resettle

Otu Rigwe 2022, its sights and sounds



tourism market which can also add value and potentials of the state.

He expressed delight that the event will also have be a Fund Raising for the rebuilding of ruined communities by the Irigwe Development Association (IDA).

In his remarks, Former Chief of Defence Staff who was the Chairman on the Occasion, Gen. Martin Luther Agwai said the cultural display was a sign of unity and cultural heritage of the Irigwe people. He described his presence at the event as nostalgic and home coming because he grew up in the state, he prayed for permanent peace to return to the LGA.

Gen. Agwai called on stakeholders at the LGA and state levels, to harness the rich cultural festivals on the Plateau adding "If harnessed, it will surpass all cultural festivals in the world".

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

Gen. Agwai noted that a lot of people have been displaced from their ancestral homes as a result of attacks and appealed to government at all levels,

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

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

The paramount ruler in a separate remarks also called on all his subjects to avail themselves of the forthcoming general census next year. He advised them for also come out enmass to vote candidates of their choice in the 2023 general elections.

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

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

While lamenting the crisis and losses that bedeviled the Irigwe



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

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

different cultural groups, and Rigwe artistes, horse riding display, Royal greetings to the Paramount Ruler of Irigwe land and the conferment of traditional title to Governor Simon Lalong.

Our correspondent reports that the event had in attendance top government functionaries, politicians and members of various sociocultural and religious groups.

Foreign News

US warns of 'war crimes' after attack

The United States has said it will hold Russia accountable for "war crimes" and take action against companies and nations working with Iran's drone programme following a series of attacks on Ukrainian cities.

At least four people - including a couple expecting a baby - were killed on Monday morning after a drone struck an apartment building in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. The attacks also knocked out power to hundreds of towns and villages.

Speaking in his regular evening address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the air raids were continuing.

"Right now, there is a new Russian drone attack," he said. "There are [drones] that have been shot down."

Ukraine has said the attacks have been carried out with "kamikaze" drones, Shahed-136s that were reportedly bought by Russia from Iran. Officials in Tehran have denied selling the weapons to Moscow.

US President Joe Biden's press secretary, Karine Jean-Pierre, told reporters the White House "strongly condemns Russia's missile strikes today" and said the attack "continues to demonstrate [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's brutality".

Referring to a new \$725m military aid package announced for Ukraine last Friday, Jean-Pierre said: "We will continue to stand with the people of Ukraine for as long as it takes."

Ukrainian soldiers fired into the air in an attempt to shoot down the drones



Zelenskyy

after explosions rocked the capital on Monday morning. An anti-aircraft rocket could be seen streaking into the morning sky, followed by an explosion and orange flames, as residents raced for shelter.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the attacks showed the need to provide "everything possible" to Ukraine as its forces continue their offensive against the Russian invaders into the colder months.

"The Russians are attacking critical infrastructure like power plants, hospitals, the things that people need in their daily lives that are not military targets," Blinken told reporters at Stanford University in California.

"It is a sign of increased desperation by Russia, but it's also a sign of the levels that they will stoop to and that we've seen repeatedly when it comes to targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure," Blinken said.

France, the United Kingdom and the United States have said that Iran supplying drones, officially known as uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs), to Russia would violate a UN Security Council resolution that endorsed the now moribund 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six powers.

The resolution's ban on Iranian exports of conventional weapons expired in October 2020, but restrictions on exports related to ballistic missiles that could deliver nuclear weapons remain in force until October next year.

Asked for comment, the Iranian mission to the United Nations repeated a statement issued by the government on Friday that said it supports upholding the UN Charter and the UN's attempts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Ukraine. The Kremlin has not commented.

Several EU foreign ministers have also called for sanctions against Iran over the drones.

Australia says it will no longer recognise West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, reversing a decision taken by the government of former Prime Minister Scott Morrison in 2018.

"Today the Government has reaffirmed Australia's previous and longstanding position that Jerusalem is a final status issue that should be resolved as part of any peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian people," Foreign Minister Penny Wong said in a statement.

"This reverses the Morrison Government's recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

Wong reiterated that Australia's embassy would remain in Tel Aviv and that Canberra was committed to a two-state solution "in which Israel and a future Palestinian state coexist, in peace and security, within internationally recognised borders".

She added: "We will not support an approach that undermines this prospect."

The status of Jerusalem is one of the biggest sticking points in attempts to reach a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel regards the entire city, including the eastern sector it annexed after the 1967 Middle East war, as its capital while Palestinian officials, with broad international backing, want occupied East Jerusalem as the capital of a future state they hope to establish in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Australia reverses recognition of W Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Tuesday sharply criticised Australia's decision.

Lapid described the move as a "hasty response", adding: "We can only hope that the Australian government manages other matters more seriously and professionally. Jerusalem is the eternal and united capital of Israel and nothing will ever change that," the prime minister also said in a statement released by his office.

The Israeli foreign ministry said it had summoned the Australian ambassador to lodge a formal protest.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority hailed Australia's move.

"We welcome Australia's decision with regards to Jerusalem & its call for a

two-state solution in accordance with international legitimacy," the Palestinian Authority's civil affairs minister, Hussein al-Sheikh, said on Twitter.

Sheikh hailed Australia's "affirmation that the future of sovereignty over Jerusalem depends on the permanent solution based on international legitimacy".

Former Australian Prime Minister Morrison announced his conservative government would recognise West Jerusalem as Israel's capital after the United States went back on decades of policy by recognising the city and moving the US embassy there from Tel Aviv.

The Australian decision was widely criticised by pro-Palestinian groups as well as by the Labor party, which was then in opposition and promised to reverse the move if it was elected.



Australia says the status of Jerusalem should be resolved in peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian people

I'll lead Tories into next election

The British PM Liss Truss apologised for making mistakes, after the new chancellor Jeremy Hunt junked almost all of her tax-cutting plans to stabilise market turmoil.

She added her month-old premiership "hasn't been perfect," but she had "fixed" mistakes. And she said it would have been "irresponsible" not to change course.

In an interview with the BBC, she said she was still committed to boosting UK economic growth, but acknowledged it would now take longer to achieve.

"I remain committed to the vision, but we will have to deliver that in a different way," she said. It comes after a dramatic day at Westminster, after Mr Hunt announced that nearly all the tax cuts announced at last month's mini-budget would be scrapped.

The decision has been welcomed by investors, but has left Ms Truss's economic agenda in tatters only weeks into her time in No 10. In her interview, Ms Truss said she accepted responsibility for going "too far, too fast" - and she wanted to "say sorry for the mistakes that have been

made".

She added that she remained committed to a "low tax, high growth economy" - but preserving economic stability was now the "priority".

"I do think it is the mark of an honest politician who does say 'yes, I've made a mistake. I've addressed that mistake. And now we need to deliver for people'."

"It would have been completely irresponsible for me not to act in the national interest in the way I have."

Ms Truss watched on silently as Mr Hunt delivered a Commons statement to explain to MPs why the economic strategy, outlined last month by Kwasi Kwarteng, was being torn up.

The chancellor warned that "decisions of eye-watering difficulty" on tax and spending remain ahead of an economic statement on 31 October, when he will give further details of a plan to reduce the UK's debt burden.

-Truss

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Putin's authority tested in Central Asia

Sensing that Russia has been weakened by its war in Ukraine, some of its closest allies in Central Asia are displaying a newly assertive streak.

The region's five former Soviet republics are increasingly standing up to Moscow, aware of their new-found leverage as Russia looks to their markets and trade routes in a bid to circumvent Western sanctions.

The new dynamic was strikingly illustrated when Russian President Vladimir Putin ran into a seven-minute tirade from the leader of Tajikistan, one of

the region's smallest and poorest countries, at a summit in Kazakhstan last week.

Putin listened uncomfortably. A video of the embittered speech surfaced at the weekend and was not part of the official coverage of the October 14 summit, during which he urged his southern neighbours to build new logistics chains after Western sanctions over Ukraine disrupted much of Russia's trade. Because of sanctions and the exodus of foreign businesses.

But governments in the

region do not seem to be willing to go beyond that, at least unless Russia comes to them with serious investments. Rahmon made it clear he was disappointed with Moscow sending only a deputy minister to an investment conference in Dushanbe last month.

Privately, Tajik officials say Rahmon felt offended because Russia has for decades treated Tajikistan as its back yard and is only turning to Dushanbe after becoming isolated.

With Putin facing deepening problems in Ukraine, his ability to enforce Moscow's traditional role as a policeman in other post-Soviet conflicts is being tested as never before.

The meeting, which began with Rahmon and Japarov refusing to shake hands, produced no breakthrough, although Putin promised them to find Soviet maps which may clarify where the border was meant to be.

The conflict prompted Japarov to skip an informal meeting of ex-Soviet leaders in Moscow on Putin's birthday, October 7.



Putin



Truss

Feature

Education in the meseums

To some people, education means merely instruction. They see it as the means by which factual information is passed on from person to person and from generation to generation. To this group of people, the museum is merely another kind of reference book, presenting factual information in a lively and pleasing form . FELICIA KANENG BONGO-BASSEY writes gathering logical thoughts in acquiring education.

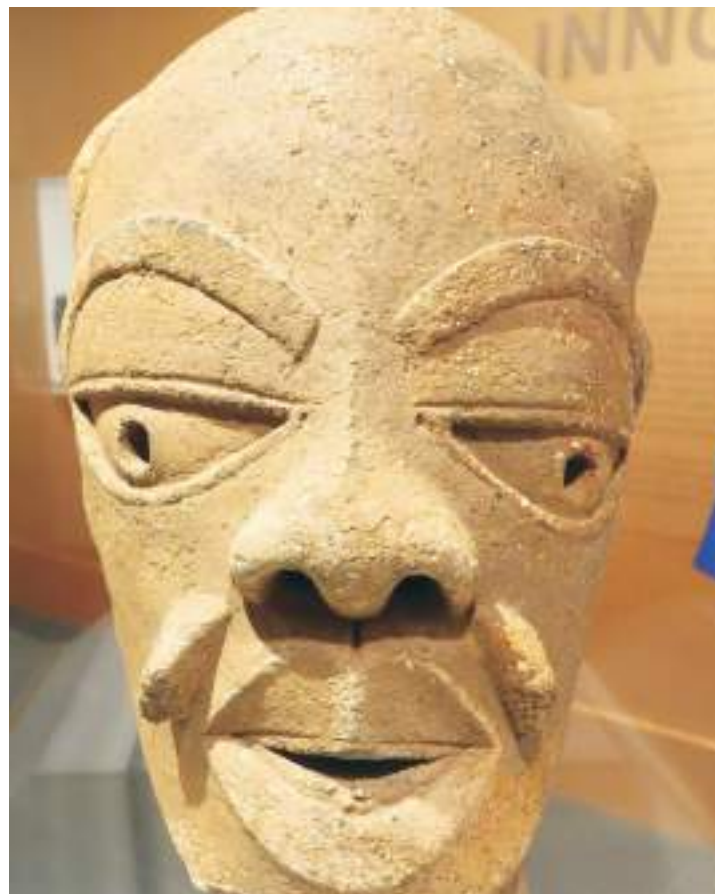
TO others, education means tracing the use of one's mental powers. In this sense, learning how to learn and acquiring the habit of logical thought are the aims of education. Here too, museums can help, for their displays do not merely state fact. Secondly they can show the relationships between things which are not always brought clearly into focus by textbooks on verbal lessons in its full sense. Of course, "education" implies all these and even more in the sense that museum exhibits have much to communicate, but they are sterile unless they are made to human beings. Hence the communication of interest, of information, of value is the essence of education; thus for good or bad museums cannot avoid education, and education cannot afford to neglect the museums.

Currently, museums are institutions built for the purpose of preservation of those objects which best illustrate the phenomenon of nature and the work of man and the utilization of these for the interest of knowledge for the enlightenment of the people. Today museums are redefining their role as public educational institutions through which informed educational activities can bring about cognitive learning resulting in a change of attitude or interest level.

As cultural and educational institutions serving the public, museum provides knowledge, learning or educational opportunities, enjoyment, communication, entertainment etc, thus improving the quality of life in their communities. Furthermore, it is very clear that education can be experienced where and at any moment.

In a museum, the most likely moment is when a worthwhile exhibit comes to life for a receptive visitor(s) and the most likely place in which that can happen is the museum gallery where the exhibition is displayed to its best merit. Another area is travelling exhibitions can be further important means of helping people to understand and appreciate ways of living and forms of artistic expression.

Traditionally, in many medium sized and smaller museums, the museum



educator is a former teacher or social worker who is specifically associated with museums and who is oriented more towards children and their learning process than towards objects and what can be learned from them. In fact, education in its entire ramification is to develop a perceptual awareness and sense of impression necessary for moral and cultural value. However, it is through understanding of the varied and unique. Secondly, it involves a vast range of people as audience/learners. Therefore, everything in the museum has been designed for a serious learning, even to import educational experience include exhibitions, drama, object handling sessions, demonstration lectures, talks, film shows, etc. Each Museums provides a particular mix of all these factors of form a whole This include the resource of package of museums any museum which is largely educational system.



