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## Nigerian students announce fresh rounds of protest

**The National Association of Nigerian Students, South-West Zone, has said that it is prepared to hold the funeral for public education in Nigeria since President Mohammed Buhari is accused of burying it.**

This was released in a

statement on Monday that was jointly signed by the NANS Coordinator and Spokesperson, Adegboye Olatunji and Awoyinfa Opeoluwa.

The student body said they would be hitting the streets again in the coming days.

The group said: "It behoves us to call the

attention of the general public and the international community on the brazen insult meted on the Nigerian students by this irresponsible administration.

"We want Nigerian students to be ready for a grand mass action on the ASUU strike. We are clear that this government is anti-public

education and this is against the yearnings of millions of students and youths.

In coming days, we shall be occupying the streets across the South-West region to conduct a final burial rite of public education in the country as this is what the Buhari's administration represents."

Weeks ago, several flights were rescheduled following the protest by students at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos State.

NANS had threatened to shut down the airport over the prolonged strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

As early as 7am, the students had blocked the international airport causing gridlock on both ends of the airport.

The students later moved to the domestic airport, causing a standstill situation along the airport road and Mobolaji Bank Anthony road leading to

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**Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State (middle) in a group photograph with newly appointed commissioners and members of the high table allegiance yesterday at the Victoria Gowon Multipurpose Hall, new Government House Rayfield, Jos. PHOTO: DANLADI DUK**

Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has on Tuesday sworn in 7 new commissioners.

The governor has also announced a major reshuffle of his cabinet.

The newly sworn-in commissioners were recently screened and confirmed by the Plateau State House of Assembly, reports The Nigeria Standard.

The governor performed

## Lalong reshuffles cabinet, swears in commissioners

By PALANG KASMI

the swearing in at the Victoria Gowon Hall, New Government House Little Rayfield Jos on Tuesday, 4th October 2022.

The hall was full with family, friends, well wishers and top government officials including the Deputy Governor Prof. Sonni Gwanle

Tyoden, Speaker, Plateau House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda, Chief Judge of Plateau, Justice David Mann, The Long Gamai of Shendam, Martin Shaldas the 3rd and many other dignitaries in attendance.

Amidst cheers from numerous crowd, the new commissioners took their

oath of office and took turns to sign their letters of appointment.

Governor Lalong in his speech congratulated the appointees and said their selection is an attestation of their credibility, experiences, personal achievements, track records and commitment to the party.

He said they are coming into office at a crucial time when the 2023 elections is at hand, and his administration has just 8 months to leave office but their role in catching up fast will help the government tidy its projects and initiate new ones.

He urged them to liaise with various Ministries, Boards and Agencies (MDAs) and be devoted to serve by being proactive in working towards the completion of projects which will be commissioned in the coming months, tasking them further to work for the interest of the APC.

"Any one not working for

the party will be shown the way out" he warned urging them to do their best to work for the ideals of the ruling APC, and equally be seen to work for the people, and touch the lives of citizens they have been appointed to serve.

While tasking MDA's to sit up present the achievements of his rescue administration within their areas of jurisdiction, Lalong warned the new commissioners against corruption, embezzlement and misappropriation of funds.

He appreciated President

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## News

## Nigerian students announce fresh rounds of protest

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the local airport.

Both the domestic terminal, one also known as the General Aviation Terminal (GAT) and the terminal two, operated by Bi-Courtney Aviation Service Limited (BASL) of the Airport and the MMIA were shut down by the students preventing passengers from accessing the airport.

At the GAT, the protesting students were joined briefly

by a former Students Union Government President of the University of Lagos and Presidential candidate of the African Action Congress (AAC), Omoyele Sowore.

He joined in solidarity with the students and decried the inability of the Federal Government and ASUU to resolve the lingering strike.

It was learnt that some local and international flights were rescheduled because of the protests.

## Fraudsters hijack staff recruitment

Fake recruitment agencies have made attempts to hijack the ongoing recruitment process for job placements in Nigeria Air.

Nigeria Air is a proposed airline and flag carrier in Nigeria, whose name and logo were unveiled at the Farnborough Air Show in the United Kingdom in July 2018.

A few weeks ago, the new airline advertised vacancies for captains, first officers, senior cabin crew, cabin crew and engineers in the B737 requirements. A few days after the advertisement, THEWILL gathered that some fake recruitment agents took advantage of the job openings, creating a host of fake websites and links supposedly for the submission of applications by unsuspecting members of the public.

But in a disclaimer notice, the management of Nigeria Air had warned the general public to ignore such announcements or invitations, as responding to, or dealing with them in any way, will be at their own risk.

The statement issued on Tuesday morning stated, "The attention of the Management of Nigeria Air Limited has been drawn to some recruitment advertisements and announcements by certain unscrupulous elements claiming to be agents or staff of the upcoming airline."

According to the management, the so-called agents have created a host of fake websites and links supposedly for the submission of applications by unsuspecting members of the public.

We wish to inform the general public, especially those who have applied for the earlier officially advertised positions that no recruitment interviews or tests have been scheduled. All such announcements or

invitations for such should be disregarded as they are the handiwork of fraudsters and scammers.

"For the avoidance of doubt, the official website is [www.nigeriaair.world](http://www.nigeriaair.world), and only those pre-qualified as meeting the B737 requirements will be contacted by the management of Nigeria Air Limited individually, and certainly not by public announcements.

"All those concerned are therefore advised to ignore such announcements or invitations, as responding to, or dealing with them in any way, will be at their own risk.

"Management appreciates the unprecedented level of interest shown by Nigerians in the airline which has resulted in the receipt of over 20,000 applications for positions in the organisation so far and wishes to state that the recruitment process for other positions will begin in due course", the airline stated.

## NDLEA arrests 121 suspects, seals 13 properties

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Kaduna State Command, have arrested 121 suspected drug traffickers and sealed 13 properties belonging to them.

The NDLEA Commander, Mr Umar Adoro, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday in Kaduna that the operation was conducted in September.

Adoro said 27 notorious drug joints were dismantled across the state.

He said the illicit drug outlets were located in Kawo, Kabala Costain, Numba Zango, Zaria City, Sabon gari, Nupe Street and Unguwar Muazu.

Others are Unguwar shanu, Maraban Jos, Dan Magaji, Hayin Banki and Kafanchan among others.

He added that among the 121 suspects, 13 were females.

The commander said the drugs seized included 247,172kg Indian hemp, 0.041kg Cocaine, 0.004kg of heroin, 0.363kg of Tramadol, 74, 441kg Psychotropic substance and 0.001kg Methamphetamine.

"The grand total weight of

Cont'd from Page 1

Mohammedu Buhari for awarding about 8 Plateau citizens with national honours.

Responding on behalf of the Commissioners sworn in, Prof Bernard Matur promised that they will put in their best to serve the people and cue in to actualise the aspirations of the Lalong APC rescue administration.

He appreciated the Governor for selecting them

and finding them worthy to serve the state in various capacities.

The newly sworn in commissioners and their portfolios are Prof. Bernard Matur (Higher Education), Hon. Peter Akujah Inbutuk (Physical Planning and Urban Planning), Mrs. Cecilia Mermwakat Yilkorah (Culture, Hospitality and Tourism), Chief Benjamin Zoyong Jang (Science and

## Lalong reshuffles cabinet, swears in commissioners

Technology), Mr. Tehkuk Naanlep Pingwai (Lands and Survey), Hon. Elisha Bitrus Shehu (Environment), and Hon. Daniel Dung Dalyop (Youths and Sports).

With the cabinet reshuffle, Hon. Victor Lapang moves from Youth and Sports to Works

commissioner, Hon. Gyang Musa moves from Science and Technology to Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs, Hon. Dan Hirkop moves from Higher Education to Budget and Planning, while all other commissioners are to retain their portfolios.



Lalong of Plateau State (middle) after administering the oath of allegiance on the 7 newly appointed Commissioners yesterday at the Victoria Gowon Multipurpose Hall, new Government House Rayfield, Jos.

## Soludo imposes N24, 000 sanitation levies on residents

Governor Chukwuma Soludo-led government in Anambra State has announced the imposition of new sanitation levies on residents across the state including rural communities.

The Managing Director of Anambra State Waste Management Agency, Mr. Mike Ozoemena, said this on Monday, adding that the taxes must be paid by every resident of the state including those in rural communities.

According to Ozoemena, implementation and enforcement of the levies took off on October 1st this year, Daily Sun reports.

The Managing Director explained that the levies became imperative due to the fact that the government would procure and fuel more waste collection trucks for waste disposal, adding that

more waste bins would also be procured and placed at strategic locations across the state for effective waste collection and management.

He noted that the new levies had been classified according to local government areas which fall under rural, semi-urban and urban categories.

The waste management agency boss explained that local government areas under urban category include Awka South, Onitsha North, Onitsha South, Aguata, Nnewi North, Idemili North and Ogbaru.

For semi-urban category, the local government areas include Njikoka, Idemili South, Ihiala, Awka North, Oyi, Orumba North, Orumba South, Anaocha, Nnewi South, Dunukofia, and Anambra East, while

Ayamelum, Anambra West and Ekwusigo local government areas fall under rural category.

Based on the categories, Ozoemena said that for residential buildings in the rural areas, the rate for a duplex was fixed for N12, 000; in semi-urban N18, 000 and N24, 000 for urban areas annually.

Also, the annual rate for detached bungalows in the rural areas was fixed at the sum of N6, 000; semi-urban is N9000 while N12, 000 is for the urban areas.

In a further breakdown of the levies, residents living in 2-3 bedroom flats in rural areas will pay N3, 600; those in semi-urban areas will pay N5, 400 while those in urban areas will pay N7, 200 annually.

For residents living in a one-

bedroom flat in rural areas, the annual rate is N2,400, semi-urban areas N3,600 and urban areas N4,800; while those living in a one-room in rural areas will pay N1,200, semi-urban areas N1,800 for and urban N2,400.

## FG reduces ASUU's powers, registers 2 unions

The Federal Government has broken the ranks of The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) after it registered two unions in the university system on Tuesday.

The newly registered unions are the National Association of Medical and Dental Academics (NAMDA) and the Congress of Nigerian University Academics (CONUA).

The Minister of Labour and Productivity, Chris Ngige, explained that the two bodies will exist along side ASUU.

drug dealers, to enable the agency to take prompt action.

He advised parents and guardians to always be watchful of their wards on the friends they moved with all

## Stadium is a legacy I will leave - Lalong

Plateau Governor, Simon Boko Lalong has expressed his desire to complete work at the Zaria Road stadium before leaving office in 2023.

He stated this Monday during the Tee off of the Golf Kitty organised to mark Nigeria's 62nd Independence Celebrations held at the Lamingo Golf Club Jos.

Lalong said the independence golf Kitty was introduced when he became governor and was glad that the game has become a major source of tourism attraction in the state.

"I must celebrate Nigeria's independence with a golf-game" an excited Lalong said.

On the Jos Zaria Road Stadium, Lalong said it will be completed before his

tenure ends and explained that although there was setbacks as a result of COVID 19, and other challenges, the contractors are going back to work.

He explained that a new contractor for the project would be engaged to continue work for the completion.

"We are working with a new contractor who has come to buy off the debts, and complete the Jos stadium".

"I am hoping that in the next few weeks, we will be able to complete negotiations and take over the completion of the stadium".

"That is one legacy that I will like to leave behind as governor of Plateau State", the Governor assured.

Lalong expressed his

the time.

He said the war against drug trafficking and consumption would continue until it was brought to a standstill in the state. (NAN)

commitment to boost and develop sports in the state.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** reports that the Jos Zaria Road stadium is one of the projects in Plateau that will be a major revenue spinner for the state if it is completed.



Buhari





# Digital banking: Changing financial services in Africa

**The digital revolution is changing how banking gets done. Every bank is eager to evolve, using secure and compliant technology to fundamentally reimagine their business. This is innovation with real impact: changing customer expectations, meeting complex regulations, dealing with new competitors, combating cyber threats, and inspiring a productive workforce. Phyllis Migwi writes**

Maintaining a competitive edge and differentiation means understanding customer needs and adapting to market trends while reaching the under-served and the unbanked. The goal for every financial services organization is to create loyal fans, not just customers, by delivering true value through personalized experiences.

For financial service organizations, the focus must be on driving and empowering digital transformation across their organizations end-to-end with a holistic viewpoint, embracing tech intensity rather than focusing on specific digital products and tools.

## Empowering modern banking.

There are a number of key trends driving the evolution of the financial services sector. The expanding power of FinTechs and big tech, along with evolving customer experience expectations are two important trends, while increased regulation is constraining growth and adding costs. Legacy systems are impeding innovation and transformation, while the growing threat of cybercrime is a challenge the industry must tackle head on.

Customers are leveraging digital engagement channels more than ever, and in response, financial services organisations are seeking to deliver differentiated customer experiences. The rise in adoption of digital banking products during the pandemic has driven banks to expedite their digital transformation agendas.

## Digital-forward banks are leading the way.

FinTechs have had an agile approach to digitalization, and this is now influencing how enterprise organisations are approaching their digitalisation. Many financial institutions aim to grow responsibly and deepen their customer relationships by delivering differentiated customer experiences. Digital-forward banks are leading the way when it comes to investing in digital experienced for offerings such as lending.

Transforming the financial services landscape will help drive economic prosperity continent-wide and will make financial services more accessible to the under-banked and previously unbanked.

The pandemic has accelerated digital adoption addressing current needs while balancing for the long term. Financial services organizations have chosen cloud services to drive digital transformation because of the ability to speed up deployment, lower complexity and manage upfront investment. The ability to



accelerate innovation to drive down costs is critical to success.

## Ecosystem banking – focus on the experience, not the product

As part of the need for differentiating new experiences, risk management, and compliance, the financial services industry is seeing the shift towards open and interconnected ecosystems through modernization of core platforms including payments and core banking systems. Banking and payments are becoming more open environments than ever before, with customers benefitting from a huge range of new and useful products.

This is enabled by Banking as a Service (BaaS), which offers an ecosystem in which licensed financial institutions integrate their banking services directly into the products of non-bank businesses. Connected BaaS provides the ability to manage an ecosystem of partners from recruitment, licensing, partnering and referrals.

BaaS built in the Cloud enables security, compliance and governance fully enabled, integrated and automated seamlessly across the entire services platform. BaaS removes many of the barriers that businesses previously faced when trying to launch or integrate financial products and unlocks banking.

A trusted platform is the foundation for running financial services in the cloud, and

organizations that continuously develop to stay at the forefront of technology will become the digital leaders of the future and maintain their competitive edge.

## The FSI industry must adopt stringent compliance and security measures

The industry is experiencing a level of regulatory scrutiny that is unprecedented in its intensity. Financial institutions that best manage their regulatory and compliance data will be on a path to stronger risk management and improved operational efficiency. And while financial institutions want new innovations to deliver better value to customers, they will not make the cut unless they are operating within appropriate compliance constructs.

To create a safer world empowered by digital transformation, Microsoft adheres to the strictest security and privacy standards in the industry to in turn enable financial sector to manage its data footprint and create its own governance. Microsoft's cybersecurity strategy utilises massive amounts of machine learning, data analytics to detect and respond to anomalous behaviour from inside and outside the organisation.

## Choosing the right technology partner in this process of digitalisation is crucial.

Organisations in the financial services sector are innovating to complete their digitisation through platform modernisation,

digital client engagement and digital employee enablement.

Financial institutions need a mature provider of financial service platforms to enable a modern banking ecosystem with a focus on reducing end-to-end and capital expenditure while leveraging technology. These institutions benefit from having a partner who will provide them with industry advisory, digital advisory and who will partner with them in the process of moving from being a legacy traditional financial services organisation to one that is digitally focused.

At Microsoft, understanding the financial services industry's needs and objectives is very important to us. We want to ensure that every organization has the digital capability required to succeed going forward and are committed to helping our financial services customers improve time to value, reduce costs, increase agility, and accelerate innovation for sustainable growth.

Source:



Adesina





# Business & Economy

## AfDB urges increased financing to curb climate change

THE African Development Bank (AfDB), has called for increased financing to reduce the effects of climate change and food insecurity in Africa.

AfDB President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina made the call when he led a delegation from the bank to the just concluded 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

A statement issued by the bank's Communication and External Relations Department on Monday in Abuja, said Adesina played an active part in discussions leading to an international declaration to end malnutrition and stunting.

The statement said climate change was a recurring theme in many of the bank's discussions, especially the need for urgent financing for the countries most at risk.

Speaking at the second ministerial meeting on climate and development, the AfDB president joined U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry and other participants.

"They joined in urging developed countries to deliver on the pledges they made at COP26 in Glasgow under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

"Adesina echoed the call for urgent action and warned that Africa was suffering."

The statement quoted Adesina as saying "Africa is choking, and is in serious financial distress for what it did not cause.

"There must be a greater sense of urgency, not in talking, but in doing and delivering resources that the continent needs very desperately."

The AfDB president also called for a restructuring of African economies to be productive with education, infrastructure, and energy.

According to him, it is to make sure we have productive sectors that can use people's skills and absorb that into the economy.

Kerry said, "we are late. we must act. I'm fed up with saying the same thing too many times in the same meetings. Business as usual is the collective enemy. Its time for action."

The general assembly, however, allowed the bank group to demonstrate particular leadership in efforts to end hunger, nutrition, and stunting across Africa.

The bank group also joined the Global Leadership Council in a new initiative to scale up clean, reliable energy and address global warming.

The council comprised global leaders, including the AfDB president, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Patricia Espinosa, and UN Development Programme Administrator, Achim Steiner.

It also comprised the European Investment Bank President Werner Hoyer; Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr, and the President of the Rockefeller Foundation, Dr Rajiv Shah.



Adesina

The council is expected to focus on efforts to break down barriers to just energy transitions in developing countries.

Under the Presidential Dialogue Group on Nutrition, the AfDB president joined African presidents to sign a landmark commitment to stop childhood stunting.

The group is an initiative of the AfDB's African Leaders for Nutrition platform, the Ethiopian government, and Big Win, a philanthropic organisation.

The platform also includes the leaders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda among its members.

He also met with Anne Beathe Tvinneim, Norway's Minister for International Development, who is also the AfDB's governor. Ahead of the Global Citizen Festival, they both discussed efforts to end

hunger.

The statement said that UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, urged governments across the world to quickly invest in quality job creation and the provision of social protection for those without coverage.

Guterres told leaders to focus on concrete solutions to implement the initiative.

He also warned "the path of inaction leads to economic collapse and climate catastrophe, widening inequalities and escalating social unrest.

"This could leave billions trapped in vicious circles of poverty and destitution."

The session was also addressed by various leaders from around the world.

These included AfDB president, Malawi's President, Lazarus Chakwera, Uganda's Vice President, Jessica Alupo, and Egypt's Minister for Planning and Economic Development, Hala El-Said.

## Ranches best for hides, skin production

THE Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology, Zaria (NILEST), Zaria, Kaduna state says cattle ranches provide the best option in the maximization of hides and skin production for leather industries.

The Institute's Director-General, Prof. Muhammad Yakubu, stated this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday in Abuja.

He said that cattle ranches would help not only government, but also entrepreneurs in maximizing profits from their herds.

"Cattle ranching rather than open grazing will eliminate problems associated with rearing animals, when you have ranching well integrated by off-take rate," he said

According to Yakubu, the off-take rate which refers to number of animal to be slaughtered in a given time

was not up to 30 per cent in Nigeria.

"Countries where they have ranches contribute up to 30 per cent off-take rate, they get the hides and skin, the meat, as well as buy small animals to rear again and replace the slaughtered ones," the D-G said.

Yakubu said that with cattle ranching, one could develop the idea of generating income from hides and skin.

"This is because, you cannot afford to have so many animals around in the ranch, it is not economical," he added.

Yakubu said that cattle ranches popularly known as integrated animal husbandry, were mostly practised in the world especially in Europe, Asia and America largely due to their economic viability and environmental advantages.

The D-G further explained that the main target to a

NIGERIA'S agricultural sector is performing well and capable of providing employment for the teeming youths and boost the nation's economy, if well harnessed.

Dr Umar Abdullahi, Technical Adviser to Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) and Dr Muhammed Attanda, the Director and Chief Executive Officer, National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), made the assertions in separate interviews with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Ibadan, Oyo State capital, on Monday.

Abdullahi said that one of the reasons why food prices had been on the increase was because the value of our currency is low, which he said has now encouraged smuggling of agricultural produce to neighbouring countries.

According to him, Nigeria has 62 per cent of the population of West Africa countries and most of the food are being produced in Nigeria because of the climate.

"It is only in Nigeria that you have all the climatic conditions suitable for agriculture.

"So, we have the potential to produce and we are producing. Most of the crops we are producing are feeding West African countries and it normally find its way through smuggling and whatever.

"The food we are producing is going all over West African countries, even, some Central African countries, this is to the benefits of the farmers because that will keep them in business.

"Farmers are now getting more money. If you find out you will see that, those who pay money for Hajj are the farmers, because they are getting more money.

"The farmer are not complaining, it is the civil servants and others who are complaining about hike in food prices, because we are buying food.

"So, we should try to take

## 'Nigeria's agric sector can provide jobs, boost economy'



Mohammed

advantage because it is an opportunity for youths to go into farming," he said.

Abdullahi noted that the only drawback was high cost of inputs, which the government needs to look into.

"Government needs to subsidise the high cost of fertilisers, provides seeds and provide some of the agricultural machineries, then many people will embrace farming and we can produce food abundantly.

"Nigerians can embrace backyard farming and produce their own food to feed their families," Abdullahi said.

He said the population of Nigeria 62 years ago was not the same as what obtained now.

"The agricultural sector is trying and the production is increasing with expansion of land areas. The yield is also improving, but very small.

On exportation of agricultural produce, Abdullahi said the rejected crops were as a result of handling of the crops, using chemicals by the middlemen, the chemicals for storage and this involves certain crops.

"Our crops are being rejected not because farmers are using chemicals during the production, it was during storage.

"If you look at the amount of chemicals we are using per hectare, we are even under-applying chemicals in Nigeria.

"Like Sesame seeds in Nigeria, though, farmers are using fertilisers and chemicals, it is still being regarded as organic because they use very little per hectare.

"So, the issue of rejection is not at the farmers level, but at the middlemen's level," he said.

Abdullahi added that one of the new mandates from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is all year-round agriculture, hence, the development of heat-tolerant varieties.

"But, to be able to produce crop all year-round, we have to develop our irrigation facilities because we have rainy season and dry season.

"The research institutes are working in this regards," he said.

In his contributions, Attanda said that Nigeria has been feeding its population and the closure of borders was a testament to that fact; but, the question is why it has yet to reflect in the national economy?

According to him, the chunk of farmers are in the informal sector.

"So, to make the prices of food cheaper, those chunk of farmers that are in the informal sector must be mainstreamed into a formal sector.

"The agricultural sector absorbed a lot of manpower. But, I think when we talk about the rate of unemployment some times, it is about white-collar jobs," he said.

On dearth of agricultural extension agents in the country, Attanda said the country has high number of graduates from Agricultural Economics and Extension yearly, but what was missing is the knowledge transfer ability, which is being threatened by lack of facilities and insecurity.

"If they ask people to go to some parts of Nigeria, they might not be able to go, another thing is the access roads, which the Federal Government is really working on.

### - NILEST

"So, the moment you keep them, they are kept for profit only, and the moment they reach four years, you slaughter them and replace them within the ranches."

Yakubu said that though open grazing was considered as a culture, people must accept the fact that in leather industry, the main culture was profit making from a product.

"So, we must accept the new changes in contemporary world in technology and innovations, leather business is no longer attached to culture or traditional practices of some people," Yakubu said.

The D-G said that the institute would continue to enlighten Nigerians on the need to accept cattle ranches as major means of income and promotion of hides and skin production for the leather industries.

According to him, in an open grazing, the off-take can hardly be up to 30 per cent, adding: "Ranching is a business you don't have any attachment with the animals.





## Business & Economy

# Nigeria's cultural integration as source of revenue

**In view of the divergent cultural heritage across the globe, it has become important to embrace cultural integration and diplomacy to foster understanding across tribes and ensure peace, unity and harmony. FOLASHADE ADENIRAN writes.**

Cultural integration, or referred to as globalisation, is when individuals from one culture adopt practices from another without diminishing their own.

Also, cultural diplomacy is a type of public diplomacy and soft power that includes the exchange of ideas, information, art, language and other aspects of culture among nations and their people to foster mutual understanding.

In recognition of the benefits of cultural integration to national development, Chief Olusegun Runsewe, under his mandate as the Director-General, National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), has created a common ground for world peace.

This has been evident in his numerous contributions to the process of uniting Nigerians with other nationals of the world.

Runsewe has been able to engage people from different races in cultural diplomacy and integration through the annual National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST) and the International Arts and Crafts Expo (INAC).

During the 2022 INAC Edition, most of the Ambassadors from other nations commended Runsewe for his unflinching efforts in uniting nationals from other countries with Nigerians through the exploration of culture.

Juan Reus, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Spain, said he was attracted to attend the expo due to the laudable exhibitions held by NCAC over the years.

According to Reus, Runsewe's contributions to development of world cultures, through INAC, is highly commendable as the Spanish would continue to exhibit in subsequent editions of INAC.

