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TRUTH EXALTS A NATION

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to boost 5G
deployment
with satellite
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APC: After flag off, what next?

The place of Jos in the political history of Nigeria cannot be wished away easily. Major political decisions have been taken on the Plateau and have gone the way they were planned to be: Achieve victory and move on to the next level. On November 15, 2022, the All-Progressives Congress Presidential flag off was held at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium. It was a massive show for the ruling party working on all fronts to return to power back-to-back. KATDAPBA Y. GOBUM takes a look at the flag off and what it portends.

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true leaders,
not godfathers**
-Dogara

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crude oil theft
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Editorial

Siege on INEC offices unacceptable

THE attacks and consequent destruction visited on the offices of the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) across the country is a cause for grave concern considering that the nations next general elections is less than 3 months away. By the latest count, over 40 of the electoral commission's offices and other valueables have been burnt or vandalized in the last 3 years.

ACCORDING to INEC, the attacks occurred in about 15 states between February 2019 and March 2022 with Imo State topping the list. INEC also asserted that these attacks are as a result of election related violence, protests unrelated to elections and activities of thugs and unknown gunmen.

THESE attacks pose a threat to the country's nascent democracy and should be condemned by all on their part, relevant security authorities should do all within their power to bring the culprits to face the law even as they beef up security across the country.

WITHOUT any doubt, the electoral body is very significant to the sustainability of the nation's democracy. Nobody would want to go back to the dark days of military dictatorship. Every Nigerian should be patriotic enough to protect our democracy which is our concern patrimony.

THE commission has, over the years, had to grapple with inadequate budgetary funding, even though it needs Nigeria's economic realities. Consequently, the body has to factor in the cost of replacing these items now destroyed by criminal elements in the country.

THE implication of vandalism of public facilities is the necessity to replace such facilities with funds that would have, otherwise, been directed towards the development of other critical areas such as health, education, roads, housing infrastructures, power and other areas where the country still suffers huge deficit.

UNFORTUNATELY, funds for the purchase of these items and their replacements constitute the labour of tax payers who already lament the poor state of infrastructure in the country in spite of tax remissions received by the government.

WE believe the situation also calls to question the efficiency of the country's security agencies. Nigerian Police need to be proactive and do more in the areas of crime prevention and where they happen, deploy its personnel and other resources to ensure thorough investigation and prosecution of offenders to serve as deterrent to others.

IT is our view that it is quite disturbing to note that none of the perpetrators involved in the attacks and destruction of these public facilities have been apprehended let alone prosecuted. This is suspect and gives Nigeria a bad name.

Nigeria currently faces perhaps, its worst case of insecurity and other forms of unrest with threat of secession by various groups. It, therefore stands to reason that adequate measures should be put in place to safeguard critical government installations.

DESPITE its flip-flop performance in past elections, stakeholders have observed an improvement judging by the commission's outings in the Edo, Ondo, Ekiti and Osun elections.

WELL meaning Nigerians are already looking forward to a fair and credible electoral process as it would enable them vote the candidates of their choice and it will be disheartening to allow criminal elements in the midst of law abiding citizens to truncate a process that an enormous amount of state funds have been devoted.

WE frown at the idea of treating public property as belonging to no one. It should be discouraged in every way possible. Nigerians should therefore, consider the preservation, safeguarding and defence of critical government infrastructure, offices such as INEC, as the preservation of the nation's democracy, development and unity. We must appreciate that security is every body's business.

NEWS

FG blames crude oil theft on worsening unemployment

The Federal Government has attributed the menace of crude oil theft to the worsening unemployment situation in the country.

Dr Chris Ngige, the Minister of Labour and Employment, said this while declaring open the 8th Meeting of the National Employment Council on Friday in Abuja.

Mr Olajide Oshundun, the Head, Press and Public Relations, quoted the minister as saying this in

Ngige, who is the chairman of the council, said that oil theft has made Nigeria to become a mendicant nation, resorting to begging for survival.

According to him, this menace has hampered the efforts of the federal government towards creating jobs for the country's teeming youthful population.

"I am aware that you people know that we are at a very critical stage in our nation's life. We have economic problems all over the world, but our own in Nigeria is self-inflicted. Our main source of revenue is oil.

"But, in the oil sector, two things are happening. One, Nigeria is not meeting her production quota. Our OPEC production quota used to be 2.2 million barrels per day. It slipped down to 1.8 million barrels.

"Now, we cannot even produce the 1.8 million barrels. We are hovering around 1.1 million barrels per day, and they told us that some people are stealing our crude oil.

"This is a very serious matter because it has made us become very mendicant. We are now a mendicant nation, resorting to begging for survival," he said.

He added that the nation cannot continue that way because it has hampered efforts to create jobs for our teeming youthful population.

The minister further said: "Some people were analysing the situation and said that when we started the country, the white men came here and took all the jobs.

"We were seeing them with white shirts and ties and the jobs became known as white collar jobs. Later, our

own people started going to university and after graduation, joined in the 'white collar jobs'.

"Our colonial masters left and bequeathed to us another group of colonial masters, which comprised the indigenous people.

"Those who took over from the colonial masters did not plan for tomorrow. Number one is that our population is growing uncontrollably.

"Our population astronomically outpaces our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). We are neither finding our youthful population white collar jobs, nor making arrangement for them to do the blue collar jobs.

"Blue collar jobs are the ones you do with your hands, applying skills," he said.

Ngige also noted that the only few blue collar jobs were created in the transport sector, especially in rail and maritime, without producing indirect jobs to complement them, while the situation was made worse by foreigners.

He added that this was especially Chinese and other West African people who have taken over most of the blue collar jobs.

He also blamed the overflowing joblessness for the youth restiveness all over the country.

"Unemployment is not confined to Nigeria, but our own is worse because in other climes, people are earning money from blue collar jobs. Here, we have no blue collar jobs for our workforce.

"We have polytechnics but they are competing with universities for degrees. We see a polytechnic say it is awarding degree. We have technical colleges that want to equate their certificate with a degree.

"Nobody is interested in having technical skills. Everybody wants to be drawing and designing in air-conditioned offices, which is what the degree man does. The degree men are not supposed to be the implementers.

"The field implementers are the technologists and technicians and in proper climes, they are very well paid

and live decent lives," he said.

According to him, to reverse this ugly trend, there is need for a handshake between the National Employment Council and the National Skills Council, which is domiciled in both the Federal Ministry of Labour and Ministry Education.

He said this also comprised the ministries of Industries and Trade, Works, Power, Science and Technology, and all other government creations, with a sense of urgency.

Ngige therefore recommended the incorporation of the Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy into the National Employment Council, being that we are in a digital age which made for the creation of digital jobs.

He described digital jobs as the best way to absolve the bulging mass of youths that are now unemployed.

"We need to also look at NNPC and gas pipeline projects. Nigeria is doing two projects now, the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) and the one that transverses the West African Line into Morocco and extending to Europe.

"So, these are all ongoing critical infrastructure projects with large quantum of jobs to be created from them," he said.

He welcomed the proposal for the creation of labour desks in form of job synergy points in the ministries, departments and agencies where needed in order to facilitate job monitoring and creation.

"We conceived concept of labour desks for trade disputes and that was why we started in the ministries and agencies that have propensity for a lot of trade disputes.

"Now, that this Employment Council is thinking ahead, you should also bring a proposal so that we can do reforms through the Ministry of Labour.

"This will ensure to have job creation contents in conjunction with the trade dispute aspect, in addition to managing strike actions," he said. (NAN)

Nigeria needs true leaders, not godfathers -Dogara

Former speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Yakubu Dogara, has berated majority of Nigerian politicians who he said had refused to mature into leaders, but instead chose to be godfathers operating like scowling vulgarians.

"So many of us politicians, if we are to appear before a governor or president, we find ourselves laughing like gas even when nothing funny is going on or nodding our heads like an alligator lizard even when what is being said violates our personal principles," Dogara said.

In a press release issued by his

media aide, Turaki Hassan recently, Dogara in a keynote address at the National Mentoring and Coaching Conference in Abuja quoted Isaac Newton, saying, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants".

Dogara described the situation as "a validation of the fact that we are led by fear not by inspiration. The truth is that we have become a nation of enablers".

He said; "Godfathers don't develop people much less a nation, they use them instead. If progress must be made, we need a pool of true leaders who will lead us to build a nation and

serve others not godfathers who demand that we always ran to them to kiss the ring".

According to him, godfathers always see the masses around them as objects to be manipulated for their own empowerment and often sadistic entertainment.

Under the grip of godfathers, he said, leadership is seen as a zero sum game where only the person in office shines and the light must not reflect on others around him/her, with the godfather dropping an elbow on the throat of any of his followers who tries to raise his/her head.

NIGCOMSAT to boost 5G deployment with satellite technology

The Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited (NIGCOMSAT) has assured Nigerians of a faster, wider coverage, and better deployment of 5G network across Nigeria, after the launch Nigeria's second satellite into space.

The second satellite, known as NigComSat 2, is expected to be launched soon, following the near expiration of the life span of NigComSat1-R that was launched into space in 2011. NigComSat1-R, which has a life span of 15 years, is currently being used by NIGCOMSAT to offer communication services to customers within and outside Nigeria, and it is gradually coming to the end of its life span.

NIGCOMSAT gave the assurance in Lagos on Thursday during a stakeholders' engagement forum, with the theme: 'NIGCOMSAT: The

Roadmap for Enhanced Service Delivery.

"Managing Director of NIGCOMSAT, Dr. Abimbola Alale said Nigeria has commenced the process for the handling of the second satellite and that the process would soon be concluded to get the right satellite company that would build and launch Nigeria's second satellite into space.

According to her, the stakeholders' forum will help NIGCOMSAT to get feedback from stakeholders, while seeking collaboration.

"As players within the industry, we are bound by common goals and interests. We must therefore view the stakeholders' meeting as critical to the industry's growth," Alale said.

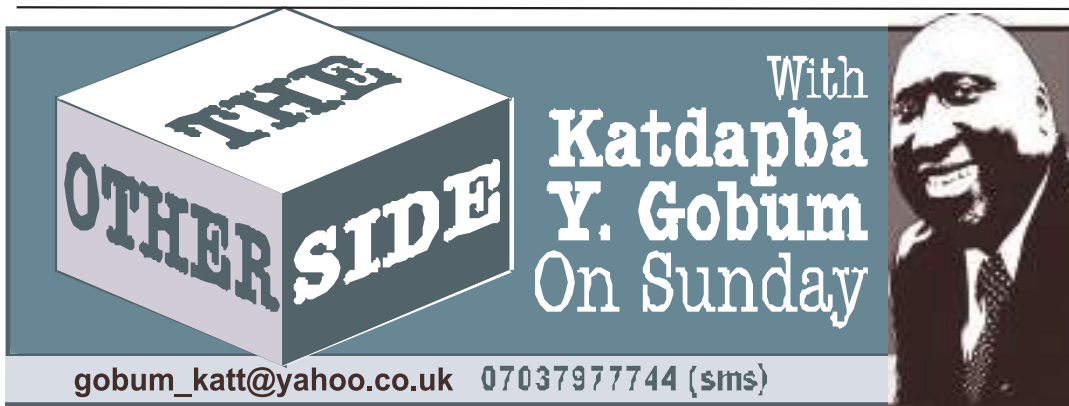
The plan is likely to see collaboration between fibre operators and satellite technology operators. MTN is the first telecoms operator that has launched

5G in Nigeria, after it won one of the two slots in the 3.5GHz spectrum for 5G rollout that was auctioned by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) in 2021.

NCC is in the process of auctioning another two slots in the 3.5GHz spectrum in December this year.

Stakeholders who attended the NIGCOMSAT organised forum, acknowledged that coverage might be a challenge given that there are areas and regions in Nigeria where fibre cannot go, hence the need for infrastructure like satellite to complement it.

According to the forum, there are three ways to deploy a telecom network including microwave, fibre, and satellite. High-speed internet like 5G relies mostly on fibre infrastructure which may not be able to get to every part of the country. Satellite is seen as a viable option to reach the underserved areas.



With
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On Sunday

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"The attack, it has been reported let to the loss of 11 lives and property lost in the mayhem. And as usual, no one was apprehended as in the ones that took place in the last couple of years back. The victims' families were left with consolations that government would take a look at what had taken place and bring the attackers to justice."

Plateau: A haven that will always be

THERE cannot be a better definition of the acceptance of Plateau State as the haven for all people. It attracts all to its clement weather. It has served and will continue to as the haven for all. No matter what has happened over the years, more people in various parts daily desire to come and reside in this part of the country.

In the last couple of years, people have been fed with outright lies and falsehood. It was deliberate by those involved. They wanted to achieve what they intended right from the start of the struggle. So for all these years, the world, without questioning believed what they were fed.

Some time back, a group of Americans, including some Nigerians, were in Jos to discover for themselves what the truth is, since they were beginning to understand that the news they were given over the years; was wrongly delivered. They certainly got to know as they went around the state, as there are enough evidence to convince them of the innocence of those who have continued to be attacked over the years. It is over 21 years now that communities have continued to be attacked, with devastating consequences left in their trail.

It was not for anyone to decide for them. Yet we thought that we can offer for them a lee way. There are enough families in the villages of Jos North/South, Bokkos, Barakin Ladi (Gwol), Riyom, Bassa and many others that bear testimony to the harassment, intimidation and deaths of women, children, young men and women and the aged. We do not even need to talk of loss of property and other things gotten over the years through senseless pillage of communities in the night by people that can at best be described as terrorists. They have sworn to be against the state.

But in some situations, the people are able to hazard or say with certainly who they are going by how they came and what they said as they went about killing their victims. The people could describe them and say with some amount of certainty who visited their communities in the dead of the night.

Some of the communities could give graphic details of certain persons who left those villages in mysterious circumstances only to hound the community later. They can give names of the persons and what perhaps they said before they left the communities.

Under such circumstances could we not say that those people in the communities had better and more acceptable accounts of the agonies they went through in the hands of their tormentors? We



Lalong

can't suggest that those other sources which fed the world are more credible to accept in the circumstances the state found itself in the last one decade.

For them they now know better given the level of 'peace' that has returned to the state, thanks indeed to the efforts of all the people of the state and of course men and women of goodwill that kept praying for the state and the people for the enemies of the state not to succeed in their plans to crumble it.

Yet let us not digress a lot from what we want to achieve in this work. Again, for me and many, the truths cannot be lost that had we not done what we said above perhaps so many other persons who do not know the story except the one in the international media may never believe us and what should be done to the communities.