PLATEAU STATE MINISTRY FOR TOURISM, CULTURE AND HOSPITALITY

Goodwill

Message

The Honorable Commissioner Ministry for Tourism Plateau State, **Hon. CECILIA MERMWAKAT YILKORAH** and the entire loyal work force of the ministry wish to felicitate with our tourism friendly Governor, **Barr. Dr. Simon Lalong**, Chairman Northern Governors' Forum, DG, Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council, on the conferment of the prestigious National Merit Award of Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) on him by the President and Commander in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**.

Our amiable Governor, we know this award is well deserved considering your track record of outstanding achievements which are visible for all to see.

We in the ministry wish to sincerely thank His Excellency for declaring a State of Emergency on the tourism sector.

We are also congratulating the following Plateau Citizens were also recipients of the National Award,

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

To our dear Governor, we are proud of you and pray for more wisdom, good health and protection for you and for more achievement in your various field of endeavours.

Long Live Plateau State!
Long Live Nigeria!!!

Signed:
Hon. Cecilia Mermwakat Yilkorah
Hon. Commissioner for Tourism, Culture and Hospitality.



Congratulations!

National Award

The Executive Chairman Plateau State Internal Revenue Service Mr. Dashe Arlat Dasogot, Director's Board Members and the entire staff of the service, Heartily rejoice with the Executive Governor Of Plateau State, Rt. Hon Dr. Simon Bako Lalong, who is also the Chairman Northern Governors forum and Chairman Plateau State Revenue Council.

On the conferment of national meritorious award of Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) by President Muhamadu Buhari, G C F R.

This is a clear manifestation of your efforts of moving plateau and indeed the entire North to an enviable position.

For us in the Revenue Service we shall ever remain grateful for your untiring support to enable us turnaround the revenue profile of the state.

We in the Revenue Service noted with pride to celebrate with other Sons and Daughters of the state who were conferred with the national merit award and prayed that God will continue to elevate you to another enviable positions.

- **Hon. Justice Manica Dongban** – Mensem President, Court of Appeal, (CFR).
- **His Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba**, Gbong Gwom Jos, (CFR).
- **Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase**, Deputy Speaker House of Representatives, (CON).
- **Prof. Seddi Sebastian Maimako**, former VC University of Jos, (OON).
- **Amb, Prof Mary Lar**, Educationist/former Diplomat, (OON).
- **Amb, James Gotuwan Dimka**, Veteran Journalist/former Diplomat, (OON).
- **Prof. Decent Doknan Danjuma Sheni**, former VC, PLASU, (OON).
- **Imam Abdullahi Abukar**, Islamic Cleric, (MON).
- **Dr. Attia Nasreedin**, Chairman NASCO Group of Companies, (OFR)
- **Jummai Kizito Gukas**, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, (FRMI).

As well as other worthy Sons and Daughters of Plateau State.

Congratulations!



Signed:

Mr. Dashe Arlat Dasogot (FCNA, FCIT)
Executive Chairman
Plateau State Internal Revenue Service.



Editorial

As ASUU suspends strike

THE strike action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has finally been suspended due to the order by Court of Appeal and various appeals made by President Muhammadu Buhari, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila and other well-meaning Nigerians. To this effect, the Union has directed its members to immediately resume work without any further delay.

THE Union through its President, Prof Emmanuel Osodeke, however, regretted that issues in dispute that led to the eight months strike were yet to be satisfactorily resolved as no agreement has been reached and, or, signed. He named some of the issues to include funding for revitalization of public universities, visitation and release of white paper recommendations and University Transparency and Accountability Solution (UTAS), as broad spectrum software to stop illegality and provide for an alternative payment platform in the university system. The suspension does not mean that issues of funding, education standard, staff and students' welfare have been resolved.

THE suspension of the strike has, however, given opportunity for institutions to hold special meetings to deliberate on new academic calendar instead of the one that was destabilized by the strike. This is a sad development on the part of Nigerian students who had waited endlessly for a permanent solution to these unending problems. Our public universities should be citadel of learning and innovation where young people discover themselves but it has turned out to be where our graduates are half baked which does not afford them the privilege to favorably compete with others. This is the time that government, universities, unions and citizens should begin critical conversations about the future of public tertiary education.

EVEN as we question the rationale behind the registration of two more unions in our universities, we pray the new registration would help in restoring stability and quality in the country's university system. We call on the newly registered unions to be wary of being used to sabotage the efforts of ASUU. For the first time since the establishment of ASUU in 1978, the Federal Government penultimate week formally registered the Congress of Nigerian University Academics (CONUA) and the National Association of Medical and Dental Academics (NAMDA). The Minister of Labour and Employment, Sen. Chris Ngige said the move would help liberalize the academic subsector and allow for freedom for university workers.

THIS move has generated criticisms among stakeholders who described the action as illegal and uncalled for. This move is likely to create more problems in the system. It is seen as a divide and rule tactics by the government instead of seeking ways of resolving the issues at stake. Aside the aforementioned reason, many believe that the government aims to distract ASUU from pursuing its struggle.

THE reasons postulated by the national coordinator of CONUA, Dr Niyi Sunmonu, confirms the assertion as he explained that CONUA was formed to guarantee a new approach to handling issues affecting universities across the country. He went further to postulate that another of CONUA's mandate is to ensure a stable academic calendar to improve the quality of education in tertiary institutions.

HUMAN Rights lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Femi Falana was one of those who condemned the registration of CONUA, which he said was illegal. According to him, "The labour laws in Nigeria does not permit the registration of more than one union in a sector as it is a desperate act by the government to end the ASUU strike".

NOW that the dry season is setting in, the residents of abattoir community in Jos South Local Government area of plateau state are now going to experience another grueling experience of water scarcity where households begin to go several distances in search of water.

Water as it is well known, is life and is the only source of our daily life because; we use water for cooking, drinking, washing and other household chores.

Unfortunately, this very important resource seems to be absent in our community despite its proximity to the plateau state Water Board treatment plant whereby most of the Plateau State water taps have before the beginning of the raining season this year gone dry.

Although, I understand that because of the construction at the British American Junction Fly over, most of the water pipes have either been removed or diverted. Therefore, it is also reasonable to state that it is the responsibility

of government to provide basic necessities for its citizens.

It is also instructive to note that it is also the responsibilities of government to alleviate the suffering of the masses who have on the other hand been responsible for voting them into office. It is important to stress that the topography of the area does

PLS kindly address water scarcity in Abattoir community

not allow easy access to digging wells, which is the reason why during the dry season water becomes a very scarce commodity in abattoir and other surrounding neighbourhood where people both young and old wakeup as early as 4am in search of water which also exposes them to the risk of running into criminal gangs at such early hours of their day.

Permit me to also use this medium of the Nigeria standard news paper to appeal to the plateau state government to as a matter



of concern address the perennial water situation in abattoir area as this would go a long way in preventing the residents from being exposed to the use of unknown water sources from water vendors and mining ponds which may not be clean for human use.

Perhaps it may be recalled that Jos the state capital had in the time past, reported cases of cholera outbreak and other associated cases of water born diseases.

It is for this reason that it

is good for government to be Proactive in its quest like abattoir area and as we all know, prevention is better than cure.

I wish to also appeal to our listening Governor His Excellency the Governor of Plateau State; Rt. Hon. Simon Bako to as a matter of priority ensure that water supply is given the desired attention so that the life of the ordinary citizens of the state would be better enhanced.

Precious K. Ande Enyangtso is an IT student from Kwararafa University Wukari, Taraba State

West of mines relaxation spot should be organized

WEST of Mines which is a popular relaxation spot in Jos city has for quite some time been the hup of human activities for fun seekers.

The area is known for roasted fish, meat or different varieties of drinks and delicacies. It makes the place so unique from other spots in town.

But lately, this peaceful and serene environment is being taken over by criminal's minds who are in the habit of stealing and snatching valuables from unsuspecting customers who patronize the area mostly at night.

It is for these reason that I am kindly appealing to the Nigeria Police force and other security agencies to

intensify patrol in the area in order to safeguard lives and property.

On the other hand, the Plateau State government under the able leadership of His Excellency, Rt. Hon.

Simon Bako Lalong to reorganize the spot by encouraging private business owners to build modern shops or taverns for selling drinks and delicacies, so that fun

lovers can as well enjoy the ambiance of Jos city as a number one tourism destination in Nigeria.

Ramatu Isa Magaji, is an IT student from Kwararafa University.

Preparing for the ember months weather

THE climate on the Plateau is cooler than the surrounding lowlands. average monthly temperatures range from 15.5°C November, and from mid to late January night-time temperatures drop as low as 7°C.

The ember months usually come with harsh weather conditions such as severe cold, windy and dusty climatic conditions.

Such weather conditions have some form of health implications like; cataarh

pneumonia, cold etc. which calls for early preparations such as buying of warm clothings and keeping oneself from dust and cold environment.

Lately, there has been a hike in the prices of second hand warm clothing which is mainly patronized by the common people.

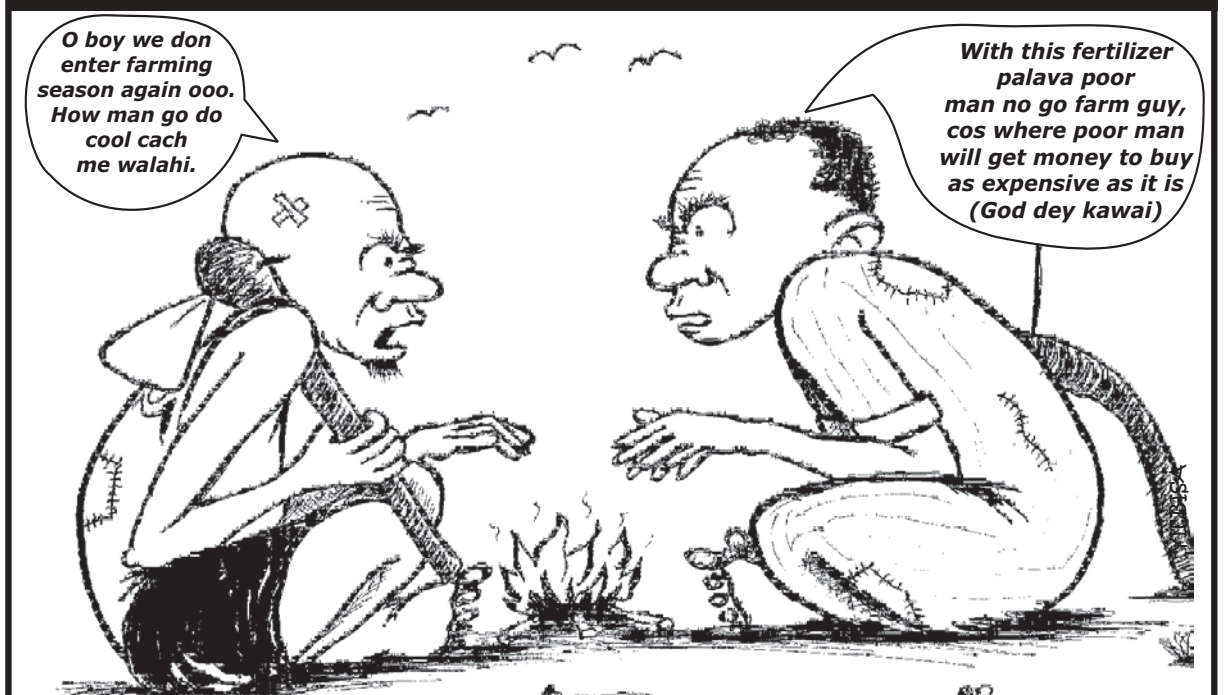
I wish to therefore appeal to the Plateau state government to set a price control on second hand clothing considering the fact that the prices of warm

clothing keep changing by the day out of the reach of masses.

While at the same time, I wish to also appeal to the government to ensure that only standard clothings are allowed to be sold to the public in order to prevent any form of communicable diseases.

ADDA MAGDALINE BALA, is an IT student from Kwara rafa University Wukari Taraba State

Standard Cartoon



Opinion

By SESUGH AKUME

Health is personal and the personal is political

Anyone can fall ill and we do. But not everyone who has suffered ill health has the opportunity to influence health care in their country, state or local government. There is not a hair thin indication of empathy from Buhari towards the thousands, maybe millions of Nigerians who suffer what he suffered. There is no indication from health policy and budgets or from Independence Day speeches that he sees an opportunity for additional research and development in any illness.

A wise person visited a sultan and when the latter requested for a cup of water, he asked, "if you were refused this drink would you bargain for it with half your empire?" The Sultan said yes and drank the water. The wise person then asked, "if, due to some sickness, you were unable to discharge this cup of water from your body, would you pay half of your empire to be able to do so?" The sultan again said yes. The wise man said, "there is no value in a kingdom that is not even equal to a drink of water". In other words, there is no value in a kingdom that is equal to good health.

When you or someone you love is ill, you will give up everything you have to be well. This is that makes health political. Forward-thinking nations ensure citizens and their families are not destroyed by ill health – either through subsidised health care, like Britain's National Health Service, or like Germany, by ensuring citizens have health insurance and the medical sector is thoughtfully regulated. Health has become even more critical as we face increasing pandemics, epidemics and other ills caused by

global warming and the global version of what development is. Twenty-one years ago, African countries pledged to allocate 15% of annual budgets to the health sector. Nigeria has never met this threshold – not even during the first pandemic in 100 years. In 2022's budget, 4.2% was allocated for health across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and at least 70% of that goes to administration and overhead costs.