Clara Pulido-Escandell, Cuban Ambassador to Nigeria, commended Runsewe's selfless efforts in ensuring cultural exchange programmes between the Cubans and Nigerians is constantly strengthened.

Pulido-Escandell said this is yielding fruitful results.

David Velasquez, Venezuelan Ambassador to Nigeria, said, "It is a honour showcasing our arts and crafts to the world. This is the strongest opportunity for cultural exchange and collaborations, we should uphold this."

"Otonba Runsewe has been a strong cultural pillar in Nigeria. We love his commitment toward showcasing cultures across the globe to foster understanding and we appreciate this."



Lai

Runsewe, through his efforts over the years, continues to bag both local and International awards.

Runsewe receiving an award as China Man of the Year 2021 by the Chinese Industrial and Commercial Enterprises Association

Recently, Runsewe was given a commitment award by the Chinese Community in Nigeria, for his selfless commitment to the promotion of arts and culture between Nigeria and China.

He got the award during the Chinese 2022 Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day, which was held in Lagos.

Dr Eric Ni, Chairman, Chinese Industrial and Commercial Enterprises Association, said that the Chinese Community had enjoyed seamless cultural exchange programmes, due to the support enjoyed from NCAC and Runsewe.

Dr Matthew Uwaekwe, Co-ordinator, Nigeria-China Business Council, during the ceremony, said that Runsewe emerged the "China Man of the Year" after a voting session within the Chinese consulate.

Uwaekwe said that Runsewe had worked tirelessly to build a strong cultural tourism relationship between Nigeria and China.

He said that Runsewe had in various ways convinced the world

that Nigerian culture, in its diversity, had the capacity to foster unity and peace among the people of both countries and the world.

According to him, members of the Chinese community in Nigeria are elated at the pace and passion at which Runsewe brought to bear in his assignment as Nigeria culture chief.

"Otonba Olusegun Runsewe has done well for the country. He has the vision to promote the cultural relations between China and Nigeria, and we therefore confer on him China Man of the Year Award.

"He has emerged the China Man of the Year after a voting session within the Chinese consulate, so this award is from the Chinese Community," he said.

Similarly, Runsewe emerged the best promoter and developer of Nigerian culture, arts and crafts.

This was conferred on him by the National Associations of Nigeria Travel Agencies (NANTA) during the NANTA Eminent Persons Awards, in 2021, held in Abuja.

Mrs Susan Akporaiye, NANTA's National President, said that NCAC under the leadership of Runsewe, deserved the award due to the fact that the council also joined in combating Covid-19 pandemic since 2020.

She said that while the frontline health workers worked tirelessly



Runsewe

to get vaccines for Covid-19 pandemic, the council also went all out to produce local face masks and hand sanitisers, using local products within the country, as a way to help curtail the spread of the virus.

According to Akporaiye, Runsewe also repositioned NAFEST and the International Arts and Crafts Expo (INAC) such that they attract more of local and international tourists.

"Otonba Runsewe has been a pillar of support for us in the travel and tourism industries, when we need his help within the shortest time, he attends to us promptly.

"Aside this, Otonba has helped the nation to properly project and rebrand its local cultural products, which are INAC and NAFEST.

"We have seen large production of face masks and hand sanitisers

since 2020, which were produced with our local materials, used to curtail the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

"These are beautiful contributions toward the promotion of culture, arts and crafts and should be appreciated," she said.

NCAC is just one of the numerous parastatals, established by the Federal Government, with the responsibility to promote culture and tourism. When other parastatals wake up to their responsibilities, like NCAC, Nigeria will definitely be a choice destination for tourism and leisure.

source: News Agency of Nigeria.

**"Runsewe, through his efforts over the years, continues to bag both local and International awards. Runsewe receiving an award as China Man of the Year 2021 by the Chinese Industrial and Commercial Enterprises Association. Recently, Runsewe was given a commitment award by the Chinese Community in Nigeria, for his selfless commitment to the promotion of arts and culture between Nigeria and China."**



## Politics

### 'We're ready to correct our mistakes'

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

PEOPLES' Democratic Party (PDP) Presidential Candidate for 2023 election, Atiku Abubakar, says his party is conscious of its past mistakes and willing to correct them if given the mandate.

He said in an interview while in Gombe that the party is willing to correct its past mistakes by making Nigeria a prosperous country.

Though the former Vice-President was not categorical about the party's mistakes while ruling the country from 1999 to 2015, he stated however, that his party remains a very strong opposition that can win the forthcoming election.

According to him, "PDP is a very popular party, the oldest party that might have made mistakes in the past, but we have realized our mistakes. We are ready to correct those mistakes to make Nigeria prosperous".

He said Nigerians still rate the PDP higher than the ruling party if compared in terms of performance.

Dr. Ahmed Gana, a member of Atiku's campaign team from Gombe State, said the PDP



Atiku

members in the State were extremely happy with Atiku's visit.

"This is one of the first offices that the presidential candidate was physically present to declare open.

"So, we are highly elated. We are very grateful to God for having time to come.

This is a state campaign Office for the presidential

candidate. We are very ready. You can see from the response from the people", he stated.

Alhaji Atiku Abubakar was in Gombe to officially commission the Atiku/Okowa Presidential campaign office and cars in Gombe State which were donated by Dr. Jamilu Isiyaku Gwamna, who was defeated at the PDP Governorship primary election by Mohammed Jibrin Barde.

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

BAUCHI State Governor, Senator Bala Mohammed has charged political parties, holders elective office and their supporters to take into cognizance that it is not the amount of money, hate speech, fake news or political thuggery that would make contestants to emerge victorious during the elections.

The governor opined that the trio must conduct themselves according to the rules of the game, as contest for elective offices should not be seen as a do or die affair, bearing in mind that it is God Almighty that gives power to whoever He likes.

In a message to the people of the state marking the 62<sup>nd</sup> Independence anniversary celebration, the governor appealed to the people to rededicate themselves to the country, be patriotic and continue to pray to Almighty God to shower his mercy and blessings on all to live in peace with one another and make Bauchi and Nigeria great.

### Governor advises politicians against electoral offences



Mohammed

"We are fast approaching the 2023 general elections, and the ban on electioneering campaigns for the Presidential and National Assembly elections has been lifted by the electoral umpire, INEC. I would therefore like to call on all political parties, their candidates and supporters to conduct themselves in an orderly manner".

Senator Bala Mohammed also called on Nigerians generally to reflect on the struggle and sacrifice of the nation's founding fathers and strive to ensure that their labour shall not be in vain. He pointed that they have sixty-two years after independence belied the skepticism on their ability to govern themselves.

He emphatically said, "Today, we have shown to the world that we are not only able to govern ourselves, but are able to understand our differences, respect each other's values and unite towards developing our country despite our diverse cultures".

The Bauchi chief executive recalled that Nigeria, like many other countries, has in the process of its growth experienced a lot of turbulence in the last 62 years, as the country suffered serious setbacks in the political arena which seriously affected its political and economic growth.

Bala explained that his administration has been constructing rural and urban roads network across the state with some on-going while most of them completed and put to use, adding several other projects have also been executed in the areas of education, health, housing, agriculture, water and power supply and poverty alleviation.

Amidst spate of insecurity blowing across the country in the form of banditry, kidnapping and other violent crimes, the governor said that as responsible and responsive government in Bauchi, the PDP administration in collaboration with security agencies has taken measures to protect the lives and property of its people.

Mohammed said however that the state government is not unmindful of the present hardship being experienced as a result of the downturn in the nation's economy, and therefore assured the people that palliative measures would continue to be taken with a view to cushioning the effect of the hardships on the people.

He assured that government would in addition seek other means and ways of improving the socio-economic condition of the generality of the people of the state through collaboration with public spirited organizations and individuals, stressing that with the support, understanding and cooperation of the people, the hardships shall be overcome.

### Eze-Igbo expresses gratitude to NSSG

FROM MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, KEFFI

THE Eze-Igbo of Keffi in Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State Igwe Celestine Mba has expressed his gratitude to both the Nasarawa State's government, Keffi local government Council for the allocation of Shops to the Igbo traders in the recently commissioned Multi-billion Naira neighbourhood market in Keffi.

The Igbo leader also expressed his gratitude for the great role played by the Emir of Keffi.

Speaking with newsmen in Keffi after the swearing in ceremony of the Council's Secretary, the Eze Igbo described the gesture as very commendable and gratifying especially that it would enable them to contribute to the socio-economic activities of the area, the state and the country and their osocio-economic activities too.

"We are highly grateful with what we were given already because as it is, half a loaf is better than no bread but just as Oliver twist who always asks for more, we are looking forward to have more if possible" he

pleaded.

HRH Mba who described the gesture as a clear demonstration of carrying them along as important stakeholders, assured that they would not rest on their Oars in giving their contributions and support towards the general development of the area.

He then tasked members of his community to continue to live in peace and harmony and support constituted authority with a view to reap the fruits of democracy especially that the state government under the leadership of Engineer Abdullahi Sule has been carrying them along through appointments and other forms of patronage.

On the performance of the Keffi local government Chairman Hon. Muhammad Baba Shehu, the Eze-Igbo described him as a true and committed leader that has the great passion and desire to take the Council

and its people to the next level.

While assuring him of their support and co-operation of all the Igbo community in the area in a bid to bring meaningful peace and

### House of Reps hopeful promises quality representation

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE House of Representatives Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for Yagba Federal Constituency in Kogi state, Folorunsho Olafemi has promised quality representation with focus on the welfare of the people if elected.

Olafemi assured the people of the Constituency of better deal and quality representation that would boost the living standard of the constituents.

The APC Flagbearer made the promise at the representation NUJ Media Parley organised for National Assembly Candidates.

He recalled that he has personally intervened in the health, education and other needs of the people in his private capacity.

He said that the opportunity at his disposal would serve as the best time for him to give back to the people if elected.

Olafemi disclosed that he would also give priority to job

development, the Igbo-leader however urged the Council chairman to continue to carry them along in the scheme of things so as to give them a sense of belonging.

creation, youth empowerment, road, education and agricultural development if elected.

The APC Flagbearer further hinted that he will

partner with International, National and Local organisations to tap the abundant potentials of the Constituency in wealth creation and employment generation.



Adamu

### Governorship candidate to do issue based campaign

From SHEHU DANJUMA

Dr. Dikko Radda, The Governorship Candidate of All Progressive Congress (APC) has said that their party intends to mobilise voters to their side using issue based strategies in the 2023 general elections.

"APC is set to hammer their campaign on issues that affect Katsina state and the ways to solve the problems.

Radda stated this while exchanging views with members

indigenes of Katsina State that mean well to the state" he said.

Radda stressed that the era of smearing political opponents is over and outdated.

He disclosed that some politicians are planning to damage APC party using the insecurity challenges facing the nation.

Radda said that the APC will convince voters with the strategies that will sweep the current challenges facing the Nation.



Sule



Politics

# Nigeria needs leaders with capacity, character – Gbajabiamila

THE Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Femi Gbajabiamila, says Nigeria needs leaders with capacity to manage rapid domestic and global changes to achieve prosperity, peace, and security.

Gbajabiamila said this at the opening of Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) workshop titled: "Building the Next Generation of Nigeria's Public Sector Leaders" on Monday in Abuja.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the workshop was organised for 74 young Nigerians, including Persons with Disabilities selected across the 36 states of the Federation and the FCT.

The speaker said the quality of decision-making in politics and governance which would define the course of the country, was dependent on the capacity of leaders to adapt to the rapid changes.

"These are exciting times. In Nigeria and across the world, we are experiencing rapid and relentless changes across every facet of our lives. Some of these changes are technological; others are economic and political.

"There is also a great deal of demographic and population change. All are happening at the same time. It is clear to anybody paying attention that the old equilibrium is unsettled, and the rules of the old order no longer apply. What is less clear is what happens next.

"Whatever happens, Nigeria desperately needs leaders with the capacity and character to manage change. The consequences of the changes happening in our world today will depend on how we respond, the decisions we make, and the ideas we choose to invest in.

"The quality of our decision-making in politics and governance will define the course of our country. Whether we achieve progress, prosperity, peace, and security for all our people depends entirely on the capacity and competence of our political leadership," he said.

Gbajabiamila said that LMI aimed to identify and train the next generation of public sector leaders, particularly in the legislature.

According to him, the LMI mandate is to develop the leaders who will shape the future of our country and the world as young people are eager to make a change.

He said youths would not change anything if they did not understand and participate in the political and governance process, saying the aim was to involve more young people and direct their energies into national development.

He said they bore no allegiance to politics and politicians, and their judgment of governing systems was determined by whether the systems and or politicians met their expectations.



Gbajabiamila

"For these young people, Nigeria has been a democracy for all or most of their lives. As more of them come of age, they are questioning the systems and structures of politics of governance and challenging flaws and limitations as they see them.

"They are not as inclined as generations before them to excuse the failures of democracy because the alternative of military rule is worse. And they will not accept incremental progress when radical reform is necessary and possible.

"This is a good thing. It is also a dangerous thing. Nations are redefined and rejuvenated by the deliberate effort to reconsider the underpinnings of nationhood and remove deep-rooted assumptions and practices irreconcilable with the desired future," he said.

The British Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria, Ms Gill Atkinson commended the youth LMI saying that young people were the future of the country and would make the difference.

She said the young participants had an opportunity to see what public officers did first-hand, to

learn from them and see areas where they could do better.

Atkinson said that a huge voting population of the country was under 35 years of age and that 70 per cent of the newly registered voters were between 18 and 34 years age bracket.

She said that the creativity and dynamism of young people was critical to the development of Nigeria, saying that young people were the backbone and future of Nigeria's democracy.

Atkinson said the initiative was important in enhancing Nigeria's great diversity as an opportunity to move forward, pledging the commission's support to the National Assembly.

Earlier, the Director-General of LMI, Mr Dapo Oyewole said that the 74 participants were selected out of 4000 applicants.

He said the workshop would last for five weeks after which the participants would intern with lawmakers to be mentored and to experience lawmaking process.

Oyewole said the initiative would catalyse leadership development in the public sector, urging the participants not to take the opportunity for granted.

## Fulani women pledge to support Tukur

AS preparations towards 2023 general election continues to gather momentum Fulani Women in the Nasarawa West Senatorial Zone of Nasarawa State have endorsed and lent their full support to the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Arc. Shehu Tukur.

Speaking during a solidarity visit to the candidate at his residence in Keffi the leader of the group, Khadijat Adamu assured him of their total support to enable him win and provide them with good representation in the upper legislative chambers.

Khadijat Adamu who is leader of the Ruga-Ruga Forum stated that they have confidence that Arc. Shehu Tukur would if elected deliver the best to the people of the constituency.

The Fulani women further assured of their support for the re-election of Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State as well as the

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

Presidential Candidate of the Party, Senator. Bola Ahmed Tinubu to enable them win and provide the dividends of democracy to both the state and the country as a whole.

Responding the Senatorial Candidate of the APC Arc. Shehu Tukur, has pledged good representation if elected in the 2023 general elections.

He therefore thanked the Fulani women for their to

## APC flags off 2023 presidential campaigns October 10

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign flag off has been slated for October 10 as the party awaits its presidential flag bearer, Tinubu's return.

Barring any last-minute change of plans, the ruling All Progressives Congress APC would formally flag off its 2023 Presidential Election campaign on

Monday, October 10, Vanguard has learned. The development comes as the party and its campaign council gear up to receive its presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu back to the country.

According to reports, Tinubu who has been in London for some days is expected back into the country within the week.

Monday, October 10, Vanguard has learned. The development comes as the party and its campaign council gear up to receive its presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu back to the country.

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## Election petition: Judges accused of doing hatchet job

THE Appeal Tribunal on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Area Council election has accused the judges of the Election Petitions Tribunal sitting over the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) election matters of doing "a hatchet job" for the candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Murtala Usman

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# Plateau APC celebrates State Chairman at 60

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

Administration of His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong changed remarkably the narrative of governance where relative peace was restored in the state.

According to the statement, Hon. Rufus Bature, opted for the little unknown APC which in Plateau state then and it was a fight between David and Goliath, leading the party to resounding victory with him as the Director General of the Lalong/Tyoden Campaign Council in 2015.

"He proved his administrative wizardry as the Secretary to the Government of State (SGS) when the Rescue

Administration of His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong changed remarkably the narrative of governance where relative peace was restored in the state.

"As our iconic and goal getter Chairman marks this very momentous occasion of his life, the entire APC structure and family in the state join him in celebrating the moment with grateful hearts. We wish him long life, God's protection and good health as he continues to serve our great party and lead it to yet another victory come next year's general elections.



Bature

## Election petition: Judges accused of doing hatchet job

From JIDAUNA YANNUNG, Abuja

Karshi.

This was as it invalidated the judgment of the lower tribunal that on August 5 nullified the victory of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)'s candidate, Christopher Maikalangu in the election.

Reading the lead Judgment in suit FCT/ACEAT/AP/01/22, which had Christopher Maikalangu Karshi and three others as respondent, Justice Yusuf Halilu affirmed that the lower tribunal erred by ignoring contradictory evidence before it and went ahead to do a hatchet job by declaring Karshi winner of the election.

The Judgment has put to rest the legal tussle over AMAC's chairmanship seat, having upheld that Maikalangu was validly

elected

The Judge said: "Despite the disparity in evidences of the witnesses, the tribunal decided to do a hatched job by trying to throw the baby away with the bath water: what is good for the goose is also good for the gander: the tribunal clearly had two rules up its sleeves: one for the petitioner; another for the respondent. The tribunal had the opportunity to compare the forms tendered by the respondents, but that was not to be."

"The petitioner failed woefully to prove its claim, arising from what was made at the lower tribunal. Elections are won at polling units and not at law courts. Our duty as court is to make judicial pronouncement. The law cannot command impossibility".



Ariola



# IMAGES

## LALONG AT BATURE'S THANKSGIVING

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Sunday attended the 60th birthday and thanksgiving service of Hon. Rufus Bature, APC State Chairman at COCIN Kufen, Barkin Ladi LGA



Governor Lalong delivering his message at the service



A cross section of clergymen at the ceremony



Hon. Rufus Bature, wife and other family members during the service



Rev. Dr. Gyang Pam of COCIN Theology Gindiri preaching at the thanksgiving



SGS, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (right) with the Chief of Staff Government House, Hon. Noel Dongjur (left) at the occasion



Governor Lalong and wife, Speaker Sanda and wife at the service



A cross section of dignitaries the ceremony



Governor Lalong, Speaker, Chairman, Barkin Ladi LGC and others in a group photograph with the celebrant



## Politics

# 2023 Presidency: Obi, Tinubu, Atiku and opinion polls

**The seed of discontent with the status quo, which was the denouement of the #ENDSARS protests of 2020, has metamorphosed into a movement for a change in the political structure of Nigeria, with the candidate of the Labour Party, Peter Obi, as its anointed poster child. AUSTYN OGANNAH writes.**

WHAT we have witnessed in recent months has been the blossoming of that drive for a people-oriented government into self-organised rallies and carnivalesque marches targeted at whipping up support and drumming up a massive backing for Obi's candidacy under the incipient moniker the "Obidient Movement."

It has seen what was born with the "Soro Soke" push for the proscription of the reportedly brutal and corrupt Police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) become a revolutionary drive to bring about a new dawn of politics and governance enough to worry the septuagenarian political heavyweights of the two established political parties in the country.

What has been the major attraction to the Obi candidacy for the majority of the Obidient Movement, which is currently teeming with mostly a youthful demography and a working middle class equally disillusioned by the state of affairs, has been the 61-year-old's perceived characteristic difference as a politician of impeccable reckoning, whose antecedents as a former governor of Anambra State between 2006 and 2014, serve as pointers to a frugal personality and an accountable and transparent manager of human and material resources.

In a political climate where most politicians serve to enrich themselves at the detriment of the people they are meant to serve, Obi comes across to many as someone who can stop the leakages in the nation's treasury and revive the economy.

The fact that Obi's political ideology is founded on cutting the insidious waste of the country's resources by frugal expenditure that he practised as governor, on economic production rather than the ostentatious consumerism, and on the resourceful management and investment in key sectors, for economic growth and development, makes his candidacy a magnet for those who have decried these national issues from time immemorial.

As the election campaigns for all the political parties formally took to the road from September 28, 2022, the enthusiasm that characterised the 'Obidient Movement' has gained steam as was evident in the Jos flagoff of the Labour Party's 2023 campaigns.

The fact that volunteer-sponsored rallies have spearheaded the promotion of Obi's appeal across several Nigerian cities, including Makurdi, Calabar, Lafia, Port Harcourt, Afikpo, Owerri, Enugu, Auchi, Abuja, Kano, Ilorin, Abakaliki and Ibadan, is hinged on nothing more than a perceived rekindled hope in Nigeria's turn for the better under a potential Obi presidency that will fulfill the lofty dreams of what a country like Nigeria can become if prudently led and with the best hands like square pegs in square holes.

These supporters, who cut across previously decisive cleavages of religion and ethnicity, see in Obi a politician who is cut from a different cloth, unlike the corrosive political class that has foisted on the county debilitating educational and health systems, epileptic power supply system that has been inimical to industrial growth and development, a vastly diminished era of opportunities for employment and productive engagement for Nigerians and a huge infrastructure deficit that has been a clog in the wheel of the nation's economic development for a very long time.

Yet, there are those who are not impressed by the canonisation of the ex-Anambra State governor and who will rather pitch their tents with either Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, the formidable candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, the candidate of the main



**Obi**

opposition party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as we countdown to the February 2023 general elections.

Even though Obi's supporters point to the record of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), which reported that it recorded a total of approximately 12.3 million fresh registrants out of which 8.8 million, that is 71 per cent, are youths, as at July 31, 2022 when it ended the exercise, to support the fervour that Obi has brought to the picture ahead of next year's general election, those who are critical of the 'Obidient Movement' believe it is mostly noise and thunder, signifying nothing.

While they agree that Obi's influence and the rallying cry for better governance that is energising his campaign is worthy of note to the point of elevating him to contention in the campaign, the threadbare nature of the Labour Party across the country is considered a major minus to win him the coveted Aso Rock seat.

The argument that "the people are the structure" which Obi has furnished as his answer to this negative fact of his campaign will not hold water across the dedicated army of party faithful across the wards, local governments, state government and national cohesion that opponents in APC and PDP can boast of.

Furthermore, those who sneer at the possibility of Obi's emergence also question his antecedents, especially when juxtaposed with the political savviness of his primary opponents, who have amassed years of political experience at both local and national levels, which, they believe, dwarf anything that Obi can ever muster at the moment. They argue that his slim Anambra State resume is nothing compared to the might of Tinubu, who self-proclaimed his elevation of President Muhammadu Buhari to power and the political heft of the northern representation that Abubakar wields as a former Vice President, serial presidential candidate and the Turaki Adamawa.

Detractors also argue that there is nothing to provide guarantees that, as politicians have done throughout the country's history, Obi will keep to his promises, should he be fortunate enough to win the presidential election or that he will not bring the agitation for secession of the Igbo to the front burner and see to the balkanisation of the country. It was within this matrix of divergent views that the recent polls and forecasts proposing to provide a feel of the pulse of the voting population about how they will vote in February 2023 sparked to life a new category of debates and opinions.

Of the polling and forecast results

available so far, the three most pertinent have been those organised for Bloomberg by the San Francisco, California headquartered Premise Data Corp, for the ANAP Foundation by NOI and by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), an arm of The Economist of London. While two of these three have given victory to Obi (Bloomberg and ANAP), the EIU gave it to Tinubu with nothing yet going for Atiku.

In the Bloomberg poll premise surveyed 3,973 Nigerians selected from quotas developed by age; gender and location across the country's six geopolitical zones between September 5 and 20 with an app-based poll. The results were then weighed against the original quotas to ensure national representation and of the 92 per cent of participants who had decided how to vote, 72 per cent named Obi as their first choice. This was a landslide victory over his opponents as Tinubu only garnered 16 percent of decided voters with 9 per cent for Atiku.

In the ANAP poll, Obi led again, with 41 per cent of those polled opting for him while Tinubu and Atiku were tied at 25 per cent each. However, the forecast of the EIU, which was not a poll, was in favour of Tinubu with the assured claim that the controversial Muslim-Muslim ticket, which was heavily considered to be a major dent on Tinubu's chances in the predominantly Christian South, did not weigh heavily on the outcome of the elections.

The poll gave Atiku a less favourable chance due to the potential of losing likely voters to Obi in the South East, South-South and South-West and the ongoing tussle the Atiku camp is presently engrossed in with Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State, who has not only refused to endorse him but also waging an internecine battle against him.

What the publication of these polls and forecasts achieved was to evoke fiercer arguments, debates and contrary opinions about whose campaign will prevail over the other and why there is little to nothing in the polls that did not favour them, but everything to celebrate in those that did. As much as all of these are part of the process, I have to counsel that all parties must be wary of the results of these opinion polls.

Without asking that polls be completely discountenanced, pollsters themselves warn that their results be taken with the allowance of some margin of error. That is why I am urging all sides to be wary from the onset. There is no shortage of examples to demonstrate how polls get it wrong at times for a variety of reasons, even as there are examples of precise polling to cite as well.