We are at presently at a point that we thought things were returning to normal, and for many citizens; they were happy by the development. So much has been lost in human and material sense. They cannot be reclaimed just so as we know that the state has suffered untold hardship to make the people come back to their senses; and to accept the fact that communities are built on trust and acceptability of the fact that God was responsible for bringing us together.

Not so for many who do not want us in this situation. The result has been the creation of situations which gave the

impression that the man and indeed woman from Plateau State does not want to be associated with others from other parts of the country. Far from it, as it cannot be true. The impression was created by those that didn't want us to live in peace to give the picture that we are wild and most desirous of alienating others from our state.

This must be some joke yet many believed what was written and broadcast to the world. We lived with that stigma and each place one went and introduced himself as coming from Plateau, they looked at you twice as if to say: does the person deserve to be with others?

Could it be possible for people of this state to live without others? The answer we all know is a capital NO. There is no one in this part of the world that does not know the magnetism of Plateau State. There is representation of all Nigerian tribes in the state. Some history has it that they came here as early the tin mines were established by the colonialists.

Ever since they have traded and owned properties here as no other. Such categories of people have not looked at the state as their own, nor do they lay claims to the fact that they own it. All that they are interested in is to live in the state, engage in their businesses and perhaps as in most cases create the avenue for others to also be blessed through such businesses.

Understandably, Plateau State has come to play so many important roles in the relocation of many families in the state. Agreed

that the people of the state have been disappointed and looked at as those who do not believe they must accommodate other people from other zones of the federation.

Many of those who believe in our story know that the state is the ideal haven for all. It is for nothing that the state is referred to as the 'Home of Peace and Tourism'. Despite what we have gone through in the last one decade, there is no denying the fact that the state is still the ultimate destination. Those who deny it do so because of the stereotypes that have been built and are fed to the world and have become part and parcel of the people's thinking.

Several people had because of the crises on the Plateau relocated to other states. Some of these people do not want to be reminded of the experience they went through. A number of them relocated to Plateau as a result of crises in Kaduna, Kano and other states in the northern part of the country. Suddenly they found themselves caught in between the devil and the deep blue sea and cannot go back to where they were coming from.

While some of them stayed put on the Plateau; some of them moved on to find expression in other parts of the country and run their businesses. Some who moved to other parts of the federation may not have found it easy because some of those who left Plateau may have died in accidents and other crises that occurred in other parts of the country.

Some didn't live to tell the story. Some lived to tell the world what they went through as a result of the mistrust that still exists in the country. Some of them were unfortunate to go through some forms of attacks that occurred in the areas that they ran to. Some have returned to Jos, while others who left have vowed never to come back to the state owing to the unfortunate crises that kept recurring.

Since those unfortunate incidences, Plateau State and its people have vowed to move forward. It is seen in the actions of the people as well as what one sees as interact and do other things that affect us. Several businesses that closed as a result of the crises have reopened as well as the movements of the people in the state.

In the past, those travelling to Plateau State were warned and told to stay away from it. People from other parts of the country as the world were told no one could be found on the streets of the state, as it was a ghost town or state. As a result of the above some of the workshops and seminars that were always held here are no longer done. Reason:

the state was not safe for the people of the state what more of others that may be just visitors? These are the stereotypes peddled by those who started the crises that almost ruined us in the state.

This is what we have tried to fight, even as we know that in some parts of the civilized world; people know that people were transacting their businesses without molestation, the number of people and cars are competing for space on most of the streets in Jos.

I have tried to find out from hotels what their patronages are like, and the answer we get is alarming. It has not stop to alarm us that things have changed positively for our good. Most businesses that were abandoned by their owners have started but on a larger scale. Basically there are more people who have started something new in Jos that they were when the crises started a decade ago.

There are a lot of young men and women who have since chosen not to be defeated by the crises and their lost. The crises have taught them to find other means of survival, even when the world chose to think that they were not serious people. The people are indeed astonished at the level of industry that has continued to be exhibited by our people.

The news of the relocation of some Christian natives from Yobe State and some parts of the North East to Jos further gave us reason to celebrate that God has blessed us as the place to be and to insist that; as the beetle you cannot kill the spirit that has been sowed in the mines of the people.

The fact cannot be just glossed over by anyone of us, there is space for yet many to come. We have not refused any tribe space here, and it must be added that the truth about the people of this state cannot be easily dissolved in the hills and mountains that surround us. No amount of falsehood can obliterate the age long truth that has been associated with the state-and that is; God has blessed us to bless others and not to drive them.

The above material had long been used. The attack on Maikatako village in Bokkos LGA on November 15, 2022 night came as a shock. While we had thought that a reprieve had come knocking on Plateau, little did we know that more is coming its way.

The attack, it has been reported let to the loss of 11 lives and property lost in the mayhem. And as usual, no one was apprehended as in the ones that took place in the last couple of years back. The victims' families were left with consolations that government would take a look at what had taken place and bring the attackers to justice.



Wanton abuse of househelps

THE birth of every child is usually celebrated with so much joy. They become the centre of their parents lives the moment they step into the world. Parents turn every thing around in their lives to accommodate the new baby, including getting rid of bad habits like laziness, drunkenness and other vices or anti-social behaviour.

Just a look at them warms the heart. It tugs at your heart in a way nothing does. No wonder children are referred to as bundle of joy. At this stage, parents would do anything to provide for their babies even though there exceptions. For most parents, all that matters is the comfort of their babies.

As they grow, however, some parents begin to see their children as a means to an end. We have heard of 9 year old being married off, just so the father, (in most cases) could lay his hands on the bride price to take care of some financial problems. The girl may remain with her parents until she is matured enough for her husband to consummate the marriage.

Any form of self development is truncated as she becomes a breeder immediately she starts doing her obligations as a wife. In most cases, the jealous husband who may be old enough to be her grandfather would not want to expose his young wife to the temptations that abound in the world especially as the age gap is too glaring.

Girls in this category may grow to hate their father or both parents. Or grow to hate their husband and or all men. One has heard of young girls going through chronic depression. Why? Because their lives have been gambled with. And since most of them are very young and inexperienced, they don't even know they have rights.

A lady shared how her mother turned her into a house help for her 3 brothers. She would wake up at break of dawn to begin house chores while her brothers slept on. It is usually after their bathing water was ready that she would wake them to take their bath and eat breakfast.

She would be the one to Bath last, after she had packaged each person's lunch box for school. In spite of all that, how dare this lady make them late. The mother would give her the beating of her life. Nobody would remember that she was up and doing, and even preparing breakfast and packaging their lunch boxes.

Due to the discrimination the above lady suffered, she said, she was so happy when she passed common entrance to go to a boarding school for her secondary education.

That is the story of most girl - children in their parents home. They are discriminated against due to gender and the African mentality that boy- children do not do house chores. One lady said like the lady above, she used to do all the house chores and yet she was not appreciated. Some evenings, they would eat food then head out to play ball. Meanwhile, she would be expected to continue working until she retired to bed.

One has heard of girl-children who were taken by some relations to live with turned to sex slave by their masters. Most of these girls have to bear everything in silence because their mistress would blame them for everything. Or outrightly claim that the house help was fabricating lies to spoil her marriage.

Girls in the above situation is usually between the devil and the deep blue sea. Oga would threaten to kill them if they said a word. Madam on the other hand,

would find it unbelievable. So, she would rather blame the house maid or even claim that she is in a cult.

A house help in Abuja got the beating of her life, her back bearing deep marks made by the slash of the cane because she refused oga's advances. The oga was a very responsible man in the society. Apparently, that did not cover his private part. It had a mind of his own.

All hell broke loose when the maid's mistress sister got wind of what the house help claimed was going on. Oga beat her as if he would kill her before her mistress sister came and added more beatings for her with thorn bush. It was so horrible that concerned neighbours paid for her transportation to go back to her parents.

Another one said she bore sexual harassment from her mother's younger brother since the age of 13. She claimed she aborted pregnancies with the help of her uncle, more than 20 times until she could not take it anymore and ran off after about 10 years to become a prostitute.

The wife was very confident that nothing could ever happen between her husband and his niece, his elder sister's daughter. Her husband knew her thoughts and consistently raped this young girl all the days she was with them. He would walk in on her in the middle of the night or any time his wife was not at home and have his way. As far as she was concerned, it was better to be a prostitute than remain a sex slave to her uncle.

One has heard several cases of adopted children being turned to sex slave. This is the reason most orphanages are not in a hurry to give out girl-children. Most men come with double intentions when it comes to the girl-child. The heart of man is desperately wicked.

Sometime ago, during the tenure of Jennifer Yarima as the Chairperson of Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ, there was a celebrated case of a housemaid who was being maltreated by her mistress and even treated worse than an animal.

It was as if she use to be awake at all hours because she would sleep after midnight and wake up 4:00 am to start mixing chin- chin and different snacks the mistress used to sell. After which she would do the house chores along side, preparing the children for school. She would fetch water, wash clothes, go for trading etc.

The attention of NAWOJ was drawn to this lady's case when for whatever reason, she was tied like a dog and left outside in the harsh weather. It was her good sense that made her to drag herself to the dog house to find a little comfort in their smelly house. Neighbours reported that it was not the first time the girl was treated like an animal in the name of punishment.

Thankfully, she was rescued and reunited with her family in Kaduna. It was then that it was discovered that apart from maltreatment, her mistress did not keep her part of the bargain to enroll her in school. She was then 18 and uneducated. While the mistress younger children were all in school.

Recently in Jos, an 11 year old house maid was killed by her mistress in a gruesome manner. Is it worth it to end their lives and indirectly, your life? What does it take to send the girl back to her parents who love and appreciate her the way you love and appreciate your children? Thank God, we all reap what we sow.

NEWS

BASG presents N202bn budget proposal for 2023

From
ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir of Bauchi State has on Tuesday 15th October 2022 submitted a budget proposal of N202bn for the 2023 fiscal year before the State House of Assembly for approval.

Presenting the budget speech at the floor of the State House of Assembly in Bauchi, Governor Bala Mohammed revealed that the budget which was tagged 'Budget of Accomplishment and Renewed Commitment' has a capital expenditure of over N114 billion while N125 billion was earmarked for recurrent expenditure.

The Governor explained that the budget for the 2023 fiscal year has a slight increase of 2.6% which was higher than the 2022 budget size because his administration is determined to complete all ongoing projects across the state before the expiration of his first tenure on May 29, 2023.

According to the governor, "The budget has an increase of 2.6 percent over last year's budget proposal because my administration is determined to complete all the ongoing projects across the state. New projects can only be considered where it's absolutely necessary.

"Despite the dwindling economic challenges that affected the performance of previous budget proposals, my administration has



Governor Bala Mohammed in a thank you handshake with RT.Hon. Abubakar Y. Suleiman, Speaker Bauchi State 9th Assembly after presentation of 2023 budget at the Assembly Chamber.

made significant achievements in critical sectors of health, education, agriculture and human capital development."

"It is interesting to note that public hearings have been conducted across the three senatorial zones in the state with a view to accommodate input from the citizens towards executing projects that have direct bearing on their lives," he said

The governor commended and appreciated the harmonious working relationship with the 9th Assembly in the state and therefore used the opportunity to appeal for the speedy passage of the budget to allow timely implementation.

Responding, the Speaker of Bauchi 9th Assembly, RT. Hon. Abubakar Y. Sulaiman, said the budget proposal will be given careful and speedy consideration and will be subsequently passed into law before the end of the year so that implementation will commence at the beginning of the year 2023 in the interest of the people.

"Today's occasion is historic in the sense that it is the last time this Assembly will have this type of special session to receive His Excellency for budget presentation as well as the last budget presentation of His Excellency to the Honourable House in his first term in office.

"Your Excellency, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, one of our major duties as legislators as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is the scrutiny and passage of annual budget which is key to the growth and development of our dear state."

"This is with a view to enhancing the gains recorded by the present administration in all areas of human endeavour and consolidate on the massive transformation going on in all parts of the state. Your Excellency, it is gratifying to note that, despite the dwindling financial position, Bauchi State has in the last three years under your able administration, witnessed an unprecedented transformation in infrastructure, health, education, empowerment and all sectors including institutions.

"I must therefore commend Your Excellency for your doggedness and commitment towards fulfilling your campaign promises to the good people of the state despite these challenges. May God Almighty in his infinite mercy, grant you another term to continue the good work you are doing for the people of Bauchi State.

"I like to also use this medium to appreciate and commend my distinguished Honorable colleagues for your patriotism and mutual cooperation without which I believe the successes recorded could not have been achieved. We are always strongly united and committed on the Bauchi development project devoid of any sentiment or consideration of political affiliation," he said.

GOSA at 50: Committee outlines activities

BY
EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE apex body of the Gindiri Old Students' Association (GOSA), has outlined activities marking its 50th anniversary starting with road walk and environmental sanitation tomorrow Monday by 8am and 10am in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

The National President of the association, Engr. Sunday C. Hyat disclosed this Friday at a press briefing held at the JD Gomwalk, GOSA National Secretariat, Ahmed Mu'azu House along Dogon Karfe Jos, the state capital.

The President said this would be followed by a visit to the school's proprietor at the Church Of Christ In Nations (COCIN) Headquarters by 10am and later to the Chairman, Plateau State Traditional Council, Gbong Gwom Jos, His Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba on Tuesday November 22, 2022 respectively.

According to him, GOSA members would pay a courtesy visit to the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, CON, at the Plateau State Government House Jos, on Wednesday November 23, 2022. And in all these visits, members are to appear in GOSA @ 50 T-shirts.

Other activities included, visit to Mishkaam Mwaghavul, HRH Da John Putmang Hirse in Mangu and Sum Pyem, HRH Charles Mato in Gindiri, the GOSA host community by 8am and 11am in that order on Thursday November 24, 2022. There would also be tree planting, Commissioning of Projects/Inspection of Projects, Seminar on drugs and alcohol abuse and entrepreneurship. And finally, lunch with students that same day.

On Friday November 25, 2022, there would be GOSA National Executive Council (NEC) meeting by 2pm after paying last respect to the

mother of one of them who is the APC Deputy gubernatorial candidate, Hon. Pam Botmang and later to Amusement Park for Festival of Traditional Arts and Culture (FESTAC)/Gashi and Medical Outreach by 4pm respectively.

Also on Saturday November 26, 2022, the National Convention proper, continuation of the medical outreach and Dinner/Award Night and book presentation would take place by 9am to 5pm at the Conference Hall of Crispan Hotel and Suites (former Treasure Inn) Jos, the state capital. There is no dress code for that.