When I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019, along with over 26,000 women diagnosed annually in Nigeria alone, breast cancer had killed 11,564 women the year before. Breast cancer when detected early is not the life sentence it used to be and the survival rates are good when you have the best that advanced medical science can offer. Although the data available indicates that women in sub-Saharan Africa are diagnosed with breast cancer at lower rates than in the Americas and Europe, cervical cancer and breast cancer are the biggest causes of cancer deaths among women in sub-Saharan Africa, with mortality rates as high as 70% in some countries.

As I processed the diagnosis and considered my options, my enduring thought for a while was that I would get treatment at home in Nigeria. With time, I reconsidered this. It was less about the scary stories of queuing for access to medical equipment in the few locations where they are available and more about the promise of beating cancer successfully. I went to Germany. Not because I am special or more worthy of better health care than the average Nigerian but because I was fortunate to work for an

organisation that understands that good health care is a human right.

That the APC presidential candidate – from the same party and generation, with the same sense of entitlement and same ideology towards power – is also allegedly suffering from an undisclosed illness should make thinking people pause. It is not about his personal wealth providing him access to the best hospitals in the world, it is about the people he claims he wants to lead and whether they will have the same or better access to healthcare.

During my experience, I joined a WhatsApp group of cancer survivors and family members managing cancer survivors. The stories of those who can only get treatment in Nigeria are distressing and enraging. The ecosystem of caring cancer patients and survivors that I have had the fortune to meet is what is special. This is a collective of people, having experienced ill health, want to help everyone who is experiencing it too. They understand how important information sharing is and are generous with advice on diets that work, treatment protocols, how to mitigate side effects and even fund raising for each other.

It is a mystery how General Buhari, despite his experience with ill health, remains untouched and uncaring about the health sector in Nigeria; at least as far as public, official acts and utterances go.

Anyone can fall ill and we do. But not everyone who has suffered ill health has the opportunity to influence health care in their country, state or local government.

There is not a hair thin indication of empathy from Buhari towards the thousands, maybe millions of Nigerians who suffer what he suffered. There is no indication from health policy and budgets or from Independence Day speeches that he sees an opportunity for additional research and development in any illness. No doubt, health is private, but it is not private when you put yourself up for the highest office in a country – not if you want lead – but maybe if you want to rule. Buhari's detachment from Nigerians, while conveniently using public resources to get the best health care possible in another country should be offensive to every Nigerian who has had to be a medical refugee and every Nigerian who has loved a medical refugee. And this is why health is political and must be political when we go to the polls in 2023, 2027, 2031 and every election thereafter.

That the APC presidential candidate – from the same party and generation, with the same sense of entitlement and same ideology towards power – is also allegedly suffering from an undisclosed illness should make thinking people pause. It is not about his personal wealth providing him access to the best hospitals in the world, it is about the people he claims he wants to lead and whether they will have the same or better access to healthcare. It is about: If he needs to give away a kingdom to be better, whose kingdom will he give? It is about what we know about his antecedents and utterances and if there is any concrete indication that he will use

his office to ensure quality health care access is improved for all.

We are all one serious illness away from being impoverished and changing the fortunes of our families and we will give our kingdoms – all we have – to be well again. Decent, accessible, affordable public health is a right, not a privilege, and we should not give our votes to those who see the best health care as their entitlement and sub-par health care as a privilege to us.

It is hubris, not determination, to have a life threatening or debilitating illness but still contest the presidency of a broken country. There is no arrogance with ill health – it humanises, makes people kinder, more caring, more giving. If these are not the traits that we see with candidates, even before they enter into office, we will not see them when they have power, because as Michelle Obama points out, power does not change anyone, it makes them more of who they are.

Those whose bodies do not function like they used to or should, whose bodies are attacking them, will give anything to be well; whole again. We are all one serious illness away from being impoverished and changing the fortunes of our families and we will give our kingdoms – all we have – to be well again. Decent, accessible, affordable public health is a right, not a privilege, and we should not give our votes to those who see the best health care as their entitlement and sub-par health care as a privilege to us.

There is no value in a kingdom that is equal to good health.

Ayisha Osori is the author of Love Does Not Win Elections.

By MUSA ILALLAH

Hope rises as new security strategies yielding result

Wednesday October 5th 2022 was a day quite significant to the collaborative efforts of the Nigerian security agencies. This was a day the efforts of the Chief of Defence staff's Action Committee, CDSAC broke the cheering news of the release of the remaining 23 kidnapped passengers on the ill-fated Abuja-Kaduna train on the 28th of March this year.

News reports had indicated that Nigeria's national government, security agencies, parents and relations of kidnapped victims have been making concerted kinetic and non-kinetic approaches and support to free the abducted persons.

Also not left out are well meaning Nigerians among whom are religious and community leaders who have not rested on their oars in efforts to free the kidnapped victims from their abductors in the forests.

President Muhammadu Buhari, while responding to the release through a statement by Garba Shehu, his Senior Special Assistant, SSA on media and publicity, expressed his happiness and satisfaction adding: "the nation owed the military and all other security and intelligence agencies a debt of gratitude for the successful conduct of the operation leading to the release of the kidnap victims. These agencies had shown outstanding capabilities over this period that the whole world will not fail to take note of".

In the words of the President, "relief that comes to the nation arising from the closure of this unfortunate saga must be sustained at all times and all over the federation".

The President could not hide his happiness with the way the military

handled the exercise, thus crediting his government 'for resolving the issue and the de-escalation of terrorism, banditry and kidnapping that surged recently', giving assurances that the efforts will be sustained.

The Secretary of the CDS committee, Professor Usman Yusuf had also said after a successful operation that involved members of the committee visiting the bandits, holding dialogues and even spending nights in the forest: "The nation owes a debt of gratitude to the Nigerian military under the leadership of the CDS, who conceived and guided the operation from start to finish. All sister security agencies and the Federal Ministry of Transportation contributed immensely to this operation.

"The unwavering support of the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, President Muhammadu Buhari is what made it all possible".

It is not in doubt, as President Buhari said in Kaduna during this year's graduation ceremony of Cadets at the Nigeria Defence Academy, NDA, that his Government in 2015 inherited a country at the crossroads, with bombs going off with frightening frequency even in our cities, took over more determined to make the difference as a military officer in order to confront and manage the crisis head on.

To match his words with action, PMB swung into the ring by procuring, arming and motivating the security agencies massively and in a manner never done before.

His administration ordered over 550 naval platforms, out of which 319 have been delivered, as part of the aggressive fleet recapitalisation of the Nigerian Navy.

The number of Nigerian Air Force platforms increased by more than 38%. This is in addition to enhancing the serviceability rate of aircraft in the NAF inventory by over 70%.

On its part, the Nigerian Army has received more than 2,000 units of various Armoured Fighting Vehicles, guns, and equipment.

Also, the three Services, along with other security and intelligence agencies have received improved funding by the PMB administration as additional incentives to boost their morale with working tools and one of the best welfare schemes ever to defend the country and her citizens at all times.

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

It is indeed noteworthy that the President was full of confidence and fulfilment when he declared: "under my command to fulfil the promise to neutralise Boko Haram terrorism in the North East, the government would not relent in this onerous task, resettling and rehabilitating the victims of the tragedy."

It is very clear that as the Commander-in-Chief of the country's Armed Forces, President Buhari tasked the security agencies as guardians of the nation's economic, infrastructure, lives and military capability to prepare for the evolving and complex security situations and make sure that 'no terrorists can threaten Nigeria's sovereign integrity'.

He further urged them to replicate the

successes in the North East in other parts of the country.

As a President with a human heart, PMB took time off his very busy schedule in Kaduna to meet with the freed 23 kidnaped but released train passengers at the NDA hospital, interated with them and expressed his heart felt sympathies over the unfortunate incident.

Indeed there is no gainsaying the fact that the Nigerian armed forces and other security agencies have, since the directive of PMB, woken up from their slumber and inactivity to put the nation first in their conduct and operations.

The country has indeed witnessed an unprecedented change in the military operations to uproot terrorists, kidnapers, bandits, armed robbers and other criminal elements in our midst who have daily caused mayhem in our villages, towns, streets and forests.

Like the President said, the security agencies deserve a pat on the back for them to do more with support and encouragement from Nigerians.

It will therefore be appropriate to say that the new approach by our security agencies which simultaneously use kinetic, non kinetic, conventional and non conventional styles to give our multi faceted security challenges and threats a deadly blow, are paying off very well.

It is our prayer and hope that these combined and collaborative approaches be sustained by our security agencies while citizens continue to support them by providing information about criminals, their hideouts and plans that could threaten lives and property.

Ilallah writes from Abuja

CHANGE OF NAMES

| DASPAN | BAKKAT | MUHAMMED | DIKKOR | YAKUBU | KIUDI |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| I, formerly known as PYELSHAK NANTAP DASPAN , now wish to be known and addressed as DASPAN NANTAP DANJUMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as HIRBUTMWA HELEN IBRAHIM,HELEN BAKKAT , now wish to be known and addressed as BAKKAT HIRBUTMWA HELEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as MUHAMMED HUSSAINI , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMED SALISU USAINI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as DIKKOR FWANGSHAK JONATHAN , now wish to be known and addressed as DIKKOR FWANGSHAK KUJAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as NKURU LAMI , now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU LAMI AYO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as KIUDI GAYUS JORAME , now wish to be known and addressed as KIUDI GAYUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. |

| IHEDORO | USHAT | ATANGS | OKEKE | NENKANG | AYUBA |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| I, formerly known as IHEDORO OLUEBUBE JOSHUA , now wish to be known and addressed as IHEDORO JOSHUA . Correct date of birth is 14th May 1993. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as USHAT SUNDAY , now wish to be known and addressed as USHAT SUNDAY MALGIT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as JAMES ATANGS , now wish to be known and addressed as ATANGS ARUM JAMES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as OBASI ONYINYE THERESA , now wish to be known and addressed as OKEKE ONYINYE THERESA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as NENKANG BULUS PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as NENKANG HOSEA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as KIBAH AYUBA ABIMIKU , now wish to be known and addressed as AYUBA KIBAH ABIMIKU . All former documents remain valid. GTB/UBA. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. |

| ABDULRAHMAN | JOHN | WILLIAMS | DALENG | UZOEGBU | JAFAR |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| I, formerly known as IBRAHIM ISAH , now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULRAHMAN ABUBAKAR ISAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as AYUBA VERAT ANJACK , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN VERAT NIRI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note. | I, formerly known as BLESSING WILLIAMS , now wish to be known and addressed as WILLIAMS, BLESSING CHIKAS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as HOSEA EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as DALENG EMMANUEL HOSEA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as UZOEGBU CHIGOZIE UZOCHUKWU , now wish to be known and addressed as UZOEGBU UZOCHUKWU CALEB . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as JAAFAR MUHAMMAD , now wish to be known and addressed as JAFAR MUHAMMAD YUNUS . Correct date of birth is 3/11/1996.. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. |

| LEKTONG | AKEEM | AHMAD | SUNDAY | JOY | MWELBEN |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| I, formerly known as LEKTONG NAANYOK MARY , now wish to be known and addressed as LEKTONG MARY DAIDET . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as AKEEM ANOVO , now wish to be known and addressed as AKEEM ANONO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note. | I, formerly known as AHMAD LABARAN AHMAD , now wish to be known and addressed as AHMAD AYYOUB LABARAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as SUNDAY JEREMIAH MONDAY , now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY JEREMIAH . Correct date of birth 11/02/1987 not 02/01/1987, 02/12/1986. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as DUNG JOY GYANG & SAMSON SIMI JOSEPH , now wish to be known and addressed as JOY SIMI SAMSON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as MWELBEN YILSEN DEDIYEN , now wish to be known and addressed as MWELBEN YILSU DEDIYEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. |

| MAFWIL | GWONG | CHRISTIANA | PIUS | BABALOLA | NAFIU |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| I, formerly known as MOSES MASOK , now wish to be known and addressed as MAFWIL MOSES MASOK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as GWOM BULLE TETI , now wish to be known and addressed as GWONG TETI GYANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note. | I, formerly known as CHRISTIANA KINA JONATHAN , now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTIANA CHUWANG DUNG NYAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as PIUS REJOICE NANRUP , now wish to be known and addressed as PIUS NANRUP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as SHERIFAT BABALOLA , now wish to be known and addressed as BABALOLA SHERIFAT ABIKE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as NAFIU ADAM ADAM , now wish to be known and addressed as NAFIU ADAM . Correct date of birth is 12/2/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. |

| WUDANG | NANSOH | GLORIA | JONAH | GEORGE | IBEKWE |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| I, formerly known as AUGUSTINE ROSTER MANDAS , now wish to be known and addressed as WUDANG AUGUSTINE MANDAS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as NANSWA MARY , now wish to be known and addressed as NANSOH SINGCIT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as MISS GLORIA JOSEPH AKUT , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GLORIA DANIEL OGAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as JOHN NANPEL DAMAN , now wish to be known and addressed as JONAH NANPEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as MARY G. ENUBI , now wish to be known and addressed as GEORGE, MARY ENUBI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as MICHAEL EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as IBEKWE EMMANUEL MICHAEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. |

| KACHOLLOM | ROSE | HARISU | NYINROT MWA | NABATURE | IKPEME |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| I, formerly known as KACHOLLOM DAFOM LUKA , now wish to be known and addressed as KACHOLLOM PAM DAVOU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as ROSE AYIKO ATUMORO , now wish to be known and addressed as ROSE FRANCIS ATUMORO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note. | I, formerly known as KABIRU BINTA ADO , now wish to be known and addressed as HARISU BINTA SALIHU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as NYINROT MWA YUSUF MAICHIBI , now wish to be known and addressed as NYINROT MWA BANGO SHAWUDU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as YAKUBU ESTHER , now wish to be known and addressed as NABATURE, ESTHER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. | I, formerly known as IKPEME PHILIP AKOH , now wish to be known and addressed as IKPEME PHILIP ESSIEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note. |

| OKIKE | ALIYU | BASIRU | KASSEM | GAKDIMMA | KASIMU |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| I, formerly known as CHIEMEZIE CHUKS BEN , now wish to be known and addressed as OKIKE CHUKS BEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as AYILU UMAR SANDA , now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU UMAR SANDA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as BASHIRU BUHARI , now wish to be known and addressed as BASIRU BUHARI . Correct date of birth is December 2, 1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as NANDY JONATHAN ILIYA , now wish to be known and addressed as KASSEM NANDY MATHEW . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as CHINGDAPBA YOHANNA KASEM , now wish to be known and addressed as GAKDIMMA ROTGAK JURBE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as TURAKI ALIYU KASIMU now wish to be known and addressed as KASIMU ALI TURAKI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. |

| GOESHALONG | TIMOTHY | SPACE FOR SALE | SPACE FOR SALE | SPACE FOR SALE | SPACE FOR SALE |
|---|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| I, formerly known as LONGTOE LIVINUS LONGMIAP , now wish to be known and addressed as GOESHALONG LIVINUS JAMES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | I, formerly known as TIBIL ROSE YUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as TIMOTHY SAMUEL GWONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note. | | | | |