**Tinubu**



**Atiku**

Polls conducted around the United States in the months and weeks before the November 2016 election suggested that Democratic contender and frontline presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, would win handily only for the outsider, billionaire Donald Trump to evoke shock across the world because, in the end, while the popular vote was correctly predicted by the pollsters, they fell short in crucial swing states, which helped Trump to win the Electoral College and become President against all odds.

As digitally astute as the Americans are, majority of the polls failed to correctly nail the outcome of the elections and it was a situation that very nearly repeated itself in the last elections where Trump performed better than the polls suggested in Democratic and Republican strongholds before the incumbent Joe Biden edged him out via mail-in ballots and the determination of young progressive voters determined to wrest control from the Make-America-Great-Again (MAGA) crowd.

Nigeria is even worse for polling than America. The app-based poll applied in the polling by Bloomberg definitely did not accurately represent the voting bloc of Nigeria because the vast majority of these voters are not of the digitally savvy demography and there is a majority of single-language speakers, who do not understand a word of English, but are more than capable of communicating in their local dialects and language and are well-versed in the voting process because they never miss an opportunity to exercise their rights to vote.

These set of voters take a cue from

their political leaders on who to cast their votes for. This is because Nigerians, across the length and breadth of the country, are notoriously difficult to poll from a distance, as the Bloomberg poll did. A lot of the voting public, who will actually come out that day with their PVCs to determine who will run the affairs of the country for the next four years, at the very least, will not be directly involved in these polls and that is why those who depend on them for actions around their campaign must heed my call for caution.

What I know for certain will determine the next occupant of Aso Rock is the candidate that the majority of voters pick. That is why we must await the verdict of the voters and not be complacent by the carnivals of rallies, marches, sizes of the crowds and opinion poll results. These polls will obviously give us an idea of where things are with the pulse of the segment of the nation, but it is far from a complete picture of the events around the election campaigns and Nigerians of all classes and statuses must not relent in their attempts to pursue the campaign for their candidates, regardless of what the one poll or the other says.

My candid counsel to the campaign organisations of the three main political parties – the APC, PDP and LP and their supporters – is to continue to work and mobilise the citizenry because it is the ballots counted at the polling units on Election Day that will ultimately decide Nigeria's next President. That is what matters and that should be the utmost in the hearts of everyone involved.



## NEWS

## Foreign, local investors to showcase potentials at summit

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

CHAIRMAN of the steering committee of the maiden edition of Gombe Investment Summit expected to hold early October, Dr. Manasseh Daniel Jatau, says it has received no less than 269 applications for space from foreign and local investors.

Dr. Jatau, also the Deputy Governor of the State, during a press briefing in his office on Government's readiness for the event, said the spaces would be available at the newly constructed Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park along Dadinkowa road, Yamaltu Deba Local Government Area.

According to him, the investors cover manufacturing, food and beverages as well as Agro-Allied and Small and Medium enterprises.

Dr Jatau said haven discovered that industrialization as the only panacea to development, the Government has earmarked 1000 hectares of land for Industrial Park, named Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park, where it expects investors from all over the world to come and invest.

"This is expected to make Gombe State join the community of producers", he stated.

He also said, "the investment summit is targeted at bringing investors in all aspects of life to Gombe as this would help in creating employment, increase revenue generation and other benefits to the teaming Youths.

"We have the fertile land, two major dams and hydro electric power to generate 40 megawatts. From all historical analysis, Gombe State is very rich in agriculture, and being located in the centre of the Northeast sub-region, it is known for commercial activities and financial services. It is also known for peace and hospitality thus, making it possess all the qualities needed for industries to



Jatau

thrive.

"Gombe has been rated first in the ease of doing business, and the Inspector-General of Police has rated the state as one of the peaceful. These are added advantages that will make industries to thrive and woo investors to come", he stated.

He explained that, the Committee has made several meetings, physically and virtually and has made several visits to the industrial park and the International Conference Centre all in an effort to ensure successful staging of the summit.

While appreciating the press for supporting Government programmes, he called on them to assist in

massive dissemination of information towards the success of the summit.

The Commissioner of Information, Meshach Lauro, who is also the Chairman, Media and Publicity Subcommittee noted that all media outfits have been taken into cognizance and funds have been made available for adequate publicity.

The Commissioner of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Alhaji Nasiru Mohammed Aliyu, Commissioner of Internal Security and Ethical Orientation, Adamu Dishi Kupto, and the Special Adviser to the Governor on Budget, Planning and Development Partner Coordination Office, Dr. Ishaku Mohammed accompanied the Deputy Governor during the briefing.

## Anti rabies campaign taken to schools

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria, Dr. Maimuna Abdullahi Habib, has given reasons why Secondary Schools have been involved in its mass awareness campaign on rabies disease.

She also revealed that about 2.6 million doses of anti rabies vaccines have been distributed nationwide to be administered on dogs to contain the spread of the deadly disease.

She said, the

sensitization campaign was taken to Secondary schools because of children's vulnerability to dogs in our communities.

According to her, children like playing and looking for trouble from dogs. She said "we are trying to prevent them. When they see docile or wild dogs, they should report immediately to their parents or teachers so that a veterinarian would be

From AMEDU JOSEPH Lokoja

THE UK'Omum Igala Organization, a national socio-cultural group, with membership across political, social, economic and cultural associations of Kogi East Senatorial District, has lamented the abandonment of the region in the face of natural disasters, accidents, and wanton destruction of lives and properties.

The group, in a statement signed by its national leader, Mr David Abutu, and National Secretary, Dr Sabastine Abu, expressed dismay at the undeserved silence from Governor Yahaya Bello, the Federal Fire Service, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Inspector-General of Police, the Director-General of the Department of State Service (DSS), and other security operatives, over the multiple and existential crises in Kogi East.

The statement, which was released at the weekend, reads thus: "We are shocked beyond verbal expression that in spite of the fact that Ibaji Local Government Area, and other communities by the bank of River Benue, are submerged under water, Governor Bello has remained aloof as if nothing is amiss in the state. Even Onyedega, Ibaji Local Government headquarters,

## Cultural group sends SOS to Buhari, Bello



Buhari

is submerged under water.

The people have evacuated their towns and villages and moved to Idah, Delta, Anambra, Edo, and Enugu States in search of safety, with thousands still stranded in the area without any help as all farmlands, roads, buildings, and social institutions have been submerged under heavy floods for close to a week now.

There is comprehensive destruction of valuable assets; all crops planted in the local government, which is one of the food baskets of Nigeria, are lost. But no help has come from any quarters."

UK'Omum Igala explained further that, "It is

unbelievable that in Ankpa Local Government Area, there was no fire service to halt the spread of fire from a petrol tanker that exploded at Mabolo bridge on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 killing over 20 persons who were burnt beyond recognition.

The petrol tanker's brake failed from the hill overlooking River Mabolo, exploded and its fire destroyed all the buses, motor-cycles and persons in and around the busy river. Throughout the hours that the fire razed down people and properties, there was no help from any quarters.

This is totally unbelievable! Ankpa is an old city, a commercial centre and the headquarters of Ankpa Local Government Area, but there is hardly any federal presence. We cannot accept such deadly negligence."

The group also raised serious concerns over "the attitude of government and security agencies to the constant violence and cannibalism in Bassa Local Government Area of the State.

Apart from indiscriminate killings, victims' bodies are allegedly roasted and eaten by so-called Bassa Kwuom militia, who have been at loggerheads with Eburamozum ethnic group in the Local Government Area.

Though there have been communal crises in the area for several years now, the current situation is alarming, and it has political underpinning, related to rivalry over ownership of land and the leadership of the local government.

The situation has so degenerated that Igala people in the area are living in constant fear of, not just being waylaid and killed by Bassa Kwuom militia, but also of being eaten by those who claim to be fighting for the rights of Bassa Kwuom people.

The state government is not unaware of this situation, but decisive action has not been taken to bring those who instigate the evil to book."



Chief Veterinarian of Nigeria, Dr. Maimuna Abdullahi Habib, in a group photograph with students of Government Girls College, Doma after the lecture

government in partnership with the development partners provided not less than 30, 000 doses of the vaccine for each state of the federation to immunize dogs free of charge.

She warned that though rabies is preventable through vaccination, she however revealed that the disease is incurable when its symptoms appear on affected persons.

Dr. Habila advised dog owners who notice spitting of saliva by their dogs or any sign of madness to rush the dogs to veterinary clinics while also advising that people bitten by dogs should also go to hospital immediately for treatment.

The chief veterinary officer further explained that they were in Gombe because of the report of four deaths in Dukku Local Government Area, and called on dog owners to bring their dogs for vaccination at veterinary clinics nationwide.

G o m b e S t a t e Epidemiologist, Dr Nuhu Bile, said the State has embraced the new concept of One Health approach in health care delivery which involves human, animal and environmental health.



## News

### London conference urges Nigeria to upscale education investment

A London conference on Monday told the Nigerian government to upscale its investment in education to pull the West African country out of endemic poverty.

Speaking at a colloquium, marking Nigeria's 62nd Independence, the keynote speaker, Mrs Ibironke Adeagbo, said that Nigeria could only turn the corner if adequate investment was made in education.

Adeagbo, a Chartered Accountant and Chief Executive Officer of the UK charity, IA-Foundation, which is active in Nigeria, says.

Nigeria has not been able to fund education adequately over the years, in spite of its position as Africa's top economy and crude oil exporter.

She said that in spite of the rich natural endowments of the country, which is also Africa's most populous nation, the country had continue to wallow in poverty and underdevelopment after 62 years of independence.

Citing the worrisome statistics released recently by UNESCO that 20.2 million children in Nigeria were currently out-of-school, Adeagbo said that no magic would make economic development to foster in the country.

"We have 20.2 million children who are not in school in Nigeria, ranking among India and Pakistan — how can our economy grow? Education and economic development go hand-in-hand.

"The huge number of out-of-school children in Nigeria is negatively impacting the nation's economy and the standard of living of the people," she added.

The child's rights advocate argued that the high rate of children who cannot access quality education is also

responsible for the festering insecurity in the country.

According to her, insecurity in the country has been hampering economic development and pushing many people in the vast nation into desperate want and poverty.

She charged the Federal Government to rise to the challenge of getting its citizens to embrace quality education "because the more educated people are the better their chances of building the economy".

Adeagbo decried what she described as the prevailing poor state of Nigeria's education system, saying that it was characterised by distorted learning, poor infrastructure, unqualified teachers and incessant strikes.

The IA-Foundation founder argued that the way out was for Nigeria to increase its budgetary allocation to education year-on-year and also introduce policies that would make education attractive to citizens.

"Parents, who fail to send their children to school should be punished to make everyone to benefit from the education opportunities offered by the government," she stated.

According to her, Nigeria

needs to invest in human capital development through formal and informal education and ensure that education takes its pride of place.

Adeagbo said that IA-Foundation, had been doing its utmost to be part of the solution of the crisis in the education sector in Nigeria through street campaigns to bring children back to classrooms.

"We currently have many children that we have taken off the streets in Lagos, Abuja, Kwara, Delta, Oyo State and Ogun.

"We have been to IDP camps and schools of the blind and disabled to distribute learning materials and we are doing our best to ensure that we remove the barriers to accessing quality education," she said.

Other dignitaries at the event include Amb. Sarafa Ishola, Nigeria's High Commissioner to the UK and Mr Olamilekan Adegbite, Minister of Mines and Steel Development.

Others are Hon. Abike Dabiri, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Secretary of the Nigerians in the Diaspora Commission and Mr Olusegun Awolowo, a former Executive Director of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council, among others.(NAN)



Adamu

### FG opens portal for N75, 000 education students' bursary

THE federal government has announced that a portal has been opened to students of education to register for bursary.

Adamu Adamu, the minister of education announced this in line with the presidential approval of the sum of N75,000 per semester for Nigerian students undergoing degree programmes in the faculty of education in public universities across the country.

Also to benefit from this stipend are students in colleges of education, who are entitled to the sum of N50,000 per semester.

Recall that the minister had in 2021 during the World Teachers' Day celebration in Abuja stated that the bursary programme is in line with President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to reform the education sector.

"Undergraduate students of B.Ed / B.A. Ed/ BSc. Ed in public institutions are to

receive stipends of N75,000.00 per semester while NCE students will get N50,000.00 as stipends per semester," he said.

To qualify for the bursary award, the concerned students applying for the bursary programme must be undergoing degree programmes in education in either public universities or colleges of education. And the applicants must be full-time students.

All applicants including the physically challenged students must be in their first year or above. Those already enjoying any form of scholarships are not eligible to apply.

Applicants can apply online at [www.education.gov.ng](http://www.education.gov.ng) or <https://fsbn.com.ng/applicant/s/auth/register/35565>

Applicants are to complete the form online. After completing the form, submit and print a copy.

"Applicants are to attach photocopies of their letter of admission and their current school identity card," he said.

"Multiple entries are not allowed as applicants are advised to make only one entry to avoid being disqualified."



Buhari



### As Nigeria celebrates

Last week Saturday, Nigeria celebrated sixty two years of independence. Being the last to be celebrated by the present administration, a lot was put into its preparation in spite of the present difficulties being experienced by the populace. The whole essence was to reassure Nigerians that even though things are not easy, there is hope at the end of the tunnel.

The colourful ceremonies held throughout the country however, only further exposed the contradictions that have come to define the country, its leadership and the people. For instance what was the need for celebration when Federal Government owned universities were under lock and key for eight months? Why would anyone be making merry when they could not travel freely within their country without the fear of being kidnapped or killed by bandits? Why celebrate when we are faced by an ever present danger of being involved in an accident due to bad roads? Why celebrate when our hospitals are mere consulting rooms and our medical personnel are daily seeking greener pastures elsewhere after being trained? One can go on and on.

But as it was stated in the opening above, the celebration was done to reassure that there was a glimmer of hope at the end of the tunnel. Nonetheless, this glimmer of hope can only be achieved if there is a change in attitude by both the leadership and the follower ship. Nothing ever changes if it is hoped for. Deliberate measures must be employed to make things work. It is only an ideas person that could lead the way to a bright and secure future.

Sadly, the present crop of leadership does not seem to be driving the country in the right direction. To be honest, there are pockets of leaders who truly are giving direction and that glimmer of hope. Yet, this lot can be counted on the tip of the fingers. That is not good enough. Our leaders and followers have shown that mediocrity has

come to be accepted as a standard and see nothing wrong with it. It is only in Nigeria that you see praise singers put up bill boards saying a governor has performed beyond expectations and has surpassed what he ought to do when there are roads within the state that are still not motorable.

People are bombarded with unmerited praise by praise singers when ordinary diseases like malaria and preventable diseases are a threat to the lives of so many in an endowed and resource rich country such as ours. How can a leader exceed expectations when poverty is a stark reality staring us in the face? When hunger and starvation are our companions every step of the way? The followership has in truth done itself great harm by choosing to be praise singers rather than speaking truth to power so that things could go well.

No wonder some governors have the audacity to make public their dedication to the provisions of of stomach infrastructure. Whatever that means speaks to the

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No wonder some governors have the audacity to make public their dedication to the provisions of of stomach infrastructure. Whatever that means speaks to the unfortunate and little mindedness of our leaders and, indeed, the followers.  
”**

unfortunate and little mindedness of our leaders and, indeed, the followers. How can a sensible and responsible person publicly declare that his people elected him to do stomach infrastructure? That is shameful and does not speak well of us as a people sixty two years after gaining independence.

If we do not stop doing family and friends in governance; If we do not change our approach to doing things and pursue concrete and reasonable governance; we would continue to wallow in this matrix of confusion and the glimmer of hope will continue to elude us. What we need and desire at the moment is a clear departure from what used to obtain.

We need to restructure. We need to rebuild. We need to chart a new course for our country and elect only those who can provide effective and good leadership. Those who can point the way to prosperity not those who would fleece our coffers in the name of running our affairs. We must begin to look at our leadership structure again and see who can do what and not who is from my region or religion before I support him. Region, tribe and religion have shown they cannot lead to growth and development, neither can they add value to anyone.

2023 provides an opportunity for the people to resolve to be forward looking. The elections will provide an acid test for the people. It would determine whether they have learned anything or are still enslaved by their ethnic and religious beliefs.

Nigeria and Nigerians have to make a clean break from the past and show determination that they are prepared for the future. That is the only way we can sincerely hope to make a difference as we pursue nationhood. If we do not gird up our loins for the tasks of rebuilding ahead, we run the risks of being left behind by less endowed countries who have since put to use their scarces resources for the good of the generality of the people. That would be the time our independence



## News

### 'Nigeria's self rule not accidental'

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government, Hon. Shehu Bala Usman, behalf Legislative Arms, has rejoiced with Nigerians, both at home and in the diaspora on the attainment of sixty-two years independent anniversary.

According to a statement signed by the Special Adviser to the Council Chairman on Media and Publicity, Philip Eplong, the self rule granted Nigeria was not by accident as that has facilitated development in all spheres of lives thereby placing the country among the comity of nations with self determination.

"The Chairman is therefore using this medium to congratulate President Muhammadu Buhari, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, Senate President, Ahmed Lawal, Deputy Senate President, Ovie Omo-Agege, Speaker, House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, Idris Maje Wase and our amiable Governor, Rt. Hon. Barrister Simon Bako Lalong on this auspicious occasion which is of significant importance in the history of Nigeria".

Usman explained that the development witnessed under the All Progressives Congress APC led government of the Buhari administration was a testimony of Nigeria's growth since the attainment of nationhood.

The chairman lauded the achievements of the Rescue Mission in Plateau State



Usman

under the leadership of Governor Simon Bako Lalong who has done a lot especially in the area of the restoration of peaceful coexistence in the state thereby allowing development to thrive.

He equally applauded the Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Yakubu Sanda and the Chief Judge of Plateau State, Hon. Stephen Mann for their laudable contributions towards the success of the Fourth republic.

"We in Jos North Local Government area are eternally grateful for the consideration of their sons and daughters by appointing them into exalted positions and the citing of developmental projects which have direct bearing on the life of the people.

Usman specifically

mentioned the appointment of Professor Danladi Atu as Secretary to the Government of the State, Bashir Sati Musa, Special Adviser on Inter-party Affairs and Sani Mudi, Special Adviser on Religious, Muslim Affairs as well as that of Alhaji Idris Kwando as Deputy Chief of Staff, General Administration at the inception of the second tenure of the Rescue Administration which will forever remain indelible in the annals of the local government.

The Chairman noted that as he rejoices with Nigerians on this auspicious occasion of the Nation's sixty-two independence anniversary, he prays for the peaceful election come next year and the successful transition of power to the next set of leaders at all levels.

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government Shehu Bala Usman has felicitated with the state Chairman of the All Progressive Congress APC Hon. Rufus Bature on his 60th birthday anniversary.

The Chairman in a congratulatory message described Hon. Bature as a quintessential politician who has served humanity and the state in different spheres of the state.

The Chairman recounted Hon. Bature's time as a Minority Leader of the Plateau State House of Assembly

### Jos North chair eulogises Bature at 60th

noting that despite being in the opposition party, Bature focused his interest on the development of the state where he places the collective interest of state greater than political or any other interest.

This, the Chairman said the APC state Chairman replicated while leading the party as the Campaign Director General that defeated the incumbent People Democratic Party PDP

in 2015 as well as performed creditably while serving as Secretary to the Government of Plateau State.

The chairman used the occasion to eulogise Bature as a competent, experienced and knowledgeable individual whose leadership qualities had neutralized the opposition and placed the ruling party as the number one in the state.

### Onyeka warns trouble makers during political campaigns

Commissioner of Police Plateau State Command, CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka has warned elements whose perception of democracy is the application of violence to have a rethink as the law enforcement under his administration is committed to dealing firmly with such characters within the dictates of the law in the state.

The Commissioner of Police gave the admonition during a meeting held with INEC, Heads of Security Agencies, Religious Leaders, Political Parties and other critical stakeholders at the Police Officers' Mess, Jos recently.

In his address, the Plateau State Police boss noted that, as the lead internal security agency in the country, it is the primary duty of the Police to ensure that all electoral activities are conducted without any



Onyeka

hitch or security threat especially political campaigns in State.

As part of proactive measures, the CP disclosed that his Command had carried out district threat assessments and pre-campaigns evaluations and has commenced deployment of its personnel to passive flash points and vulnerable areas to prevent and nip in the bud any form of inter-party frictions, political thuggery, clashes and acts of lawlessness that can lead to the disturbance of public peace anywhere in the state.

He further advised all political parties to abide by the provisions of the new Electoral Act, 2022, INEC guidelines, and play the game of Politics according to the rules.

Continuing, the CP told party leaders and chieftains to prevail on their flag bearers, members, supporters and fans not to engage in any act or conduct that can incite violence or constitute a breach of the peace anywhere in the State throughout the campaigns period and beyond.

"Onyeka noted that he would be strictly guided by the fact that all quasi security outfits that were established by the state government and local communities and which are operating under different nomenclatures, structures, (RAC) and 4,989 Polling Units as a result of the legal rules under the Electoral Act, 2020 and

within the electoral process. Hence you are charged to ensure that they are not in any way or manner used by any political or community actor for any role during the electioneering campaigns and other electoral processes in the count down to the 2023 general elections. Such will amount to act in illegality and a potent threat to national security which could be inimical to our nation's democratic interest".

Also speaking, INEC Administration Secretary, Mrs Caroline Okpe who represented the Resident Electoral Commissioner said that as election managers, INEC was committed to ensuring that the 2023 general election is freely, fairly and credibly conducted across the country. She added that this can only be achieved with the complement and support of all security agencies.

Mrs. Okpe further disclosed that the Presidential, Senatorial and House of Representative elections will be held on 25th of February, 2023 while that of State Governors and Houses of Assembly will be conducted on 11th March, 2023.

According to the INEC Administrative Secretary, Plateau State has 207 Registration Area Centres (RAC) and 4,989 Polling Units as a result of the recent expansion of Polling Units across the country.

### Inuwa holds gala for cabinet, security heads

AS part of activities marking Nigeria's 62nd Independence anniversary and Gombe State at 26, Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya hosted heads of security agencies, business community and senior government officials to an anniversary gala.

In his remark during the occasion, Governor Yahaya reaffirmed of his conviction that despite passing through thick and thin in its over six decades journey, Nigeria has attained greatness in many facets of human endeavours and that the citizens have every reason to celebrate this auspicious moment.

He also expressed his belief that Gombe State, after 26 years of existence as a full fledged entity, today outshines many of its peers created together in October 1996.

He attributed the current Gombe State developmental status to the commitment of all the past and present crop of leaders who served in both military and democratic positions.

He said, "Without commitment and resilience of some notable citizens who

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

played key roles in their respective capacities to ensure Gombe attained statehood status we wouldn't be opportuned today to serve you as Governors; that is why we will consistently be praying for them for Allah to reward them for such sacrifice".

Gombe State Commissioner of Police, Ishola Babaita, who spoke on behalf of Heads of Security Agencies, commended the Governor for showing patriotism by organizing the anniversary gala to mark both events.

He also commended the Governor for his commitment to peace and security in Gombe State and for his constant support to the security agencies to facilitate their smooth operations in the state.

Present at the event which was held at the Banquet Hall of the Government House, were the Deputy Governor, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau, Speaker of Gombe State House of Assembly, Hon. Abubakar Mohammed Lugerewo and Chief Judge

of Gombe State, Hon. Justice Joseph Awak.

Other dignitaries included the Secretary to the State Government, Chief of Staff, Head of Service, Commissioners and Special Advisers as well All Progressives Congress (APC) stakeholders and

members of Gombe business community among others.

The event kicked off with the cutting of the anniversary cake made, followed by the entertainment with several cultural groups performing to the delight of the audience.



Yahaya



## Foreign Feature

# Burkina Faso coup: Ousted military leader Damiba 'resigns'

**Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba offered his resignation in order to avoid confrontations with 'serious human and material consequences'** Burkina Faso's overthrown military chief agreed to step down two days after army officers announced his deposition in the country's second coup in a year.

Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba "offered his resignation in order to avoid confrontations with serious human and material consequences", .

Influential religious and community leaders held mediation talks between Damiba and the new self-proclaimed leader, Captain Ibrahim Traore, to resolve the crisis.

"President Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba proposed his own resignation in order to avoid clashes," said Hamidou Yameogo, a spokesman for the mediation efforts.

Damiba set "seven conditions" for stepping down. They included a guarantee of security for his allies in the military, "a guarantee of his security and rights", and assurance that those taking power will respect the pledge he gave to West Africa's regional bloc for a return to civilian rule within two years.

Traore officially was named head of state after he accepted the conditions given by Damiba, calling on "the population to exercise calm, restraint and prayer".

A statement issued on Sunday by the pro-Traore military said he would remain in charge "until the swearing-in of the president of Burkina Faso designated by the nation's active forces" at an unspecified date.

The second change of leadership in a year started on Friday when military officers announced the deposition of Damiba, the dissolution of the transitional government and the suspension of the constitution.

Damiba, who led a coup in January, said on Saturday that he had no intention of giving up power and urged the officers to "come to their senses".

Tensions have been high in the country since Friday, with clashes occurring between protesters and security forces.

Late Saturday, angry protesters attacked the French embassy in Ouagadougou as they believed Damiba was planning a counteroffensive from a "French base" – allegations he and France denied. Burkina Faso is a former colony of France.