However, the grand finale would be the Reunion Service/Dedication of Ulster Church and presentation by Mr. Louis Choir at Ulster Church Gindiri in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State by 9am. Members are to appear in GOSA National Uniform (wrapper). The day would be rounded up with a Town Hall meeting in that order.

Meanwhile, the National President has assured members of security arrangements for this week long activities as they would visit all heads of security agencies and collaborate with them to see to the success of this occasion.

On his part, the Chairman, Central Planning Committee, Chief James Bakfur, thanked journalists for telling the world what they were about to do during the 50th Anniversary. He cautioned members who are part of the planning committee to sit up and make sure they give their

SUNDAY POLITICS

'PDP will be victorious come 2023'

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

YUSUF Suleiman, The Director General of Ubandoma/Bafarawa Campaign Organisation for 2023 election has boasted that the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) will garner victory in the 2023 elections.

Suleiman who stated this at Giginya Hotel, Sokoto, during the party's town hall meeting with the 23 local government areas of the state, stakeholders also expressed optimism that Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal would hand over to PDP's governorship candidate, come May 29, 2023.

He said that the party would not only win the governorship election but will also garner all the seats at the state and federal levels, including that of presidency.

The DG also said that PDP will not win only the governorship seat but those of the 11 House of Representatives' seats and 30 House of Assembly seats", he added,

He noted that he is confident because the party has fielded competent candidates for the elections.

He further disclosed that Sokoto's electorate are with them because of the tremendous achievements of Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal and also that the people believe the party would uphold democratic principles. He also added that this time around, PDP would win the state with a landslide.

He maintained that Sokoto has never come last when it comes to politics, hence the party would deliver its presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

While explaining that Atiku is more experienced and competent than his rivals, he said that voting the former vice president would make Nigerians to reap the dividends of democracy.

Suleiman, who is the former APC governorship aspirant for 2023 election, said that Atiku is mentally Stable unlike that of APC. and candidat will not say 'God bless PD APC. While calling on Nigerians to ensure they examine the psychological stability of each candidate before casting their votes for him or her.

Also speaking, the Deputy Director Field Operation of the Campaign Organisation, Mr. Mughtar



Ayu

Maigona, urged the party members to close rank to ensure that the party would become victorious in the 2023 elections.

On his part, the deputy governorship candidate of the PDP, Mr. Sagir Attahiru Bafarawa, enjoined party stakeholders to go home

and sell the party and its manifestoes to the electorate.

He explained that winning an election is not a one man's job, hence the need for everyone to come together to enable the party win the forthcoming 2023 general elections.

Maren condemns Bokokos killings

From JIDAUNA YANUNG & DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE member representing Mangu/Bokokos federal constituency of Plateau State in the House of Representatives, Hon. Solomon Maren has condemned in the strongest term the spate of wanton killings and destruction of properties worth millions of Naira by some suspected herders in some parts of his constituency.

At a news briefing at the National Assembly complex in Abuja, the legislator expressed dismay that within a month, more than 30 able men and women have been buried despite the presence of the security outfit "operation safe heaven".

We want the world to know that on the 14th day of November 2022 an innocent law abiding citizen in Gold village of Butura land was attacked, Maimed and killed while returning from farm.

"Also, on the 15th November

2022, a group of militia suspected to be herders, fully armed with sophisticated weapons and ammunition launched an attack on Maikatako village also in Butura where more than 11 people were killed, injured and properties destroyed and many people were rendered homeless.

"furthermore, on the 16th November, 2022 another gruesome attack was meted out on some villages namely follow and Mai Jankai all in Butura ward where many other people lost their lives, houses and properties worth million of Naira we're equally burnt down by the attackers".

He recalled that so many other attacks have taken place within Butura in which so many other people have lost their lives and over 300,000 hectares of crop farm lands have been destroyed by the herders without any form of provocation or confrontation by the Security and no single arrest has been made.

To this end, he called on the



Maren

CONVENER of the Peter Obi Movement in Diaspora and Naija (POMDAN), Emmanuel Ameh, has called on Nigerians both at home and abroad to shine their eyes come 2023 and vote Peter Obi, describing him as the only presidential candidate with a clear vision for Nigeria and Nigerians.

He made the call in an interview with **SUNDAY STANDARD** at the Jos Food Bank Carnival organised by him and powered by Bishop & Friends as supported by CPO and all Peter Obi Support Groups on the Plateau, held at Landfield Garden and Park Jos, the Plateau State capital.

He said, "the main target of this is to come together, synergize and re-vibrate the Obedient Movement with over six thousand people gathered here. We want all of us to come and blow ourselves, telling the world that the "Obedient Movement is bigger than what they think, you understand!"

"This is just the first edition and the second edition is coming soon. We are energizing people from the grassroots, sensitizing them about the Labour Party. Most people only know Peter Obi, but do not know the logo. It is 'Mama, Papa, Pikin', that we want to sensitize people on.

Obi: Only presidential candidate with clear vision -Ameh

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA



Ameh

"My message to Nigerians is, they should open their eyes because it is a time to change the narrative and if you look round, Peter Obi is the only presidential candidate with a clear vision for Nigeria and Nigerians. We know it! They are spending and if they get there, they will recover all they had spent during campaign", he pointed out.

According to Ameh, "they do not love Nigeria that much for them to spend their money like that to become the president. So, let us shine our eyes and vote Labour Party- 'Papa, Mama, Pikin' who have Peter Obi as the brain and the structure, people who travel to Kaduna or Abuja are the structure of our movement. On his part, the Plateau State Coordinator of Obi/Datti

Campaign Movement, Prince Chuwang Rwang Pam, assured Peter Obi's supporters that in no distant time, electorate from both PDP and APC would decamp to Labour Party because they were sinking with court cases. He said he was in Nigeria to sail the ship of Peter Obi to victory.

The occasion featured comedy, music performance, free food, goodwill speeches and sensitization with live performing artists like; Omodan, Senator Brabisco, Dr. Smith, Pam Monday, Fom Dafom, Jay Jay Bako, Boss Sule, Rhyme Style, Lex Sounds, Barryson E-Zanni, Giggzdon, XRay, Act for Obi, Snazy and Job Manja as thousands of people trooped in to demonstrate their allegiance to Peter Obi.

Sokoto PDP focuses on mobilization to win elections

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

THE People's Democratic Party, PDP, Sokoto State Chapter will focus on key mobilisers to canvass support for the party's victory in the state.

At the party's local government stakeholders meeting that centered on canvassing for more responsive strategy that would forge its desire for victory's Bello Aliyu Goronyo, the chairman said its the only way forward for PDP in the state.

According to him," all relevant stakeholders particularly leaders who are drivers and mobilisers of support at the grassroots are actively carried along.

That the party wants to strengthen the journey with committed minds as a strategy while emphasizing that the essence of the



Tambuwal

interface with members and party leaders at the grassroots was to brace up and improve on winning strategies.

In his statement the deputy Director General, Filed Operations of the state campaign council, Alhaji Muntari Maigona said the initiative would further

deepen the party's resolve to address burning issues with a view to uniting members for the common objective of winning the 2023 polls across all levels.

He urged those in the meeting to be free to voice out problems disturbing their respective areas to enable them proffer solutions.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Adamawa: INEC takes delivery of 4,104 BVAs

From GYANG PAM, Yola

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), says it has taken delivery of 4,104 Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for Adamawa State.

This was disclosed by the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), Barrister Hudu Yunusa who disclosed this recently in a press conference in Yola said the BVAS is aimed at using technology to ensure credible and transparent accreditation for the 2023 general elections.

According to the REC, the "Bimodal Voter Accreditation System would be used during the 2023 polls and the INEC Result Viewing Portal for uploading of polling unit results for citizens to view in real time on Election Day".

"We have started taking delivery of non-sensitive materials in the State from the Commission's Zonal store in Gombe, the exercise shall continue until we have taken all the materials needed for the elections", he said.

On PVCs, the Resident Electoral Commissioner



Yakubu

explained that, PVC collections has been ongoing in the State but at the end of the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise, lamented that the collection performance is very poor and called on all those who registered prior to 2019 or those with fresh registration to come for collection.

Barrister Yunusa said sequel to the commencement of campaigns by political parties, candidates and political parties had conducted themselves peacefully during the 150 days of the campaign as provided by

the law.

"Campaigns should be issue based without no name calling, provocations, violence, thuggery, use of armed militia, masquerades nor campaigns in places of worship and public offices", he warned

He assured of meeting with the leadership of all the political parties in the State and to have them agree to sign a peace accord for all the gubernatorial candidates, stressing that security agents, traditional, religious leaders and other relevant stakeholders are fully involved in the exercise.

AN appeal court sitting in Yola, has reserved judgement in an appeal filed by Senator Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed Binani praying the court to restore her mandate as the gubernatorial candidate of the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) in Adamawa State.

The pre-election panel presided over by Justices Teni Yusuf Hassan, M.O Bolaji and James Abundaga after adoption of the brief by the counsels of Binani, Ribadu, PDP and INEC reserved a date for judgement to be communicated at a later date.

A federal high court presided by Justice Abdulaziz Anka had in October declared the Gubernatorial primaries of APC null and void over substantial non-compliance with electoral rules hence urged Binani to stop parading herself as the Gubernatorial candidate of APC.

During its session, leader of Binani's counsel, Chief Akin Olujimi SAN who led

Appeal court reserves judgement in Binani prayer

From GYANG PAM, Yola

six other SANS and 12 lawyers in a triple appeal, urged the appellate court to overturn the judgment of the federal high court Yola. Olujimi also prayed the court to determine all pre-election matters to declare Senator Aishatu Binani as the duly elected candidate of the APC.

Binani had in an appeal instituted last week, joined Ribadu, APC and INEC as 1st to 3rd respondents, sought 6 reliefs.

Among the reliefs sought by the embattled governorship candidate, is an order allowing her appeal as well as setting aside the judgement of the trial court.

The appellant through her counsels, is asking the appellate court to uphold the declaration of Binani, as the winner of the primary

election conducted on the 26th May, 2022.

Equally, she prayed for an order declaring that she (Binani) remains the lawful candidate of APC in the 2023 general election as well as such further orders as the court may deem fit.

Similarly, counsel to Ribadu, Bawa SAN alongside S.T Olugunorisa SAN also prayed the appellate court to declare Nuhu Ribadu as the winner of the APC primaries held on the 26th May, 2022 or order for fresh Gubernatorial primaries.

In the same vein, counsel to Independent Electoral Commission, (INEC) Rotimi Ogunreso SAN, Sule J Abu prayed the appellate court to set aside the judgment of the federal high court stopping the party from fielding a candidate for the gubernatorial election in Adamawa state.

REC promises to deliver on assignment



Longpet

THE Independent National Electoral Commission, Kogi Resident Electoral Commissioner, Dr. Hale Gabriel Longpet has given an assurance that he will deliver effectively on his national assignment

The Resident Electoral Commissioner gave the assurance when members of the Kogi State Chapter of Government College Makurdi Old Students Association paid him a courtesy call to appreciate one of their own on his well-deserved appointment.

Longpet told members of his alma mater that the Independent National Electoral Commission is doing its best to conduct credible, free, fair and verifiable elections come 2023.

"As one of you, I cannot afford to disappoint you in service delivery throughout my period

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

as REC, Kogi State"

He warned against violence and thuggery in Kogi State before, during and after the 2023 general elections, saying that anybody found wanting irrespective of status will be made to face the full wrath of the law.

"Citizens should strive to avoid any thing that could jeopardize the elections," Longpet further cautioned.

Longpet appealed to members of Government College Makurdi Old Students Association worldwide to be good ambassadors of their alma mater.

He also called on members to work as a team towards the transformation of Government College, Makurdi as well as restoration of its past glory.

"We need to jointly change

the face of Government College Makurdi. My doors are widely open and will be part and parcel of all the association's activities to achieve greatness," Longpet assured.

Earlier, the Chairman of Kogi State Chapter of Government College Makurdi Old Students Association, Mr. Noah Ocheni, expressed confidence in the ability of one of their own, Dr. Hale Gabriel Longpet to perform creditably in his new assignment.

Ocheni congratulated Dr. Hale Gabriel Longpet on his deserved appointment, saying

that it is in recognition of his track record of service and for impacting positively on humanity."We members of Government College Makurdi Old Students Association, Kogi Chapter are proud of your outstanding and rewarding humble beginning, robust sacrifices, and accomplishments."

"We member of Government College Makurdi Old Students Association, Kogi Chapter are proud of your outstanding and rewarding humble beginning, robust sacrifices, and accomplishments"

Abdullahi



Dividends of democracy: 100 projects in 3 LGC

FROM ANENE AIKE, SOKOTO

100 projects executed in Three LGC of Eastern Sokoto state have been described as dividends of democracy designed by the state Governor, Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal. The three LGAs are Gada, Illela and Gwadabawa among the nine LGAs that constitutes eastern zone of the state.

The Gada council Chairman Garba Yakubu Tsitse while conducting Journalists round some of the projects said provision of portable drinking water is about the most needed project being accepted by the electorates.

He said people of Gada have the culture of maintaining all important projects especially water adding that the projects executed by the present administration cuts across the eleven districts in the area.

While commending Governor Tambuwal for providing 1.5 million litres water system, Tsitse said there is also a construction of 10,000 capacity standard Central



Tambuwal

Mosque among others.

In the same vein, the Illela council chairman, Engr. Aliyu Salihi said it is the concern of the current administration under the leadership of Governor Tambuwal, that tremendous achievements have been recorded in the field of health, education, other social amenities as water and agricultural facilities.

developmental projects.

In a related department, Gwadabawa council Chairman, Alhaji Aminu Aya said numerous projects of tremendous importance were executed while many others are in the pipeline planned for execution.

The trio in their separate remarks said the on going projects are equally aimed at alleviating the hardships experienced by the people in the area.

He added that some of the projects were executed by the state government while others are jointly done including the water systems with 10 wells each to feed the major tanks for distribution which has remained the major project in the three LGAs.

In almost all the Secondary schools two storey buildings containing 10 classrooms were erected even as both regular and seasonal farmers benefit with facilities and fertilizer to assist them in their farming activities

SUNDAY POLITICS

Reactions trail INEC's call to clean-up voters' register

Some Nigerians have expressed varying opinions about the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) call for assistance in cleaning up the voter's register, writes **KELVIN OKOJIE**.

THIS call from the electoral umpire came after pictures surfaced online of children as young as 10 registering for their Permanent Voter Card (PVC), an exercise that would enable them to cast their vote in next year's election. An exercise that is in clear violation of the electoral laws of the country.