SPACE FOR SALE

News

Mohammed grants 153 inmates executive pardon

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

BAUCHI State Governor, Bala Mohammed has granted Executive Pardon to one hundred and fifty three inmates serving fourteen jail terms across the state.

This is in line with provision of section 2012 of the 1999 Constitution which gives such power to the governor under the prerogative of mercy.

The Governor has also provided fifty thousand naira to each of the inmates to enable them establish small scale businesses.

Addressing the inmates in Government House Bauchi recently, Governor Bala Mohammed charged them to be law abiding citizens and contribute to the development of the society.

Bala Mohammed who said his administration is concerned with the present judicial system that causes unnecessary hardship to inmates, promised to introduce a policy that would reduce the state of awaiting trial with a view to decongest correctional centers.

He also called for establishment of a Federal Court of Appeal in the state towards ensuring speedy



Mohammed

dispensation of justice.

In their separate remarks, the State Chief Judge, Justice Rabi Talatu Umar and the Chairman of the State Council on Prerogative of Mercy, Barrister Abubakar Abdulhamid Bununu who is the Attorney General of the state, called on the inmates to reciprocate the effort by avoiding anti social behaviors when they reunite with their families.

Also speaking, the Comptroller of the state Correctional Service, Ali Abubakar Bajoga who commended the Governor for the gesture, noted that it was the largest pardon in the history of the state.

Speaking on behalf of the released inmates, Sa'idu Adamu Giade expressed delight for the freedom granted them and pledged to be law abiding citizens at all time.

Court jails man for 4m fraud

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Chief Magistrate Court Number eight in Bauchi State, presided over by Chief Magistrate Haruna Abdulmumin Mamman has remanded a man called Shirhabil Abubakar in correctional facility for defrauding 20 serving Policemen the sum of N4,083,850.

Bauchi State Police Command arraigned the suspect before the court in a suit number CMCBH/14642/22 which is between the Commissioner of Police and Shirhabil.

Police Prosecutor Inspector Yusuf Usman told the court that "Shirhabil hailed from Soro Village in Ganjuwa Local Government Area of the state, went to the Police Divisional Headquarters in Ningi, Ningi Local Government Area, impersonated and paraded himself as a Staff and Payroll Officer of Links and Mutual Microfinance Bank, with the purpose to fraudulently an defrauding victims, 20 service police officers attached to the division applied and requested various amounts with all necessary information given to Umar M Nasir attached to the

bank now at large, who supposedly processed and disbursed over payment in N194,000, Mohammed to the various bank accounts of the personnel."

The Prosecutor said "after he disbursed over payment, he now called the officers and told them that it was a system error. And asked them to pay to the following individuals account the over payment. He told them that the owners of the accounts are their payroll officers, N285,000, Shuaibu Mohammed- N285,000, Musa- N187,000, Abdullahi Mohammed N227,000, Mona James N195,000, Halilu Mohammed, N206,000, Mohammed Zangi- N70,000, Yusuf Abdullahi- N59,000, Dahiru Abubakar- N137,000, Nuhu Maaruf- N276,250, Abubakar Bello- N92,000, Yakubu Victor- N83,000, Garba Isah- N409,000, Alex Ali- N212,000, Ayuba Samson- N153,000, Nasiru Inuwa - N269,600 and Yahaya Abdullahi- N95,000 and the total amount of money defrauded is N4,083,850k.

He said the offence is contrary to section 27(C)(1)(2)(3)(4), (b)(5), 20, 22, 13, of the cyber crime prohibition, prevention CTC Act, 2015 and 1(a)(b)(2) of the advance fee fraud and other forms of related offences, 2006 of the FRN.

When the case was mentioned, the Presiding Magisterate, Mamman asked the accused if he understood the case against him which he answered in the affirmative, The prosecutor asked for time to seek for legal advice which was agreed. The Magistrate ordered the accused to be remanded in correctional service facility.

'Look inwards for better economy'

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

THE President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari has called on African countries to look inward for a better and brighter economic continent.

President Buhari who was represented by his Chief of Staff, Professor Ibrahim Gambari said this at the maiden conference of the African Forum on Research and Innovation (FARI) yesterday in Abuja.

The President said that FARI is a great roadmap towards commitment to research and development which is necessary for diversification of socio-economic growth of African continent, through Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

He emphasized that in line with the theme of the

conference: "Science, Technology and Innovation for a more Competitive ECOWAS," FARI will proffer solutions to the challenges hindering the industrialization of Africa and West Africa in particular.

He further said that the new generation of active and productive talents is being discovered to contribute their quota in surmounting the challenges confronting the economic growth of the region, hence, the need to create FARI.

The President reiterated that the time to move forward and act accordingly is now, stressing that this can only be achieved through collaboration, development of human capacity, infrastructure, and technical skills among others in ECOWAS region.

According to President Buhari, half of the population of the West African region is 15 years old and above with an existing trait of unemployment." We need to channel their energy and creativity in acquiring skills that confront the development of our region", the president said.

To this end, Nigeria is committed to further strengthen collaboration with Science, Technology and Innovation experts as an integral part of her respective national development policies and plans.

Speaking, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. (Sen) Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora, said that the forum is initiated to improve public understanding of STI in the region.

The Minister further said that the forum will help in creating a regular framework between researchers, innovators as well as commercializing research results.

Earlier, the President of ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Omar Alieu Touray said that STI is the driving force for structural transformation of economy and factors of integration into the world economy.

Speaking, the Director, UNESCO, Dakar Regional Office and OIC Abuja Regional Office, Dr. Dimitri Sanga, said that the clock is ticking for all countries including those in Africa to

reach their Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. He stated that countries future economic growth depends on their timely transition to digital and green society driven by STI.

NMDC to partners FRSC

BY **EZEKIEL DONTINNA and HOSEA NYAMLONG**

THE Director General/Chief Executive Officer of the National Metallurgical Development Centre (NMDC) Jos, Engr. Prof. Linus Asuquo, has advocated for partnership with Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) to extend kind gesture to their host community.

This came in a press statement signed by the NMDC's head, Press and Public Relations, Sunny Eweama, and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital Monday shortly after the collaborative unveiling of Road Safety signposts sponsored by NMDC and flagged off by Plateau State Command of FRSC at strategic positions.

The DG said the NMDC was poised to collaborate with FRSC to ensure that safety signs were constructed and placed at strategic positions in order to ensure safety and decongestion of traffic within the visibility of the centre.

He however, frowned at the situations where corporate entities would be accommodated and in some cases protected by host communities, but no reciprocal gesture to appreciate the goodwill of those communities. And that he was moved by the desire to demonstrate how grateful the

agency was to them

Asuquo said, "From inception, NMDC has enjoined a very good harmonious relationship with its host community, hence the need for us to ensure smooth traffic of human, goods and services within and outside the research and development centre. The construction of these road safety signposts was one out of other gestures extended to the host community.

"Other gestures include the consideration of indigenes for sanitation services, security services, free educational visits and lectures were granted to all categories of learning institutions within the community and the state, subsidized research analysis for students of tertiary institutions and so many out there respectively.

"I want to thank the Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC) Plateau State Command, Corps Commander Alphosus Halim Godwin, for his visionary acumen to public and private organizations in the state to ensure that road users are well enlightened and educated through campaigns and the use of inscriptional signposts to minimize road accidents", he commended.

The DG assured the helmsman of FRSC, Plateau State Command that NMDC with the mandate of adding value to all minerals and metals in Nigeria for economic benefits was always stretching its hand of fellowship to partner with any private or public establishment that shared the same vision of turning around the economic fortunes of Nigeria through collaborative efforts in research and development.

Responding, the FRSC Sector Commander, Corps Commander Alphosus Hakim Godwin, appreciated Engr Prof Asuquo for his astuteness and immeasurable transformation taking place at NMDC, Jos saying, "it is only a leaders with passion and humanitarian charisma that can extend their good will to their host communities.

"I am only replicating the Road Safety template of my boss, Acting Corps Marshall Dauda Biu in Plateau State and want to assure you that, FRSC will continue to collaborate with NMDC and other government agencies in Plateau State to ensure that FRSC's core mandate of creating a safe motoring environment for the general public is achieved", Godwin assured.



Buhari

PROBATE NOTICE

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

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

| NAME OF DECEASED PERSON | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT | NAME OF DECEASED PERSON | NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| Mary Peter Rin late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th July, 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State. | Iliya Magai Kim of COCIN Church Gut Rayfield, Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased. | Davou Dalyop Yakubu late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th February, 2022, at Vom Christian Hospital Jos South LGA, Plateau State | Gabriel Yakubu Davou of Turu Vom Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased. | Yakubu Helen Markus, late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th September, 2022, at Jos Plateau State. | Markus Pam Noel of No.52 A.P Saje Street Bukuru Low Cost, Jos South LGA, Plateau State lawful brother of the said deceased. |
| Logyang Na'omi Emmanuel late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th December, 2019, at Vom Christian Hospital, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. | Logyang Lot Emmanuel of COCIN RCC Headquarters Turu Vom, Jos South LAG, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased. | Okolo Samuel Amidu, late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd August, 2022, at ECWA HQRTS. Clinic Jos Plateau State. | Okolo Godwin Samuel of Opp. St. Joseph's Block Indust, Rukuba Road, Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased. | Danboyi Elijah Davou, late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th June, 2022, at Jos, Plateau State. | Patience Elijah (Nee Danjuma Mark) of Tapo Heipang Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State, lawful widow of the said deceased. |
| Yusuf Jonah late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th July, 2017, at Iyale, Kogi State. | Yusuf Sunday of APO FCT Abuja, lawful son of the said deceased. | Jibrin Umar late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th July, 2022, at Kano State. | Jibril Abubakar Umar of No 18 Ahmadu Bello way Jos North LGA, Plateau State lawful son of the said deceased. | Matanmi Israel Olubanwo late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th December, 2021, at Jos Plateau State. | Emmanuel Oludayo Matanmi of Rock Haven Jos Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased. |
| Tanko Philip late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th February, 2022, at FMC Keffi LGA, Nasarawa State. | Tanko Sunday of Kunsa 1 Naraguta Village Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased. | Joel Thomas also Known as Joel Lar Thomas, late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th August, 2022, at Mangu LGA, Plateau State. | Nandir Saleh & Happiness Joel St. Murumba Catholic Church Dadin Kowa Langtang South LGA, Plateau State, lawful son/daughter of the said deceased. | Mamuda Mohammed late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th August, 2017, at Dengi, Kanam LGA, Plateau State. | Yusuf Mohammed Bawa of No. 13 Bauchi Road Dengi Kanam LGA, Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased. |
| Ismail Mansur Muhammad late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th May, 2021, at Jos, Plateau State. | Shehu Zainab Abdullahi of Lasisi Makanji Street Jos, lawful mother of the said deceased. | Michael Tawe Gonsum late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th August, 2020, at Gen. Hosp. Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. | Dungbam Goyit of Vel Pankshin LGA, Plateau State lawful brother of the said deceased. | Kaze Nyam Jarawa late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th February, 2009, at Jos, Plateau State. | Kaze Joy Nyam of behind executive Mansion Tina junction Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful daughter of the said deceased. |
| Juggak Gopye late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th January, 2008, at Jos, Plateau State. | Nengak Juggak & Juggak Lengshak Elisha of Pangtumu Shendam LGA, Plateau State, lawful sons of the said deceased. | Signed | | | |
| | | (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) AG: PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS | | | |

News

NGE frowns at shutdown of stations

THE Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) has expressed concern over the shutdown of four broadcast stations: NTA, Gamji Television, Alumna Television and Pride FM Station, all located in Gusau, the Zamfara State capital, by Governor Bello Matawalle, calling on him to immediately unseal the broadcast stations. The Zamfara State government on Saturday shut down the stations for covering a rally held by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship candidate in the state, Dr Dauda Lawan Dare. The state government claimed that the rally was organised despite a ban on campaigns by the state

government over alleged security situation in the state. But in a press statement issued on Monday and signed by NGE's president, Mustapha Isah and the general secretary, Iyobosa Uwugiaren, the body described the action as illegal and a violation of the Nigeria constitution and other international instruments. The NGE stated that the only government agency that is charged with the constitutional mandate of regulating the broadcast stations or determining any infraction in the conduct of broadcasting industry is the National

Broadcasting Commission encouraged by the fact that the regulatory agency (NBC). The statement read: "While the NGE doesn't condemn the unlawful political activities in that state, our primary concern here is the unlawful and unconstitutional action of the state governor against the affected stations for carrying out their constitutional and social obligations - of reporting citizens informed of political developments in the state. "In fact, the shut stations would have been accused of unprofessional misconduct if they didn't cover that rally. We are also

of the broadcasting industry, the NBC, has also condemned the unlawful action of Governor Bello Matawalle." The NGE further described the governor's action as a serious threat to the democratic process and democracy, "saying it is a precarious signal to what awaits the media, ahead of the 2023 general elections. "The media reserves the right to cover all events, whether or not they are banned. No state government reserves the right to shut down any media house, in spite of



Mohammed

their perceived infractions. NBC, if at all the affected "In this case, the Zamfara State governor should have written a petition to the to self-help."