**Burkina Faso's self-declared new leader Ibrahim Traore is welcomed by supporters holding Russian's flags as he arrives at the national television standing in an armored vehicle in Ouagadougou, Oct. 2, 2022.**

The French foreign ministry condemned "the violence against our embassy in the strongest terms" by "hostile demonstrators manipulated by a disinformation campaign against us".

In a statement broadcast on state television, new military spokesman Captain Kiswendsida Farouk Azaria Sorgho called on people to "desist from any act of violence and vandalism" especially those against the French embassy or the French military base.

To some in Burkina Faso's military, Damiba also was seen as too cozy with former colonizer France, which maintains a military presence in Africa's Sahel region to help

countries fight various armed groups.

Some who support the new coup leader Traore have called on Burkina Faso's government to seek Russian support instead. Outside the state broadcaster on Sunday, supporters of Traore were seen cheering and waving Russian flags.

Traore promised to overhaul the military so it is better prepared to fight "extremists". He accused Damiba of following the same failed strategies as former President Roch Marc Christian Kabore, whom Damiba overthrew in a January coup.

"Far from liberating the occupied territories, the once-peaceful areas

have come under terrorist control," the new military leadership said, adding Damiba failed as more than 40 percent of the country remained outside government control.

The landlocked state of Burkina Faso has been struggling to contain rebel groups, including some associated with al-Qaeda and ISIL (ISIS).

Since 2015, the country has become the epicentre of the violence across the Sahel region, where thousands of people have been killed and about two million displaced.

With much of the Sahel battling growing unrest, the violence has prompted a series of coups in Mali, Guinea and Chad since 2020.

Conflict analysts say Damiba was probably too optimistic about what he could achieve in the short term, but a change at the top did not mean the country's security situation would improve.

"The problems are too profound and the crisis is deeply rooted," said HeniNsaibia, a senior researcher at the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

Armed groups "will most likely continue to exploit" the country's political disarray, he said.

The army officers who seized power in Burkina Faso say toppled military leader Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba is planning a counteroffensive from a "French base".

Gunshots rang out Saturday in the capital Ouagadougou amid signs of lingering tensions, a day after the officers overthrew the man who seized power in a coup only nine months earlier.

"[Damiba] is believed to have taken refuge in the French base at Kamboinsin in order to plan a counter offensive to stir up trouble in our defence and security forces," the coup-makers said in a statement read on national television and signed by Captain Ibrahim Traore, the country's new leader.

An hour before the televised

comments, the French embassy issued a statement "firmly denying any involvement of the French army in the events". It also denied "rumours that Burkinabe authorities have been hosted or are under the protection of French military".

France is Burkina Faso's former coloniser.

Angry protesters attacked the French embassy in Ouagadougou late Saturday. Video on social media showed residents with lit torches outside the perimeter and other images showed part of the compound ablaze.

In Burkina Faso's second-largest city, Bobo-Dioulasso, angry crowds also vandalised the French Institute.

In a statement published on the Burkinabe presidency's official Facebook page on Saturday, Damiba – whose whereabouts remain unknown – urged his rivals "to come to their senses to avoid a fratricidal war that Burkina Faso doesn't need".

On Friday, pre-dawn gunfire erupted around the presidential palace. The presidency's head of communications posted on Facebook that negotiations were under way to restore calm.

Within hours, a dozen soldiers in fatigues appeared on the state television and radio broadcaster to announce Damiba's removal.

The new leaders swiftly suspended the constitution, sealed the borders, dissolved the transitional government and legislative assembly and instituted a 9pm to 5am curfew.

The chief of staff of Burkina Faso's army called on opposing factions to cease hostilities and continue talks, calling the situation "an internal crisis within the National Armed Forces".

Traore was previously head of "Cobra", a special forces unit in the northern region of Kaya.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the seizure of power and called "on all actors to refrain from violence and seek dialogue", his spokesman said in a statement.

"Burkina Faso needs peace, stability and unity to fight terrorist groups and criminal networks operating in parts of the country," it said.

Damiba came to power in a coup in January. He installed himself as leader of the country of 16 million after accusing elected President Roch Marc Christian Kabore of failing to beat back armed groups.

With much of the Sahel region battling a growing rebellion, the violence has prompted a series of coups in Chad, Guinea and Mali since 2020.

The situation in Ouagadougou was tense on Saturday. Helicopters hovered above the city and shops that had opened for business in the morning shut their doors.

The European Union and the African Union (AU) added their voices to a chorus of global condemnation of the second coup this year in the restive West African country.

"The chairperson calls upon the military to immediately and totally refrain from any acts of violence or threats to the civilian population, civil liberties, human rights," the AU said in a statement.

Source: News Agencies



**Paul-Henri Damiba came to power in a coup in January**



## Foreign News

### Lesotho to hold parliamentary vote amid political instability

LESOTHO will hold a parliamentary election on Friday, amid failures by its politicians to pass constitutional reforms meant to end years of political instability in the southern African mountain kingdom.

The All Basotho Convention (ABC) has run the country since 2017, but divisions within the party have led to two prime ministers over five years. One of them, Thomas Thabane, stepped down in 2020 after being charged with the murder of his ex-wife.

His successor, Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro, declared a state of emergency in August after legislators failed to pass two bills meant to end political volatility in parliament.

Last month, Lesotho's highest court ruled the declaration unconstitutional.

The ABC has selected another leader, former health minister Nkaku Kabi, to contest the ticket, after he defeated Majoro in a party vote in February.

The proposed constitutional reforms would have amended everything from the role of



**Majoro**

political parties, to rules over floor-crossing in parliament, the appointment of senior officials and the role of the prime minister.

The aim was to make Lesotho less prone to political logjams when disagreements occur. But lawmakers failed to agree on them in August.

Lesotho has seen four military coups since independence from Britain in 1966.

In 2014, gunshots were heard in Maseru and then-Prime Minister Thabane

temporarily fled the country, accusing the military of overthrowing him, which forced South Africa to mediate to restore order and allow his return.

Opposition riots in the capital Maseru in 1998 prompted South Africa to deploy troops to restore order.

Surrounded on all sides by a South African mountain range, Lesotho's cool lakes and springs are a vital source of freshwater for its bigger neighbour, supplying the taps of its commercial capital, Johannesburg.

NORTH Korea has fired a ballistic missile over Japan, the fifth launch in 10 days, amid expectations that it is gearing up to test its first nuclear weapon in five years.

The missile, detected by the Japanese coast guard and South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, prompted warning sirens in northern Japan with residents advised to take shelter. Train services in the northeastern Hokkaido and Aomori regions were suspended temporarily.

It was the first North Korean missile to fly over or past Japan since 2017, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida condemned what he called a "barbaric" act.

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol, meanwhile, warned of a resolute response following the launch, according to a statement from the presidential office.

Both leaders convened emergency meetings of their respective national security councils.

"(The NSC) made it clear that continued North Korean provocations cannot be tolerated and that there would be a price to be paid," the statement from Yoon's office said, adding that Seoul would seek various deterrence measures against North Korea, including strengthening

### North Korea fires 'dangerous' ballistic missile over Japan



**Some analysts said the weapon tested could be a Hwasong-12, which was developed in 2017 and North Korea says can carry a nuclear warhead**

sanctions.

Officials in Tokyo and Seoul said the missile flew between 4,500 to 4,600km (2,800-2,850 miles) to a maximum altitude of about 1,000km (620 miles). Launched from the north of the country near the border with China, the weapon was in the air for about 22 minutes before falling into the Pacific Ocean.

While Tokyo said it had taken no steps to shoot the missile down, Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said it had not ruled out any options, including counterattack capabilities.

"North Korea's series of actions, including its repeated ballistic missile launches, threatens the peace and security of Japan, the region, and the international community, and poses a serious challenge to the entire international community, including Japan," top government spokesperson Hirokazu Matsuno, told a news conference.

The United States said National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Secretary of State Antony Blinken had held calls with their counterparts in South Korea and Japan and that it strongly condemned the "dangerous and reckless" decision to send a missile over Japan.

In response to the launch, eight US and South Korean warplanes practised bombing a target in the Yellow Sea later.

South Korea's military said that it mobilised four F-15K fighter jets and dropped a pair of guided bombs on a target off its west coast, in what it called a demonstration of precision strike capability against the source of North Korean provocations.

The US sent four F-16 fighter jets to participate in the drills.

Pyongyang has conducted a series of recent launches around military drills held by the United States and South

Korea, which it considers a rehearsal for invasion. The US and South Korea, which staged its own show of advanced weaponry on Saturday to mark its Armed Forces Day, say the exercises are defensive in nature.

Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said that firing a weapon over Japan represented a "significant escalation" of recent provocations.

"Diplomacy isn't dead, but talks aren't about to resume either," Easley said in comments by email. "Pyongyang is still in the middle of a provocation and testing cycle and is likely waiting until after China's mid-October Communist Party Congress to conduct an even more significant test."

While the most recent tests were of short-range missiles, Pyongyang has conducted a record number of weapons tests this year including what it said was an ICBM, which is banned under UN sanctions.

Some analysts say North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who is committed to modernising the military, aims to use his enlarged arsenal to pressure Washington to accept his country as a nuclear state.

The top US diplomat for East Asia, speaking at an online event hosted by the Institute for Korean-American Studies, said the latest launch was "unfortunate", but a path to dialogue remained open.

"[We] urge the DPRK to take the path of dialogue, commit to serious and sustained diplomacy, and refrain from further destabilizing activities," said Daniel Kritenbrink, the State Department's assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

Officials in South Korea have suggested North Korea might carry out a nuclear test after the end of the Congress in China and before the US holds its mid-term elections in November. Pyongyang last carried out a nuclear test in September 2017.

### Ukraine makes breakthrough in south against Russia

UKRAINIAN troops have retaken more territory in regions illegally annexed by Russia, with Kyiv's forces advancing near the southern city of Kherson and consolidating gains in the east.

Russian-installed officials in Kherson confirmed the advance, but said Moscow's forces were digging in.

In the east, Ukrainian forces pushed into the Russian-held Luhansk region.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said "there are new liberated settlements in several regions".

Speaking during his nightly address, President Zelensky said "fierce fighting continues in many areas", but he did not give details. The progress of Ukraine's counterattacks have been closely guarded and reporters have largely been kept away from the front lines.

But in the south, Vladimir Saldo, the Russian-installed leader in the Kherson region, admitted that Ukrainian forces had broken through near Dudchany, a town on the Dnipro river about 30km (20 miles) south of the previous front line. The river is called Dnieper by Russians.

"There are settlements that are occupied by Ukrainian forces," Mr Saldo said. Some Russian reports say the Ukrainians have now taken Dudchany.

A Russian defence ministry spokesman said



**Ukrainian armoured units are advancing against the Russians in several areas**

Konashenkov, said "numerically superior" Ukrainian tanks had "driven a deep wedge" south of Zolota Balka, a village that marked the previous front line on the Dnipro. He claimed the Russians had killed about 130 Ukrainian troops in that fighting.

According to Mr Saldo, two Ukrainian battalions tried to reach the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station, about 70km (44 miles) east of Kherson. The power station is in the port city of Nova Kakhovka.

The Ukrainian advance is targeting supply lines for as many as 25,000 Russian troops on the west bank of the Dnipro, Reuters news agency reports.

Meanwhile, in the east Kyiv's

troops have continued an advance that has seen them slowly making inroads into Luhansk, an province annexed by Moscow last week and previously under almost complete Russian control.

On Saturday Ukrainian forces recaptured the important hub town of Lyman in the east, lying near the Luhansk regional border. Russia's military had turned Lyman into a logistical base.

Russia's proxy forces in Luhansk said Ukrainian troops had pushed a few kilometres into the Luhansk region. Reports suggest that the Ukrainians are moving towards the Russian-held towns of Kreminna and Svatove in Luhansk, with some pro-Kremlin bloggers

suggesting that Russian forces have again been ordered to retreat.

Kherson and Luhansk are among four regions which Russian President Vladimir Putin has declared to be part of Russia, following so-called referendums denounced as fraudulent by Kyiv and its Western allies. Russia does not fully control any of the four regions.

On Monday, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov attracted ridicule online after he admitted that Russia was still deciding which areas it had "annexed", suggesting that Moscow does not know where its self-declared borders are.

Mr Peskov claimed the entirety of Luhansk and Donetsk regions were part of Russia, but said the Kremlin will "continue consultations with the population regarding the borders of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions".

Kyiv has vowed to retake all the territory annexed by Russia, including Crimea, seized by Russian troops in 2014.

The Russian defence ministry says reservists drafted into the army under Mr Putin's mobilisation order last month are now undergoing intensive combat training in the Russian-controlled Luhansk and Donetsk regions. The Kremlin plans to call up about 300,000 reservists - though Mr Putin did not set an upper limit.



## Feature

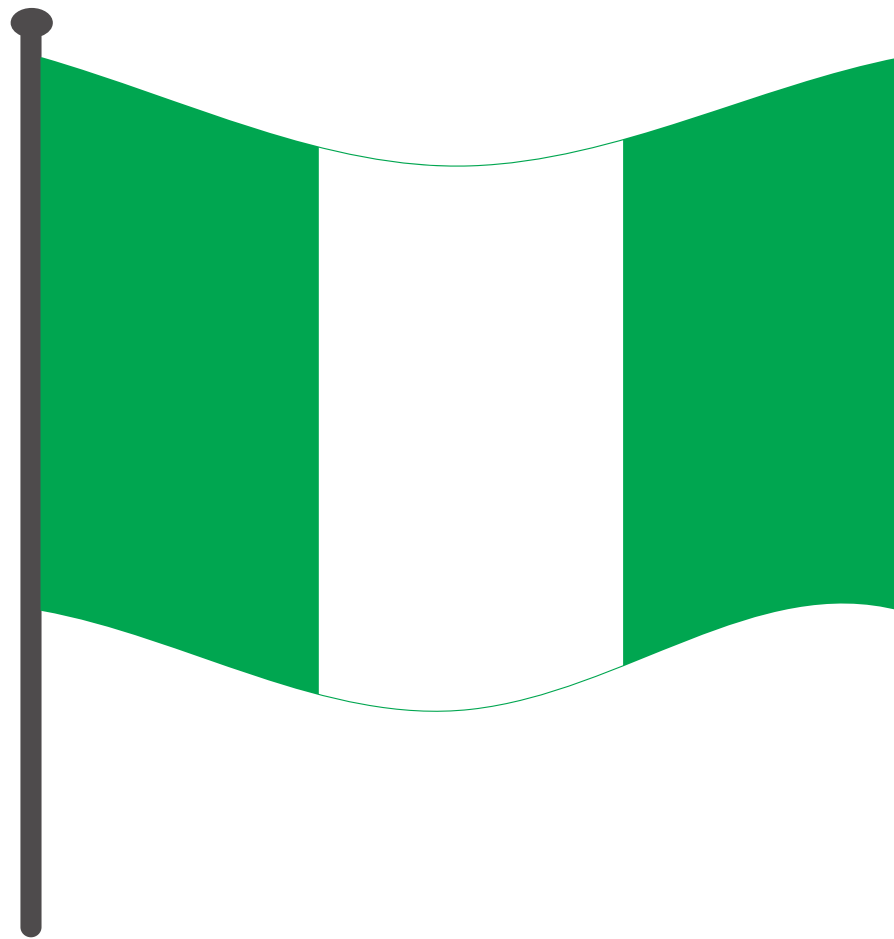
# Learning to walk again independently at 62

**Nigeria got independence on 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 1960 after several years under the British colonial administration. To making this feat possible, our then nationalists threw everything humanly possible into the struggles for self governance. They were well committed in their quest to convincing the colonialists that the country was indeed ripe enough to taking over the mantle of leadership and walking unaidedly to progress. RAYMOND OISE-OGHAEDE writes.**

TRUE to this conviction, the journey started brightly with a federal constitution which operated a parliamentary democracy consisting of an elected Prime minister and ceremonial Head of State; while, the then three regions were administered by their respective Premiers. As years went by, the race for the control of the center became intensely competitive and this gradually led to the fanning of the embers of political atmosphere where ethnic considerations became the other of the day. Consequently, the country went through plethora of challenges that threatened to break its foundation with two successive military coup d'états which later led to the civil war. After the war, it took the people over nine years before they were able to re-establish democratic governance of the Second Republic in 1979. Thereafter, the country moved from one military administration to another in between the short lived Third Republic, before this present Fourth Republic came on board in 1999.

Presently, the country is celebrating her 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary; and, there is no gainsaying the fact that our leaders are still finding it very difficult to totally separating the ills of the past from hindering our now and the future. A lot of things are happening in the system which have invariable dragged us back to the crawling position. It is very worrisome that despite the harrowing experiences of the past, we have not been able to shake off some of those factors that bedeviled our democracy from the first through the third republics. It is now over twenty three years that the Fourth Republic has been established; and, recent events across the country are gradually pushing us back to the periods of political instability. One major factor that the Military usually hinged their intervention on, was the high level of insecurity. Today, that factor has found its way back into the system; and, it has taken the shine off the achievements of the present administration; as it was also instrumental to the fall of the immediate past regime. When it started from the North-East, our leaders handled it with kid gloves believing that it was a problem for the governors of that region to solve; and, as such, while those governors were running helter-skelter; their counterparts from other parts of the divide were enjoying relative peace and tranquility in their own territories. Today, the monster has spread all-over defiling every concerted effort put in place to tackling it.

Consequent upon the aforementioned, vices such as banditry, kidnapping, raping, highway robbery; and, wanton destruction of lives and properties of innocent citizens have become everyday occurrences in our society. The situation is so bad to the extent that a lot of economic activities have been grounded. Most foreign investors are staying away from coming to do business in the country because of the hostile environment; farmers have abandoned their farms because of fear of attacks by unknown gunmen; trading and other commercial activities which have also been hampered in many parts of the country; while, movements from one place to the other across the states have also been greatly affected for fear of kidnappers to mention but a few. As it



is now, the effects of the state of insecurity has made the country's situation to be similar to that of a little child that is just learning how to stand up and walk without support from anyone. Normally, at sixty two (62), it is expected that a man should still be agile and capable of standing and walking unaided; except, such person is physically, mentally or medically challenged. In as much as there is nothing wrong with those that are unable to stand or walk as a result of circumstances beyond their control; it becomes a cause for concern when a supposedly fit person is finding it very difficult to doing the needful. A closer look at what is presently on ground indicates that the country has been mercilessly pummelled by the devastating scourge of insecurity which has brought her to her knees and consequently made her to be learning to stand and walk independently again.

As if the problem of insecurity posed no enough threat; our leaders have added the catastrophic weight of ethno-religious politics to the overbearing loads that have incapacitated the country from functioning effectively and efficiently. This write-up will not delve much on this aspect because it has been extensively reviewed lately in the writer's article titled "THE DELICATE ETHNO-RELIGIOUS ROAD TO 2023". However, one can briefly mention that, religion and ethnicity have wrongly been used by our politicians to the extent that mutual suspicion is now the order of the day. Therefore, it is very worrisome that these sentiments are now placed above merit and the provisions of the law. Rather than working assiduously and in accordance to laid down rules to getting things done; those who ought to know better are the same people that are engaging in all manner of antics to trying to get what they want using ethnic and religious flavours. Whenever things do not work out in their favour, they will unhesitatingly blame their wows on the status quo; and, the next thing on their agenda would be to start agitating for

imaginary rights that are not in accordance to the subsisting laws. Some will even go as far as calling for the breakup of the country based on ethnic lines to cause disaffections amongst the people and destabilise the government.

Therefore, it is not uncommon in our present settings to see powerful politicians or group of people using elements of threat or intimidation as a way of clamouring for political positions and relevance based on ethnic/regional and or religious grounds. Thus, whether it is pleasant to mention it here or not; the fact is that; no matter the outcome of the 2023 presidential elections; some people are already waiting to cry foul and blame their failures on imaginary marginalization forgetting that electioneering politics is a game of numbers. Democracy all over the world is the same; because, it recognizes the party/candidates with the highest number of legitimate votes and other basic criteria without any consideration for ethno-religious attachment(s). So, my very crucial advice for those that are already rehearsing how they will drum for war after the elections, is that; they had better start playing the real politics accordingly towards achieving electoral values, rather than wasting their time to trying to get results/compensations through the backdoors. The simple truth about all these is that, the international community is already aware of the antics; and, will no longer be deceived to extending sympathy and supports for such manipulation(s).

Relatedly, this scourge of mutual suspicion which is also prevalent in the corridors of power has caused so much damage such that, those who are supposed to be representing the people have now changed their focus from pursuing and protecting the interest of the masses to that of their political parties and affiliations. They now see the issue of insecurity and other problems bedeviling the country as the problem of the ruling party. It is therefore not surprising when

some lawmakers are blaming the wows of the country on the government. The question is, are they (regardless of their political affiliations) not part of the government? As we speak, there has not been a reported case of complaint by any lawmaker of alleged suppression of his/her proposed workable/viable solution(s) to solving the problems facing our country to buttress the fact that they have been alienated from government. Issues that do not directly concern or affect them are treated frivolously; and, that is why it is not surprising that ASUU strike has dragged on for over seven months without any headway. Prices of essential commodities have gone beyond the reach of ordinary citizens; the level of unemployment is so high that the youths have been pushed into engaging in crimes to making ends meet; artisans are also hanging around every nook and cranny of the society without work to do; a lot of entrepreneurs have been forced out of business; and, many have embraced street begging for alms and other dirty engagements for survival to mention but a few. It is only when elections are close by that some people will be deceiving themselves by doing what they ought to have done much earlier to take credit and confuse (not convince) the electorates.

To worsen the situation, constructive criticisms from well meaning citizens and members of the opposition are misconstrued and treated with levity because of lack of trust. Our leaders prefer to take advices from their hangers on rather than seeking valuable advices from seasoned professionals and elites from all walks of life (regardless of their ethno-religious and political affiliations) who have what it take to proffering solutions to the humongous problems facing us as a nation. It is also in line with this development that portfolios (ministerial and other top positions) are mostly shared based on political, ethnic and religious expediencies; and, not on merit. Square pegs are placed in round holes as compensations for their electoral contributions without minding the negative effects such will bring to bear on the wellness of governance. The most unfortunate aspect of the whole drama is that most (if not all) of these appointments get the clearance and approval of the law makers; and, this makes them also to be complicit for whatever shortcomings that have inherently crippled the progress of the country.

Apropos to the foregoing, it is evident that despite the fact that we have been "independent" for the past sixty two (62) years; the situation on ground have thoroughly incapacitated the system to the extent that the country is now "learning to walk independently again". Therefore, it is very pertinent that we should shun all the factors that have contributed adversely to the progress of the nation; and, put things in the right perspectives so that the country can regain its lost glory as the true giant of Africa. We must all come together; join hands together and be fully committed towards ensuring that we make her walk again.

**Raymond Oise-Oghaede is from Suru-Iere, Lagos; and, he can be reached via [raymondoise@yahoo.com](mailto:raymondoise@yahoo.com).**



# THEY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

# Health benefits of guava leaves tea

GUAVA has long been used as a folk cure for a variety of diseases.

According to a preliminary study, chemicals found in guava leaf extract may help with a variety of ailments and symptoms, including menstrual cramps, diarrhea, the flu, type 2 diabetes, and cancer.

We all rely on western medicine for mild ailments like fever, cold, and cough.

But don't overlook the guava leaves' health benefits. If the guava fruit is good for you, the leaves are much better.

Here are some of the many guava leaves benefits that you should be aware of.

- Aids in the prevention of diarrhea.
- help to lower cholesterol levels.
- Aids in weight loss
- helps to keep blood sugar levels in check
- Aids in the battle against cancer
- Aids in clear eyesight.
- Acne is treated using this product.
- It aids in the improvement of your skin's texture.
- May Help Lower Blood Sugar Levels
- Boosts Heart Health
- May Help Relieve Painful Symptoms of Menstruation
- Benefits Your Digestive System
- May Help Boost Your Immunity

### Is it okay if I eat/swallow the guava seeds?

Simply clean the guava and bite into it, consuming both the rind and the seeds.

A guava's rind has more vitamin C than a whole orange.

They occasionally have harder seeds, which you may find unpleasant even though they are edible.

It's a good source of insoluble fiber, which helps with constipation.

Constipation can be relieved significantly with the use of guavas.

Because they include organic acid, sugar, and cellulose, they are classed as a laxative food.

They also help to alleviate chronic constipation by toning the stomach and intestinal muscles.

### Guava leaves Benefits for hair

A swollen or irritated scalp causes hair loss. Because of their anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and antioxidant characteristics, guava leaves can help prevent hair loss and strengthen your scalp.

It can also be used to treat dandruff and other scalp issues. It's also abundant in B and C vitamins, which nourish and encourage healthy hair growth.

### Benefits of Guava leaves for skin

Guava leaves are an excellent treatment for acne, greasy skin, blackheads, and other skin problems.

Guava leaves are high in vitamins and antioxidants, which might benefit your skin.

Its antioxidants not only protect the skin from injury but also aid to slow down the aging process and prevent wrinkles.

Guava leaves can also aid in the elimination of acne. Both antibacterial and anti-inflammatory effects are found in these leaves.

### What effect do guava leaves have on a woman's sexuality?

#### Guava Leaves Tea for Fertility:

Possible benefits for fertility  
Guava is supposed to aid fertility because of its high nutritional content, which includes fiber, folate, and vitamin C.