Festus Okoye, INEC's Commissioner for Information and Voter Education, acknowledged the lapses that resulted in underage voters during an interview with Channels TV on Monday but pleaded with Nigerians to assist with the cleanup process of the voters' register.

Okoye had said during the interview that the commission was trying to make effort to file complaints easy for Nigerians. All that was expected was for Nigerians to go to their website and register their complaints if they find individuals suspected of being underage on the register.

He said that the moment the person raises an objection or makes a claim, the person will be given a slip and given an indication of where these claims and objections will be heard because that is what Section 19 of the Electoral Act provides.

He promised that with a collective effort, the commission and Nigerians could wipe out the issue of underage voting in our electoral system and make our system "authentic, robust, and a register Nigerians can be proud of."

Manipulating the electoral system by resorting to underage voters had been used as an effective tool by some politicians in the north to gain an unfair advantage in the voting process, many political analysts had argued.



Yakubu

As part of the strategy, Okoye had said that the commission was going to merge the two registers.

"The point I am making is that what we have to do is integrate two registers.

"The one resulting from the continuous voter registration exercise that occurred between June 28th, 2021, and July 31st, 2022, with the register originating in 2011.

"So what we have done is integrate both of them and put the entire thing out for people to

take a look at," he said.

However, some Nigerians have expressed mixed feelings about the electoral body via their Twitter accounts.

Inibehe Effiong, a public interest and human rights lawyer with an active Twitter handle of @InibeheEffiong that has over 103,000 followers, wants political parties to engage the services of forensic experts to carry out a nationwide comprehensive audit of the Voters' Register.

I call on political parties to



Okoye

engage the services of forensic experts to do a nationwide comprehensive audit of the Voters' Register," he Tweeted. "It's clear that INEC is either compromised or incompetent on the issue of expunging the names of underage persons from the Voters' Register."

He went on to say that after the audit was completed, the report should be used to file claims and objections with the goal of cleaning up the register.

He feared that the road to getting a credible, reliable, and incorruptible electoral system is long and arduous. "Nigeria has a long way to go in attaining a credible electoral system," he noted.

He argued that the political class has never meant well for the country. According to him, all "they just want is access to power or a connection of some sort (which may be direct, indirect, partisan, ethnic, or religious) with those in power. They do not care if the country burns to ashes. This is the sad reality of our country today."

Another prominent individual, Oluseun Onigbinde (@seunonigbinde), who is a director at BudgIT and has over 82,000 followers on Twitter, disagreed with INEC, insisting that it is the job of the commission to clean up its mess, not his.

"Why is the cleanup of the national register meant to be my work?" he asked. "What

really stops Nigeria from having an organised single citizen database where voters are drawn from?" he probed further. "Why can't we just be a modern society that values data?"

A follower of his (@iamintegrity) responded and sarcastically asked, "Lolssss...We can't data sir, it will expose the North, there population is a fraud used for political gains."

Another respondent, @iamhajisulu, agreed with him, saying, "The constitution says so, Sir. As a matter of fact, it's so powerful that we dare not seek to make it better even with new realities and technological advancements absent when the constitution was first made."

On some radio talk shows in Lagos where the issue was discussed, some respondents have questioned the rationale behind the citizens' call to help clean up the voters' register. Some even argued that if the electoral body, which is supposed to be alive to its constitutional mandate, had done the needful, especially after the clear cases of underage voters in the 2015 and 2019 elections, this shouldn't have resurfaced.

However, some respondents stated that the call was justified and that it was the civic responsibility of all Nigerians to assist in saving the country from impending collapse.

"I call on political parties to engage the services of forensic experts to do a nationwide comprehensive audit of the Voters' Register," he Tweeted. "It's clear that INEC is either compromised or incompetent on the issue of expunging the names of underage persons from the Voters' Register." He went on to say that after the audit was completed, the report should be used to file claims and objections with the goal of cleaning up the register. He feared that the road to getting a credible, reliable, and incorruptible electoral system is long and arduous. "Nigeria has a long way to go in attaining a credible electoral system," he noted. He argued that the political class has never meant well for the country. According to him, all "they just want is access to power or a connection of some sort (which may be direct, indirect, partisan, ethnic, or religious) with those in power. They do not care if the country burns to ashes. This is the sad reality of our country today."

SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG PRESENTS 2023 BUDGET

Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) recently presented the 2023 Appropriation budget to the Plateau State House of Assembly



Governor Lalong being ushered into the State Assembly Chambers by the Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong and Majority Leader, Hon. Naanlong Daniel



Deputy Commissioner of Police, Emmanuel Ado (left) with the Director of Finance and Supplies, Hon. Luka Makut



Plateau State Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden being received by member, Assembly Service Commission, Hon. Yusha'u Mazadu



A cross section of journalists and well wisher at the premises at the State House of Assembly



Ujah Anaguta, Jos North, HRH, Pozoh Johnson Jauro Magaji arriving the House of Assembly Complex



Former member, PLHA, Hon. Emmanuel Dakas (left) welcoming Governor Simon Bako Lalong (CON)



General Manager, PRTVC, Jeftha Jackden (left) with the Commissioner, Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Sylvanus Dankano Tagun, mni



Member, representing Jos North North, Rt. Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan making contributions at the floor of the Chambers

Photo: DANLADI DUK

EVER wondered what it takes for a bill to become a law in Nigeria, the processes, stages involved and all that? Nigeria operates a federal legislative system which means that a law can actually be made at the national, state and even local government levels. However, at the federal level, we have a bicameral legislature, made up of the Senate and House of Representatives. Both chambers make up what is known as the National Assembly and it is the primary law making body in Nigeria.

Therefore, a bill must be presented before the legislature before any law can be passed. It is imperative for one to fully understand what a bill is. It is a draft of a proposed law that is presented before the legislature for deliberation, discussion or debate. Notably, a bill can technically be initiated by anybody but only a legislator can introduce it before the floor of the House.

There are also bills that are sent to the National Assembly or House of Assembly by the executive in the person of the president or state governor. Whenever the executive prepares any bill, it has to first of all be forwarded to the Senate President or Speaker with a cover letter attached. This is known as an 'Executive Bill', if you happen to look closely, you will notice that it is marked with 'Executive' on the title page.

Whereas if a bill originates from any member of the House of Representatives, it is first and foremost presented to the Speaker of the House and is discussed among members and then passed.

Afterwards, it is forwarded to the Senate for deliberation and approval before passage. Any bill that originates from the House of Representatives is always marked as 'HB', meaning House Bill. In the case where a bill is sponsored by one of the senators, it has to first be presented to the Senate President and discussed in the senate chambers and passed, before it is then moved to the House of Representatives for further deliberations and passage. Any of such bills is usually marked as 'SB', meaning Senate Bill.

Once a bill is received in either of the legislative chambers, the leader of the chamber, whether Senate President or House Speaker forwards same to the relevant committee for further scrutiny and legislative action. These committees are the Rules and Business Committee for the House of Representatives and Committee on the Rules and Procedures for the Senate. At this point, it is the responsibility of the committees to determine if it meets all necessary requirements and standards before it can now be presented before the floor.

The next step is for the committee to send the bill for gazetting. The reason why bills are gazetted before consideration by the legislature is to give members of the general public notice that a new piece of legislation is being considered, and to also avail them the opportunity, especially stakeholders to weigh in on the process and potentially provide written representations either in favour of the proposed law or against it. This process is supposed to carry the general public along as inputs as well as criticism is allowed.

At the first reading stage of any bill, the Clerk usually does the reading of bills on the date and

time that has been previously scheduled. He reads the short title of the bill and then proceeds to table or place it before the Speaker or Senate President whichever is applicable. At this point, there is normally no debate nor discussion on the bill. This stage is simply to inform the legislators that a particular bill has been introduced.

Afterwards, comes the second reading stage. This is when the bill is first debated on the floor of the relevant chamber of the legislature during plenary. For any bill to be read the second time, it must have been moved by way of a motion.



How a bill becomes a law



Lawan

The lawmaker moving the motion is expected to do justice to the subject matter by highlighting it. These include bringing to the fore the objectives, benefits to be derived from the bill if passed into law etc. Other members also contribute by speaking on the advantages and disadvantages for those not in support.

If the bill happens to be an executive bill, the debate usually commences with a motion by the Senate Leader or House Leader that the bill be read the second time. The motion must be seconded by any of the leaders from the same party. If it is one sponsored by a member, the sponsor of the bill will move the motion that the bill be read the second time. The motion must be seconded by another member and if it is not seconded, the bill cannot proceed to the next stage and therefore will be rejected.

After all debates on the bill in question, it is then put to vote on whether it should be moved to the committee stage or not. This is where the power of the majority comes into play. If the majority supports it, it is then moved to whatever relevant committee that is expected to properly scrutinize it. If not, it is 'negated' and cannot be discussed again until it is reintroduced at a later stage. Note that the Senate President, House Speaker is empowered by the rules of both House and Senate to determine the relevant committee to which the bill is referred.

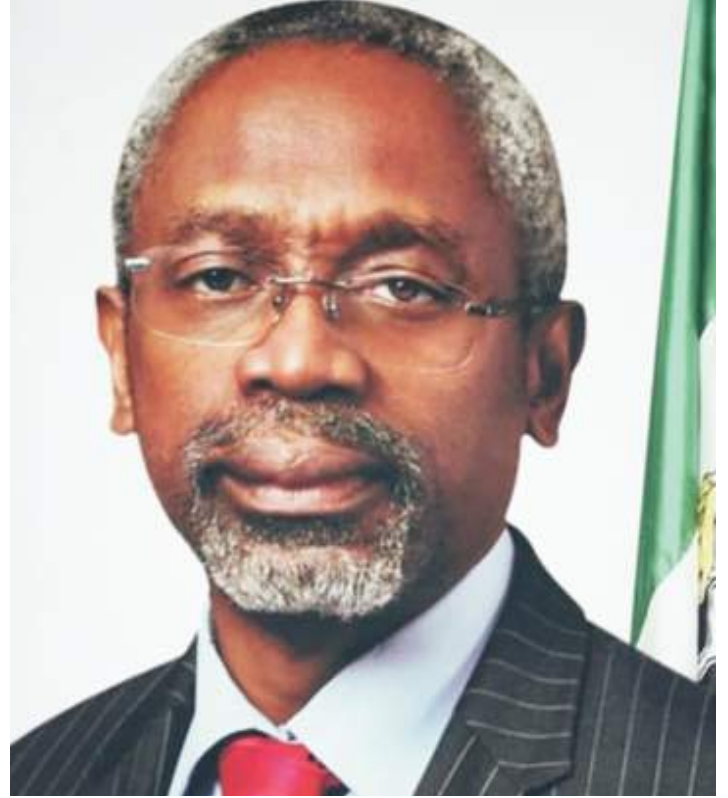
Committees examine all aspects of bills, and they also organise public hearings where experts and stakeholders who have particular

interest in the bill are allowed to attend and make their contributions to the public debate of the bill in question. A member of the public can make a suggestion regarding any aspect of the bill, but only a member of the committee can propose an amendment to the bill. All amendments made must conform with the principle and subject matter of the bill agreed during the second reading stage.

With the conclusion of its work, the committee is mandated to report back to the House during plenary. At this stage, the committee chairman will be expected to move a motion permitting him or her to present a report on the progress of the bill. After this is made and all deliberations and contributions concluded, the bill may now be accepted to be read the third time either immediately or at a later date.

Generally, once the bill has passed the third reading stage, no amendment can be made to it. However, in certain circumstances where a legislator wishes to suggest an amendment, he or she will be required to move a motion that the bill be 're-committed' to the committee stage for the amendment to be included. If the motion is agreed upon, the House or whichever applicable will dissolve to discuss the amendments. After all said and done the House then proceeds on the third reading.

Whenever a bill scales through third reading, it is often accompanied with a clean and printed copy of the same bill which



Gbajabiamila



Sanda

the Clerk is expected to sign after which it will be endorsed by the Speaker or Senate President. In the case of the National Assembly which has two chambers, there has to be a concurrence of the bill in both chambers. This is before the Clerk will 'enrol' the bill for the President's signature. Enrolment is when the Clerk of the NASS produces a clean copy of the bill, certifies it and forwards it to the President for 'assent'. The executive usually has thirty (30) days within which to sign a bill sent

to him by the National Assembly. Interestingly, a bill does not automatically become a law until the president or governor signs it. There are three things involved at this stage. The executive may provide his assent and sign the bill into law or he may disagree with the provision of the bill or some aspect of it and refuse to sign it. Thirdly, the executive may veto the bill. If the legislative arm does not agree with the veto, it is empowered by the constitution to overrule the veto of the executive.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Abdullahi



Tinubu



Shettima



Lalong



Oshiomhole

APC: After flag off, what next?

The place of Jos in the political history of Nigeria cannot be wished away easily. Major political decisions have been taken on the Plateau and have gone the way they were planned to be: Achieve victory and move on to the next level. On November 15, 2022, the All-Progressives Congress Presidential flag off was held at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium. It was a massive show for the ruling party working on all fronts to return to power back-to-back. KATDAPBA Y. GOBUM takes a look at the flag off and what it portends.

IN the days that heralded the All Progressives Congress' Presidential Flag off, the tempo of activities in the city reached a crescendo, thanks to the fact that the Director General of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council is no other person than Governor Simon Bako Lalong; who is reported to have tirelessly worked on a promise made.

The event held 'through the instrumentality of the Presidential Campaign DG, Plateau State hosted President Muhammadu Buhari, Commander-in-Chief and PCC Chairman, presidential candidate of the APC, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu; his Vice, Kashim Shettima; the party's National Chairman, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, the Senate President, Ahmed Lawan; Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila; 23 APC Governors, 36 Governorship candidates, about 500 National Assembly candidates, Hon

Ministers and other important top dignitaries'.

Venue, security and number
The event in all seriousness was not one to be taken lightly by the organizers. The stands were filled as well as the turf with nowhere to move freely. The event would remain for long on the lips of party members and even those who did not give space for it to succeed; particularly as the venue would have been held on another turf that would have accommodated. It may not be out of place, the venue committee considered the implications before it settled for it.

Apart from putting the state infrastructure in good shape; particularly the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, the venue of the event, the notorious potholes that became living hell to motorists for months; the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign office became a reality, as an old government property was tastefully remodeled on Ibrahim

Taiwo Street to serve that purpose. The filling of the potholes, though a welcome development was nonetheless criticized by across section of the people.