By Bulus Gambo

SOME years back, the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, Plateau State chapter in its usual pragmatic and benevolent comportment decided to visit one of the many refugee camps in Plateau State so as to enable them donate their widow's might towards the upkeep of Internally Displaced People, (IDP's). Yours sincerely was unexpectedly conscripted to drive these women Journalists to the camp where some of us eventually sobbed as a result of the traumatic and agonizing predicament the citizens of this country were experiencing.

Though the situation at this camp may be a replica elsewhere; it is quite a pity to see citizens of this country suffering in such a disgusting and unspeakable manner. Unimaginably, these

brothers and sisters of ours are crammed in a "cage" like broilers waiting for Christmas to be slaughtered. It is indeed very disturbing and unpleasant to me including many others who have had the opportunity of going there to see the situation for themselves.

Though accommodation at the camp was not that which could be cherished, toddlers were mostly hit by this unexpected development. Most painful were glaring facts that most of these children are orphans who had lost both parents during acts of aggression perpetuated by the Boko Haram insurgents in the North Eastern part of this country. When the leader of the center was revealing difficulties faced by these IDP's who reportedly came from Yobe, Maiduguri and Adamawa States in north eastern part of this country we could not believe our ears.

For God's sake, these people are also citizens of this same country of ours. In fact, if for nothing else, they don't deserve to be left behind in such precarious and dehumanizing situation without any pity.

To say the truth, if not for the humanitarian services offered by some None Governmental Organizations to these brothers and sisters of ours at these camps, their future would have long gone with the wind. However, in spite of these painful unending

experiences which the inmates faced on daily basis as a result of activities of insurgency and poor and visionless strategies of governance, politicians in this country must be blamed for dragging them into this mess.

Come to think of it, the

matter is; how did they fail to identify any of these indicators of economic failure as it were.

I am yet to comprehend the competency of our technocrats as they have failed in issuing warning signals when our economy was under any threat. Many



Nigeria: Our refugees crammed in double jeopardy?

president of this country, Muhammadu Buhari had at a point disclosed that our country was broke. Immediately after his proclamation, opposing parties raised against him claiming that such utterances would scare investors out of the country.

In their usual antics, they were expecting the president to lie to the entire citizens of this country in order to save their business links and connections across the globe. In other words, they had wanted the president to deceitfully declare that all is well even when most states in this country cannot pay salaries to their workers.

When former president Olusegun Obasanjo was this country's leader, we were made to believe that he had the best cabinet one can ever imagine in this contemporary nation of ours. Though one cannot forget the role his government played in the debt relief granted this nation, the crux of the

of them are well read in world class universities across the globe but always mess us up when it comes to assignments such as this back home.

How can one describe this degree of insensibility of the administration particularly as regards the true position of our economic status? Here was a president sitting on an economically shaky nation but he did not even border to dwell much on solvable strategies at his disposal and was only busy campaigning for self succession.

Even when journalists confronted relevant authorities to know the socio-economic status of this nation the response was that nothing was indeed wrong with the country's economy. Unfortunately, some months later states became cash-trapped.

As a result of this, most states today are incapacitated and unable to pay salaries to civil servants.

Though I strongly believe

that this nation will come out of these present surmountable problems, one thing I am yet to comprehend is why our politicians find pleasure lying to us both during their campaign periods and even when they find themselves on leadership positions. Where did they pick up these hobbies of deceit and insincerity which has become one of the fundamental problems bedeviling this country?

Not once and not twice, I have witnessed some politicians unveiling their campaign promises, full of lies and deceptions. These people also dish out lots of monies to the electorate as if tomorrow will never come and the end of it, it is something else.

Unfortunately, as a result of these lies, Nigeria has found itself in a more precarious and unpredictable disposition ever imagined today. Thus, it is becoming more realistic that in a few years time to come, the country will be unable to feed its teeming

population.

Sad enough, the oil we were generating our resources from is almost drying and the reality is beginning to hit us on the face. Without credible and formidable framework to hasten our expectations in the industrial sector, the rate of unemployment in this country is becoming unbearable and unimaginable by all standards.

The indicators are glaring, if care is not taken, we will all in no distant future become Internally Displaced Persons, (IDP's) in this country. This is because, if a nation becomes broke and cannot take care of its citizens; then the worse is expected to happen.

At this juncture however, it is our hope that our leaders and politicians will learn lessons and turn a new leaf in the interest of the generality of the people of this country. Beyond this development however, it is our humble prayer that God will prevent this country from nose-diving into any chaos for our sake and that of our future generations.



By Hosea Nyamlong

THE Academic Unions of Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education were created with the sole aim of improving educational standards at the tertiary level in the country.

Over the years, frequent academic disruption due to strikes has led to elongated period of academic calendar and years of graduation of students which had taken about eight months.

ASUU embarked on another strike in February 14th, pressing on with their demands for funding of our public universities, Earned Academic Allowances, Proliferation of public universities, Visitation panels and the Release of white paper.

Other issues included University Transparency and

When two elephants fight...

Accountability Solution (UTAS), as a bread spectrum software to stop illegality and provide an alternative payment platform in the university system and the renegotiation of the 2009 agreement.

Nonetheless, university students never thought that the strike by ASUU would take such a long period that lasted eight months of negotiations with the Federal Government.

It is obvious that most times, students are used as baits for the lecturers to get what they want from the government, having considered their working conditions and environment for lecturers to work effectively.

The bone of contention that brought all these drama between ASUU and the Federal Government was the introduction of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIIS) in Nigeria.

Federal Government believes that the IPPIIS was to reduce corruption within the Federal Government payroll system while ASUU saw the move as another excuse to punish them.

Government on its part said that the introduction of the IPPIIS into the university system was, to check the multiplicity of the number of lecturers working in different places within Federal establishments. Similarly, the issue of the IPPIIS did not go down well with some branches of ASUU across the universities in the country.

In view of these, it warned its members not to enroll into the system, noting that the system was not obtainable and transparent. Therefore, matters were not resolved between ASUU and Federal Government which culminated into the eight months of strike that crippled academic activities, leaving students at the mercy of God to determine their fate.

How can lecturers get their entitlements from their employers without causing any harm to the educational system of the country was the question bugging the minds of citizens begging for answers.

Indeed parents, guidance and care givers are left in the dark whether to change their children's schools or renew their children rent as the year gradually winds down and

Nigerian citizens are preparing for the general elections by first quarter of 2023.

Again that suggests the number of students that would have graduated from schools and would have proceeded for their National Youth Service before reaching the age of 30 years which were affected.

The question many others are also asking is what is the hope of fresh students, gaining admission into the university this year for a new academic session, and how realistic is their future?

Many students are already traumatized by the long stay at home, some have lost their lives, while some cannot return to school due to some unforeseen circumstances beyond their control.

While the period of the strike action had affected the socio-economic activities of people operating their businesses within campus for these period of eight months, leaving such families in a chaotic situation as the rate of inflation keeps increasing every day perhaps it is worthy and commendable the effort on the part of the leadership of the House of

Representatives led by Rt.Hon. Femi Gbajabamila and other patriotic Nigerians who actually came in to ensure that the dispute between the Federal Government and ASUU was amicably settled in the best interest of the country and the educational system. The effort will now paved way for progress for the academic session.

Following the Court Order compelling ASUU to suspend its strike and resume pending the outcome and the determination of a substantive suit hanging on the ruling of the lower court is a welcome idea which also will give room for further compromise on both sides.

Now that ASUU has suspended its strike earlier embarked on February 14th. What is the focus of both students, lecturers and parents to handle the post-strike trauma that has affected the lives of citizens negatively.

In most cases, when two big elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers; the weight of the elephants and the most affected people in this situation are the students, parents, guidance and caregivers to a large extent.

To this end, government as a matter of fact should ensure that adequate funding of all tertiary institutions in Nigeria are being done at the right time without delay and any country that fails to take issues of education as its priority, has already failed on the path to development.

The quality of graduates also depend on the right teaching and research received from their lecturers which can be determined by the impact and contribution put towards the development of the country.

Therefore, education should not be sacrificed on the altar of politics, because education is the bedrock of any meaningful development.

It is important to also note that there are better ways for both Government and ASUU to settle issues concerning education amicably without resorting to strike which has become the order of the day

Nigerian citizens would want to see that the educational system of the country becomes the engine room for development where students can make impact in rapid transformation in sectors of the nation. It then behoves on our political leaders to ensure that education in this country is not allowed to reach a precipice before salvaging it.

**CONSOLIDATION FOR GREATER PLATEAU 2023 TEAM
WARMLY FELICITATES WITH AND HEARTILY CONGRATULATES
GOVERNOR SIMON BAKO LALONG AND
ALL 2022 RECIPIENTS OF NATIONAL HONOURS AWARD.**



I, the Governorship candidate of the Plateau State chapter of the Labour Party, on behalf of my running mate, Barrister Edward Pwajok (SAN) and my entire campaign team tagged, CONSOLIDATION FOR GREATER PLATEAU 2023 TEAM, heartily congratulate the recent awardees of the 2022 national honours conferred by the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR on Tuesday 11th October, 2022.

I will crave your pardon to mention a few as point of contact to you all as time and space constraints would not permit.

I hereby felicitate with the Senate President, **Senator Ahmad Lawan (GCON)**, Speaker Federal House Representatives, **Rt. Hon Femi Gbajabamila (GCON)**, Deputy Speaker Federal House of Representatives, **Rt. Idris Wase (CON)**, Plateau State Governor, **Rt. Hon. Simon Lalong (CON)**, and his fellow colleagues **Babagana Umara Zulum (CON)**, **Nyesome Wike (CON)**, **Arthur Infeanyi Okowa (CON)** and **Rotimi Akeredolu (CON)** of Borno, Rivers, Delta and Ondo States respectively. Others are: Chief Justice of the Federation, **Olukayode Ariwoola (GCON)**, President of the Court of Appeal, **Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem (CFR)**, Gbong Gwom Jos, **HRM Da Gyang Buba (CFR)**, **Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro OON**, **Mary Lar (OON)**, **Professor Danjuma Sheni (OON)**, **Mr. James Dimka (OON)**, **Sheik Abdullahi Abubakar (MON)**, **Professor Seddi Sebastian Maimako (OON)**, Chairman, NASCO Group of Companies, **Dr. Attia Nasreddin (OFR)**, **Mrs Jummai Kizito Gukas** (Medal of the Federal Republic 1-MFR 1) and all the others, on your well deserved recognition by the Nigerian state over your remarkable contributions to the country's growth, progress, development and unity in your different fields of endeavour.

As President Muhammadu Buhari admonished you not to make the award an adorable decorative gem, but a source of inspiration to do more for your country, I add my voice to his clarion advice, that the award should spur you into doubling your efforts selflessly, tirelessly, honestly and veritably at serving our fatherland, Nigeria.

The Consolidation for Greater Plateau Team 2023 appreciates all your efforts and sacrifices to our great nation.

Congratulations!

Signed:
Dr. Patrick Dakum
Labour Party Governorship Candidate,
Plateau State.