Women with higher dietary folate intakes have a higher rate of pregnancy than those with lower intakes, according to observational research

### Treats Acne and black spots.



Acne and black spot sufferers will benefit greatly from guava leaves.

Acne and black patches on the skin are successfully removed. Guava leaves have an antimicrobial that destroys microorganisms that cause acne.

### Benefits Against Anti-Aging

Antioxidants in guava leaves neutralize free radicals, which cause skin damage. It protects your skin from aging and improves the tone and texture of your skin in this way. To tighten the skin, make a decoction

### Diabetic patients will benefit from this.

By lowering the activity of the alpha-glucosidase enzyme, a guava leaf tea can successfully reduce blood glucose in diabetics.

Guava leaf tea will reduce blood sugar levels without increasing insulin production if consumed for 10-12 weeks.

### Helps with Digestion

By promoting the synthesis of digestive enzymes, guava leaf tea aids digestion.

Strong antibacterial drugs destroy bacteria in the gut lining and prevent germs from producing dangerous enzymes.

Guava leaves are mostly used to treat food poisoning and relieve nausea and vomiting.

### Helpful in the Treatment of Dengue Fever

Dengue fever can be treated using guava leaves.

Guava leaf extract is non-poisonous and can increase the number of platelets in the blood. Boil 8-9 guava leaves in 5 cups of water until they are half-cooked.

### Diarrhea & Dysentery Treatment

Guava leaves are used to treat dysentery and diarrhea.

To treat diarrhea, combine 30 grams of guava leaves with a handful of rice flour in one glass of water and drink it twice a day.

### Cholesterol Levels are Reduced

Drinking guava leaf tea for three months can lower LDL/bad cholesterol and triglycerides while having no negative impact on good cholesterol.

Guava leaves are also an excellent liver tonic.

### Weight loss is aided by this supplement.

Guava leaves aid weight loss by inhibiting the conversion of complex carbohydrates to sugars.

Carbohydrates should be broken down in the liver for utilization by the body, and guava leaves will inhibit carbohydrates from being converted to useful chemicals.

### Guava leaf and fruits During pregnancy?

Guava is safe to eat as food during pregnancy and breastfeeding, but there isn't enough research to tell if it's safe in bigger doses used as medicine.

If pregnant or breastfeeding, keep to the recommended food amounts until further information becomes available.

### Fresh guava leaves can also be used to brew tea.

To eliminate any dirt or residue, firstly, wash 5-10 fresh guava leaves under cold running water.

Secondly, bring 2 cups (475 mL) of water to a boil on heat, then add the leaves.

After that, reduce to a low heat setting and cook for another 10-12 minutes.

Now, remove the liquid from the heat and strain it onto a strainer over a large cup or basin.

Finally, remove the leaves and throw them away

### Menstruation and guava leaves

May Assist with Menstrual Pain Relief

Many women suffer from dysmenorrhea, which is characterized by severe menstrual symptoms such as stomach pains.

Guava leaf extract, on the other hand, has been shown to lower the severity of menstruation cramps.

### Benefit of Guava Leaves for Men and Women

Production of gamete

Guava leaf tea increases fertility by increasing sperm production. As a result, it is highly suggested for guys who are having difficulty conceiving.

Libido

Both men and women will experience an increase in libido while drinking guava leaf tea. When honey is added, it works even better.

Guava extract contains a lot of folates, which is beneficial for people who are having trouble conceiving.

Folate is a necessary nutrient with fertility-enhancing characteristics.

Source: [Welhess.com](http://Welhess.com).





# EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

## Physical features men can't resist

By **JESSICA LEIGH**

WE all know that every time a man gives us the once-over, he's probably thinking about sex. But now, science can explain why men are constantly checking us out. Turns out, there's a specific formula for their once-over. Some it's silly, but most of it you can easily nail.

Every time a men checks out a woman, he's performing a reproductive fitness assessment. Men were designed to look for key features in women. These features make women attractive because they are associated with good health and fertility. When men notice these features, they are subconsciously thinking, she could have my babies! Making them subconsciously, or very consciously, attracted to you.

Science has proven men to be attracted to women with these features. According to the data, here's what it takes to be "attractive:"

**A Wider Waist to Hips Ratio.**

A ratio of 7:10 is particularly pleasing, apparently. The waist and hips are related to childbirth, making men think, those big hips would be great for delivering my baby!

**A High Voice.** According to a study a high-pitched voice evokes youthfulness and signifies a small, feminine body, both of which are attractive to men. Let's just say our high-pitched shrieks at the scandalous happenings on the Real Housewives is a sign of evolution at work.

**Healthy Hair.** Shiny, full, and long hair is very attractive. Again, it's a sign of health and fertility. And thankfully, very fake-able with regular salon visits and blowouts. Remember, it's for the future of the human race.

**Smiles.** Well obviously, happy people are attractive people. But science has also proven the whiter the teeth, the better.



**Less Makeup.** You may think that contouring, layers of eye shadow, and bold lips are making you more beautiful, but it turns out, the natural look is more appealing to men. Men prefer women who use up to 40% fewer cosmetics. But it shouldn't take science to tell you that the natural you, is the best you.

**Wearing Red.** There's a reason red is associated with lust. Scientists have proven that wearing red enhances attraction. In fact, they've found this phenomenon to hold true in other animals as well.

**Height.** One (incredibly thorough) 2010 analysis

conducted by experts at The University of New South Wales in Sydney — titled "Much More Than a Ratio: Multivariate Selection on Female Bodies" — showed that although factors such as waist-to-hip ratio and bust size affect how men perceive women, they don't tell the whole story. Taller women were rated as more attractive, but — at least evolutionarily speaking — men aren't necessarily after willowy, runway-ready figures. The men surveyed preferred women with legs that were proportionate in length to their height.

**Arm Length.** Long legs weren't shown to be a feature men seek out, but long arms were. "Scanned bodies of taller women who had longer arms were strongly preferred". Upper arm girth played a role too — apparently men are attracted to women with long and slender arms.

**Big Boobs.** Hope you're sitting down: Believe it or not, men like big boobs. But especially in combination with a narrow waist, which, the researchers note, several previous studies had already established. In more news that will surprise no one, studies that tracked eye movement showed that when looking at images of women, men first checked out their breasts and waists. "Men also looked for longer at breasts, but attractiveness scores were more likely to be based on waist scores alone

than the breast scores," they write.

**Overall Grooming.** In a 1997 study published in the journal Current Psychology, changeable features like how people groom themselves and posture were shown to be just as important as fixed features like height.

**The reason:** Evidence of self-care signals to others that you're healthy

This all said, there's plenty of counter research that men are just happy to be getting laid at all. One thing's for sure — they're lucky to have us, just the way we are.





**Editorial**

**2023 elections:**

**Role of religious leaders**

**IF there is any admonition worth of undertaking, it is that which has been directed at religious and political leaders, particularly as we head into election year. This warning comes with the seriousness it should be taken given that unguarded and inflammatory utterances often characterize the electioneering period in Nigeria.**

**THE co-chairmen of the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC, Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakari, and President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Rev. Daniel Okoh are well placed to understand the severity of the use of unsavory words by political leaders in the course of seeking for votes during campaigns.**

**A peaceful election is a pride to a people, therefore, when deliberate efforts are undertaken by organizations, religious leaders and the civil society to engender peaceful conducts during election period; it is the responsibility of all who are engaged in the process, particularly, INEC, the media to play roles expected of them in order to achieve the goal. Peace accords do not only put political leaders on their toes, they serve as reminders of their responsibility to the electorate.**

**EXPECTEDLY, while it is desirable that politicians should be held accountable for their actions, the role religious leaders play in conscientizing their followers often leaves much to be desired. Some often serve as purveyors of the wrong actions by the choice of words. This often influences on who they should vote for during elections.**

**GIVEN all that has been said over time and the need to maintain decorum during electioneering period, there is need to keep emphasizing for issue-based campaigns by the parties. They are essential for safe elections, even as the role of the media to maintain neutrality during the electioneering period would help the electoral umpire achieve a level of success.**

**NIGERIANS are desirous of delivering a hitch-free election in 2023. If, as the NIREC leadership has emphasized, all have a responsibility to maintain a course that could lead the country to having an election devoid of rancor and leaders that are willing to sacrifice for the nation.**

**AS has been reiterated; whether they are religious or political leaders, if they are just and fair, the people's trust can be earned; much less in an election year, where much is expected of us all as we create avenues for confidence in our capacity to live as a united nation.**

Nigeria is the black African country according to available census figures has a population 200 million people. It is said that one in every four Africans is a Nigerian. There are several ethnic groups but there are three majority tribes comprised of the Igbos in the East, the Yoruba in the West and the Hausas in the North. Nigeria plays a leading role in determining the future of Africa both at the regional and global levels.

Although endowed with massive natural resources and extensive human resources, Nigeria has not developed the necessary technological, industrial, managerial and political know-how to pull its resources together to a proper pedestal.

As a result of poverty and hard living conditions, the country faces social upheaval, cultural disagreements gradual industrialization and imperfect attempt to attain its national goals.

Tradition and culture has been greatly affected and a major source of the maintenance of culture, the family system which promotes the spirit of love and being one's brother's keeper is now disintegrating. Consumerism, an attitude of get rich quick", and westernization have led to rural-urban migration and emergence of the urban poor. These migration takes on menial jobs and form the bulk of the population in the streets and market.

Children in urban areas are quickly caught up in the daily struggle for survival and material gain.

This can be attributed to the breakdown of our rich tradition and culture that has eroded discipline in society and turned our house helps either by their parents or by the families they serve who engage them as food vendors, clothing and general merchandise on the

streets. Thus, they become part time street traders and subjected to many damaging aspects of street life.

In the northern part of Nigeria where the Muslims religion is dominant, practices such as begging has led young boys and girls into vices. Apart from this, many parents believe that good parenting means that children



**Child abuse and neglect**

should be bought up strictly and with religious training which in most cases favours the male above female children. Some parents, having entrusted their children to religious teachers, never visit them or inquire about them and subsequently the children are forced to the streets to beg or become food vendors. The mallams often move some of these almajiris from city to city as beggars while some end up as prostitutes.

The Muslim religion which prohibits girls from becoming pregnant before marriage recommend that a girl should take a husband before her second menstruation. The

tradition of early marriage is very difficult to change and has led to abusive practices which are condoned by some parents. May parents send their children out to the streets to trade in order to make enough money for their mothers to buy house-hold goods for them when they marry. It is for this reason that some children may thus be exposed to any kind of suitors and. Hawking by boys and girls is now widespread and parents clearly recognize that the practice spells dangers for the children.

In the eastern and western part of Nigeria children may attend

morning or afternoon school and hawk goods out of school hours. Some are even exposed to trading on the streets the whole day to make income for their families.

Although most Nigerian children return home at the end of the day, a growing number, including girls, have been confined to a life of street children whose future has already been destroyed by the same society they all belong and depend for care and succor.

**By Mu'azu Adam Hudu  
Is an IT student from  
Federal Polytechnic  
Bauchi**

**Flouting of government order by truck drivers in Jos**

day. This action has generated a lot of argument because many lives have been lost daily as a result of their reckless driving. No week goes by without reports of truck running into moving small cars, buildings and roadside shop. It would be recalled that, the Polo Roundabout has been a "pit trap" to these truck drivers whose truck lose control.

It was in this regard that the Executive Governor of Plateau gave a restricting order to these drivers to save the lives of citizens, but it seems they are above the law. Unfortunately, the agencies saddled with the responsibility of arresting flaunting this order are not doing much to control this ugly situation.

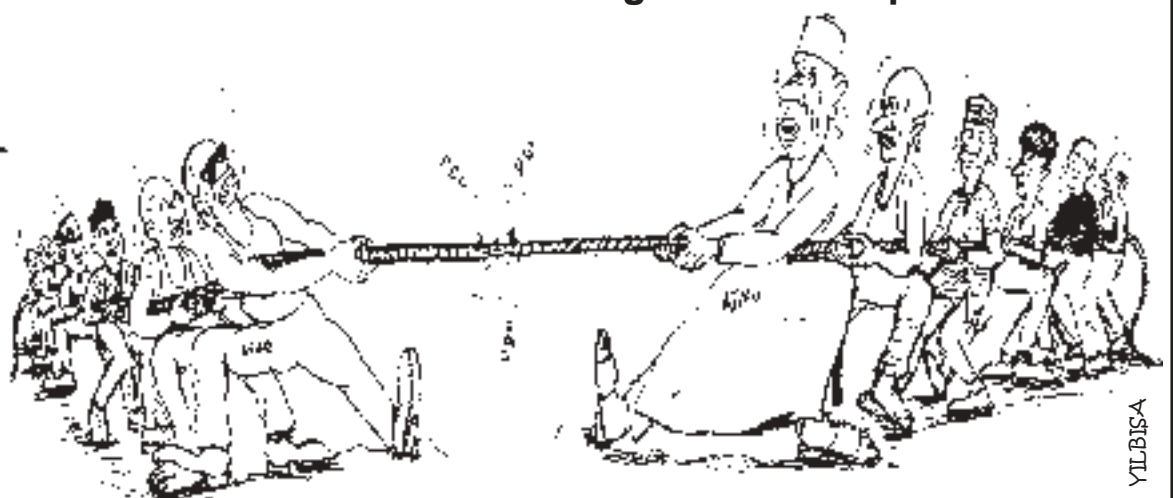
They are always busy concentrating on cars and tricycle riders who are using the road legitimately and allowing these truck drivers plying at odd hours against the government's directive making it look as if there were no laws restricting them from plying the road in the day time.

Stringent actions should be taken by the State Government to put a stop to this unlawful act. A Special Squad should be caved out specifically to handle that aspect of disrespect. Again, a heavy fine as high as #20,000 to #30,000 should be charged on whoever flouts the law. This will generate huge reveue to the state government and also save the lives of citizens.

**Written by Golching Golek  
Jenta-Adamu**

**Standard Cartoon**

Let's see who will win this game. "So help us God"



YILBISA



## Opinion

## Understanding vehicle number plating in Nigeria

By  
NENGA DANIEL GONDYI

RECENTLY, the Inspector General of Police announced the total ban of the SPY vehicle number plates citing internal security. Almost immediately afterwards, the then Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Boboye Oyeyemi, ordered personnel of the FRSC to enforce the IGP's directive, and also to "impound vehicles with faded plate numbers and private vehicles with commercial plate numbers". The IGP accused the SPY-plate users of "continuous disregard for traffic rules and regulations and other extant laws guiding road use by individuals hiding under the privileges of SPY police number plates". The FRSC on its part worried that "the use of faded and unauthorised vehicle number plates has implications on national security". In view of the concerns raised by these security chiefs, it is important to consider the system of vehicle number plating and the wider implications of the system for security and orderly management of the road transport system in Nigeria.

As I understand, the SPY number plates allowed certain road privileges to approved privately owned vehicles. If this

privilege has become so irredeemably abused that the police found no control measure short of banning and confiscating the plates, then I think we have a serious problem. The IGP did hint that some of the SPY number plates may have been illegal when he ordered the ban "irrespective of whether it is authorised, or not". The FRSC seem to have concurred with this when it flagged the security implication of *unauthorised* vehicle number plate. Recall that the FRSC had announced that the "Peace Ambassador" number plates were illegal as far back as 2016 (some of them are still on the highways, though). But if it is possible that people drive vehicles with fake or unauthorised plates then perhaps a ban is not enough; arrests and prosecution should follow – not just of the driver, but whoever issued unauthorised number plates or licensed the vehicle.

How do you know when a number plate is "unauthorised"? I am not sure, but the website of the FRSC has a section for verifying number plates. I imputed a vehicle number plate

and the query returned as "Validated; valid but yet to be assigned" – the problem is, the said number plate was assigned to my vehicle in 2016 and the vehicle registration has been renewed, and road-worthiness tested annually since then. Check your number plates, but I hope the authorities have a more accurate verification system.

Who decides when a number plate is faded and constituting a security risk? Is it possible that a vehicle would be licensed and certified roadworthy while its number plate is "faded"? It would make more sense to include the integrity of number plates in the checklist for assessing roadworthiness annually rather than attempting to fish out faded number plates in traffic. Annual roadworthiness test should provide opportunity to check and validate everything about the car. Already, there are concerns that fishing out faded plates is being done in manner that inconveniences Nigerians.

The emphasis on number plates is appreciable; however, it must be noted that the number plate is only a part of the string of measures necessary to ensure approved and safe usage of vehicles in Nigeria. Number

plating goes in tandem with the registration and annual licensing, which includes roadworthiness test of the vehicle and certification. Driver training and licensing is part of the regime as well. Therefore, removing SPY, faded and wrongly used number plates from circulation is an important measure, but it must be taken in coordination with other aspects of the process. *Daily Trust's* recent interesting article on lapses in vehicle registration in Nigeria is illustrative of the work ahead.

Elected public officials perform critical duties to the state, true. But it is not clear why some of them are entitled to customized number plates based on their office yet on privately owned vehicles which are often driven without the office holder. If the government considers it necessary that office holders should be recognized on the highways, it should provide them with government-owned vehicles and drivers, otherwise they should use regular number plates. However, where number-plates tied to public office are issued, they must be revoked and retrieved upon expiry of the tenure of office.

It is important to also consider the use of customized number plates. In my opinion, plate customisation should only be allowed for privately used vehicles (blue plates). Institutions can have regular plates and then inscribe internal notations as needed on the body of the vehicle. The practice of having customised number plates for brand ambassadors should be discontinued, if at all it was legal in the first place; it is unclear why "SDG Ambassadors" (there are still MDG Ambassador plates on the highways!), or beauty queens would need customized plates; particularly where such plates are green, suggesting government ownership. Perhaps the government is not behind those number plates at all. So if there are illegal an unauthorised number plates in Nigeria, who is making them, are the vehicles they are on otherwise registered and certified roadworthy? How are they able to survive on the roads where a the Police, VIO, FRSC, NSCDC, NDLEA, states' road agencies, and local government "task forces" are all on the road checking vehicles and their occupants?

## Borstal homes: Will Nigeria get it right?

By  
KEHINDE OSASONA

THE need to review the Borstal Act for Children in Conflict with the law has taken centre stage in recent times following abuse of Borstal Homes in Nigeria.

Borstal to some people is a mere coinage usually associated with correctional homes for juveniles, but it was actually a name of a town near Rochester, Kent, in England.

In 1902, the town of Borstal, according to history, hosted the first institution for the detention of juvenile delinquents.

Away from England now, findings have revealed that borstal homes in Nigeria have been grossly abused with unjustifiable practices so much that the quest for reform has now taken centre stage.

Checks by Blueprint Weekend indicated that children in Nigeria's borstal homes were not classified on the basis of their age, length of stay, degree of delinquency and character as well as physical and mental health.

Consequently, the situation has now become a topical issue and more people as well as stakeholders are getting involved and proffering solutions.

While making the revelation earlier in the year, during one of its trips round borstal homes, the Chairman Presidential Committee on Correctional Reform and Decongestion, Justice Ishaq Bello (Rtd), observed that in the Act provided for the establishment of borstals in each state of the federation, there are only three borstal institutions in the country which was a shortfall of the present law.

Few weeks after the tour, the revelations triggered interest in some quarters so much that stakeholders' started asking questions and issues relating to children in conflict with the law and the need to review the Borstal Act has continued to generate fuss.

Though the Nigerian Correctional Services Act, 2019, provided for the establishment of borstals in every state of the country and also prohibited Custodial Centres from admitting children under the age of 18, presently, there are only three borstal facilities in Nigeria, and they are situated in Kaduna, Abeokuta and

Ilorin.

Commenting on the development, Bello noted that contrary to the provisions of the Borstal Institutions and Remand Centres Act 2004, which allows for only the institutionalizations of offenders between the ages of 16-21, most children in the Borstal home he said had children below or above the stipulated age bracket.

He added that most of them seen at the Ilorin Borstal Institute for instance, were in their 30s and 40s with wives and kids.

"Additionally, children are not classified on the basis of their age, physical and mental health, length of stay, degree of delinquency and character.

"More so, factors like sequence of the delinquency, possibilities of functioning as a contamination risk and requirements of custody, juvenile educational and vocational training needs of children, their background, possibilities of their social adjustment, their prospects after release, as well as rehabilitation are not taken into consideration," the retired jurist noted further.

Before now, the country's National Assembly, Federal Ministry of Justice, UNICEF, UNODC, NGOs, legal stakeholders and advocacy groups had made moves to impress upon the government the urgent need for the review of borstal institutions Act in Nigeria.

NASS particularly reached a resolution on the matter in one of its motions, asking the Federal Ministry of Justice to ensure that any official of the Correctional Service found complicit in the unjustified incarceration of minors should be prosecuted.

The lawmakers, who frowned at the practice, noted that the Borstal institutions had for long kept delinquent inmates away from adult offenders.

According to them, such a situation could encourage molestation and negative influence that can make them become repeat

offenders.

Giving more insights, the Director, Access to Justice, Mr. Joseph Otteh, noted that the whole thing boiled down to the Nigerian Prisons system framework which according to him was still penitentiary.

He identified overcrowding, horrifying sanitary conditions, and poor infrastructure, inhumane nutritional provisions, and the failure of the system to reform their characters as constituting a big challenge.

"A lot of industry and effort has been put into reducing the prison overcrowding problem, with the help of many concerned actors.

"However, it seems every push is marred with parallel counter-force pushing in the opposite direction to exacerbate the problem.

"Prisons should be given the power to reject prospective inmates when the available space and capacity reach a certain threshold that can force States to begin to think of creative ways of handling petty crimes.

"On the part of the government, it's important to ensure crime control policies they establish are responsible ones, and take account of the finishing lines," Otteh added.

Similarly, at various times, the UNICEF Chief Child Protection, Ibrahim Sesay, and UNODC Representative, Dr. Oliver Stople, have advocated reforms and the need to upgrade the facilities.

For Sesay, the Juveniles needed to be reformed so that the society would feel the consequences, urging the government to sustain the programme just as it pledged both technical and financial support.

In the same vein, the UNODC has also expressed its mission to upgrade the recreational, educational and vocational in the country's facilities in the corrections.

As the issues still rage, the federal government which eventually berthed some few days ago.

While inaugurating a 13-member Technical

Committee on the Review of Borstal Institutions and Remand Centres Act 2004 in Abuja, the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, Mr. Abubakar Malami said the review was to make the law more effective and conversant with current laws and times.

Malami, who was represented by the Solicitor General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Beatrice Jedy-Agba, lamented that the rights of millions of African children were being violated daily without any effective remedy.

The AGF further observed that Nigeria was witnessing an alarming increase in crime and criminal activities involving juveniles that now require effective law to checkmate.

"Our recent assessment of these institutes revealed the shortcomings of the present law. Contrary to the provisions of the Borstal Institutions and Remand Centres Act 2004, which allows for only the institutionalisation of offenders between the ages of 16-21, most children in the borstals are either below or above this age bracket.

As the committee for the review of the Borstal Act was still settling down, concerned Nigerians are already setting an agenda going forward.

Speaking exclusively to Blueprint Weekend, Mr William Ekosan advocated that considering the sensitive nature of the people involved, the federal government newly inaugurated committee for the review he noted should strive to be humane and liberal in its outcome or abolish the borstal totally.

"The committee should ensure that only the more serious juvenile offenders are committed to the borstal homes for corrections.

"I think it is high time we copied something reasonable from the other climes and replicate it well and save the system some hassles," he stated.







News

# We must shun ethnicity, unhealthy sentiments

By PALANG KASMI

-Lalong

PLATEAU Governor has tasked Plateau citizens and stakeholders to shun unhealthy sentiments and make sacrifices to make the state to develop.

He threw the challenge during a State Dinner to mark Nigeria's 62nd Independence at the Government House Banquet Hall, Rayfield Jos.

The dinner was attended by top government functionaries and stakeholders in Plateau State.

The Governor who said the event is the last one he will celebrate as head of the state appreciated Plateau citizens for giving him the mandate to serve.

He however called on citizens of the state to shun divisive attitudes and unhealthy sentiments that could mar the development of the state.

Lalong said: "As we mark another special day to mark the 62nd Independence Anniversary of Nigeria as a sovereign nation, let's remember that the task of building a greater nation is our collective responsibility which must be pursued with courage, understanding, love, unity and tolerance. As the saying goes, a house divided against itself cannot stand".

"That is why we must rise above our personal comfort and pursuit of parochial interests to make the necessary sacrifices towards building the Nigeria that we all yearn for".

He said progressive societies have risen above selfishness



Lalong

and have created systems that work for the generality of the citizens over the interests of few.

He therefore advised that in order to catch up with them, "Plateau citizens must make the decision to grow out of using religion, ethnicity, corruption, and unhealthy rivalry in an attempt to get personal or group comfort".

"If we do not overcome these attitudes, we may never be able to attain greatness or create a system that is able to work for everyone based on the rule of law, equality and justice", he advised.

He used the forum to challenge citizens to play their part, stating that it is not enough for them to blame leaders alone without corresponding responsibility.

According to him, "While it is important to hold those in authority accountable, it is also paramount that every citizen takes his or her responsibility very serious at his level of influence".