Workers had worked as if the reconstruction was the main item of the event. Even on the morning of its official opening, construction workers were seen putting finishing touches at the site, just as the filling of potholes. They needed to get them done, for what is the lesson of the flag off without an official office for its activities? More so, it would spell none committal as the state had produced the Director General of the campaign organization.

Why the choice of Jos

The last time Jos played host to a major political event was the National Convention of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) which produced Chief MKO Abiola as its presidential candidate, who went on to become the winner of the now most adjudged free election ever held in Nigeria in June 1993.

The other was the one that produced Olusegun Obasanjo in 1998.

The event at some point almost turned rowdy necessitating the masters of ceremony to repeatedly ask the crowd to maintain some decorum. But it was momentous that speaker after the other spoke of what the party has done in the last seven and half years in Nigeria.

In 1993, the military, under General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida under unknown circumstances annulled the election. The annulment set Nigeria under tension and almost became the harbinger of what many thought would result to be civil disobedience. Many however lost their lives in the attempt to relocate to their state of origin due to what many thought was the impending danger ahead.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) primary which produced MKO Abiola as presidential candidate and Babagana Kingibe as running mate had its

convention at the same venue. Again, the APC's presidential candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu has picked Senator Kashim Shettima from Borno State as the running mate flagging off its presidential campaign in Jos. 'When Abiola came to Jos for the primary, he won the 1993 presidential elections while Obasanjo equally went ahead to win the presidential election when he was returned at the party's primary in Jos'.

Working on potholes and others

That campaign office edifice was commissioned on November 14, 2022 by the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu in company of his running mate, Kashim Shettima, Director General of the Presidential Campaign Organization, Governor Simon Bako Lalong party leaders and supporters who had held sway all through the day

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NEWS

Bokkos killings worrisome

By PALANGKASMI

THE Plateau State Governor Simon BakoLalong has described as worrisome attacks in some communities in Bokkos Local Government Area.

He ordered security forces to go after terrorists who recently attacked Maikatako village in Bokkos Local Government Area.

Apart from other attacks witnessed in some villages of the local government, the recent attacks have led to the death of 11 persons while others were injured.

Lalong in a statement while condemning the attack said the killers must be fished out and brought to justice for the dastardly act.

"The rising incidences of attacks and destruction of farm crops, livestock and other properties within the general Bokkos area is becoming worrisome and must be checked immediately", the Governor said.

While sympathising with the



Lalong

families of the victims, the Governor reiterated that his administration will not allow terrorists and bandits to take foothold in any part of the state.

"All security agencies have been directed to be firm and

hard on any person or groups behind the criminal acts", he said.

He again appealed to communities to always be security conscious and report any suspicious movements to the security agencies for

-Lalong

immediate action particularly during the forthcoming yuletide season.

The statement disclosed that the Commander Operation Safe Haven and General Commanding Officer (GOC) 3rd Armoured Division, Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Ali had paid an on the spot assessment to Maikatako village where he inspected the houses burnt and properties destroyed.

The Governor in the statement also commended the troops and the community vigilante for their quick intervention which prevented further losses.

Apart from ordering the deployment of more troops, the STF Commander directed the troops to pursue the fleeing terrorists and ensure that they are apprehended in line with the directive of the Governor and President, said the statement.

ARC-P: FG commences training of facilitators in Sokoto

The Sokoto State government in collaboration with Federal Government, have commenced training of facilitators for At-Risk Children Project (ARC-P) in the state.

Dr Adebayo Dotun, the ARC-P Special Assistant to the President in a chat with newsmen said the project was designed to support vulnerable children to become self-reliant.

He pointed out that they are aware of the challenge out-of-school children are exposed to and that we have continued to expose our future generation to serious danger. MrDotun said this motivated the government to initiate more projects that will continue to engage the children into various skills that will give them a better future. The S.A. disclosed that they have commenced the training of ARC-P field facilitators for

the 23 Local Government Areas, who would become the foot soldiers to support children that are at risk in their communities.

He added that the facilitators would be trained on Information Communication Technology (ICT), agriculture, entrepreneurial, financial literacy, digital and mental skills, child right and mentorship.

In his speech when accosted,

Prof. YakubuGobir, Secretary ARC-P Sokoto, said the facilitators underwent a test in which 1150 applicants scaled through for the training out of 1,300 applicants.

He said that after the training which involved 50 facilitators from each LGA, those trained will go back to their council wards to step down the training to the children at risk.

Inuwa donates 2 buses to NUJ

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Gombe State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) was among beneficiaries of a bus when Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya commissioned 30 brand new vehicles and handed same to the state transport company, Gombe Line.

The Correspondents Chapel of the NUJ in Gombe also benefited from the gesture as the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Professor Ibrahim Njodi, on behalf of the Governor, presented another bus to the Chapel, Friday evening at the Government House.

The State Government had recently announced the

purchase of 40 brand new buses after a State Executive Council meeting and said 30 of the buses will be dedicated to the state transport company, Gombe Line, to boost the services of the revenue generating company while 10 others will be donated to some mega schools and associations.

Beneficiaries of the donated buses, apart from the Gombe State council of the NUJ who were promised the bus two years ago when it's National President, Chris Isiguzo, visited were 5 Mega-Schools and the Gombe State Students Association

(GOSSA).

The promise for a brand new bus to the Correspondents' Chapel was made by the Governor while he was his party's governorship candidate in 2019. The SSG said, "this is another promise made and fulfilled."

But the Governor at the Gombe Line Motor Park while appreciating the contributions of the media in the development of the state and nation in general, however cautioned journalist against fake news. He said they should be factual and abide by the ethics of the profession.

"We are giving out 5 buses to our 5 Mega Schools in order to help them address their essential mobility needs.

"We are also extending similar gestures to GOSSA and NUJ in recognition of the constructive role they play in the development of our society. I urge them all to make good use of the vehicles," he stressed.

On the 30 buses for Gombe Line, Governor Inuwa said "this brings to 80 the total of buses bought since the inception of the administration after purchasing 50 at inception in 2019.

"This will no doubt enhance service delivery and help Gombe Line to open up new routes so as to better connect

our people with other parts of the country.

"Gombe Line is our ambassador to the world that helps in connecting Gombe to the outside world and vice versa," he stated.

He said Government succeeded in repositioning the company for improved service delivery and efficient management which has enabled Gombe Line to meet its financial obligations to its lenders as at when due. "It is now able to finance its operations and expenses from its own revenues, and at the same time, it provides subsidized, affordable and convenient transportation to our people.

"Our aim is to provide our people with modern, robust, and high-quality transport infrastructure in order to meet rising demands.

"Very soon, we are going to commission the Gombe Mega Park project, which we completed after it was abandoned by the previous administration," the Governor revealed.

He commended the new management of the transport company under the sole administrator-ship of Usman Kamara who has within a short time ensured efficient management and administration.

"I urge them to take good care of the new vehicles and ensure strict maintenance culture," the Governor advised.



PLSG embarks on operation zero potholes in Jos city

IN its resolve to ensure zero potholes in the state, thePlateau State Ministry of Works has embarked on filling potholes in Jos and Bukuru metropolis starting from Express way to JD Gomwalk road.

Men were seen working seriously at strategic spots where these potholes have been a challenge to motorists in and around Jos and Bukuru metropolis all through last week under the supervision of the ministry of works.

NUJ harps on safety of members

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), has charged government at all levels and the security personnel to ensure the safety of journalists and media workers before and during the 2023 general elections.

It has also canvassed support for traditional institutions and urges the National Assembly to consider creating constitutional roles for traditional rulers especially in the fight against insecurity across the country because they know everybody within their territory.

PPBA renews call for decentralizing of security architecture

The Plateau State Peace Building Agency (PPBA), has made renewed frantic and compelling call to the Federal Government to decentralize the security architecture using the constitutional provision that empowers the subnational units to police territories directly under their jurisdiction.

This came in a press statement signed by the Director General of PPBA, Joseph Lengmang, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the state capital following renewed attacks in Bokkos Local Government Area, Tuesday.

Dakum attends Jos Makeup Festival

The Plateau State gubernatorial candidate of Labour Party (LP) and Team Leader of the Institute of Human Virology Abuja-Nigeria, Dr. Patrick Sunday Dakum has promised to internationalise Jos Make-Up Festival when elected as Governor of the state.

He made the pledge when he attended the fourth edition of the Jos Makeup Festival held at Tamarald Event Centre, JIB Road Jos last Sunday amidst pomp and pageantry with youths from all over Nigeria participating. The occasion brings together the best fashion designers, makeup artistes, fashion enthusiasts and the cream da la cream of entertainment industry in Plateau State and other parts of the country.

Daduut donates cars, materials to Plateau APC

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, the Plateau South Senator in the National Assembly, Prof (Dame) Nora LadiDaduut, purchased and donated two buses, printed branded T-shirts and other materials to the Plateau State All Progressives Congress (APC) Campaign Council to enhance its campaign movement.

While presenting the buses and other items to Prof. SabastainMaimako, the Director General of the APC Gubernatorial Campaign Team in Jos, the state capital, Senator Daduut pledged to work for the victory of the APC from top to bottom and that the vehicles and other campaign materials were meant to facilitate sound victory for the APC.

Tinubu assures Plateau people of turning around their minerals potentials

The Presidential candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Senator Bola AsewajuTinubu, has assured the people of Plateau State of his resolve to turn around the mineral potentials of the state to an industrial haven that would attract foreign attention.

He stated this Tuesday, while speaking at the official flag off of his campaign in Jos, the Plateau State capital where mammoth crowd trooped in from within and outside Plateau State to witness the occasion with President Muhammad Buhari in attendance.

G.I.N.S appeals for support to DanladiGyang's health condition

A passionate appeal has been made to government and spirited individuals in Nigeria by Gowan Initiative For Needs Support Foundation (G.I.N.S.), a Non-Governmental Organisation in Jos, to support one DanladiGyang of Vom District of Jos-South LGA who has been battling with elephantiasis for over nineteen years.

The President/Executive Director of Gowan Initiative for Needs Support Foundation (GINS), Gowan O. Friday, made the appeal Friday while in an interview with SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital on behalf of the 42 year old Gyang whose parents died when he was still a little child.

Plateau's support for Tinubu will be captivating-Sen. Daduut

Senator (Prof) Dame Nora LadiDaduut, has expressed confidence that the Presidential flag-off of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Plateau State come November 15, 2022 would witness a massive support turn out from the people of the state when the party's candidate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, stomps Jos with Governor Simon BakoLalong as his Campaign's Director General.

This came in a press statement signed by Senator Nora Daduut and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital Friday, ahead of the kick -start of the rally in Jos, describing it as a national endorsement due to the fact that Plateau State was home to the APC.

Compiled by EZEKIEL DONTINNA



Inuwa

SUNDAY FEATURE

Regulating social media towards peace building

Can the social media space be regulated in a manner that it will give young people the opportunity to unleash positive energy on the society without stifling their voices? Experts say it is possible. Youths constitute the bulk of those who use the social media space for interactions, empowerment and self-actualisation. Writes JULIUS TOBA-JEGEDE

THEY have leveraged advancements in information and communication technology as a medium of communication. Among the leading social media in Nigeria are Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

While youths may have limited political power to champion their views they can harness the potential in the social media to promote peace in the Nigeria.

Although the social media has its own negative sides, it also comes with numerous advantages, such as facilitating access to mentorship, socialization and creativity.

Through its networking mechanisms, social media spreads news faster than and has wider reach than the conventional media.

It encourages group participation in discussions and activities thereby providing a platform to push critical information and nurture ideas.

Youths can take advantage of this unique social propagate positive atmospheres such as peace and nation building?

While many young people have used social media to create wealth, education and sourcing information and entertainment, many have used it to propagate violence conducts and other social vices.

Experts say the Federal Government has a role to play in re-channeling youths' social media culture and orientation from the negative to the positive through proper regulation.

The federal government is cognisant of this as demonstrated by the Minister of Information, Alhaji Lai Mohammed.

In June 2021 while appearing before a public hearing organised by the House of Representatives Mohammed asked the lawmakers to amend the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) act to empower the agency to regulate social and online media.

The minister said: "Internet broadcasting and all online media should be included in this because we have a responsibility to monitor contents, including Twitter."

Similarly, in June the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) also announced a draft document for the Code of Practice for Interactive Computer Service Platforms/Internet Intermediaries and Conditions for Operating in Nigeria.

The code seeks to, among many others, compel online platforms to provide any backend information to assist government agencies for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting users who breach the provisions of the code.

Reinforcing these thoughts, Dr Bakut Bakut, Director-General, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, IPCR, said: "Preventing the conflict of tomorrow means changing the



mindset of the youth today."

Bakut, who said this while delivering an address of welcome at a conference in Abuja recently, said the youth could be redirected to use the social media as a tool for peace building.

According to him, youths use social media more frequently and are more likely to become victims of violence and can also be recruited by extremists.

The two-day conference, which was organised by IPCR in collaboration with the University of Ilorin Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, CPSS, had as its theme, "Youth, Social Media and Community Peace building."

"This is a significant issue because technology can either be a medium through which terrorists recruit young people or a means through which young men and women can help in building peace.

"Although young people are crucial players in peace building, they have been excluded from the process and are instead thought of as 'manipulable' tools for violent conflicts and social unrest," he said.

Bakut recalled the #EndSARS protest of October, 2020, which was organised by Nigerian Twitter users largely made up of youths against police brutality.

He said it demonstrated that social

media was dangerously spiraling out of control and a breeding ground for fake news, hate speech, misinformation and online incitement of unrest, hence the need to regulate it.

He said the conference offered opportunities for fresh ideas to gain the youth's support for community peace building initiatives and incorporating social media, especially given the current insecurity concerns in Nigeria.

Prof. Sulyman Abdulkareem, the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, while corroborating Bakut's view said regulating social media would curb online abuses and engage youths to promote peace.

Speaking on the topic, "Social Media Use and its implications on Community Peace building Among Nigerian Youths," he said that social media regulation was the best way to ensure that youths used social media positively.

Represented by Prof. A.L. Azeez, Dean, Faculty of Mass Communication, University of Ilorin, Sulyman said the social media must be regulated if the youth's recklessness in using social media

space would be drastically curtailed.

"How can we make the youth to use the media positively; to empower themselves while at the same time deploying it for peace building? The best way is by controlling and regulating the social media space.

"The regulation and control of social media space on grounds of humanity, peace and security are ostensibly plausible as such justifications have been invoked in Pakistan, Malaysia and India.