IMAGES

JUSTICE ADEYEYE SWEARS IN OYEBANJI AND AFUYE

The Ekiti State Chief Judge, Justice Oyewole Adeyeye on Sunday swore-in Biodun Oyebanji as Governor and Chief (Mrs.) Monisade Afuye, Deputy Governor of Ekiti State



Justice Adeyeye (right) administering the oath of office on the Governor of Ekiti State, Biodun Oyebanji, flanked by his wife



Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, APC Presidential Candidate (right) in a photograph with the immediate past Governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, wife and the Governor of Ekiti State, Biodun Oyebaji and wife



Governor Biodun Oyebanji (left) receiving the Holy Bible from the Chief Judge of the State after the swearing in



Governor Biodun Oyebaji, wife and the Chief Judge in a photograph after the swearing in ceremony



Chief (Mrs.) Monisade Afuye (left) taking the oath of office as the Ekiti State Deputy Governor, being administered by the State Chief Judge



Outgone Governor of Ekiti State in photograph with the incoming and his Deputy (right)



Newly sworn-in Governor Biodun Oyebanji on motorcade acknowledging cheers from the people



Governors Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State with his Ondo State counterpart, Oluwarotimi Akeredulu, SAN at the ceremony

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

Culled from The Mirror



On Plateau United's CAF Champions League ouster

Last week, one of Nigeria's representatives at the ongoing Confederation of African Football, (CAF) Champions League, Plateau United was bundled out of the competition after poor officiating. Plateau United which thrashed Esperance Football Club of Tunisia 2-1 in Abuja during the first leg of the encounter only needed at least a draw to progress to the money spinning round of the competition. This however was not to be as the Plateau State darling team eventually succumbed to a one goal deficit after the second leg in Tunisia which granted the host a smooth passage to the next stage of the competition based on an away goal advantage.

The Jos based team could not proceed to the next round of this competition following a controversial penalty awarded the host by an Egyptian referee, Ibrahim El Din. The penalty was awarded as punishment against Emmanuel Ifeanyi's infringement on Ben Hammouda in the 81 minutes.

A closer look at the incident however indicates that the penalty appears to be a controversial one as the infringement occurred quite a few distance from the sensitive area of the goalkeeper's post. According to many soccer pundits, such an incident could not have generated this unimaginable and unprincipled punitive measure by the referee except for a factor beyond our comprehension perhaps. For a sensitive match involving a North Africa side like Esperance of Tunisia, it would not have made any sense appointing an Egyptian from the same region to man the game. To express its neutrality, CAF ought to have appointed a referee from far away to handle such a high tension soaked encounter. This was however not to be for reasons only based known to CAF officials.

Since this dramatic ouster of Plateau United however, several though-provoking discussions have taken over our sporting world. Amongst these deliberations are negative concerns expressed over the impact of bad officiating of football matches be it domestic leagues and or continental ones. So far, most of these arguments are motivated by the fact that the status of African leagues are really becoming an eye sore following such increasing incidences.

But again, one of the major problems confronting anticipated football developmental strides is the issue of the encroachment of politics into Africa's football. This interference is not helping us as developing nations of the world while wishing to integrate into the global football confraternity.

In the aftermath of the Plateau United's ouster from the CAF Champions League, many soccer pundits have opined on the theory behind the Nigeria's team ouster as connected to this same issue of unnecessary political intrusion. For such persons, since Tunisia is a football power house in most recent times, football administrators and stakeholders would not mind bundling Plateau United out of the competition for the sake of Esperance.

In fact, since the North African team has won champion leagues several times, it would be out of place if Plateau United as an upcoming force is allowed to upset such a big team and get an

easy passage. Though this analogy seems logical, the fact remains the same; bad football officiating is killing this game in the continent.

First and foremost however, we must congratulate Nigeria's representatives, our own darling club, Plateau United for putting such a superlative fight during the competition. The truth is that, since the club took the Nigerian league by storm last year, the players of the team have continued to give us a good account of themselves.

Before the commencement of the champions' league proper; no one gave the Jos based team any hope of making a reasonable impact. Against all odds, the players were able to prove that their performance was indeed not a fluke.

That today, Plateau United has been robbed of this opportunity of moving into the next round of the competition is not even the issue; the problem however would be the impression which this single act will cause our Africa continent. This is because, no football enthusiast or administrator who sees the review of this match would give any credit to the referee.

However, Nigeria football authorities must make bold their statements condemning in strong terms, this poor officiating that subsequently put to a great ridicule, the integrity of this competition before the very eyes of the international community. This is because of the obvious fact that it is hopeless to continue supporting bigger teams and protecting them to the detriment of upcoming teams which needs such encouragements.

Be this as it may however, the technical crew and supporters of Plateau United should not be discouraged over this little hiccups as the journey ahead is more lucrative and reassuring. Therefore, the players are certainly more than ever before obligated to creating more of such historical moments.

As we move ahead, the players must also come to terms with the reality of the fact that it pays a lot to tour the path of sacrificing their strength and energy for the progress of both the state and country.

Let both the technical crew and players be remained of the obvious fact that with sincere commitment; they can reenact another superlative performance to enable them win the Nigeria league and qualify for another continental competition by next year.

In this regard, the Plateau State government must continue supporting both the technical crew and players sustain the current form in the club. Therefore, all needed allowances and other entitlements budgeted for the club must continuously be released as and when due to serve as a moral booster for the team.

All players featured for any subsequent matches be it domestic and or continental must be based on merit without any compromise. Above all, yours sincerely see great prospects in Plateau United in the coming years. I see the club winning the African Champions League in the nearest future if and when the needful is done.

All we can wish for the team right now is all the best and may their future games not be deliberately truncated as such.

View Point

Prof. Bogoro: The Jenndam Za'ar, now OON recipient

By **BULUS GAMBO**

TUESDAY 11th October 2022 will forever remain another historic and memorable day which cannot be forgotten by the citizens of Nigeria in a hurry. Still basking under the euphoria of the excitement of the country's independence day celebrations which took place some days back, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of the nation, Mohammedu Buhari conferred National Merits of Honor on individuals who have distinguished themselves in their chosen careers and also diligently served the nation to the best of their ability. These prestigious awards bestowed on these citizens cut across all facades of human endeavors amongst the heterogeneous and multifaceted ethnic nationalities of the country.

The nominees for these awards included five GCON recipients, 54 CFR, 67 CON, 64 OFR, 101 OON, 75 MFR, 56 MON and 8 FRM's. The list included politicians, public officers, security officers, businessmen, traditional rulers, administrators, technocrats, our sports men and women, musicians and religious leaders.

The Nigeria National Merits of Honor are a set of orders and decorations conferred on Nigerians and its friends as constituted by the National Honors Act No. 5 of 1964 enacted during the Nigerian First Republic to honor citizens who have rendered service for the benefit of the nation. Such an award is subsequently given after a nomination and eventual approval by the Governing Board of the Nigeria Merits Award.

For the records, such national awards are only but conferred on selected distinguished citizens whose contributions to national development and integration of the country is evident based and feasibly obvious with all due diligence. As an annual event, this programme also reminds all and sundry that the award for excellence is possible here on earth.

This year, President Muhammadu Buhari conferred these prestigious awards on 447 recipients comprising both Nigerians and none Nigerians alike basically out of the over 5,000 entries received by the George Akume-led award committee. So far, a total of 5,341 distinguished persons have been conferred with such distinguished awards since inception in 1963.

Interestingly, each screening and selection of any of such award recipient usually follow this well-established broad criteria but limited to consistent and meaningful participation in community and or humanity through achievements by way of inventions and bringing outstanding honor and glory to the state through personal dedication and patriotic commitments.

As is the tradition, amongst several Nigerians penciled down for such a national recognition for this year is the immediate past



Prof. Bogoro

Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Bogoro. Bogoro was nominated for the prestigious National Honours Award of the Officer Of The Order of The Niger, (OON) classification.

In the criteria which was taken into consideration that facilitated Prof. Bogoro's award, it was clearly stated that his award confirms President Mohammedu Buhari's believe in this erudite scholar's visionary and unequalled leadership adding that, TETFund under his leadership made our universities competitive by deepening research and development towards knowledge driven economy and innovative technology.

Some months back, Prof. Bogoro was also nominated for The Nigeria Prize for Leadership award which he is yet to be invested. This leadership award was offered to Bogoro considering his outstanding contributions to the transformation of the education sector as a technocrat in the country.

Before he was conferred with this national award, Prof. Bogoro had several other mind-blowing awards which included that of the Leadership Public Person of the Year, 2019 and Special Recognition Award of the Nigeria Society of Animal Production,

2019, African Achievers Award for Excellence Service to Humanity.

This aside, the erudite scholar is also a well-respected personality within the global intellectual circle as one distinguished individual who through thought-provoking submissions is redefining numerous opportunities for the integration of the country into global intellectual reckoning. This can also be attested to following his other responsibilities as consultant/Project team leader to the World Bank, UNDP, and USAID. As chairman/member of Board of Directors of more than ten Non Governmental Organizations, Prof. Bogoro is known as a man of peace and one who can surrender his all and everything for the sake of peace to sustainably reign.

Without mincing words, this globally acclaimed Prof. has helped exposed our country's educational competence to the outside world. Interestingly, his tenure as the Executive Secretary of TETFund indeed witnessed great and significant transformation ever imagined in the historical analysis of its existence.

In an opinion published by one Gidado Ibrahim who is the Director, Communications and Strategic Planning of the Presidential Support Committee

in allafrica.com, he suggested that Prof. Bogoro deserves the award of Education Research Man of the Year, adding further that "TETFund is sacrosanct to Nigeria's nation building efforts. And tertiary Education and the knowledge society, as a vision can help strengthen tertiary education research to make a significant contribution to the nation's sustainable development. It then requires a lead and multitiered academic like Prof. Bogoro who is conversant with the principles and rules of the academic environment.

According to him, "the activities of TETFund under the leadership of Prof. Bogoro saw Nigeria celebrating the impact and improved ranking of higher institutions internationally because of years of intensive interventionist approach in the nation's tertiary institutions. Seeing the doggedness of Prof. Bogoro's motives, President Muhammadu Buhari over the years increased resource allocation to TETFund."

During his first tenure, he was able to share developmental projects across all the geopolitical zones in the country without sentiments thereby enhancing tertiary education.

But again, for Elemdi Akowe, in

a published article in Economic Confidential, "Whenever the life and times of the people of Bogoro comes up, for historical review, there is every indication that Prof. Suleiman Bogoro would stand out. The latest such indication comes from the people themselves when they rose up in unison to honor their illustrious son with the title of the Jenndem Za'ar which if translated is Pillar of Za'ar people." For sure and in contemporary history, Prof. Bogoro has stood out as a selfless leader, intellect and pillar to many vulnerable individuals both within his immediate community, Bauchi State and the nation at large. Therefore, many individuals have contributed to shower accolades on the Professor of Animal Science who has been inducted into the Hall of Fame by his professional society in the country.

No wonder, what has kept Prof. Suleiman Bogoro on the right path of life is his generous heart. For the countless number of students who stretch from primary, secondary and tertiary institutions that have benefitted from the magnanimity of this humble erudite scholar, this man has been a God-send to them.

Just recently, Prof. Bogoro shocked the entire people of his community when he announced publicly that the prize money of 25 million which goes along with the Leadership award to be bestowed on him would be given to the Baba Peter Gonto Foundation. The foundation when fully operational would also assist in providing various skill acquisition and other laudable programmes for the entire youth of Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa Local Government Areas of Bauchi State and beyond. Apart from playing a significant role towards the siting of educational institutions within his immediate community, provision of several roads and social infrastructure for developmental advancement, Prof. Bogoro has become a huge influence particularly on several students back home.

Though several Doctoral students studying both within and outside the shores of this country have continued to enjoy his tremendous support, many more have been gingered to take the bull by the horn and pursue educational excellence with due diligence and sincerity of purpose. As it is, more than three hundred Doctoral and Masters students in Post Graduate Schools are studying different professional courses in several universities both within and around the globe. These Post Graduate Students are indigenes of Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro Local Government Areas of Bauchi State alone. Beyond this, efforts are also been made through all kinds and methods of sensitization and support to ensure that before 2030, every household in these two local government areas have at least a PhD holder in their families. This strategic plan is aimed at empowering the once deprived minority ethnic nationalities of the area to stand out and become self-reliant.

As we celebrate another milestone in the life of Prof. Suleiman Bogoro, it is our humble prayer that our good Lord will continue to grant him long life, good health and uncountable opportunities to continue to help our people and represent us well in whatsoever capacity he finds himself. We are all very proud of you Prof.



Lalong promises to deliver inspite of schedule

WITH a heated polity across the country, activities of many political office holders and politicians have tilted towards campaigns and party activities as they jostle to woo voters and secure a win in the 2023 general elections.

Political parties and key government structures like security outfits, communication ministries and parastatals, government, Non Governmental Organisations, civil society organisations, and international bodies are showing interest in the country's transitional countdown-moments, as the clock ticks towards 2023.

In all of this change in body language and expectations, Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong is playing and holding key positions in his party and the country by wearing four caps.

First of all, he is the Governor of his state and the Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum, a platform where he is the head, leader, and spokesperson of the 19 northern states governors including the FCT, as they address issues and interests affecting the North.

Lalong is also wearing the cap of Director General of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) of the Tinubu/Shettima ticket for the 2023 elections.

That is why of recent, since advancing into this post, his activities have been sandwiched with that of the APC presidential candidate and his running mate towards executing the tasks ahead.

The other load he is carrying is seeking election as his party's senatorial candidate of the Plateau Southern Zone.

With all these political responsibilities, weighty posts, role and expectations loaded heavily on his head, Lalong says he is determined to deliver.