"I want to specially appeal to all citizens of Plateau State to continue to love one another and treat issues with patriotism, objectivity and truth, Carefully scrutinize the blueprints of candidates and their parties with the view to making the right choices for those seeking to occupy various elective offices. Allow democratic ideals to thrive and avoid fanning the embers of hate and division. Remember that power belongs to God and those who will emerge victorious shall do so not by their strength, but with God's permission".

THE Chairman of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), Prof Mohammad Isah, has been accused of preventing probes into allegations of corrupt practices by public office-holders, particularly the alleged N109 billion-loot linked to former Accountant General of the Federation, Ahmed Idris.

The accusation was made by the six federal commissioners of the Bureau in a joint petition they submitted to the Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions.

The Code of Conduct Bureau is one of the agencies set up by the Federal Government to fight corruption within the public service system, through scrutiny of assets declaration forms of civil/public service officers.

The Commissioners, led by Dr Emmanuel Attah, had in the jointly signed petition, alleged that the chairman of CCB, within the last four years, blocked probes into petitions against public officers with multi-million and billion naira assets, not stated in their assets declaration forms.

Consequently, the Senate

# CCB boss accused of blocking probe

From JIDAUNA YANNUNG, Abuja

bordering on corrupt practices is worrisome and he must be here to defend himself.

"The seriousness of the matter lies in the fact that the petitioners are even the six federal commissioners appointed to be working with him in the fight against corruption.

"The commissioners are here, but the chairman who is in the eye of the storm is not here. We have gone through all the issues raised in the jointly-signed petition by the commissioners and they are very disturbing if eventually proven.

"Therefore, for fair hearing we are re-inviting the chairman to appear before this committee on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, unfailingly by 2:00 pm prompt for required response or response from him on all allegations leveled against him in the petition," Akinyelure stated.

Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions invited the CCB Chairman to appear before it and make clarification on the allegation last Friday, but he was absent from the meeting while five of the six commissioners were present.

Angered by the absence of the CCB boss, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions, Senator Ayo Akinyelure, with the consent of other members, summoned him to appear before the Committee unfailingly on Thursday October 6, by 2:00 pm prompt.

The Petition before this committee on allegations against the chairman of Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB)

## Free cataract surgery for rural dwellers

AN international NGO, Sightsavers Nigeria, says it will provide free cataract surgery for 150 adults in remote communities of Shendam, Mangu and Pankshin Local Government Areas of Plateau.

The organisation's Communications Officer, Ms Joy Tarbo, disclosed this in a statement in Abuja on Monday, ahead of the World Sight Day celebrated every

Oct. 13. Tarbo said the organisation would also engage in free eye health education, screening and provision of spectacles for drivers in FCT motor parks and the National Assembly.

She said the programme was in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Federal Capital Territory Administration and the Federal Ministry of Transport.

According to her, the lingering eye health crisis in the country will continue to spiral if priority is not given to the eye health system.

Tarbo said a 2007 report showed an estimated 1.1 million Nigerians were blind while over 403,000 others, aged 40 year and above, have severe vision impairment.

She said the number would be significantly higher now, adding that Nigeria should give priority to eye health system.

Tarbo said eye impairment has ripple effects on society, including areas of education, wellbeing, economics and health of citizens.

The NGO's Country Director, Dr Sunday Isiyaku, called for "continued cross-sector collaboration, well-sourced interventions, funding, and commitments" to tackle the eye health burden in Nigeria.

"These will integrate inclusive eye health into wider health, education, employment, and development systems.

"We need all stakeholders, particularly the government and

professional bodies, to rise to the challenge and meet the demand for services in the country," he said.

Isiyaku added that the intervention would enable the country to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on inclusiveness and improving the health sector.

Also, Dr Selben Penzin, Senior Programme Manager for Eye Health at Sightsavers, said the country should not be complacent and must build on recent successes.

"The government and other organisations are already working hard to improve eye health, but we cannot afford to be complacent and must build on recent successes.

For example, an eye health policy has been approved by the government, but this needs to be translated into action to ensure no Nigerian is deprived of quality eye health.

The eye health crisis is not inevitable; we can stop it if we come together to act now.

By increasing the attention eye care is given, recognising how integral it is to every facet of life. And focusing on gender and disability inclusion, we will reduce inequality and help achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals," she said.

Penzin also said the organisation was working with government and other partners to improve access to eye health services and cataract surgery for children in Northwest and Kogi. (NAN)

# We're against violent agitation in Nigeria

OHANAEZE Ndigbo, an apex Igbo social-cultural organisation, says the body is against violent agitation in any form because the group believes in the continued corporate existence of the country.

The group stated this at a news conference on Monday in Abakaliki as part of activities marking the 62 anniversary of Nigeria's independence from British colonial rule and the 26 anniversary of the creation of Ebonyi State in Nigeria.

The body which spoke through Dr Peter Mbam, President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Ebonyi chapter, however, noted that the body was against all forms of marginalisation, including social injustice and misgovernance.

He said that Ohanaeze as a social-cultural body representing the interest of the Igbo race both within and in the Diaspora, had the responsibility to protect the Igbo citizens in every part of the world.

He said: "As the name implies, Ohanaeze Ndigbo is responsible for the

protection of Ndigbo Worldwide. There's no part of the world where you will not find an Igbo man or Igbo people.

"In Nigeria, Ohanaeze supports all agitations that support the interest of Ndigbo and any other marginalised group.

"We work with governments at all levels; the federal, state and local governments to ensure that the citizens get what they expect from the leadership of the country.

"We want to make sure that their religious, economic and political interests are secured.

"We are advocates for lawful approach in solving critical national problems; we believe in diplomacy and round table approach and do not support Ndigbo to leave Nigeria.

"We still want to be in Nigeria. We want a restructured Nigeria where social justice, fairness, equity and equality will reign supreme and we want a Nigeria where we will be treated not as second-class

citizens."

The group reiterated its support and solidarity with Gov. Dave Umahi's administration because of the many life-changing and human-oriented projects the administration initiated and completed.

"We have taken time to appraise what our governor is doing in this state, having gone round the three zones of the state. We did that again last week as part of activities to mark the creation of 26 years of Ebonyi.

"We inspected nine gigantic projects and concluded that Umahi has performed beyond imagination and expectations.

"We were not anticipating what we are seeing now; we will provide enabling environment for his administration to succeed and do more.

"We look at the governor's security architecture and discovered that Ebonyi is the only state where you can sleep with your eyes closed.

"We are appreciative of



**NEWS**

**NUP debunks allegation that NSSG owes salary, entitlements**

*From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi*

THE Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP) in Nasarawa State has debunked a news report credited to an organization Budget ID that the state pensioners and workers were being owed eight months of pension and salary arrears.

The state chairman of the NUP Alhaji Hudu Baba Abdullahi disclosed this in a phone conversation with **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** over the weekend where he described the claim as malicious and calculated attempt to tarnish the image and the hard earned reputation of the state government under the leadership of Engineer Abdullahi Sule.

He started that contrary to the report, both the pensioners and the state workers were up to date in the payment of their entitlement (salaries and pensions) as they owe no single kobo to the state's government.

"Contrary to the reports, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the pensioners in Nasarawa State owe no single kobo from the state government as we are even up to date in all our payments and entitlements," he clarified.

Abdullahi further explained that instead of their false claims, the pensioners in the state were grateful to the state government for its effort towards the settlement of gratuities to the retiree's in the state by allocation of one hundred million Naira on quarterly basis for both the state and local government retirees,' in the state.

"Instead of what we will describe as false and unfounded reports by the Budget ID, I want to report with full emphasis that the state government has been living up to its obligations and even living above board, crossing over to the payment of both the state and local governments retirees," he stated.

The NUP chairman therefore advised the people of the state and even beyond to totally disregard the reports because it has neither basis nor moral standing and work with the reality that is on the ground and not far fetched.

Abdullahi then commended Governor Abdullahi Sule for his commitment towards living up to expectations as



**Sule**

far as the prompt payment of the pensioner's entitlements, payment of gratuities and workers salaries are concerned.

He therefore assured the Governor of full support and cooperation's of all the pensioners in the state especially that he has secured the ticket to renew his mandate come 2023.

While reassuring the governor of their full support and cooperation's, he urged the people of the state to continue to live in peace and harmony and support the constituted authorities to pave way for meaningful socio economic activities and development to thrive successfully.

ONE Yusuf Abubakar, 12, has been shot dead by his elder brother Abubakar Abubakar, while testing the efficacy of a newly prepared charm against gun shots.

The sad incident occurred on Sunday in Dutse Gogo Town, via Kaiama, in Kaiama local government area of Kwara state.

It was reliably gathered that the two brothers, sons of hunter, were reportedly excited over the newly prepared gun shot protective charm that prevents gun shots from penetrating and killing anyone.

The elder brother who had reportedly fortified his brother with the newly prepared charm, asked his younger brother, Yusuf to stand aloof in order to test the charm.

An eyewitness told journalists that, immediately Abubakar fired the shot, the charm failed as it penetrated Yusuf's body and he died instantly.

The senior brother, Abubakar immediately eloped into the bush to escape the wrath of

**'Man kills brother while testing 'bulletproof'**

members of the community and he's yet to be seen at the time of filing this report.

Contacted, spokesman of Kwara State Police Command, Ajayi Okasanmi confirmed the sad occurrence.

"Investigations into the matter has commenced as

directed by the Commissioner of Police Kwara State, CP Paul Odama," he said.

Okasanmi however urged parents and guardians across the state to monitor the activities of their wards in order to avert such tragedy again.



**Alkali**

**Commencement of academic activities at NSUK suffers setback**

EFFORTS by the management of Nasarawa State University, Keffi (NSUK) to commence academic activities just as

*From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi*

announced last week by the management of the institution has received a setback by the Academic

Staff Union of the University (ASUU) branch of the university who refused to go back to

classroom due to the ongoing union's strike coupled with the solidarity visit of the ASUU National President, professor Victor Osodeke to NSUK.

The union President who was at the university and held 3 hours closed door meeting with the members of ASUU in the university on Monday, refused to grant audience to pressmen whom he earlier promised to address after the meeting.

However, the NSUK Branch Chairman, Dr. Samuel Alu, who later addressed journalists said Professor Osodeke visited them to clarify an issue of Weaver which they wrote to him seeking permission to resume to the classroom.

"We wrote to the National Union of our body concerning the resolutions taken in our last congress and that informed why the National President came here to clarify the issue, the Weaver resolution we took is not part and parcel of the principles of the union at the end of the meeting I can assure you that there was a resounding that the strike should continue," the NSUK ASUU chairman said.

Responding to a question as regards NSUK management compelling academic staff to resume

to the classroom or penalty would be meted or them, Dr. Alu said, "Forcing lecturers to go back to classroom is already a National issue. You will recall that Federal Government dragged ASUU to an industrial court and an interlocutory injunction was passed and ASUU appealed that particular injunction and also appealed for stay execution of order.

"If NSUK administrator decided to do otherwise, I think in my own little understanding, that will amount to court contempt and the management will have the law to contend with," he stated.

He therefore appealed to the public with special emphasis to parents and students to know that NSUK ASUU have resolved not to return to the classroom, saying that they will communicate same to the management of the university immediately.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** reports that, despite the order by the management of NSUK asking students to commence resumption from the 28 of September, some students who were seen around the assembly hall of the university were arrested by security men and taken to an undisclosed location.

**Mysterious death claims 9 family members**

FOR the second time within days, nine family members have died mysteriously in Kogi State.

The incident happened on Monday in Nagazi, under Adavi Local Government Area of Kogi State

The latest incident is coming a few days when four family members died mysteriously in Mopa-Muro, Local Government Area of Kogi State at the weekend.

It was gathered on Monday evening that, the incident in Nagazi saw five family members dying at a spot before four were rushed to the hospital.

Sources reveal that the remaining four later died at an undisclosed hospital in the area.

A family source who begged anonymity said the father of the deceased victims has been arrested while the mother is still receiving

**Mysterious death claims 9 family members**

treatment at an undisclosed hospital. He said they are yet to know the actual cause of the deaths as they are suspecting food poisoning or a spiritual attack.

The Police Public

**Mysterious death claims 9 family members**

Relations Officer in the state, William Ovyo Aya confirmed the incident.

According to him, the State Police Command is working hard to unravel the cause of the death, saying an investigation is ongoing.

**Police parade man who allegedly stole church offering**

THE police in Ekiti paraded 19 suspects on Tuesday at Ado-Ekiti, one of whom allegedly broke into a church in Osun and stole N600,000 offering money.

The police spokesperson in the state, Sunday Abutu, said the suspect already confessed to the crime and would be arraigned after the completion of investigations.

He said the other 18 suspects were arrested for offences such as kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism,

attempted murder, burglary and conspiracy.

Abutu said the suspects were among those terrorising the people of the state and that their arrests were made possible using the information provided by residents of the state.

He listed items recovered from the suspects to include two big power generating sets, shoes, clothes and cash.

Abutu assured that they would all be arraigned at the completion of the investigation.





By CELESTINE ATTSAR

## Nigeria fighting corruption with weak institutions

IT is true that fighting corruption especially in a developing society like Nigeria is a very heavy task that must involve everybody, that is, if it is to succeed. Dr. Ngozi Ikonjo-Iweala former minister in Nigeria and present Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in her book; "Fighting Corruption is dangerous" narrated how the government she was serving then was engulfed in corruption by those holding influential positions in the then government of former President Jonathan and how she tried to see that it was minimize but that nearly caused her dare consequences and life of her mother.

As it is, Nigeria is considered to be one of the most corrupt nations in the World. As at the last rating of Transparency International (TI), the country though very rich in both human and natural resources, its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is very low.

The present administration came

responsibilities of fighting about 190 inmates corruption have descended on him for allegedly prosecuting them despite collecting bribes while in office. From this report, it is very clear that the suspended police officer and his men infringed on the rights of Nigerians who wanted to retaliate when they found themselves in the same situation in Kuje prison.

It was another shocking story when the Economic and Financial Crime Commission EFCC arrested another top government official who is the custodian of the finances of the country that is the Accountant General of the Federation, Mr. Ahmed Idris in connection with the diversion of funds amounting to over 80 billion Naira.

The EFCC verified intelligence showed that the AGF raked off the funds through bogus consultancy and other illegal activities using proxies, family members and close associates.

The arrest of the suspended AGF followed his failure to honour invitations to respond to "As it is now, Nigeria is considered to be one of the most corrupt nations in the World. As at the last rating of Transparency International (TI), that the country though very rich in both human and natural resources its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is very low".

Recent developments about corruption in Nigeria revealed that the custodians of agencies saddled with the

responsibilities of fighting about 190 inmates corruption have descended on him for allegedly prosecuting them despite collecting bribes while in office. From this report, it is very clear that the suspended police officer and his men infringed on the rights of Nigerians who wanted to retaliate when they found themselves in the same situation in Kuje prison.

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charges in connection with illegal activities. The alleged stolen funds were said to be laundered through real estate investment in Kano, Abuja, Dubai and other countries. Perhaps, Hushpuppi, Idris as in other cases did not want to die alone or go to jail alone, that was why some few weeks after his arrest and detention he started cooperating with the EFCC which led to the arrest of the former governor of Zamfara state Abdulaziz Yari in connection with over 20 billion naira fraud. And the man is threatening to call more names which could be more interesting in the coming days ahead.

As it is now, the search light seems to be seriously focused on those in government and occupying sensitive positions. Just as the case

of the suspended AGF has shown. While Nigeria and Nigerians appreciate the suspension of the AGF and the internet fraudster Hushpuppi for exposing the network of those involved in embezzling the resources of the country, the agencies that are saddled with the responsibility of fighting these menace should not relent in their efforts to reduce it to the barest minimum by also ensuring diligence in order to come up with concrete facts that can be used in prosecuting offenders.

It is very important for the political class to know that the survival of our democracy depends on how the country is govern by them. It is very important also that the public should use the window of whistle blowing opportunity that the government is encouraging to expose those acquiring properties that are beyond their means without any explanation. The fight against corruption is not a one man fight but a fight that each and every one of us must have a hand in killing this monster that is eating every fabric of our society in terms of development and integrity as a nation.



By Yvonne Ishola

## Security operatives: Is hairstyle an offence?

The myriad of problems that an average Nigerian has to contend with on a daily basis, explain the increase in heart related cases. A new name has been given to sudden death. It has been Christened 'slump and die'.

Cost of living is ever rising and the take home pay is not commensurate with the harsh realities of our times. A colleague recently analyzed it this way: ' We spend the salary before it comes. We only use it to pay for debt and the vicious circle continues.

As if that is not enough, students of public

universities have been forced out of school due to ASUU strike which has lasted 6 months and it is still going. In this predicament and being bombarded left right and centre by security challenge, the last thing these youth need is to be picked at by our security operatives. It is like running to a friend when in trouble only for the friend to do more harm to one than what one was running from.

The issue of marlian came and has recruited most of our youth. Some of them blindly joined the band wagon. Keeping dreads is one of their identities.

From the inception of marlian till today, our young boys have been suffering harassment in the hands of security operatives till date. Stories abound where an innocent young man would be stopped by security men as he goes about his legitimate business.

Last Sunday I was a witness as my young boy was picked out of the commercial vehicle we were travelling in from Abuja. We had just passed Tarara. The security man asked the driver to move pass the check point and wait.

I jumped out of the car immediately the car parked

and picking my identity card, I hurried to where the security operative was seriously interrogating my son as if he was a criminal. He was armed and also carried along a hefty stick which looked menacing. My heart bled as I rushed waving my ID card.

The security man warned me sternly to stay put or get arrested. Confused, I stopped in my tracks.

One of them was approaching from the other side of the check point, so I told him that I was a journalist and I was just doing my job being curious about what was happening and I needed answers.

By that time, the security operative had brought out a scissors and was threatening to cut my sons hair. I looked perplexed wondering what was wrong with my sons hair. It was not dreads, just a hairstyle with the all the sides very low and the front to the middle part full of hair. Is that offensive?

The other security operative reported what I said when he arrived there. Shortly afterwards, my son joined us. It was only then that every passenger entered the car. Most of the ladies had their phones ready to video tape

what ever the security operatives planned doing. I took my seat with the solemn promise to write and expose the victimisation that takes place on Nigeria's roads in the middle of nowhere.

With the number of things we have to contend with on the roads- kidnappers, bandits, hostile communities (if a crisis took place that the driver was ignorant of), armed robbers, reckless drivers, are we to add this to our list?

As to be expected, passengers started sharing their experiences. A lady said this issue of harassment of young boys and men almost cost them their lives on a journey she embarked on from Abuja.

The security operatives wasted their time barbering 2 young male passengers hair, not minding the fact that they had a long journey ahead of them. The driver of their car was in so much hurry to cover the dreadful part of the shortcut before dusk that they almost ran into a stationary trailer. That would have been disastrous.

Another passenger said when the security operatives were about to barber his hair, he paid his way through. He said he was lucky he had

some cash on him or he would have been disgraced before his girlfriend.

It is not an action that takes place only on our highways, far from prying eyes. This is a common occurrence according to my colleagues experience. In her own case, her son was driving them around Jos Town when security operatives made them to park. Her son was asked to disembark and the security operatives barber his dreads unevenly.

This brings to mind Ripji Bala's case who was arrested along with some youth in Hwolshe. Their sin was the fact that they were wearing dread locks. Unfortunately, Ripji Bala lost his life due to a misunderstanding. He was shot dead by the guard on duty who thought they were trying to escape not knowing that they were released.

What has EndSARS achieved if our youth are still harassed by gun wielding security operatives? We are told that the police is your friend. Please live up to that. The soldiers are our defenders. Please help us to feel secure around you.

Secondly chiefs, investigate these allegations and bring perpetrators to book. Except if hairstyle is an offence, I see

it as a distraction that is pushing our youth to the wall.

Commuters, this is an area of technological advancement. If any passenger is being victimized, video tape and forward immediately. This way, it would put fear in the perpetrators, serve as evidence and deterrent to evil minded ones.

“

**With the number of things we have to contend with on the roads- kidnappers, bandits, hostile communities (if a crisis took place that the driver was ignorant of), armed robbers, reckless drivers, are we to add this to our list? As to be expected, passengers started sharing their experiences. A lady said this issue of harassment of young boys and men almost cost them their lives on a journey she embarked on from Abuja.**

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By JIDAUNA DARING

AGRICULTURE has in the past remained the major source of Nigeria's economic drive before the discovery of crude oil, which has become the only major source of income or revenue that the country is strongly depending on as a nation.

Since Nigeria is adjudged the giant of Africa, it behooves on government to as a matter of urgent public importance at all levels to take the issue of diversification of economy very serious. This measure would save the country's economy from total collapse in the future, considering the way things are going globally.

It was in view of this that the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) thought it very expedient to organize its 45th regular meeting of the National Council on Agriculture and Rural Development (NCARD) with the theme; "Strengthening Agricultural Value Chain Development Process for Food Security and economic development". The meeting took place at Langfield Leisure Park, Rayfield Jos, Plateau State.

The council meeting which was held from September 12 to 16, 2022, preceded with the technical session before the official opening of the NCARD meeting which was declared open on September 15, 2022 by Chairman, Northern Governors Forum and Governor of Plateau State, Rt Hon. Barrister Simon Bako Lalong. He expressed delight and welcomed all the participants to Plateau State for the NCARD meeting.

Lalong commended Minister of Agriculture and his team for ensuring that the NCARD meeting was held in Plateau State. He said "I dare say that there is no better place to hold this event because Plateau State is an agrarian state with potentials to feed the nation and do so in style, using its exotic crops that are not grown in other parts of the country.

There is no better time than now for stakeholders to convene a meeting to brainstorm on best strategies and policies to tackle hunger which is threatening the well-being of Nigerians".

He used the opportunity to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the increased incidences of devastation of potato farms by potato blight disease which has almost wiped out the existing low yielding and degenerated seeds. "We request that the Federal Government comes to our aid by paying some compensation for the huge losses running into billions".

Governor Lalong also called for the upgrade of the National Root Crops Research Institute, Kuru outstation in the state to a full-fledged potato research institute.

He added that the state has conducted research which indicated that potato which was produced within the Central and Northern Senatorial District can now be grown across the 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the state. Adding that the state as at today produces about 90 percent of the potato consumed in the country.

He noted that the major challenge at the moment remains the issue of value addition and processing of agricultural

products. He pointed out that, most times, farms suffer a lot of losses because of lack of proper storage facilities or inability to add value to the product before sales. At the end of the day, they dissipate energy and spend large sums of money to produce without corresponding value.

"We need to change this trajectory and do so fast to save our farmers from poverty and despondency".

It also indicates that the annual rainfall in the country is within the 300 mm to 4,000 mm, conversely, about 3.14million hectares with less than 7 percent utilized. Presently potential irrigable area is about 3.14 million hectares with less than 7 percent utilized presently.

Dr. Abubakar disclosed that recent reports from National Bureau of Statistic indicates that the agricultural sector topped

## FMARD: Reviving agricultural sector in Nigeria



Lalong challenged the council to rise from this meeting with concrete and practical ways of ensuring that farmers add value to their products before selling them. He pointed out that this would not only boost the economic fortunes of the farmers, but also birth a chain of MSCs that will create more jobs and usher in prosperity for the people. He added that, many youths will be taken out of poverty and crime will fall because they will be engaged.

In a Keynote address, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar said that the 45th NCARD is an interactive platform for the conceptualization and review of policies, programmes and projects in the sector. He stated that the council meeting served as his first council engagement with stakeholders in the sector since his redeployment to the Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Dr. Abubakar maintained that the agriculture is certainly a key sector in the country as it is not only feeding millions of people, but also contributes towards the overall development of the country. Adding that it has been consistently prioritized by successive administrations towards ensuring food security and attaining national development plans.

He explained that Nigeria is endowed with a total of 79 million hectares of agricultural land with 44 percent being cultivated. The Minister revealed that the nation also has 267 billion cubic meters of fresh surface water and 58 billion cubic meters underground water with billion cubic meters only stored in dams.

the chart in a survey of 7 sectors identified to have contributed to the Nigeria economy in the second Quarter of 2022. It outperformed 6 other sectors comprising, Trade, Telecommunications, Manufacturing, Oil and Gas, Real Estate as well as finance and insurance.

The Minister solicited for active participation and support of all Stakeholders in the facilitation of rural infrastructure, research and innovation, credit and insurance, extension services, and agric business investment in the country. He said that this would achieve food and nutrition security and economic development in Nigeria.

Earlier in his welcoming address, Minister of State for Agriculture, Hon Mustapha Baba Shehuri applauded the efforts of Plateau State Government for taking Agriculture as one of its priority for ensuring food and nutrition security as well as job and wealth creation in the state and the country at large.

Shehuri thanked Governor Lalong and his team for the provision of conducive environment and security arrangement for the council's meeting. He said that the gesture as demonstrated by the Plateau State Government in hosting the meeting against all odds was indeed a demonstration of the continued cooperation between the Federal and State Governments.

In his remarks, chairman Plateau State Traditional Council of Chiefs and Emirs, Gbong Gwom Jos, His Royal Majesty (HRM), Da Jacob Gyang Buba appreciated Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development for



choosing Plateau State for the council meeting which he said was timely as fair as agricultural issue is concerned in the state.

He said that training or capacity building of farmers should be a regular programme, so as to enhance more food production. He noted that whatever was going to be brainstormed and agreed upon during the meeting by the stakeholders should be put into practice, in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the meeting, so as to promote agriculture in the country.