"This is why many scholars of communication and peace have intensified their support and agitation for a legal framework for regulating Nigeria's social media space through the social media bill," he said.

The former vice-chancellor said that social media platforms should be used to facilitate virtual dialogues among stakeholders towards achieving peace and security.

"The youth's use and adoption of social media should be aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence among various ethnic groups.

"Through social media, the Nigerian youth should build strong consensus on issues that affect their lives and wellbeing.

"No meaningful socioeconomic and human development can take place in a nation where its youth are preoccupied with sharing divisive and inciting rhetoric on social media," the don said.

Prof. Eghosa Osaghae, the Director-General, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), underscored the need to directly engage the youth on peace building.

"One of the ways that we can push these kinds of conversations concretely, going forward, would be to invite the youth to be part of this kind of debate," he said.

According to him, the Nigerian policy paper defines the youth as someone who is between the age of 15-30, which means he or she is under custody and not yet autonomous.

"I will however extend that definition to mean that the youth is a social category, so a youth is he or she that a particular person says he or she is, notwithstanding age.

"So if you have a consciousness of being young or old, that's who you are. There are people who are 40 but they already feel they are old, so let it be with them that they are old," he said.

Prof. Oyeronke Olademo, Director, Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, urged adults to use social media platforms to counter the negative narratives about youths and the country.

"For me, curbing the excesses of the youth on social media and redirecting them to peace building, requires that older persons should flood the cyber space with positive narratives.

"This will overwhelm any negative narratives or fake news, which the youth may spread on these platforms," she said.

Experts say while it is important to regulate the social media space caution should be applied in doing so to avoid gagging the media, infringing on free speech and fundamental human rights.

"The regulation and control of social media space on grounds of humanity, peace and security are ostensibly plausible as such justifications have been invoked in Pakistan, Malaysia and India. "This is why many scholars of communication and peace have intensified their support and agitation for a legal framework for regulating Nigeria's social media space through the social media bill," he said. The former vice-chancellor said that social media platforms should be used to facilitate virtual dialogues among stakeholders towards achieving peace and security "The youth's use and adoption of social media should be aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence among various ethnic groups."

SUNDAY FEATURE

Taming new sexual revolution and its contradictions

Make no mistake about it, human beings are social and sexual beings. The reality of this construction means that where two or three opposite sex meet, they are most likely to attract each other, exhibit courtship behaviour and possibly indulge in sexual intimacy over time irrespective of faith or ideological background. The speed and extend with which this happens vary with individuals or groups who might be more sexually active than others. AYUBA YILGAK'HA, writes.

SEXUAL intercourse is hard to define in contemporary world. At the most basic level, however, it is the intimate and physical interaction of sexual organs between two adults, especially, husbands and wives who have erotic love for each other for the purpose of ecstatic pleasure, satisfaction and procreation. This activity is often preceded by several other activities tagged foreplay, e.g caressing which enhances quality sex between the partners. When sex activities exceed the scope clearly defined here as it is the reality of today's world, it amounts to 'extramarital affair' which should be carefully watched, discouraged and, if possible, voided.

Incidences, tendencies or trends in sexual adventure and exploitation can be tamed but not easily among sexually active people. In a community of eunuchs, castrated, raped or virgins, curtailing or controlling sexual anxiety is easier than when people who have experienced sexual pleasure are involved. Those who abstain from sex in response to religious and/or diabolic considerations are also there but, in any case, are social accidents waiting to happen when the conquering reality and power of sexual urge is underestimated by them.

Sexual motivation is a passion. It has its root in emotion which like fire, is a good servant but bad master. Sex, fear and anger are in the same emotional equation. In other words, they are of emotional construction that have consuming powers, especially, when they take hold of a person.

Here is the issue, any society that is exposed to untamed sexual seduction is likely to be consumed by it. There is nothing religious about this reality. A religious man or woman who pretences to have sexual immunity when in corner with an opposite sex is sure to indulge in sex over time, especially, when the company is appealing or attractive in anyway. Truth be told, secret sex is more prevalent amongst idealists than realists. In other words, any problem whose reality is ignored or underestimated cannot be solved but rather grows steadily to such a point that it cannot be managed any longer.

Chastity or sexual purity is a virtue but cannot be easily attained by pretence or wishful thinking. Inbuilt and deeply seated in humans is a delicate sex battery which can be charged anytime. Any natural man or woman who runs away from sexually charged environments is wise. Underestimate this escape proposal to your peril if your body chemistry is normal. It is only a fool who steps into a fire and assumed he/she will not be burnt at all.

The need to moderate the sexual orientation of people has become urgent, especially, in the 21st century. In contemporary time, sex has become so common and the most abused provision or endowment to humans. Rather than using it responsibly for procreation and decent marital pleasure, it has been exploited for varying purposes which ranges from commercial to ritual, diabolic and unnatural practices that are outside the frame of its design.

Sex for marital pleasure and procreation is an aged-long and traditional function of man. Through it, decent families are cultivated and



raised for the building of functional societies and the promotion of civilisation. Any society whose family units default in taking the responsibility of child bearing seriously is bound to go extinct in time because the available people might be consumed by natural catastrophes, health epidemics/pandemics, old age and death. Through birth control measures like abortion and use of contraceptives, some countries have suffered gross deficit in human population that could have anchored productivity functions. This reality has created urgent and compelling need to accept migrants as short run solution and paying willing citizens to bear more children as long run solution. Countries like Germany, Spain, etc. have experienced this reality.

Sex drive for diabolic and ritual purposes is another dimension sex revolution has taken. Sex has been found to be a mysterious point of contact for spiritual exchange and impartation with sex partners. For example, a man or woman that is demon possessed could mysteriously but easily transmit those spirit(s) to as many as those they share sexual beds with. It has been insinuated that in a desperate move to gain fame, wealth and power, some have gone so low to the extend of sleeping with lunatics, dead corpses, etc. There is no extend desperate, occultic and diabolic folks cannot go when it comes to pursuing their orgies and reckless ends. This calls for great caution and self-discipline.

The use of sex for commercial purposes is one of the most lucrative but contradictory adventure in human history. It is an aged-long practice that has evolved over time and has taken new dimension with the advent of digital technology. Throughout history, women rocked by poverty have sold sex as a means of subsistence but this has grown into full scale commercial venture from where many have made big but illicit fortunes. For instance, it is reported that Georgian London city, as beautiful as it is was, substantially, built by the proceeds of prostitution in the 18th Century (Dan, 2009:X).

In every major cities and towns around the world, varying degrees of

prostitution which ranges from petty sex vendorship to call girls branding or modelling class exists and are operated openly or discreetly depending on extant laws governing the host communities of practitioners.

With the advent and sophistication in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), sex merchants have built cathedrals for sex merchandise and distribution. Sex has become a big trade hub after drug carteling in the world's shadow economy. Phenomenal innovations in the sex business which ranges from pimp arrangements sustained by human trafficking, blue filming, pornography, sex dolling, etc. have since become evidential part of the internet world with well developed websites and contacts (addresses) for easy access and patronage. The world today is enmeshed in a new orientation and civilisation that is saturated by an untamed drive towards achieving utopian sex Eldorado.

There is a septre of gay orientation that is permeating most modern civilisations. This septre draws from the Epicurean philosophy which held that 'we eat and drink for tomorrow we die'. A similar orientation is "Tantra", which is areligious but mystical "treatise on any subject at all" and "teaches us that by embracing everything in life and delving into it totally, anything can be turned into a transformative, ultimately estatic, experience (Barbara, 2007). This 'everything' include liberal sex drive which is tended towards achieving maximum orgasm or satisfaction. It is in this context that sex merchants and mania converged to explore their divergent yet complimentary motives which are often outside acceptable rule of behaviour in highly religious and conservative societies.

From innovations arising from open-ended teaching in Tantra comes amplified and escalating sexual disorders like lesbianism, homosexuality, surrogacy, transgender, palemony, Pedophilia ('persistent sexual interest in prepubescent children'). The saddest thing is that these abnormalities are welcomed and legalised in some countries within the globalised world.

These practices are vigorously campaigned for, promoted with incentives on the one hand and threats of sanction where those proposals or adverts at turned down. For instance, the United States of America (USA) under Obama' administration had threatened to withheld grants to African countries which opposed and refused to legislate and domesticate gay right. I remember with much gratitude to God when the Nigerian government stood its ground and soundly rejected gay rights with a law outlawing it in 2014. The west is not giving up on its campaigns and threat of cultural globalisation with respect to profaned sex though. The desperate campaign is visibly present with us today, even in the remotest of communities.

Indecent dressing, increasing cases of abortion, rape and free circulation of pornographic pictures, videos and sex cartoons on social media are fall out of sex revolution in Nigeria as in other parts of the world. How much data is used in accessing, downloading and circulating sex related contents on internet, especially, the social media can only be imagined. It is not an exaggeration to argue that there are more sex partners on the internet than there are in outside it. There is an analogue cum digital sex revolution that is destroying the very foundation and fibre of family life among couples. The family unit which the anchor and custodian of sex freedom has been invaded and it is at the verge of utter ruin. The reality of this development is established in the increasing cases of planned single parenthood amongst adults today. In the past, single parenthood occurred mostly as a result of what was called 'social accident' but this is not so now.

Some of the reported cases of infertility and disease which materialised in most matrimonial lives are fall out from secret and unhealthy premarital expeditions in sex which did not manifest immediately. Extended dangers in sexual recklessness, whether before or within marriage are enormous and the implication is that once family units crumbled, the society is finished. This is the situation this pro-

family treatise seeks to deconstruct.

Indiscriminate sex has the tendency to increase the production of bastard population; increase cases of abortion; sterilisation and infertility through the use of contraceptives; high risk of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), loss of productive energy or abandonment of more production ventures on the altar of sexual pleasure, loss of prestige and trust, etc. Samson in the scriptures cheaply betrayed his nazerene calling in pursuit of pleasure at the seductive and entrapping laps/cleavages of Delilah; King David throne was desecrated when he slept with Uriah's wife, Bathsheba and, subsequently, prompted into further sin by successfully plotting the killing of the husband.

For a fact, when sex transaction or relationship is involved, there is no guarantee of faithfulness in anything no matter how annointed a man or woman is. When sex is involved there is no guarantee of trust, security and safety. When sex is involved, anything can happen. Sex power has brought down nations and kings; destroyed annointed priests and religious cathedrals and exposed the world it is meant to recreate to destructive mode. In other words, sex is a spring board for recreation but a quick trigger and catalyst for mass destruction too. It can relax or calm the body but could lit the fire of war amongst close friends.

Sexual passion like tongue must be tamed to enjoy its full promises. Do not underestimate the danger that is inherent in illicit sex which, for all intend and purposes, is a subtle pollutant. Like polluting and smelly smoke, once sex disorder takes course or activated, only God knows how far it can pollute the air we breath. Sex profanity is a lead way to the grave.

Sexual endowment which is a social catalyst, nourishing meal for marital intimacy and procreation must be jealously protected from poisonings that indiscriminate and unprotected sexual intercourse bring. Those who are commissioned to indulge in sex as married adults must do so responsibly and and for the purposes for which the endowment was provided by the creator.

Meddling in sexual activities can be tempting and the fall out from them can be quite fearful. Hence, the need for escape keys. In Psalm 119:9 (NIV), the Bible asked, "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word." "Your word" here means the Word of God but what does it say?: "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body"(Corinthians 6:18, ESV). When it comes to sexual temptations there is no overcoming stamina but to flee it!

Proverbs 5:1-6 (NIV) is cited to draw a conclusion to this prose: "My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.

She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it." Very profound words to instruct the wise here!

The psychologists say that when a woman or man exposes him or herself to prolonged violence, two things are possible. The first one is suicide. The second one is homicide. A woman in a lifelong abusive relationship can become suicidal or homicidal. We have heard many cases of abused women killing their husbands and viceversa. In essence, domestic violence can lead to mental health problems in victims.

Let us look at Bimbo's story. Reports has it that the husband is alleged to have killed her. However, one report says that her brother who was staying with the couple in their home, confirmed that his sister poured petrol on herself and lit herself and then she tried to drag her husband into the fire with her and so, he pushed her away to save himself. This is a marriage that was abusive from the very beginning. It is said that her husband once beat her into a coma while she was pregnant. She had also moved out of the house at some point in time only for "caring friends" to convince her to come back.

I put the blame for women remaining in bad marriages until they lose their lives, on our social and religious norms. A woman has next to no value if she is not married. This makes many single women desperate to be married. Married women remain in the bondage of their abusive marriages because their religion would rather they died than get a divorce. Divorce is placed on the same scale as the sin of committing murder. According to actionaid: unmarried women in Nigeria face housing discrimination. It says that single professional women in Nigeria are having a difficult time renting apartments. Many landlords refuse to lease homes to unmarried women because they assume they are prostitutes. They claim that these women may not be able to pay their rent, even though many of them have jobs. They deny their discrimination against women by saying men make more money and young women are usually under the responsibility of their parents or a husband. Action aid gives this scenario.

Yinka Oladiran, a 25-year-old woman from New York, was used to an independent lifestyle. When she moved to Lagos, Nigeria, to pursue a career in television she learned that it would be difficult to maintain the same level of independence. Landlords often asked for her father's permission even though she had her own income. Even after finding an apartment, she's constantly stopped by security asking who she's visiting when she gets home late from work. Women like Yinka are running up against norms that consider marriage as a benchmark of decency and uses it as grounds for discrimination against unmarried women. The forgoing is from is actionaid.

This is the type of discrimination that make women very anxious and desperate to get married just to have a measure of respect. My question is, does society and religion know and understand the impact of these type of discrimination on women? These women go on to get married to men that are less than suitable just to have a man's surname. In addition to this, they may end up in abusive marriages where they are abused physically and emotionally very constantly. A lot of them die in these marriages because their families and society frown at divorce. Some of them go on to develop mental health conditions.

In order to give society an idea of the effect of domestic violence on mental health, we cull the following from ssp-journals.org:

The mental health effects of domestic violence are likely to be severe and long-lasting. Exposure to violence and abuse increase one's risk of experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, substance use, and suicidal behaviours. The most commonly employed element of domestic violence—coercive control—is a pattern of domination enacted through tactics designed for intimidation and entrapment, and has particularly damaging effects for mental health.