Last week, as governor of the state, after attending the 'Utu Rigwe' Annual Festival at the Rwang Pam Stadium Jos, and leading 8 Plateau awardees of the Prestigious National Honours (Including himself) to a banquet organised in their honour, he led series of meetings between his party's PCC members, APC National Working Committee and Progressive Governors Forum in Abuja.

He also visited Ekiti State to celebrate the outgone governor, Kayode Fayemi and former Chairman of Nigerian Governors Forum, whose tenure had just come to an end.

The energetic Lalong was also part of key speakers that addressed northern stakeholders and coalition of groups including like women, elders, and youths on Monday October 17, 2022 at the Arewa House, Kaduna alongside the APC presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and his running mate, Kashim Shettima.

The APC PCC DG, Lalong used the forum and called on the groups tagged "Arewa Joint Committee", to give his candidate Tinubu the chance to rule the country based on his detribalised nature, past achievements and great economic records he had set in Lagos. More of such outings are to be expected from the Governor, once his party brings out and inaugurates its presidential campaign members to kick start campaigns across the country. But in September, the governor had earlier set his campaign machineries rolling and had met with party key stakeholders of his senatorial zone, to brainstorm on ways to go about his senatorial bid.



News

Lalong appreciates service, sacrifice of fallen heroes

By DUMAH RANDONG

GOVERNOR Simon Lalong of Plateau State has appreciated the services and sacrifice of the Nigeria fallen heroes who fought to keep the country together.

According to the governor, the nation's fallen heroes played a critical role in peace operation within and the outside the country where some of them paid the supreme price.

Governor Lalong gave this commendation while receiving the Coordinating Commandant General,

Brigadier General David Yaljaba who paid him a visit at Government House, Rayfield, Jos, Monday.

Lalong commended the Nigerian Legion for the introduction of Corps Commissionaires to curb insecurity, intelligence gathering and other social vices especially among students.

Lalong who was represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, said the Nigerian Legion should be supported in order to bring their wealth of

experience to bear on the security challenges in the country and assured of close collaboration to enable them perform their role effectively.

Coordinating Commandant, Nigerian Legion, Brigadier General David Yaljaba had said they were on an advocacy visit to create awareness on the new security outfit which was to serve as a support to the role of the Nigerian Legion in complementing the military.

He said the corps of commissionaires was established in the western region in line with the act establishing the Nigerian Legion of 1962 which now has a total number of 10000 personnels with private companies in the South-East and South -South as their major employers while the North-West and North-East were yet to embrace their services.

General Yaljaba said the establishment of the corps commissionaires was to serve as source of employment for dependants and children of fallen heroes to provide intelligence and curb cultism among other vices in schools.

He explained that the corps of commissionaires could be trusted and relied upon to complement the military having trained by the military.

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

NSCDC arrests man for sodomy

THE Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps(NSCDC), Sokoto State Command, said it had arrested 58 year old man and four of his accomplices for allegedly conspiring to sodomise his seven-year old nephew.

The State NSCDC's Commandant, Mr Muhammad Dada, said this at a news conference on Monday in Sokoto.

Dada said all the suspects were arrested when neighbours raised alarm over the heinous crime.

"TNS investigation revealed that the uncle of the victim was the first suspect who raped the underage boy and thereafter invited four other persons."The Command has obtained a court order to further detain the suspects to conclude investigation on their matter before



Aregbesola

they will be charged to court."

The commandant advised parents and members of the public, saying community close watch over their children and wards to avoid such heinous crimes from being perpetrated. He commended the prompt response of the public, saying community policing was best for safety and security of the people at all times.



Lalong

THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Parenting

Ways to build confidence in your kids

By **SYLVIA SMITH**

WHEN it comes to raising kids, there are likely many things you want to teach them, including being confident and well-rounded.

How do I make my child more confident?

You may be at a loss when it comes to how to build self-confidence in a child, but there are some things that you can try which aren't difficult to incorporate into your routine.

For instance, when you are confident, this can show your children what it looks like. You may also need to show them love, patience, and kindness, no matter the situation. These things can go a long way in terms of raising

confident kids. Building confidence is quite important as your children are growing since there are many aspects of life where confidence can be helpful. For instance, a confident child will be better able to make friends and have meaningful relationships. Without confidence, they might not be able to have conversations with others or meet goals they set for themselves in life.

When you want to know how to build confidence in kids, there are some tips that you will likely need to follow.

Be a good example

One tip on how to raise confident kids that can't be overlooked is a good example. This means that you need to be confident outwardly, so your child can identify this and see that confidence is attainable.

Encourage them

Another way to think about when it comes to building confidence in kids is that they must be encouraged. When they do something well, you need to tell them that you are proud of them or that they have done a good job.

Although this may seem like something small, it can make a big difference in the long run.

Help them learn from mistakes

Everyone makes mistakes from time to time, and your child is no different. However, instead of getting upset with them when they make a mistake, you should help them learn what they did wrong and how to make it better next time.

Let them try new things

Another way that you can try in relation to how to build confidence is when it comes to allowing your child to try new



things.

When they have the ability to try new things, this can help them decide what they like and what interests they would like to pursue.

Help them meet goals

Everyone needs to learn about goals and how to meet them, and children are no exception. When it comes to growing confidence in kids, meeting goals can make a big difference.

Ask them for help

You can ask your child for help with tasks as one of the ways to build confidence in a child. Just be sure that you only ask them to help with things they can do. This can be something small like setting the table or telling their siblings it's dinner time.

Show your love

Raising confident teenagers is something that is possible and can be accomplished by showing your children love. You should try your best to tell them you love them and be there for them when they have a problem or need help.

While it may be challenging to determine how to let your child know you love them, it will be worthwhile to figure out what works and what doesn't.

Let them make decisions

It is okay to ask your child's opinion on things. You can inquire about what movie they want to watch on movie night or what vegetable they want to eat for dinner.

While these seem like things that don't matter, they will likely matter to your little one since they can feel they have contributed to the family and have a say.

Spend time with them

Once you are wondering how to raise a confident child, one of the necessary things is spending plenty of time with them.

Take small steps

As you are learning how to raise confident kids, you can take small steps. You don't have to figure out everything overnight. Again, many of these tips will take some trial and error to get just right.

Limit negative influences

If you have noticed that your child's behavior has changed recently and don't know why, it may be necessary to limit the negative influences on their life.

This could be programs they are watching on television, games they are playing, or even family members they are exposed to that don't follow your morals or belief systems.

While you don't have to take these things away from your little ones, teaching them how you want them to act may be necessary.

12. Listen to them

Many parents have busy lives and don't always have the time to spend with their families that they want to. However, when your kids come to you and need something or want to tell you something, it is necessary to hear them out.

They might require help with a problem or need your advice. Once they find out that you can and will help, they can gain confidence knowing that you will be there for them.

Acknowledge hard work

Have you ever wished that you would be recognized for your hard work? Ensure you notice when your child is doing hard work, even if they haven't met

their goal yet.

This is another top way on how to raise confident kids that can't be undervalued. You can offer them a kind word and tell them to keep up the good work.

Ask for their input

You may be familiar with how children ask many questions while learning. They are inquisitive and may also have a

lot to say. You can turn this around on them and ask them questions about how their minds work.

Ask them what they think a grasshopper thinks about or how many trees are in your city.

Please pay attention to their answer and let them know when they have given you a good answer. You may not think about this when you are pondering how to raise confident kids.

Show them affection

When you want to know how to boost a child's confidence, one of the most important ways is showing them affection.

There are a number of ways you can go about how to raise confident kids, but it is very important to love them, interact with them, encourage them, and be confident in yourself.

You can also opt for a parenting class or a meeting with a therapist for guidance through the parenting process.

Remember that it is possible to raise confident kids, and the list above provides you with a starting point when it comes to how to raise confident kids. Use it as your guide through the process and see what works for your family.



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

Living

Why women crave for affection

PATRICK WANIS

WOMEN crave the feeling and passion of love. Women crave the ecstasy of love. And they crave it much more than men!

But why so?

Do women long for love because of social upbringing or other inherent traits?

There is no doubt that society encourages women to be romantic, to place great emphasis on love, and its idealism. In fact, much of the literature that children grow up reading promotes the ultimate fantasy as the rescue of the beautiful woman by the knight in shining armor or the handsome prince. In other words, literature and the arts generally create roles for the genders: the damsel in distress for the female, and the heroic prince for the male. Women are much more emotionally charged than men. Women are primarily *feelers* and more imaginative than men who tend to be *analytical*, primarily concerned with cause and effect.

There are two hemispheres to the brain. The left side is analytical, logical, precise detail oriented, and capable of conceiving and executing plans. The left side sorts out differences and it is the happy, cheerful, more optimistic side of the brain. The right side of the brain is imaginative, dreamy, artistic, negative, fearful, anxious, mournful and pessimistic. It is the more emotional side of our brain. It helps us recognize familiar faces and is responsible for hunches. The right hemisphere is associated with our sense of self, our sense of who we are.

Further, the limbic system, or emotional brain, tends to be larger in women. The limbic system is the emotional bonding center of the brain. The larger limbic size makes bonding easier for women. Women tend to have more friends in life and have a larger nesting instinct than men. Finally, women have the ability to use both sides of the brain simultaneously and have greater access to the right hemisphere than men do. Yes, women can multitask. Men focus on one side of the brain at a time.

Women's responses are much more acute in four of our five senses and they can detect more subtle levels of input than



men can. Women prefer sounds half as loud as men. Women are much more sensitive to odor and fragrance and can recognize their newborn child from smell alone. Women have greater sensitivity in taste and a greater ability in taste than men to experience the four key tastes: bitter, salty, sweet and sour. The most dramatic gender difference is found in the area of sensitivity to touch. In some tests, the most

sensitive guy couldn't feel skin contact as well as the least sensitive woman!

While men's emotions are primarily recognized in the right side of the brain, women's emotions are distributed in several areas of the brain making them more emotional. All of these above factors explain why I refer to women as "feelers." And unlike men who are primarily sexually stimulated by what they see, women are primarily sexually

stimulated by what they hear which is why women fall for men with magnificent voices, accents and poetic words.

And women have much more active brains than men!

Of course, the greatest challenge women face is that even after they have found and are united with their prince, he often too quickly stops being the prince and turns into a dictator, the angel of darkness, the lazy court jester or the king

that expects to be waited on – hand and foot!

What men fail to understand is that the reason their woman is not treating him the way she did when they were courting (sexually, romantically or affectionately) is because the man thinks courting is a one-time experience designed only to woo and win over the woman, and that once wooed, she no longer needs the romance. Truth be told, she needs it more now than ever before because she now faces so many more of life's everyday challenges. She will be washing dishes, running errands, looking after the kids, balancing the check books, and running a business.

For her, the fairy tale world of romance has been replaced by 21st century world of reality.

The only yellow brick road to living happily ever after, for the prince and his princess, is for the prince to treat her as a princess, reminding her that she is special, beautiful, the only one for him, that he needs her, and to offer his support and love for her emotionally, mentally and physically! The 21st century prince understands that his woman not only craves the passion and ecstasy of romance, she needs it to be truly happy. And when the princess is happy, she will do everything to make her prince feel like a king!

Sports

Gusau meets club owners, seeks more fruitful NPFL

THE urgent need to institute a better packaged, fulfilling and more fruitful Nigeria Professional Football League that will germinate a more beneficial football economy for all stakeholders was the crux of a meeting on Monday which the President of Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau had with owners of clubs in the elite league.

Newsnow said that, In attendance were 13 of the club owners, with former Nigeria Football supremo Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima representing Kano Pillars and Nasarawa United boss, Barr. Isaac Danladi on seat as Chairman of the club owners.

Also at the very important meeting with the NFF President were Elder Paul Bassey, (Akwa United FC); Adamu Aliyu Mohammed, (Niger Tornadoes FC); Coach Amehi Dickson (Dakkada FC); Promise Nwachukwu (Heartland FC); Ferdinand Emeka (Rangers Int'l FC); Prince Tunde Ogunja (Sunshine Stars); Rt. Hon. Tunde Olaniyan (Shooting Stars FC); Abubakar Abubakar (Gombe United FC); Mr. Dominic Iorfa (Lobi Stars FC); Mr. Jude Anyadufu (Enyimba FC) and Alhaji Abdulsamad Badama (Katsina United FC).

Representatives of Rivers United, Kwara United, Plateau United and Wikki Tourists were absent with apologies.

NFF's Deputy General Secretary, Dr. Emmanuel Ikpeke and Ag. Director of Legal, Barr. Okey Obi were part of the deliberations.

Resolutions at the meeting include, the Club Owners unanimously congratulated the new NFF President, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau and Members of his Board and pledged total support to the Board on any steps it will take to ensure that the Nigeria Professional Football League



Gusau

really begins to live up to the name of a professional league in every sense of the word.

Also, The Club Owners collectively maintained that the NPFL has suffered serious problems in the past six years and identified the following areas: lack of Sponsorship, no TV Broadcast, poor Officiating and insufficient funding.

The Club Owners charged the NFF President and his Board to critically look into the aforementioned areas of concern and restructure the Nigeria Professional Football League in line with international best practices.