He stressed the need for government to encourage farmers to have functional cooperative society, so as to enable them to always have access to loans and grants from government. The royal father said that keying into the cooperative would go a long way in assisting the farmers.

Da Buba while speaking on

insecurity also commended the 19 Northern Governors Forum (NGF) for emphasizing strongly on the need to establish State Police as a welcome development. He noted that this important decision was taken by the governors after a meeting with the Northern Traditional Rulers Council (TRC) recently in Abuja.

He added that such a decision, if put into consideration would help nipped in the bud the unabated insecurity that is presently bedeviling the region.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** reports that joining in participation during the 45th NCARD meeting were stakeholders from the National Assembly, representatives of All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Commissioners of Agriculture from the 36 states of the Federation among others.

The meeting also featured different presentations during technical session.



# Goodwill Message

From

## Plateau State Specialist Hospital

The Chief Medical Director, **Dr. Filimon H. Golwa** on behalf of the Management and the entire Staff of Plateau State Specialist Hospital, Jos heartily join the entire people in facilitating with the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, **Muhammadu Buhari** and his Vice, **Prof Yemi Osinbajo**, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State. **Rt. Hon. (Barr) Simon Bako Lalong** and his trusted Deputy. **Prof. Sonny Gwanle Tyoden**, Members of the National Assembly, Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly, **Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda**, The Hon. Commissioner for Health, **Dr. Ndam Lar Nimkong**, Chairman House Committee on Health and other Legislators, Chairman & members of Plateau Traditional Council, the Judiciary, League of Friends of the hospital and the entire hospitable and peace-loving people of Plateau State at Large.

As we celebrate this year's Independence Day, we wish to acknowledge the tremendous transformation we are experiencing in the Healthcare sector which is a giant step towards the achievement of the Universal Health care Coverage in Nigeria.

We also congratulate the Rescue Leader on his appointment as the National Campaign Director General of the greatest political party APC. We believe that your leadership Sir will faring progress and continuity considering your distinct leadership style.

We pray for a successful and peaceful general elections come 2023.

Happy Independence Day to all Nigerians at home and in Diaspora.

Long live Plateau State Specialist Hospital!  
Long Live Plateau State!!  
Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

**ANNOUNCER**  
**TALATU ACHAN ANGI ANIPR**  
*Public Relation Officer*  
*For Management,*  
*Plateau State Specialist Hospital*



Governor Lalong

Dr. Golwa

President Buhari

# Goodwill Message

From

## Plateau State Local Government Staff Pension Board

As Nigeria and Nigerians mark 62 years of nationhood which was earned on the October 1, 1960, I **Mr. Vincent Niyel**, Permanent Secretary, on behalf of management and staff of the Board join millions of well wishers in rejoicing with the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President **Muhammadu Buhari GCFR** the Vice President, **Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, GCON**, our amiable Governor and Chairman Northern Governors' Forum, **Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG**, the Deputy Governor, **Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden**, the Speaker and members of the State house of Assembly and the Chief Judge of Plateau State on this unique occasion of Nigeria's 62nd Independence celebration 2022.

The Plateau State local Government Staff Pension Board salute the courage and state-manship of our dear governor, **Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong** in the transformation of our state, with the daunting security, moral and economic challenges, you show your passion for development.

May the Lord continue to guide the Rescue Administration for the benefit of Plateau State and Nigeria.

Long Live Nigeria!  
Long Live Plateau State!!  
Long Live Plateau State Local Government Pension Board!!!

**Signed:**  
**Vincent Niyel**  
**Permanent Secretary**



Governor Lalong

Mr. Vincent

President Buhari



**Odd World**

**'I'm 45, wear same clothes as my 17-year-old daughter**

AN age-defying 45-year-old woman regularly wows people with her strikingly youthful appearance, and even wears the same clothes to 'twin' with her 17-year-old daughter.

All too often, it's assumed that women will dress differently as they enter new decades of their lives, no matter how unique their style may be.

However, one 45-year-old woman is defying all assumptions about what a 40-something mother should wear, and dresses in an almost identical fashion to her 17-year-old daughter.

As previously reported by the *Daily Star*, teenager Tatiana Fleming-Smith recently went viral after sharing footage of herself posing with her equally glamorous, Pandora Fleming-Smith.

Tatiana can be seen wearing a fun Spongebob Squarepants crop top, while Pandora sports a similarly playful Bratz crop top.

Many of Tatiana's TikTok followers were greatly impressed by Pandora's youthful glow and felt as though they were looking at a set of 'twins' rather than a mother and daughter.

**Source: The Mirror**



**2023 elections: Our fears, their gimmicks**

THOUGH many cynics have once more predicted doom as the 2023 general elections are concern in Nigeria, a pocket few of us are still optimistic that these elections will by the grace of God come and go in peace. A pocket few of us are still not losing sleep yet knowing too well that if the needful is done, the nation will survive another civilian to civilian transition. This development however will only become realistic when we as a people are prepared to take our future in our hands and navigate it as anticipated by our founding fathers.

Come to think of this properly, there is always an unnecessary anxiety each time elections are projected to be conducted in Nigeria. In a built up to the 2015 general elections for instance, many Pastors and Imams predicted that there would be war, bloodshed which would eventually lead to the total disintegration of the country. In a "religious" nation where most citizens always listen to such predictions from their clergies with keen interest, they are always left with no other option than to relocate their families to other areas perceived as safe after these predictions are made.

Nigeria before the 2015 general elections became further heightened after a United States based organization added its voice to the already charged situation noting that if the then unpalatable security situation was not checked, the nation will be dragged into a state of chaos and anarchy to the detriment of the people. The America team was forced to predict this doomsday following the inability of the political actors and their cronies to abide by the rules of the game in anticipation of the polls. To further consolidate on this notion then, a former United States Ambassador to Nigeria, John Campbell reiterated his stand that Nigeria will not exist beyond 2015 going by these ugly unfolding events in the country.

This aside, one cannot also easily forget that within that same period, the Boko Haraism ideology brainwashed many vulnerable youth who eventual sold their souls to the devil causing mayhem and destruction to lives and property in some regions of the nation. Unfortunately and till date, many security experts have continued to blame the political class for creating this insecurity circumstances which our nation is going through this very moment. No doubt, had former President Goodluck Jonathan also not conceded elections, this country would have perhaps by now gone with the wind.

As God would have it however, all these cynics were put to shame at a high outlay which did not make sense to some of us. Then came the 2019 where the same fears and anxiety were exhibited but with the help of God, the hurdles were crossed with little bruises. All this while; the question on the lips of many Nigerians have been on lessons the citizens have learnt so as to avert a repeat of these ugly happenings in the future.

Evidently, it seems the political

leaders and administrators of this nation are pushing their luck too far when it comes to understanding the complex heterogonous disposition of Nigeria, its citizenry and the quest to improving our behavioral attitude to enhance better governance in the country. This time, our politicians are knowingly and or unknowingly trying to drag this country into an unprecedented chaotic and unstable situation ever imagined in the annals of our nation's history. While the entire citizenry are groaning from unfavorable economic and socio-political stagnation, some of these politicians who care less about the ordinary man are not remorseful and the common man remains a direct victim of their nefarious activities and or antics of administrative ingenuity.

For some of us, it is becoming quite clearer now that some of our politicians are not in politics to save the common man from the shackles of suppression and lack which had held us in bondage since the our nation's independence in 1960. Even as the nation is gearing towards another general election come 2023, what is on the mind of our politicians is how they intend to win their elections to enable them consolidate on their acts of personal aggrandizement.

With less than a year to this historic general election, some states in this country are still unsettled due to pending issues of insecurity. Many of the citizens of this country may not vote during these elections due to the precarious security situations bedeviling us all. In fact, the greater chunk of them have become internally displaced and may not have a chance to participate in the elections.

Regrettably, Nigeria is getting less serious about the ongoing unpalatable affairs in the nation. Our leaders have lost touch with reality even as the country is going through a lot. Though the security situation in the nation is today getting out of hand, stakeholders are yet to comprehend the ferociousness of what is confronting us as a developing nation.

Many of our youth have turned against us knowing too well that the economic policies of the nation are becoming unfriendly to their expectations. As we are about going into another election period, there is great anxiety but for the political class, its major concern is how they can win the forthcoming polls without much difficulty. Many of them are only concerned with that which they can benefit from our national treasury and not that which many of us can better our lives with.

Our fears as citizens are whether we can as a country overcome some of the challenges bedeviling this nation before the polls. Some of these challenges as at today include those created by the political class even as many of them are not thinking of our common interest as a nation.

To avoid a disaster in 2023, our politicians must seriously have a rethink on how they go about politicking their ruthless political campaigns. They must understand the fact that only when the citizens are alive and in good health would they have the platform to govern this country. The 2023 general elections will only be a successful when there is a country to govern as without such a nation in existence, no political activity will be able to take place.



## Feature

# SP Hassan celebrated as UN Ambassadors award recipient

By Bulus Gambo

THERE has never been a time in history when Nassarawa Gwong Police Division of Jos North Local Government Area in Plateau State and the communities had it so good to have gotten a transparent and dedicated Police Officer than now. The entire area which was back then home to some black spots comprising of Anguwan Rukuba, Congo Russia, Rikkos, Duste Uku, Anguwan Damisa, Anguwan Bala, Jos Jarawa and Bulbula was also known for systemic notorious activities including other heartbreaking criminal acts.

For those who are familiar with the chronicles of the Plateau ethno-religious crisis which engulfed the state in most recent past, it was in Congo/Russia that the 2001 crisis started in the state. Consequently, it is as a result of the complex nature of policing these areas that many security experts opined subsequently that "if a police officer can successfully serve in Nassarawa Gwong Division, there is no place in this country which would be difficult for such an officer to handle."

This particular location is where the present Divisional Police Officer, (DPO), SP Musa Hassan has diligently and consistently served for more than four years without a break. Regarded as a highly principled and exceptionally intelligent Police Officer, the community is fervently praying that even after the DPO is promoted to the rank of Police Commissioner in the nearest future, he should still be left in the community as the DPO of the Division.

Born on the 31th of December 1980, SP Musa Hassan, an indigene of Adamawa State and Hong Local Government Area in particular attained Bekaji Primary School Yola in 1990. From there; he proceeded to Government Science Secondary School Jalingo and graduated in 1995.

He then enrolled for an Advanced Diploma in Law Security and Conflict Management Resolution with the prestigious University of Jos and completed in 2002. SP Musa thereafter also went for a Bachelor's Degree programme in Public Administration at the Enugu State University of Science and Technology which he completed in 2006 respectively. The Police officer also enrolled for a Masters Degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution in the University of Jos and graduated in 2016.

SP Musa Hassan joined the Nigeria Police Force on the 1st May 2000 as Cadet Inspector. After undergoing the usual rigorous training with the Nigeria Police Academy, Wudil in Kano State, this fundamentally prepared this exemplary Police officer to face the daunting task ahead of him.

Immediately after his completion of studies, SP Musa then much a younger promising officer received this professional baptism of fire when he was posted to Jos, the Plateau State capital where he resumed duties



SP Hassan

with great expectations. While in Jos, he was reassigned to Nassarawa Gwong Division to enable him cut his teeth as a fresher from the college. From there, he was taken to Benue State, then to Enugu State before finding himself in Kano. He also briefly served in Kaduna State before he eventually came back to Plateau State.

It is interesting to note that what has kept SP Musa's passion for the job is that he has continued to shun all acts of compromise which is bedeviling many officers today.

When he found himself as the DPO of Nassarawa Gwong and knowing the delicate task ahead, SP Musa Hassan wasted no time synergizing with the communities toward ensuring peaceful coexistence amongst the heterogeneous communities there. Through his dynamic resilience, complex issues which had before his arrival placed the various ethnic nationalities at loggerheads were amicably resolved. His doggedness in fighting criminal activities including kidnappings, gang related violence and armed robbery has changed these ugly narratives of the past for the better. The DPO who leads operational missions involving his men by himself has led to the release of several kidnapped

victims to the glory of God.

Through effective and efficient community synergy and involvement; he was able to create an enabling environment for peaceful coexistence between dissimilar ethnic nationalities. It is also on record that under his watchful eyes; peace was further consolidated through the establishment of Muslim/Christian Forum where peaceful resolution mechanisms were always employed to tackle disputes and or conflicts. This forum, the first of its kind has created a unique platform where Imams and Pastors come together to dialogue and forge ahead in their quest for sustainable peace in this once trouble area. This forum which has successfully brought traditional rulers including critical stakeholders together has continued to navigate the community out of troubled waters several times.

The Nassarawa Gwong Police Division is also the first division to have created and used the Gender Desk office effectively and efficiently on the Plateau. This gesture has greatly reduced sexual and gender based violence in the community. The DPO while synergizing with the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ, Plateau State chapter, the International

Federation of Women Lawyers, FIDA, in the state alongside other Civil Rights Organisations has brought immense sanity to the area. Many sensitization walks aimed at sensitizing the people of the area to shun such violent

conduct have paid off with massive reduction of such criminal acts. As it is, SP Musa Hassan who is known as a unique DPO who does not receive bribe for bail and has been the crusader of this ideology contributing his personal resources to aid rape victims during their medical test and treatment while gathering evidences of such violations against suspects. This impressive development has equally redefined the prospects of the Nigerian Police Force particularly in the area of police and civilian relationships.

SP Musa who had the privilege of visiting the Holy Land of Israel in 2019 has also attended other leadership seminars both within and outside the country. Amongst these included a seminar on Sexual Gender Based Violence in Senegal, seminar on the need for improved security collaboration in Tunisia, general investigations course at the Detective College Enugu, and the most recent course on the need for collaboration among security agencies tagged Junior Command Course held at Jaji.

SP Musa has many other awards given him by the Nigeria Union of Journalists, (NUJ) Plateau State Council, Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, (NAWOJ), and one presented him by his host community over his doggedness, sincerity of purpose and transparent character while discharging his expected obligations. SP Musa is happily married to Ruth, his wife and they are blessed with three wonderful children.

It was based on this outstanding credentials that the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Nassarawa Gwong was found worthy to be presented the United Nations Ambassadorial Award which we are all proud of.

**"Through effective and efficient community synergy and involvement; he was able to create an enabling environment for peaceful coexistence between dissimilar ethnic nationalities. It is also on record that under his watchful eyes; peace was further consolidated through the establishment of Muslim/Christian Forum where peaceful resolution mechanisms were always employed to tackle disputes and or conflicts. This forum, the first of its kind has created a unique platform where Imams and Pastors come together to dialogue and forge ahead in their quest for sustainable peace in this once trouble area. This forum which has successfully brought traditional rulers including critical stakeholders together has continued to navigate the community out of troubled waters several times."**





## An eventful week

LAST week, as Nigeria got into the euphoria of its 62nd independence celebrations, Plateau State was also a part of it with series of activities to mark the historic national day.

The event in Plateau kick-started a week earlier, with Christian and Muslim Prayers offered for the state and country at large in the church and mosque.

There was also a parade with colourful displays and March pasts that saw the Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong taking the salute as, Brigade of Guards.



Paramilitary, primary and secondary school children and various pressure groups like the Girls brigade, Boys Scouts, Boys Brigade, Man'O War, Nigerian Legion among others marched.

The Governor was emphatic on how important the march past would be as a great memorable event to the younger generation, especially since the state had not marked the event in a grand way, for a long period of time due to pockets of security challenges it had faced in the past years.

He stated that the 2022 independence celebrations will be the last for him to mark as the governor of the state. In his usual manner, his speech at the forum sued for peace from all citizens irrespective of affiliations and called for love, unity, selfless sacrifice, tolerance and other virtues from them to ensure a successful election and transition into power in 2023.

There was also a state dinner and golf kitty at the Lamingo Golf Club to celebrate the day.

Another key forum that drew the attention top politicians and government functionaries including the Governor, was a thanksgiving service to mark the 60th birthday of Plateau All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature.

The APC stalwart drew a large crowd to COCIN LCC Kufen, Barkin Ladi on Sunday 2nd October 2022. What was outstanding was the exchange of tributes to the celebrant. However, what stood out more, was how the governor went down memory lane to recall the role they both played during their days at the Plateau House of Assembly where they were locked up in prison for over 40 days for playing the Plateau agenda, and refusing to agree to a pact to expunge a sitting Governor. From their testimonies, at the forum, It was indeed clear that the two had actually come a long way as political allies.

## News

### Emir tasks old students on reunion

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Emir of Bauchi, Dr. Rilwanu Suleiman Adamu has described the reunion of old students of an educational institution as the real pursue of education, but not the old good days when as students they assembled to socialize together as members of a household.

To this end, the emir stressed the need for old students of a particular institution or class set to meet regularly not only to mingle or reminisce about old school days, but to forge a common front and help one another occupationally or intellectually, among others.

Dr. Rilwanu Suleiman Adamu was speaking Saturday while receiving the set '84 of old students of former Bauchi College of Arts and Science (BACAS) which eventually metamorphosed into the now AbubakarTatari Ali Polytechnic (ATAP), Bauchi at his palace.

He expressed delight with the reunion of the old students in a unity of purpose and advised them to always extent helping hands to one another, and fervently prayed for the departed ones among them.

The BACAS old students who earlier during the day converged at Zaranda Hotel for the reunion where they enumerated areas: environment, teachers and administrators for old

associations to make interventions to redress situations.

Prof. Mohammed Inuwa Musa of the Department of Linguistics and African Languages, University of Abuja in a paper presentation, called for the revival of education system in public schools. He reiterated that, students' access to well-equipped laboratories, stocked libraries with books and access to computer is mostly through their imaginations.

The university don, Prof Inuwa Musa who is also a member of the 84 class, noted that lack of the enumerated factors have made it difficult for students to practice most of the theories they are being fed. He save the hope of functional society largely depends on public schools. And pointed at that decline of public education sector cuts across all levels of education.

"The Challenge is that in our country today, our public schools have been neglected and that explains the recent surge in private schools from primary to university level. Even though many Nigerians opt to send their children to these private schools, we must never forget the fact that most of us are products of public schools".

Musa added, "The point that needs to be underscored is that public schools have significant

social missions in every society today. They provide universal access to affordable education; they guarantee equal opportunities for all children and they unify a diverse population".

Prof. Mohammed Musa also spoke on education funding, making reference to Nigeria's yearly budgetary allocation to the sector that constitute an average of 10 percent over the years which pales in comparison to many African countries, and falling short of UNESCO's recommended standard of at least 26 percent.

He cited the comparison with some African countries that allocate an average of 25 percent such as Cote d'Ivoire 30 percent, Kenya 23 percent and neighbouring Ghana, 30 percent. He pointed out that the worse is that the meagre allocation from the Nigerian education budgetary is mostly spent on recurrent expenditure leaving very little capital for infrastructural upgrade and capacity building in public schools.

The Chairman of the occasion who is the Director-General of the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC), Dr. Balarabe Shehu Ialah and member of set 84 has earlier in a welcome address, said the aim of the re-union was to foster unity and reconnect with old students of the college, while giving everyone a sense of belonging.

As Nigerians mark the 62nd Independence Day anniversary, the Chairman Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Niger State Rev Bulus Dauwa Yohanna has called on the Nigerians to make judicious use of their PVC in the forth coming General election to change the narrative of the country for the better in 2023.

In his independence message to mark this year's interdenominational prayers service at the 1st ECWA Church Minna, the Chairman of CAN Niger State, Most Rev Bulus Dauwa Yohanna charged Nigerians to collect their Permanent Voter's Card (PVCs) if they must redeem the country.

According to the Chairman who is also the Catholic Bishop of Kontagora Diocese, Christians across the nation have gathered today (Saturday) to pray for Nigeria so that it will attain true nationhood and fulfill its destiny according to God's plan.

While calling on Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof Mahmood Yakubu to remain focused and unbiased during and after the 2023 general elections, the spiritual father said "I appeal to the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof Mahmood Yakubu and his team both at national and states levels to be firm,

### Nigerians charged to change narrative using PVCs

From **Mathew Jwantu, Minna**

upright and to remain unbiased during and after the 2023 elections".

He added that, "We celebrate our political independence and rejoice in our freedom, not because everything is as it should be, but because we have hope in God's power to heed the call of the gospel to bring about the reign of God which is peace, justice and equity in our land and in the world.

"We remember and celebrate our political independence today to remind ourselves to do all in our power to bring about true independence and freedom of every Nigerian.

"Our celebration today is a challenge to us who aspire for a better nation and a better future for us and for the next generation to work to change the current narrative and status quo in our nation's polity".

Warning that, if Nigerians get it wrong in 2023 it will mean doom, he said "as we approach 2023 general election, let us see it as another golden opportunity being afforded us by God and do our due diligence in making sure that we use our God given intelligence to select leaders

who have the capacity, credibility, knowledge, good character to create an enabling environment for all Nigerians to thrive, live in dignity and in peace and in God given freedom.

"We continue to implore all the leaders of our churches to take our call seriously by encouraging their members to go and collect their PVC and not be discouraged by the waiting time that may be required."

While congratulating Nigerians and indeed the entire Christendom for another independence anniversary of Nigeria, Bishop Yohanna said "God's deepest desire for us is to be truly free. Whereas our nation is plagued by so many challenges with masses of our people groaning under the weight of economic and political hardships."

He further disclosed that "despite all the security, economic and social challenges being experienced by the country and Niger State in particular there is so much to appreciate God for especially for the uninterrupted democracy since 1999."

The CAN Chairman also added that "We must actively promote the Christian duty of active participation in our civic responsibility by going out to cast our vote on Election Day.



## Sports

# How Haaland compares to Messi, Ronaldo

By Jonathan Smith

THE Manchester City striker could break countless records in his career, but what were the current icons doing at the same stage of their careers?

Goal machine, beast, robot, tremendous Nordic meat shield; the descriptions of Erling Haaland get more and more outlandish, but the Manchester City striker has been nothing short of a phenomenal since his summer switch from Borussia Dortmund to the Premier League.

Haaland has scored 17 goals in his first 11 matches for City, and manager Pep Guardiola has warned that his star striker will only get better.

At just 22, Haaland already has 152 club goals and another 21 for Norway, putting him on course to be one of the all-time great goalscorers.

## Lionel Messi

When it comes to the greatest players he has ever coached, Guardiola never deviates from naming Messi.

"[Haaland] can be a better player [than Messi is], he can have the will to do it," he said after Haaland's Premier League debut. "He likes football, I have never seen a player who is 21 or 22 years old - maybe Messi he was already advanced - but the rest are never finished and always you can improve."

In terms of goalscoring, though, the Argentine was nowhere near close to Haaland's extraordinary figures at exactly the same age.

Messi had scored 44 times from 112 appearances for Barcelona, although he spent much of his time as a winger, and had contributed to three La Liga titles and two Champions Leagues.

It was also the age when he exploded as a goalscorer, netting a ridiculous 628 goals from his next 666 matches for the Spanish giants, and by the age of 23 he had won the Ballon d'Or.

## Cristiano Ronaldo

Like Messi, at Ronaldo was a season away from winning his first Ballon d'Or at the age of 22, though he had already finished as runner-up to Kaka in the battle to



Haaland

be named the world's best footballer.

He was also mostly being used as a winger at that time, meaning his 50th career goal came shortly before his 22nd birthday in April, while the wait to score the first of his 50 career hat-tricks would last another six months.

In some ways, however, Ronaldo had a similar career trajectory to Haaland's, as he too decided a move to Manchester was the best way to truly announce himself as a global superstar.

## Kylian Mbappe

If Messi and Ronaldo dominated the last decade or more, then Haaland and Mbappe will be the strikers to hog the limelight for at least the next 10 years.

The rivalry has already begun after the Paris Saint-Germain striker mocked Haaland's 'zen' celebration

after beating Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League in 2020.

Mbappe is 18 months older than Haaland, but won the Golden Boy three seasons earlier than his counterpart following a standout year with Monaco, PSG and France in 2017.

He is currently ahead in terms of total number of club goals, with 208 from 286 appearances at an average of 0.73 goal per game, similar if slightly inferior to Haaland's 0.78.

It is also very similar when comparing this stage of their careers, with Mbappe having just nine goals fewer than Haaland, albeit from 23 more appearances.

## Karim Benzema

The debate over who is the best striker in the world right now is a fierce one, but Benzema's almost-certain Ballon d'Or win in the coming weeks might mean he is best deserving of the crown.

His superstar status has rocketed late in his career, mostly after coming out of the shadow of

Ronaldo, although he has always been a consistent performer.

At 21, he was monitored by the top clubs in Europe after 66 goals in 148 appearances for Lyon, and Real Madrid beat off competition from Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United for his signing in 2009.

In his first season at Santiago Bernabeu, though, he managed only nine goals.

That pales in comparison to this past campaign when, aged 34, his total of 44 goals was comfortably the best of his career.

## Robert Lewandowski

There were not too many that saw Lewandowski's huge potential when he was Haaland's age and still plying his trade in Poland.

One person who did was Sam Allardyce, and he tried to bring Lewandowski to Blackburn Rovers in 2010, only for the deal to collapse as Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajokull erupted and forced all flights in and out of the UK to be suspended.

Instead, Lewandowski eventually moved to Haaland's former club, Borussia Dortmund, and his career truly took off, winning back-to-back Bundesliga titles and reaching the Champions League final before moving to Bayern Munich.