Coercive control strategies include social and physical isolation, shaming and belittlement, micromanagement of daily activities, and constant surveillance. These strategies aim to terrorise, hurt and overwhelm victims, and predict intimate partner homicide. Control strategies may differ by culture and setting, and during the COVID-19 pandemic perpetrators were capitalizing on the isolating conditions of lockdowns and home quarantine to enforce separations from social support networks, increase control of victims' actions and finances, and exacerbate fear within the household. Practitioners are also seeing the use of digital coercive control, whereby perpetrators utilize technology to monitor and track their victims, creating a sense of omnipresence, isolation, and ostracism. Coercive control has significant implications for survivors' mental health, through prolonged, repeated trauma that is both inescapable and unpredictable in nature.

Chronic and repeated trauma often manifests a more complex pattern of psychological symptoms compared with a single trauma event. In addition to the defined symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), people with complex PTSD are more likely to experience

dissociation; alterations in memory, identity, and personality; negative self-concept; disturbances in relationships and impaired functioning. Similarities in the pattern of psychological symptoms resulting from domestic violence are evident across cultures, with large-scale community surveys indicating that women who have experienced domestic violence are at higher risk of complex mental health difficulties and suicidal thoughts than women who had not experienced violence. Mental health difficulties disrupt economic engagement and livelihoods, which will have significant implications for post-COVID economic recovery. A growing mental health crisis—triggered by pandemic stressors, infection and compounded by domestic violence—will thus require specialized trauma-informed services.

The forgoing throws more light on how we as a society, contribute to hurting the victims of

Dying for love(2)



domestic violence when we indirectly or directly insist that the victim should remain in the marriage. Nothing in this world is worth one's mental health. If we say it is for the children, the truth is that children need their parents to be healthy physically and mentally.

Domestic violence can take any shape. We have seen coercive control. We also know of emotional and verbal abuse. Today, 80% of marriages are facing the problems emanating from the pandemic of adultery that is populating the marriage landscape and from an experience I had lately with one traumatized housewife, I can say that many women have started experiencing paranoia and anxiety due to their husbands' unrepentant cheating.

Many women today have turned to prayer houses and become prayer warriors because of side chics and the society is implicated in this. Most men today, believe that having a side chic is a birthright. They do not only take away attention from their marriages, but their finances are divided between the side chics and their homes. Today, the side chics are more brazen and can go to great lengths to take over husbands and homes. Some men prioritize the side chics over their wives and their families. In fact, they have children with these side chics, rent them houses and buy them cars. They do for the side chics, what they do not do for their wives and their children. The desperation of the side chic to take over another woman's husband is also hinged on the fear of remaining single in a society that stigmatizes single women.

The married woman who has a cheating husband feels embarrassed and emotionally traumatized. If this persists, it leads to paranoia and related health conditions such as PTSD. The society looks on while her man continues to put her in this state. She cannot go out and do the same thing as he is doing and so she gets stressed up and ill from being in an unconscious fight mode. She spends the better part of her time and energy worrying about losing her husband and the father of her children. If her husband is the bread winner, the paranoia is even greater for the fear of losing her home and her provider. Society says nothing to these men but when the woman thinks that she has taken enough and wants to leave to keep her sanity, the same society jumps up to tell



not really considered adultery as emotional abuse of the other partner, but it can have very damaging effect on the mind. The church should be more stern with men who are harboring side chics in their marriages and those who physically batter their spouses. The church should be able to provide support to victims of physical and emotional abuse by building shelters for battered women and counselling centres instead of turning a blind eye because this pandemic of adultery is running married women mad, and our children will suffer for it. The church should also call out the young women in its fold who are professional side chics in order to shame them. Society should shame the side chic and not encourage her. There should also be support for women going through trauma in their marriages such as counselling by the social welfare Ministry. If we are going to have a healthy society, we should address these issues. Building shelters to hide battered women until they heal is a good idea because mental health is a real and present problem in our society, and it is our duty to do the needful.

I can say that married women are losing their minds due to this pandemic of adultery. One desperate woman accused me recently of being a side chic. Me, an old woman in my late forties. It was laughable at first. She sent me the picture of a young girl of about 25 years that bore no resemblance to me and said that the girl in the picture was me. We had the same first name though. Even after clarifying that it was a case of mistaken identity, the housewife insulted and threatened me for 5 days.

To her mind, I was the person in the picture, and it did not matter that she had made a mistake. She simply was fixated on me. She accused me of using my money to break her marriage. Which money? I wondered. It seemed like paranoia and lunacy. I had to involve the police and threaten to throw her in jail for defamation before she stopped. She simply refused to believe her husband when he told her that I was like an elder sister. I often would call for his services for security reasons because he was a trusted and respectful bolt driver. I thought that I was helping him by patronizing him because he had no job and I had been doing business with him for 5 years. I actually had to involve the police and my lawyer to get his wife to stop.

I suspect that this was a case of raving paranoia bordering on lunacy and I became afraid for my safety. It was not decipherable. I suspect that her husband has subjected her to massive amounts of infidelity, adultery and lies enough to drive her literally crazy. I was once married. I know. My psychologist friend said that I should not have reacted that way because she was a traumatized woman. Unfortunately, I absolutely do not take blame for anything that I do not do but I agreed with him. She needs support and counselling before she goes completely mad, and her husband needs to stop cheating on her. This is the level of emotional abuse that married women go through when their husbands cheat, to the point of losing their minds. Unfortunately, society does not offer enough support to these women.

In conclusion, society should come to terms with the fact that single women in society need to be supported and accepted as valid members of society. It should be more about the content of her character than her marital status in society because there are many single women and women who have chosen to survive and keep their sanity by leaving their marriages, that are serious-minded, responsible and decent members of society who can take good care of themselves and would rather do so than go crazy in marriages. Society should devolve to the level of protecting our daughters by accepting and supporting them, single, married, unmarried or divorced. Only society can save a woman from herself by respecting her for who she is. This concerns all of us because it could be our sister or daughter that would burn herself to death because of our definition of who she is outside marriage.

her that she is a disgrace and a failure for wanting to leave her marriage. If she leaves, she becomes a thing of shame. She is stigmatized and ostracized. Emotional abuse often goes along with physical and verbal abuse and the consistency of these keeps on pushing the victim to the brink of insanity until she eventually becomes suicidal or homicidal. Many stress related diseases also assail her health. Diseases such as cancer and high blood pressure to name a few.

The society needs to rethink its position on the stigmatization of single women and divorcees so that women like Bimbo can leave abusive marriages as a way out. We cannot overemphasize this. How can a woman set herself on fire, going by her brother's account? If her husband has abandoned her for a side chic, is it not better for her to walk away? How can a woman jump into the sea to commit suicide because a man decides that he is no longer interested in marrying her? Single women should not be pressured into getting married so that they can take the time to study the men they would be submitting their entire lives to. Single women and divorcees should also be accepted in society so that they do not feel that they are only valid within a marriage. This will remove the desperation from their lives.

The stigmatization of the single woman and divorcee must stop so that marriages can become healthier. I personally like the Muslim marriage. If the marriage is not working, the two partners reserve the right to go their separate ways. Polygamy is open and women are raised to accept it. The men are advised to desist from marrying more than one wife if they cannot love all four equally. Accepting to end a bad marriage and try again is more realistic than committing murder or homicide.

Society treats single women especially those who are advanced in age, like lepers. People living with HIV and AIDS have more sympathy than a woman who is single or divorcee. This needs to change so that marriage does not become a necessity or something to be endured until a woman loses her mind.

It is high time for churches to have more robust counselling about adultery and domestic violence. It seems like a taboo to discuss this thoroughly during marriage counselling. We have

TODAY we begin a new series, which I have entitled "Why Jesus Came". In this series, we will be focusing on Jesus and the anointing upon His life. This, if I may also add, is the core message of Christmas, which as we know, begins with the announcement that THE SAVIOUR, CHRIST IS BORN. The core of the Christmas message expresses the depth of God's love for humanity. The Bible says in John Chapter 3:16, **For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son...** and then in John 3:17, **God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.**

Christ - who He is; the person of Christ; why He came; the anointing that He carries, and why His birth is such a blessing to the human race.

In Luke 2:9, we are told that Angel Gabriel appeared to As we talk about why Jesus came, examining the message of Christmas, our focus will be on shepherds on the hills of Judaea. They were the ones given the honor by Almighty God to be the first to receive the announcement concerning the arrival of the Saviour. Remember these shepherds on the Judean hills were Israelites, they were Jews, so they already had a background knowledge about the prophesy and they were expecting a saviour.

The Lord chose those lowly, humble set of people on the Judean hills that night to announce, what I believe to be the most important message that would ever be - the coming of the saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:9 says, **"and Lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, the glory of the Lord shone around these shepherds and they were sore afraid; and the angel said to them, 'fear not: for behold I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a saviour which is Christ the Lord'".**

For the record, Christ is not Jesus' surname but a title that denotes His office as Saviour, Deliverer and Messiah. It is His office as the One that God promised through the prophecies; through the Holy Scriptures that a saviour will come to this earth and will deliver mankind from their sin.

The word, "Christ" in Greek is "Christos", which means "the anointed one". Isaiah 10:27

says, **And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.** It is the anointing that destroys the yoke. Jesus is the anointed one; He is the one that has been anointed by God to destroy every yoke and shackle of sin and to totally neutralize Satan's rights to afflict mankind.

is no in-between. The anointing that Jesus carries is the only anointing that can thoroughly severe or cut a human being off from the dominion of the devil. There is NO freedom outside of CHRIST, no true and genuine freedom and deliverance outside of CHRIST. I make bold to say that, according to the Bible, **there is none other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved** (Acts 4:12).

Now, when the angel, Gabriel, appeared to the shepherds at



Taking away the sin of the World



The Bible says in 1 John 3:8 the birth of Jesus, he made the that **He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he the city of David a Saviour, might destroy the works of which is Christ the Lord - the devil.** That He might undo that which the devil has done - untie that which the devil had tied. Jesus is the anointed one, anointed and appointed by God to be the deliverer of the human race. There is No deliverance found anywhere else outside of Jesus.

There is absolutely no deliverance in any other name. Any other option that is given to you is a temporary option that will eventually bring you back into bondage: because the truth of the matter is, in this life, there are only two kingdoms; the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. The Bible says in Colossians 1:12, **giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.**

In this life, a man is either in the kingdom of light or in the kingdom of darkness and there

announcement, as he lit up the Judean sky that day with the good news, saying, **for the Saviour is born; the one the world has been waiting for is born. Jesus Christ is the only one that can severe or cut mankind off from being tied to the devil. He is the only one that can guarantee a life free from satanic affliction. He is the only one that can reconcile man to God. He is the only one that can have an eternal habitation in Heaven. Jesus is the only one that can guarantee a life on the earth that Satan has no right to intrude. As the Bible says in Psalms 34:19, many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.**

This is the message that the angel was bringing and this is the core message of Christmas - the Saviour is born; the Christ is born, the one the world has been waiting for is born. Jesus Christ is the only one that can severe or cut mankind off from being tied to the devil. He is the only one that can guarantee a life free from satanic affliction. He is the only one that can reconcile man to God. He is the only one that can have an eternal habitation in Heaven. Jesus is the only one that can guarantee a life on the earth that Satan has no right to intrude. As the Bible says in Psalms 34:19, **many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.**

We are not insinuating that

Jesus came to give you a life that is free from challenges but that He came to guarantee that through the anointing that He carries, if you are connected to Him and have given your life to Him, that same anointing will come upon you as well; and He will fight your battles.

No matter what comes against you, that anointing will cause you to be victorious. Romans 8:31-32 says, **what shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**

The anointing, that Jesus carries; the core anointing He carries is an anointing for salvation. The Greek word for salvation is "sozo", which means *to deliver, to preserve*. It also means healing, being made whole; to keep one safe and sound, to rescue men from danger or destruction. These are the virtues that the anointing upon Jesus carries. He is the saviour, He is the Lord. The core anointing He carries is the anointing to save.

God sent Jesus to this earth because He wanted all mankind to partake in His salvation. God desires that all of mankind, every human being living, to become connected to Jesus and the anointing He carries for it is only in Christ that we find true deliverance.

Now, the first anointing Jesus carries is that to deliver men

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Sin is the gateway to every satanic affliction in life. John the Baptist made this declaration concerning the Lord Jesus Christ at the waters of baptism when Jesus came to River Jordan where John was baptizing. Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness, submitted Himself to the ministry of John the Baptist to be baptized.

We see John 1:29 make the important proclamation, **Behold the Lamb of God.** When Jesus came, one of His assignment was to take upon Himself the sin of the world. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, **For He had made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.** When Jesus took and paid for our sin, He effectively broke the dominion and power of sin over our lives. Romans 6:14 says **For sin shall not have any dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace.** This means that the authority of sin is broken over our lives for the payment for sin has been made. Hallelujah!

To be continued.

"Now, the first anointing Jesus carries is that to deliver men from sin. Sin is the gateway to every satanic affliction in life. John the Baptist made this declaration concerning the Lord Jesus Christ at the waters of baptism when Jesus came to River Jordan where John was baptizing. Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness, submitted Himself to the ministry of John the Baptist to be baptized."

INTERNATIONAL

Asia-Pacific leaders condemn Russia-Ukraine war

HOST Thailand garnered a diplomatic Avisions among the 21 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum by saying that most members had condemned the war. Russia is an APEC member, as is China, which generally has refrained from criticizing Moscow.

The declaration issued by APEC leaders acknowledged differing views on the war and said the forum, which is devoted largely to promoting trade and closer economic ties, was not a venue for resolving such conflicts.

But it noted that the war and other security issues can "can have significant consequences for the global economy."

The leaders' statement said most members had strongly condemned the war in Ukraine, stressing that it is causing immense human suffering and worsening inflation, supply chain troubles, food insecurity and financial risks.

The meetings recently wrapped up a flurry of meetings in Southeast Asian countries this week, events that gave leaders opportunities for face-to-face talks that have been rare in the past two years of pandemic precautions.

Much of the activity at such summits occurs on the sidelines and in the interludes before and after the formal meetings.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris exchanged brief remarks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday before the final APEC meeting began, calling for both sides to keep lines of communication open.

Xi said he viewed a meeting earlier in the week with President Joe Biden as a step toward a "next stage" in ties between the two largest economies, according to a Chinese government summary of the meeting.

Relations have deteriorated recently amid friction over trade and technology, Chinese claims on the separately governed island of Taiwan, human rights and other issues. But Harris told Xi the U.S. "does not seek confrontation or conflict with China."

Harris received a "handover" in the form of a symbolic "chalom" bamboo basket from



Zelensky

the APEC host, Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. The U.S. will host next year's summit in San Francisco, with preliminary meetings to be held in other cities throughout the year.