They called on the NFF President to set up a small committee of football experts to look into the former League Management Committee (LMC) and the current Interim Management Committee (IMC) and come up with a functional governance structure to drive the NPFL for the good and development of football in Nigeria and for the benefit of all major football stakeholders.

They appealed to the NFF President to inaugurate the present IMC as appointed by the Federal Government through the Honorable Minister for Youth and Sports

Development, Mr. Sunday Dare but with a short tenure.

Nigeria beat Chile to set up USA quarter-final

NIGERIA secured a 2-1 victory over Chile in their last Group B fixture at the 2022 Fifa U17 Women's World Cup in India.

Goal said that, needing a win to scale through, coach Bankole Olowookere's girls took a fourth-minute lead through Blessing Emmanuel before Bisola Mosaku doubled the West Africans' advantage with eight minutes left on the clock.

Not willing to go down without a fight, the South Americans continued to attack and they were awarded a last-minute penalty after VAR adjudged that one of Nigeria's defenders had handled the ball. Tali Rovner took the ensuing kick that sailed past goalkeeper Faith Omilana.

Super Eagles Captain, Ahmed Musa, has taken his philanthropic gesture a notch higher, unveiling a school, and then name it after his parents Mr. Musa and Mrs. Sarch.

Newsnow said that, the school called M&S (Musa & Sarch) International School is located at Bukuru, Jos South LGA of Plateau State.

The football superstar took to his Twitter handle on social media to reveal the good news yesterday morning.

Musa wrote: "I'm proud to name it after my parents. Mr Musa & Mrs Sarch! M&S International School... Now officially opens. Alhamdulillah!" concludes the Super Eagles captain.

Musa stands out amongst his Nigerian international teammates. His philanthropic gestures have been well documented. Apart from helping the less privileged in the society, Musa is known for

Musa names school after parents



Musa

putting succor on the faces of Nigerians who have been battered by the current economic situation of the country. Countless individuals have given testimonies to how Musa intervened in their cases when all hope was lost. From empowering widows to creating jobs for youths in his immediate environment, the Super Eagles Captain, has shown the way to others who are in his position to also be generous.



Nigeria

Having lost their first fixture against Germany, the Nigerians have bounced back to win their remaining two

group matches to reach the knockout phase of the global football showpiece taking

place in India. Aside from putting her team ahead, Captain Emmanuel was impressive for the entire duration - with her endless speed tearing apart the defence setup of Alex Castro's side.

Nigeria featured in the maiden edition of the U17 Women's World Cup in New Zealand. However, they were unable to get past the group phase that boasted England, Brazil and South Korea.

Olowookere's girls would be hoping to progress to the semi-finals when they square up against Group A winners, the United States of America on October 21 at the DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai.

'Kepa will not be dropped for Mendy at Chelsea'

NIGERIA legend, Victor Ikpeba believes it will be a huge task for goalkeeper Edouard Mendy to displace inform Kepa Arrizabalaga at Chelsea.

Despite the Senegal custodian returning from injury, the 28-year-old Spaniard has been the preferred number one keeper under new manager Graham Potter.

His performances in recent matches have been great, especially in the 2-0 Premier League win against Aston Villa, when he made a total of seven saves, including two stunning ones, to keep the Blues in the game at Villa Park on Sunday.

Chelsea manager afterwards praised Kepa's display terming

it "world class." The superb display has also caught the attention of 49-year-old Ikpeba, who played 31 international matches for the Super Eagles and scored seven goals.

"But that's not the same Kepa happening and you have a new manager," Ikpeba said on Monday Night Football magazine show on SuperSport as reported by [allnigeriasoccer](#)," adding: "Mendy had his own bad games, bad runs and he's been given the opportunity - it's a little bit straight."

"When you have a goalkeeper that has won the Uefa Champions League,

becomes the number one of the team and he's struggling at the beginning of the season. I have never felt that Kepa wasn't a good keeper.

"Sometimes he needs time to get used to the Premier League and he's shown that he's a talented keeper. He's shown a huge mentality. That's a winning mentality or fighting, having the opportunity to come back. He now has it, he's going to be the number at Chelsea."

"There's no way the manager is going to drop him. He's shown all his potential. A lot of money was spent on him."

The 30-year-old Lion of Teranga's last appearance for Chelsea came on September 3 when the Blues defeated West Ham United 2-1 in the league.

In total, he has managed six appearances this season and managed one clean sheet. Last season, he made 34 top-flight appearances and kept 14 clean sheets. Overall, he has played 71 matches in the league for Chelsea and kept 31 clean sheets.

He will hope to get the starting role when Chelsea, who are currently lying in the fourth position with 19 points, travel to take on Brentford on Wednesday.

Xavi admits Barcelona must improve

"improve a lot".

The Catalan giants found themselves on the wrong end of a 3-1 scoreline at Santiago Bernabeu in their latest La Liga outing, with a late goal from Ferran Torres counting for little in the grand scheme of things. Karim Benzema, Fede Valverde and Rodrygo did the damage for Real, leaving Xavi to reflect on what he needs to do in order to change Barca's fortunes.

Xavi told reporters when asked for his assessment of a Clasico loss and what needs to be done at Camp Nou: "The feeling is that we are in a negative dynamic. We tried. We have faith, self-esteem. We tried. Luckily, it's only three points. It was an opportunity to keep up with the leaders and we leave empty-handed. We have to change the dynamic. We were doing very well in La Liga. We're still under construction, but we have to improve a lot."

"I'm worried that we didn't attack well, that we didn't take advantage of our moments. It wasn't a

good day. We're in a bad dynamic and we have to change it now. We have to be more mature and compete much better. We have to learn the hard way. At this level, everything is even. We have to play much better. I won't blame the players. I'm responsible. I'll explain what happened. It's my mistake, specific errors. We have to change the dynamic, this is a long season."

Barca did see more of the ball against Real, enjoying 57 per cent possession, and also fired in 18 shots to compared to the Blancos' eight, but were unable to find an attacking spark and now sit three points adrift of their fiercest rivals in the Liga table.

Xavi's side have two home games to come this week - one against Villarreal on Thursday, before then playing host to Athletic Club on Sunday.



Xavi



Mendy



Quest



writer

Longji Aaron Bako

FRAGMENT

"Climate plays a major role in the evolution and distribution of life over the planet. Life itself plays important role in the buffering and regulation of the earth's climate by helping to offset the effect of episodic climate oscillations by responding in ways that alter the greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. For instance, natural ecosystems have played important role in stabilizing climate and preventing overheating of the earth by removing more of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the sun becomes brighter and brighter over millions of years. —Climate and natural ecosystems are tightly coupled and the stability of that coupled system is an important ecosystem service."

Longji Aaron Bako

Ecosystem services: Emphasis on pollination, seed dispersal

ECOSYSTEM Services (ESS) are the benefits of goods and services that humans enjoy from nature which are usually taken for granted. Biodiversity and their critical services such as pollination, seed dispersal, climate regulation, drought mitigation and water purification as only some of these services are continually being threatened at an alarming rate. In order for these ecosystem services (ESS) to be better appreciated, their value needs to be emphasized. Ecosystem services (ESS) can be a powerful tool for conservation argument but placing a value on these services is difficult, this paper tries to put forward ecosystem services (ESS) by highlighting some of these important services and their values economically and otherwise as an approach that is working by influencing decision makers, the paper also gave evidence to support the relationship between biodiversity per species richness and ecosystem services to support the conservation movement.

The dynamic complex of plants, animals and microorganism communities and non-living components interacting as a functional unit is referred to as ecosystem. Ecosystem ecology focuses on the interactions that occur between living organisms and their environment as an integrated system. Biodiversity is being viewed more expansively, to include genes, species, populations, communities, ecosystems, and landscapes, with each level of biological organization exhibiting characteristic and complex composition, structure, and function.

As a result, current recommendations for biodiversity conservation focuses on the need to conserve dynamic, multi-scale ecological patterns and processes that sustain the full complement of biota and their supporting natural systems. Humans derive a vast number of services from biological communities and these services emerge from the ecosystem functions provided by the species within the communities. The biodiversity argument has two phases which are the anthropocentric (conserving for human benefit)



Abubakar, Agric Minister

and intrinsic (Conserving for its own inherent value).

Ecosystem services are the components of nature, directly or indirectly enjoyed, consumed, or used to yield human wellbeing. The processes by which the environment produces resources that we often take for granted such as clean water, timber, and habitat for fisheries, and pollination of native and agricultural plants are all ecosystem services. The ecosystem services (ES) concept places emphasis on the multiple benefits of ecosystems to humans, and its use can facilitate collaboration between scientists, professionals, decision-makers, and other stakeholders. Although the concept has gained considerable interest inside and outside of science, it is increasingly contested and encounters multidimensional objections.

The science of conservation biology has evolved from a crisis-oriented discipline focused on rare or endangered vertebrates to a more proactive experimental discipline focused on patterns and processes at multiple scales. Recently, ecosystem service is being included in measuring biodiversity. Ecosystem function and services can be grouped as regulation function, habitat function, production function and information function.

GENERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT FUNCTION

This contributes to the in-situ conservation of biological and genetic diversity and evolutionary control processes. Natural ecosystems serve the purpose of providing refuge and habitat for reproduction to biodiversity. Biodiversity is generated and maintained in the natural and semi-natural ecosystems where organisms encounter a wide variety of living conditions and chance events that shape the evolutionary trends that affect them in special ways. For instance, our ability to increase crop production in the face of new pests and diseases has depended heavily on the transfer of genes to our crops from their wild relatives that confer some resistance. This has increased food production by about 1 percent

REGULATORY FUNCTION (CLIMATE AND LIFE)

This category includes those services enjoyed by humans such as clean water and soil, and other biological control services and includes the capacity of natural and semi natural ecosystems to regulate essential ecological processes and life support systems through biogeochemical cycles and other biosphere processes. The earth's climate has fluctuated tremendously ever since the human race inhabited it. For instance, about 20,000 years ago (peak of the last ice age), much of Europe was covered by mile-thick ice sheets. While the global climate has been relatively stable since the invention of agriculture

around 10,000 years ago, periodic shifts in climate have affected human activities and settlement patterns. Fluctuations that have occurred and is still occurring, thought to be caused by alterations in the earth's orbital rotation or energy output of the sun and/ or events on earth itself, climate has been remarkably buffered by some events throughout the change occurrence to have enabled it sustain life for over 3.5 billion years.

Climate plays a major role in the evolution and distribution of life over the planet. Life itself plays important role in the buffering and regulation of the earth's climate by helping to offset the effect of episodic climate oscillations by responding in ways that alter the greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. For instance, natural ecosystems have played important role in stabilizing climate and preventing overheating of the earth by removing more of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the sun becomes brighter and brighter over millions of years. —Climate and natural ecosystems are tightly coupled and the stability of that coupled system is an important ecosystem service.

Ecosystems exert direct physical influence that helps to moderate regional and local weather. Transpiration for instance, which is the giving off of water by plants in form of vapor, in the morning causes thunderstorms in the afternoon, thereby, limiting both moisture loss from the region and rise in surface temperature.

Mitigation of Floods and Droughts

The ecosystem serves a vital role in erosion control in many ways and helps conserve the soil. Plant and plant litters help shield the soil from the full, destructive force of raindrops and hold it in place. Plants roots absorb much of the water from the surface of the earth while remaining is gradually drained into aquifers and surface streams this saves the earth from being over flooded by water coming from the amount of rain received annually on the earth which is said to be about 119,000 cubic kilometres and enough to cover land to an average depth of 1 meter.

Living vegetation with its deep roots and above ground evaporating surface also serves as a giant pump that returns water from the ground into the

atmosphere. Clear-cutting plant cover disrupts this link in the water cycle and leads to potentially large increases in surface runoff along with nutrient and soil loss. A classic example can be seen in whereby, New Hampshire Forest was cleared and applied herbicide to prevent regrowth, and this resulted to significantly higher average stream flow. The wetlands also play a vital role in flood control and can reduce the need for constructing flood control structures. Floodplains and saltmarshes help in slow the flow of floodwaters and allow sediments to be deposited within the floodplain rather than washed into downstream bays and oceans.

Soil Ecosystem Services

The role of soil organisms, particularly mycorrhizas in regulating the diversity of plant species or guilds is essential in the ecosystem due to the fact that most noteworthy ecosystem services such as primary productivity, nutrient cycling (as in the symbiotic relationship of root nodules of legumes and mycorrhizal fungi) and trophic patterns are based on response mechanisms between below ground and above ground organisms. Mycorrhizal fungi are the critical mediators in these processes. Soils moderate the water cycle, shelter seeds, and provide root anchorage to plants, provide nutrients, decompose and degrade about 130 billion metric tons of organic waste each year and serve as key factor in regulating the earth's major element cycles of carbon, nitrogen and Sulphur and they render these services free of charge.

Information Function/Aesthetic, Intellectual and spiritual Stimulation.

This contributes to the maintenance of human health by providing opportunities for reflection, spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, recreation and aesthetic experience. Ecosystems provide an essential reference function. Many people have deep appreciation of natural ecosystems this can be seen manifest in the art, religion and traditions of many cultures. Activities such as garden and pet-keeping, Film making, birdwatching and feeding, ecotourism and mountaineering, fishing and hunting are all important benefits derived from the ecosystem.

To be concluded next week