But at 22, Lewandowski was still a rising star in Polish football, having scored 21 goals in 32 appearances for second-division side Znicz Pruslow before netting 41 in 82 games for Lech Poznan.

## Zlatan Ibrahimovic

It may seem like an awfully long time ago, Ibrahimovic was once 22.

It was at that age that he joined Ajax for a club record £7 million, arriving in Amsterdam as a relatively unknown striker who had a reputation in Sweden as a trouble-maker from his time at Malmo.

His skills were clear on the

pitch and he quickly drew comparisons with Dutch legend Marco van Basten during his four years in the Netherlands, leading to a move to Juventus.

At 22, he had returned 48 goals from 110 appearances, with his real impact in front of goal would come later in his career, most notably at AC Milan and PSG.

Haaland may share the same unwavering confidence as his fellow Scandinavian, and if he can match Ibrahimovic's endurance, he will have some goal tally by the end of his career.

## Alan Shearer

Shearer's record of 260 Premier League goals seems almost untouchable, although if he were to stay injury-free for more than a decade, Haaland could well challenge it.

"I think if he does stick around and does stay fit then I do think he'll have a chance," Shearer himself has said. "But I think Harry Kane might have something to say about that, because he might have already broken it by then."

Despite Haaland spending his early years in Norway, Austria and Germany, the challenge is on equal terms as the Premier League only kicked off just two days before Shearer's 22nd birthday.

It might be a bit early to draw comparisons, but from their first seven appearances, Haaland is ahead by 11 goals to seven. Just another 250 to go if he is to break a record that has been untroubled for 16 years.

## Sergio Aguero

Haaland may have already easily passed his father Alfie's record of three goals for City, but he's got a long way to go before he reaches Aguero's all-time club record of 260.

The boyhood City fan can, though, take some confidence from the fact that the Argentine was still at Atletico Madrid and a season away from moving to the Etihad aged 22.

With an average of 26 goals per season, Haaland's 14 in less than two months would suggest he would pass Aguero's record comfortably if he sticks around for the same length of time.

## Jorgen Juve

Born in 1906, Juve remains Norway's all-time leading goalscorer since breaking the record in 1933 against the Ungarne Amateure (Hungarian Amateurs).

It only seems a matter of time before his tally of 33 goals is broken by Haaland, who already sits eighth on his country's all-time list with 21 from just 23 appearances.

Surprisingly, Juve had a better strike rate at the same stage, scoring 26 goals in the same number of matches, including four international hat-tricks - twice as many as Haaland.

Unfortunately, the second half of his career would not go as well, with no goals in his last 14 appearances before his final game aged 27. Haaland will hope he doesn't suffer a similar drop-off.



Messi



## Sports

### Ikpeme may replace Sanusi as NFF Secretary General

THERE are strong indications that the Deputy Secretary in the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Dr. Emmanuel Ikpeme, may be appointed as the new scribe of the football federation today.

**Newsnow** said that, the chairman of Zamfara Football Association, Ibrahim Gusau, emerged as the new NFF president last Friday in Benin City during the elective congress of the football body.

The Guardian learnt yesterday that the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development has already commenced the process to replace the incumbent NFF Secretary General, Mohammed Sanusi, who is from the same geo-political zone with the new president (Gusau).

Apart from the issue of his geographical zone, Sanusi was said to have fallen foul of civil service etiquette through an alleged wrong move he made during the NFF election.

Sanusi was said to have displayed 'absolute disrespect' for the Sports Ministry and the office of the Minister, Sunday Dare, in the build-up to the NFF election in Benin City.

According to a source, Sanusi allegedly wrote a letter in mid-September, this year, to report the Federal Government to FIFA for interfering in the

NFF election. "Sanusi sent a copy of his letter to the Permanent Secretary of the Sports Ministry. The NFF is still a parastatal under the Ministry and answerable to the Minister. The Ministry is the supreme body responsible for the administration of sports in Nigeria and it is fully empowered by the constitution.

"Sanusi and the NFF thought they could use FIFA to blackmail Nigeria. Disrespecting constituted authority is taking it too far by the Secretary-General. He (Sanusi) has created problems for the new NFF president by his behaviour and is likely to be ejected from the NFF secretariat because he is a civil servant, just like other secretaries in the various sporting federations," the source stated.



Ikpeme

Another source hinted yesterday that Ikpeme, who is from the South-South geopolitical zone of the country, might be announced as the new NFF Secretary-General today.

According to the source, the decision to arrive at the choice of Ikpeme as the new NFF scribe is hinged on his experience as the next in command to Sanusi in the Federation.

"Apart from being the most senior officer next to Sanusi in the NFF, the sports ministry recently appointed Olumide Bamiduro as secretary of the Interim Management Committee of the Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL). Both Bamiduro and the IMC Chairman, Gbenga Elegbeleye, are from the Southwest geopolitical zone," the source added.

### Gusau promises inclusive administration

THE new President of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau, has given his pledge to run an inclusive administration, in which all stakeholders will be welcome to make suggestions and recommendations on the best way to deal with knotty and not-so-knotty issues.

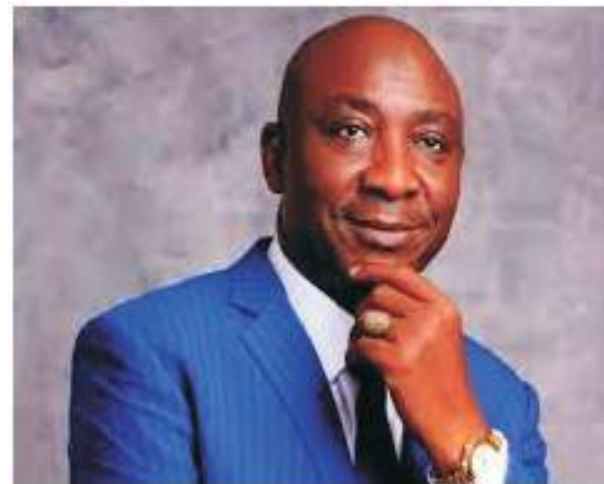
"Administration at every

level, that of football inclusive, requires the wisdom to be able to listen to everyone who has an idea and then pick the very best to deal with each situation at hand. Those of us in the Executive Committee are only privileged to be representing the entire fraternity.

"We will run an inclusive administration in which ideas and advice will be welcome from all quarters, and will be guided in our resolutions. It is very important to resuscitate the League and engender a massive football economy from which every stakeholder can benefit and also be happy to contribute to its growth."

**Newsnow** said that, the former Chairman of the Zamfara State Sports Commission, Ibrahim Musa Gusau served as a Member of the organizing committee for the African Nations Championship, and is today a Member of the CAF organizing committee for youth competitions, viz U17, U20 and U23. He is also a Safety and Security Officer of the Confederation of African Football.

Having served two terms as Chairman of Chairmen and Member of the NFF



Gusau

GUSAU on Monday revealed his plans for Nigerian football and said his administration will work hard in the areas of players welfare, youth football and grassroots development.

**Newsnow** said that, the former Zamfara FA Chairman said he will have an open door policy and stressed that ideas will be accepted from everyone.

With Nigerian national teams relatively starved of trophies under Pinnick, Gusau has pledged that the NFF will try to win trophies and help better Nigeria's image.

"Administration at every level, that of football inclusive, requires the wisdom to be able to listen to everyone who has an idea and then pick the very best to deal with each situation at hand. Those of us in the Executive Committee are only privileged to be representing the entire fraternity.

"We will run an inclusive administration in which ideas and advice will be welcome from all quarters, and will be guided in our

### We want to win trophies -Gusau

resolutions. It is very important to resuscitate the League and engender a massive football economy from which every stakeholder can benefit and also be happy to contribute to its growth," Gusau said.

CarBall Ep. 3: "Eric Ten Haag is the right man for Manchester United"

In this episode of CarBall with Babajide Guerrero, DJ CK feels Eric Ten Haag is the man for the job as he's made some big decisions with

Harry Maguire and Cristiano Ronaldo, and the new signings at Manchester United.

"It is important to prioritize grassroots football and youth development, and that we will take to heart. It is also important to win trophies, and both can go side-by-side. Winning trophies is good for our country's image in the international sphere and also helps to motivate the upcoming stars at the grassroots level."



Super Eagles need more trophies

### Klopp reveals talk with Nunez

JURGEN Klopp has backed Darwin Nunez to overcome his slow start to life at Liverpool, and revealed he had "a long talk" with the striker this week.

Goal said that, Nunez has started only two games following his big-money switch from Benfica in the summer, with his rhythm severely disrupted by a red card against Crystal Palace in August. The Uruguayan has not scored since the opening weekend of the Premier League campaign.

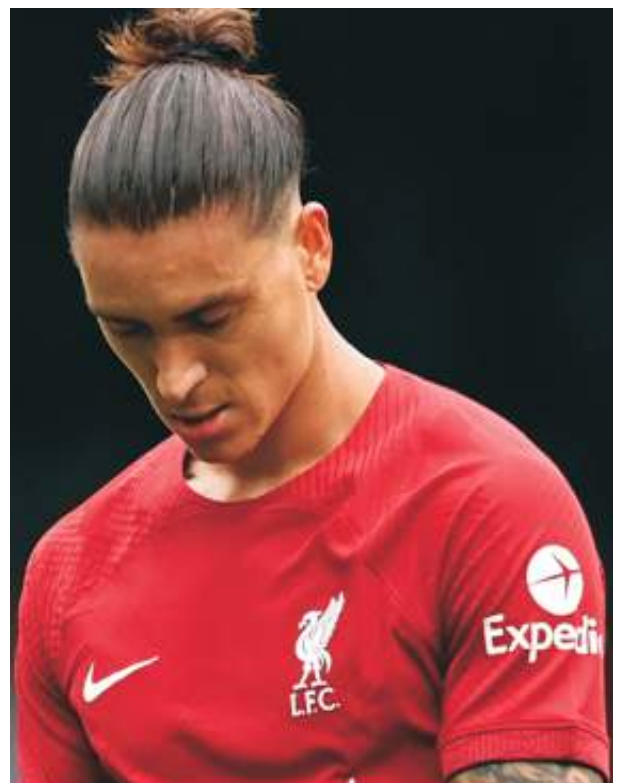
Klopp told reporters: "He's good. Of course he's still adapting, how players always adapt. New players come in and everybody talks about them and wants them to shine immediately, that happens from time to time and sometimes not."

"Only yesterday we had a long talk - well, with Pep Portuguese is still not better! - and we just told him we are really calm. It's really important in our situation that he isn't looking like he is worrying or whatever. The team is not flying, and that makes it not easier for a striker especially not for a finisher.

It's not that we aren't creating chances, but it's not like everything is clicking and we put in one player and he finishes our situation off. That's not our situation at the moment as much as I wish it would be!"

Klopp also revealed that Nunez had not started the 3-3 draw against Brighton on Saturday because of a minor hamstring issue picked up on international duty with Uruguay.

Nunez will be hoping to play his part as the Reds take on Rangers at Anfield. Klopp's side then travel to Premier League leaders Arsenal on Sunday.



Nunez



## Sports

# Swiatek will not play in Jean King finals

WORLD number one Iga Swiatek has criticised the upcoming scheduling of tennis events, saying she will not be able to compete at next month's Billie Jean King Cup Finals.

**BBC SPORT** said that, the world number one, 21, had planned to represent Poland in the finals, which begin in Glasgow on 8 November.

However, the WTA Finals in Texas are due to end the day before.

The three-time Grand Slam champion said the schedule "is not safe", adding she felt "sad" to miss an event.

"I was thinking it through a lot and discussing it with my team, but I will not be able to play at the Billie Jean King Cup in Glasgow," Swiatek announced in a post on Instagram.

"It makes me sad. I'm very sorry, because I play for Poland whenever it's possible and I always give it my best.

"Playing in Poland this year [in the qualifiers] was an honour and I hoped to do this again at the end of the season."

Swiatek won her first US Open title last month - her second major win in 2022 after triumphing at the French Open for a second time.

She will contest the season-ending WTA Finals from 31 October in Fort Worth, Texas, in which the top eight players on the Race to the WTA Finals compete in a round-robin format.

Players would have one day to travel from Fort Worth, which is six hours behind Glasgow, to make the Billie Jean King Cup Finals and represent their country.

"I'm disappointed that tennis

governing bodies didn't come to an agreement on something as basic as the calendar of tournaments, giving us only one day to travel through the globe and changing the time zone," Swiatek said.

"The situation is not safe for our health and could cause injury.

"I'm going to talk to the WTA and ITF in order to change something. This situation is difficult not only for the players like me, but mainly for the tennis fans that support our sport."

The International Tennis Federation says it will aim to make changes to the 2023 schedule so that it will be better for players.

ITF president David Haggerty said: "The ITF is sorry that Iga Swiatek is unable to take part in the Billie Jean King Cup Finals and

recognises that the schedule for the two major year-end events presents a challenge for players competing in both.

"We have been working with the WTA to try to coordinate suitable dates. While we were able to confirm the Billie Jean King Cup Finals in Glasgow back in June, the WTA Finals venue in Fort Worth was confirmed during the US Open and restricted in terms of available dates.

"The ITF revised the match schedule of the 2022 Finals so that teams such as Poland and USA would start as late as possible.

"We are committed to working with the WTA on the 2023 schedule so that we have a better transition between the two competitions."



Iga Swiatek put together a 37-match winning streak earlier this year

# London Marathon: Kipruto, Yehualaw win first titles

KENYA'S Amos Kipruto and Ethiopia's Yalemzerf Yehualaw won their maiden London Marathon titles with breakaway victories in the elite men's and women's races.

**BBC SPORT** said that, just six months after making her debut over the distance, 23-year-old Yehualaw finished in two hours, 17 minutes and 26 seconds - the third fastest women's London Marathon time in history.

Kipruto then won the men's race in two hours, four minutes and 39 seconds after pushing away from the rest of the field with about five kilometres to go. Ethiopia's Leul Gebresilase was

second, crossing the line 33 seconds later, with Bashir Abdi of Belgium completing the podium.

With four miles to go in the women's race and after an earlier trip, Yehualaw - the youngest ever London Marathon champion - broke clear of a group of four with the chasing 2021 champion Joyciline Jepkosgei of Kenya unable to reel her in.

That breakaway included an astonishing 4:43 mile split on mile 24.

Jepkosgei finished second, 41 seconds back, with Ethiopian

Alemu Megertu placing third. Rose Harvey was the top-placed British athlete in 10th position, while in the men's race, Weynay Ghebresilase and Phil Sesemann were ninth and 10th respectively.

Earlier, Marcel Hug and Catherine Debrunner set new course records as they completed an all-Swiss sweep of the wheelchair titles.

Four-time champion Hug defended his 2021 crown in one hour, 24 minutes and 38 seconds, holding off a late overtake attempt by American Daniel Romanchuk.

Great Britain's David Weir - making his 23rd consecutive London Marathon appearance - was third.

Debrunner won her first London title in one hour, 38 minutes and 24 seconds, with Britain's Eden Rainbow-Cooper coming third.

This year's London Marathon marked the third and final time it will take place in October - moved because of the Covid-19 pandemic - with the race returning to its traditional spring date in 2023.

The races were officially started by England's Euro 2022 champions Leah Williamson, Ellen White and Jill Scott - the latter no stranger to the event after winning the Mini Marathon back in 2001.

Looming rail strikes and a string of high-profile withdrawals - including Mo

LAWYERS for Australian tennis star Nick Kyrgios have said they will apply to have an assault charge against him dismissed on mental health grounds.

**BBC SPORT** said that, Kyrgios, who is currently playing in the Japan Open in Tokyo, was not required to attend the hearing in Canberra on Tuesday.

The charge against the 27-year-old relates to an alleged assault in December 2021 on a former partner.

If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of two years in prison.

Kyrgios's lawyer Michael Kukulies-Smith said he was making the application having reviewed his client's "medical history since 2015, including public disclosures of his mental health struggles".

Under section 334 of the Australian Capital Territory's Crimes Act, the magistrates court has the power to dismiss a case if it is satisfied the accused is mentally impaired and the facts or other relevant evidence supports the person being dealt with under this rule.

However, the bar for a case

# Kyrgios seeks dismissal of assault case

to be thrown out on these grounds is high, and needs approval from the director of public prosecutions.

A hearing on the application will take place on 3 February. Mr Kukulies-Smith told Magistrate Glenn Theakston that his client's work meant he spent large periods of time overseas.

But it was Kyrgios's preference for the hearing to take place as soon as possible and for him to attend in person, the ACT Magistrates Court heard.

The tennis star, currently ranked number 20 in the world, has spoken openly about his mental health struggles in the past, including in posts on Instagram.

This week he insisted that the looming court case was not making it difficult to focus on his tennis.



Kyrgios

# LPGA Tour: Hull wins second title

ENGLAND'S Charley Hull claimed her second LPGA Tour victory with a one-shot win in The Ascendant in Texas.

**BBC SPORT** said that, the Solheim Cup player, 26, carded a closing 63 at Old American to finish on 18 under par and edge out China's Lin Xiyu, with New Zealand's Lydia Ko a stroke further back in third.

It is Hull's first tournament victory since the 2016 Tour Championship.

"I feel very proud of myself. I've come close a few times since but I've put in some

good work this year," said Hull.

"I feel really good. I felt like I was in control of my round, especially coming in. I could have made some more birdies. I hit some good putts but they just rolled over the edge."

On a tense final day Hull was level with Lin and Ko at the top of the leaderboard after 11 holes, but then made three successive birdies to open up a two-shot lead.

Lin put pressure on Hull with an eagle at the par-five 17th to draw level, but Hull responded with a six-foot downhill birdie putt of her own to take a one-shot lead to the 18th tee.

After Hull two-putted for par on the final green Lin had the

chance to force a play-off, but her birdie effort fell short to hand the Kettering player victory.

"I found it all exciting," added Hull, who becomes just the sixth English player to have multiple wins on the LPGA Tour. "When Lin made eagle on 17 I enjoyed that as it made me want to birdie the last. I hit a good putt. I missed. But it was great fun."

England's Jodi Ewart Shadoff carded a second consecutive 70 to finish on three under, with compatriot Georgia Hall one shot further back after a final-round 69.

Northern Ireland's Stephanie Meadow shot a 73 to finish one over, with Scotland's Gemma Dryburgh on six over after a 75.



Charley Hull's first LPGA Tour win was the Tour Championship in 2016



Kipruto





**Quest**



writer

ELLEN W. GORSEVSKI

FRAGMENT

**"By contrasting an attractive past grounded in nature with a plastic, uneasy present, Maathai encouraged Kenyans, Africans, and others within postcolonial nations to retrieve from their cultural past an understanding or a standpoint of ways that environmentally unsustainable practices harm both people and the environment. Maathai used historical facts to convey narratives of Western influenced and inequitable social structures and practices that were put in place to harm most Africans while only enriching elites".**

ELLEN W. GORSEVSKI

# Wangari Maathai: Greening global peace building

Continued from last week

THE settlers found the highlands very attractive for the same reasons the local people do: the soil was fertile, debilitating diseases like malaria were absent, and it was neither too hot nor too cold—perfect weather.

Here Maathai did not discuss traumas of the people who were forced out by settlers. Instead, she focused on displacement of people and traditional, sustainable living practices with interlopers, whose agricultural practices depleted the land. Maathai contrasted pre- and early-colonial state of the land with what happened by the 1970s, when, for postdoctoral research, she studied cattle parasitic diseases:

While I was in the rural areas outside Nairobi collecting the ticks, I noticed that the rivers would rush down the hillsides and along paths and roads when it rained, and that they were muddy with silt. This was very different from when I was growing up. "That is soil erosion," I remember thinking to myself. "We must do something about that." I also observed that the cows were so skinny that I could count their ribs. There was little grass or other fodder for them to eat where they grazed, and during the dry season much of the grass lacked nutrients.

In this passage, Maathai used mostly unemotional terms. Maathai offered the image of herself as a science-based researcher as a rhetorical means with which to invite readers into the scene. In this manner, Maathai emplaces the audience into the environmental setting. Saying, "I noticed" and "I observed," she positions the audience to see, through her, with new eyes, as if the audience were standing in her place and viewing the scenario of "silt," "erosion," and "dry," non-nutritive grasses. Thus, the audience is invited from an emplaced vantage point to experience the environmental situation that Maathai describes. In passages such as this, Maathai used a grounded perspective in which the rhetor's senses become the audience's, creating rhetorical potential for them to unite in one perspective.

Maathai used ER to build her narrative of environmental destruction, demonstrating how such problems exacerbated conditions for human existence



Obama and late Maathai

and, in turn, created conflicts. For example, following her description of "skinny" cattle and depleted lands, Maathai next observed "the people, too, looked undernourished" while rivers were "silted with topsoil, much of which was coming from the forest where plantations of commercial trees had replaced indigenous forest. I noticed that much of the land that had been covered by trees, bushes, and grasses when I was growing up had been replaced by tea and coffee [plantations]". This statement shows how she tended to rely more on facts than emotions to reveal the problems wrought by practices that were unsustainable both in terms of human rights and in terms of environmental viability. Maathai presented these examples of mistakes as narratives that Kirkscey characterized as functioning rhetorically like modern-day versions of old morality tales.

Using such anecdotes from Africa's postcolonial historical continuum indicates socio-political dimensions of ER. From Maathai's perspective, past mistakes should not be repeated. Ovesen, Fity, and Bengtsson explain that Maathai's postcolonial rhetoric differs from that of Franz Fanon because instead of focusing on the traumatic victimhood identity and disempowered status of the colonized as Fanon does, Maathai rejected such "passivity and

subservience," emphasizing instead the activity and independence that she achieved, displaying herself as a positive role model of achievable empowerment. By first inviting audiences to understand the place of environmental harms within the whole system, Maathai could then focus on discussing equitable practices, such as returning to using sustainable practices and products. By discursively cycling between physical and historical places and habits linked to nature, she summoned in audiences images of ways to achieve political and environmental justice locally and broadly in society.

### Implications of Emplaced Rhetoric

This article's purpose was to advance an understanding of ER by appreciating Wangari Maathai's oeuvre, illuminating processes of environmental discourse and activism. I defined ER, demonstrating ways Maathai used ER to promote peace-building based on geocentering audiences locally, nationally, regionally, and internationally. ER extends rhetorical theory and criticism in ways that are useful to scholars and practitioners of environmental communication. First, ER decenters environmental rhetoric and activism away from Eurocentric texts and places, incentivizing explorations into greening aspects of postcoloniality. Second, ER recenters the agency

of heretofore marginalized rhetors such as black African women, respecting and learning from them as emplaced persons with valuable knowledge. Third, ER such as Maathai's connects local places to what Wolbert identifies as an international political space. Fourth, ER indicates embodied forms of environmental activism and rhetoric are viable means of non-violent praxis promoting change for socio-ecological justice.

Maathai invoked both micro and macro scales of emplacement, deftly using rhetoric to engage audiences politically for environmental preservation. Maathai's ER exemplifies local activism that is based on local culture and which offers insights and political meanings for broader audiences internationally. ER appeared in her campaigns to save Uhuru Park and to protect Karura Forest through non-violent tactics such as tree planting. Such activism as a lived form of ER accomplished more than merely bemoaning environmental, political, and cultural crises, it bestowed a measure of socio-political agency to the previously disempowered.

Maathai's cooperative approach used communication as part of a holistic platform for helping women and others who are politically marginalized to address misuses of the earth's natural resources. Examples of ER shown here illustrate how Maathai shifted the socio-political lens to a possible and attainable alternate reality. She provided both visualization and impetus to audiences to act on the productive possibilities of renewing natural systems in tandem with renewing the lives of people in communities.

Maathai's ER indicated that traditions based on the natural world and its rhythms have been uprooted and displaced in the wake of colonialism and globalization. Maathai argued that socio-political systems would not flourish without natural world systems. Through ER Maathai demonstrated ways to rebuild these systems together, addressing past harms, reforming present practices, thereby creating impetus for future renewal.

Maathai's ER is didactic in asserting peace can be achieved under conditions of substantive social justice. Evidence provided in this article indicates the

possibility that ER may be integral to green justice, in which environmentally sound policies and practices become instituted. With the rise of popular green movements, from Maathai's GBM in Kenya, to Germany's Green Party, international changes are afoot. Maathai's uses of ER indicate that non-violent forms of environmental communication and activism help to successfully challenge long-held beliefs and practices. By appealing to her audiences' respective senses of place within their own communities on this shared planet, Maathai addressed diverse domestic and international audiences, urging them to adapt and adjust to environmentally driven socio-political realities.

Maathai's uses of ER reinforced messages urging audiences to undertake sustainable environmental activities that ultimately contribute to peacebuilding. Maathai's ER funnelled discourses of green politics and postcolonial peacebuilding, fomenting globally shared activist strategies. Maathai's gains indicate that emplaced rhetorical activism is a means to create non-violent change. Maathai's ER called upon audiences to recognize each person's responsibility and need for environmentally sustainable practices. Maathai questioned structurally violent practices that harm the earth and its inhabitants, uniting people across Northern and Southern hemispheres, merging needs of those in both established and in newly emerging economies.

Future studies of ERs of other powerful postcolonial peace leaders, such as Nobel Peace laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, beckon. The relevance and pull of green politics delivered through ER such as Wangari Maathai's is poised to continue to grow and bear further study in the decades to come.

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Concluded