Though summit meetings are often sidetracked by other more urgent concerns, APEC's long-term mission is promoting closer economic ties.

Prayuth opened Saturday's meeting by urging the leaders to push ahead with APEC's agenda of promoting free trade in the Pacific region.

Both at APEC in Thailand and at the G-20 meeting in Indonesia, officials appear to have chosen to agree to disagree about the war, while voicing anguish over its deepening impact. In both Bangkok and Bali, countries that have refused to condemn the invasion refrained from blocking the release of statements harshly criticizing Moscow.

APEC members account for nearly four of every 10 people and almost half of world trade. Much of APEC's work is technical and incremental, carried out by senior officials and ministers, covering areas such as trade, forestry, health, food, security, small- and medium-size enterprises and women's empowerment.

The leaders' declaration released Saturday also called for promoting more use of clean energy and more secure, environmentally sustainable food systems, among an array of goals that also address illegal, unregulated and unauthorized fishing, illegal logging, marine waste, improvements to public health and better access to vaccinations.

Other APEC members include Brunei, Chile, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who was to represent the Association of Southeast Asian Nations but did not attend after getting Covid-19.

The summit venue, at Bangkok's main convention center near a vast parkland, was cordoned off with some streets closed to traffic. Riot police stood guard behind barricades at major intersections to keep protesters well away.

On Friday, police clashed in another area of Bangkok with demonstrators who took the opportunity of the APEC meeting to renew calls for democratic reforms in Thailand and accuse the government of promoting policies to APEC that favor big business over ordinary people.

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has promised to use nuclear weapons to counter threats from the United States hours after test-firing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the latest escalation as the UN Security Council prepares to convene an emergency session on Pyongyang's actions.

The United Nations Security Council, at the behest of Japan, South Korea and the US will gather on Monday to discuss North Korea's latest missile launch.

North Korea test-fired what it said was a Hwasong-17 ICBM, which can travel up to 15,000 km (9,320 miles), on Friday shortly after warning of "fiercer military responses" to Washington.

KCNA said the Hwasong-17 launched on Friday was aimed at achieving "the most powerful and absolute nuclear deterrence" and described the missile as "the strongest strategic weapon in the world".

North Korea has long defended its launch of ballistic missiles as a legitimate defence against what it calls a decades-old threat from US military forces and its allies in South Korea.

Kim was accompanied by his daughter, in her first public appearance, while he inspected a missile launch site on Friday. Trained by military officials and personnel, Kim and his daughter walked hand-in-hand through the ICBM launch site where they

N Korea promises using nuclear weapons on US



Jong Un

paused to observe military hardware and multiple ICBMs.

Commenting on Friday's launch, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said his country had "lodged a strong protest against North Korea, which has repeated its provocations with unprecedented frequency".

"We have told (Pyongyang) that we absolutely cannot tolerate such actions," Kishida said at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting in Thailand.

KCNA said the missile flew nearly 1,000 km (621 miles) for roughly 69 minutes, reaching a peak altitude of 6,041 km (3,754 miles).

US politics, Canada's multiculturalism, South America's geopolitical rise—we bring you the stories that matter.

Kim hailed the test launch a success, declaring it as

confirmation of North Korea's "maximum capacity to contain any nuclear threat" and a warning to US President Joe Biden's administration and allies that any military provocation would trigger their "self-destruction", KCNA reported.

Biden promised a "defensive" response to "send a clear message to North Korea" if Xi could not rein in Pyongyang. Biden has not yet directly addressed North Korea's Friday ICBM test.

"We are aware of the DPRK's ballistic missile launch and are consulting closely with the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan, as well as other regional allies and partners," the US Department of Defence said in a statement sent to Al Jazeera.

North Korea's official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

US announces special prosecutor in Trump probe

THE first investigation concerns whether "any person or entity unlawfully interfered with the transfer of power following the 2020 presidential election".

The second delves into whether Trump mishandled classified documents and other presidential records following his departure from office, as well as whether he obstructed an investigation into those documents.

Garland cited Trump's decision on Tuesday to launch a 2024 presidential bid, as well as US President Joe Biden's intention to run, as reasons for the special

counsel appointment.

Attorney General Merrick Garland's news conference comes on the heels of former President Donald Trump's announcement that he would be running for a second term as US president [Andrew Harnik/AP Photo]

In the wake of his 2020 defeat, Trump falsely claimed that the election was "stolen", stoking conspiracy theories about the legitimacy of the ballot count.

Such claims helped spur the deadly January 6 attack on the US Capitol, when Trump supporters attempted to stop Congress from

confirming Biden as president. Trump's involvement in that attack and the events leading up to it are part of the continuing investigation.

Reporting from Washington, DC, Al Jazeera's Rosiland Jordan said Garland's decision to distance himself from the investigations and appoint a special counsel aims to avert a "perceived conflict of interest".

"This is a situation where the Justice Department is trying to make certain that this work is completed but that there is not any way of accusing the department of

trying to tilt the scales for or against Donald Trump, or [of] working at the specific behest of Joe Biden," Jordan said.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters later on Friday that Biden had "no reaction" to Garland's announcement, referring their questions instead to the US Justice Department.

He also cited Smith's previous work with the US Department of Justice, where "he led a team of more than 30 prosecutors who handled public corruption and election crimes".

Change of Name

CHRISTIANA	BULUS	DATONG	KELECHI	SENTAP	BARNABAS
I, formerly known as CHRISTIANA DANJUMA AUDU , now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTIANA YUSUF DANGYANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BULUS FRIDAY PETER , now wish to be known and addressed as BULUS FRIDAY NDAM . Correct date of birth is 19/01/2003 not 20/01/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as GODWIN RINLONG , now wish to be known and addressed as DATONG GODWIN RINGLONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as KELECHI EGBU & EGBU JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as KELECHI JOHN EGBU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SENTAP DABORAH , now wish to be known and addressed as SENTAP NAANWONBA SATI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as BARNABAS AMINU , now wish to be known and addressed as BARNABAS JEFF GREER . Correct date of birth is September 10, 2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
NWAFOR	NWAFOR	ADAMU	OTUNUYA	BAPIDAK	MUSBAHU
I, formerly known as JULIANA FESTUS , now wish to be known and addressed as NWAFOR CHIAMAKA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MARIAGORETY FESTUS , now wish to be known and addressed as NWAFOR CHISOM MARIAGORETY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ADAMU IDRIS MUH D' DUMI , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU IDRIS MUHAMMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as OTUNUYA CHUKWUEMEKE MICHAEL now wish to be known and addressed as ONYA CHUKWUEMEKE OTUNUYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as BAPIDAK PANIMAI , now wish to be known and addressed as BAPIDAK PANIMAI GARBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MUSBAHU IBRAHIM AHMED , now wish to be known and addressed as MUSBAHU IBRAHIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
GLADYS	ADADU	EVELYN	OKOLOMMA	MUKAILA	IZANG
I, formerly known as GLADYS WIKI JOSHUA , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GLADYS WIKI ISHAYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as PEACE ADADU , now wish to be known and addressed as PEACE OGBEBOR ADADU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as EVELYN OBADIAH ATINGS , now wish to be known and addressed as CHEGA EVELYN BERNARD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as RITA IFEOMA ORANYELU now wish to be known and addressed as RITA IFEOMA OKOLOMMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ASMA'U MUKAILA SHITU , now wish to be known and addressed as ASMA'U MUKAILA ABEYEMI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as IZANG AYISA ESTHER now wish to be known and addressed as IZANG LINDA AYISA . My date of birth is 8/12/1996 not 9/12/1989 and 8/12/1993. My phone No. is 0704812393 not 08137729431 and 07065683798. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

FEATURE

National monuments: A veritable attraction for tourism

Nigeria is a country blessed with rich cultural and natural heritage. These heritage materials include both tangible and intangible material. The tangible heritage includes all monuments and sites across the country. The quest to protect, preserve and promote these heritage properties led to the establishment of the National Commission for museums and monuments in 1979 empowered with extant laws to ensure the effective preservation and sustenance of these monuments and sites in order to ensure the legacy is passed on to the future generation for continuity. CHIKODI ALOZIE, writes.

A monument can be an architectural work of monumental sculptures, paintings, elements of the structure of an archaeological nature, inscription, cave-dwelling and a combination of features which are of outstanding universal value from the point of history and science. A Site however can be a work of man or combined works of man and nature, an area including archaeological sites which are also of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, technological, or anthropological points of view.

Globally, it is understood that when people move from their usual place of residence or existence to another place to return within an appreciably short period of time for the sole purpose of leisure and pleasure the act of tourism has taken place. As defined by United Nations World Tourism Organization, a Tourism Product is "a combination of tangible and intangible elements, such as natural, cultural and man-made resources, attractions, facilities, services and activities around a specific center of interest which represents the core of the destination marketing mix and creates an overall visitor experience and pleasure.

Nigeria is a tourist haven with enormous economic potentials. It is a country endowed with a plethora of historical sites, monuments and richly diverse cultural heritage. Some historical sites in Nigeria include Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove, Ogbunike caves, Sukur Cultural Landscape, Idanre hills, the Yankari Games Reserve, and many more. In addition to the sites, Nigeria is blessed with numerous monuments, some of which have been nationally declared and many more still under processing. In all, the country prides herself in a huge collection of 65 Nationally declared monuments and another 103 on the proposed list for declaration.

Monuments and Sites have tremendous potential to promote tourism and recreational activities, which stimulates social and economic development. They have great potentials to drive the socio-economic life of the country. Their designs and attraction appeal to people's sense of history, curiosity, interest, origin, as well as religious or cultural positions. They are educative tools for history of important figures, people and events that appeal to the people. Monuments and sites also attract a lot of tourists who travel from all over the world to view them, thus generating huge economic gain to host communities. If these endowments are properly managed and utilized, they will



greatly impact on the promotion of tourism in Nigeria as they have the capacity to stimulate tourism and international patronage. However most unfortunately, these potentials have been untapped, mitigating the socioeconomic gain of the nation. Heritage and historic resources such as Monuments and Sites are pivotal portraits upon which tourism is advanced, promoted and sustained world over in modern days with the attendant social and economic benefits accruing.

Monuments do not just serve economic purposes. Their presence helps people to improve their self-worth and originality, boosting their sense of history, self-discovery, pride in their culture and better understanding of their origin. Notable monuments of tremendous importance and public interest make their way into the renowned UNESCO World Heritage Site. In a bid to

preserve monuments, historic sites and structures for their socio-cultural relevance, they simultaneously serve as tourism attractions that could bring about sustainable development and economic prosperity.

These heritage resources were created from human interaction with the environment. They have become our source of identity and pride. The monuments and sites are some of the tangible

resources that are passed down from one generation to another and they possess intrinsic beauty and values that woo tourists who want to experience unique landscapes, traditions and history of cultural sites. Since it is widely known that tourism is an instrument for the development of a nation, It is important that government should play an active role in developing monuments, and

sites across the country by providing adequate facilities and cutting-edge infrastructure, for most of the sites which are located in rural areas which are typically characterized by lack of infrastructures such as poor road network, lack of potable water supply, substandard and insecure hotels and irregular power supply. Government needs to do more to control the alarming rate of insecurity in the country. Religious and ethnic crises should be checkmated to the minimum level. Tourists will hesitate to visit a country where their lives and property are not guaranteed. Travel and tourism are built on peace and relaxation. Finally, there should be robust publicity and awareness of the monuments and sites for tourists to access their locations and enjoy the pleasure of their values.

Chikodi Writes from Abuja is of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Abuja.

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'Music has been my major ministerial assignment'



genres of music, such as the Raggae, Highlife and Makosa music. The slow worship pattern of music developed in a later time. It has been wonderful and challenging at the same time because music itself requires hard work and determination to reach standard or meet the satisfaction requirements of the audience. Above all, God has been faithful and music has become my major ministerial assignment through which I have gain much favor from God and people. I do not struggle to sing or compose new songs because of the grace Is sufficient indeed. Thank you.

I really listened to your wonderful reggae piece in Mupun dialect, how did you come about this?

That tittle track is called "Matkaa khi

Lukaa mo" which literally means, widows and orphans. The track is specially dedicated to widows and

CAN you tell me a little about yourself please?

Okay it's a great privilege. My name is Tangkat Hope Dachom A.K.A La Mishkoom. (which means the son of a king). This is a stage name generated from one of my music albums in Mupun, a language spoken on the Plateau, precisely in Pankshin L.G.C. I am a music minister, song writer, music director and teacher of various kinds of musical instruments, mostly among children, teenagers and few adults. Finally, I won't forget to mention that I am a linguist by profession; that is why I love to use our local native languages with a little infusion of English and French languages respectively in my music so as to carry different people along as well as project the beauty of languages used in African music.

When did you venture into music and how has it become?

Wow, interesting. My passion for music started when I was much younger. From lover of music to gradually a doer of music. It is indeed a dream come true because way back in my secondary school days, I loved singing special numbers during F.C.S around 2001 to 2007. From there I joined the church music band where I learned to play the box guitar, courtesy of my elder brother Pan Nazereth, who was already deeply into music. I could play and lead while others backup with singing and clapping of hands accompanied by a single tambourine. It was really a good and interesting beginning both in rural or village domain. from thence, I started composing personal songs and ministering alongside other likeminded persons during concerts or at wedding occasions respectively. I became more experienced and enthusiastic about diverse



orphans in the society. How they have become vulnerable in the society. Some of them are really
Continued on page 26

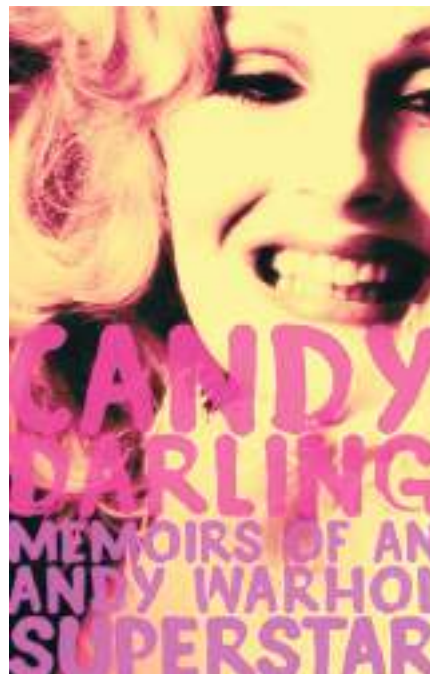
Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

These fascinating biographies deserve a spot on your must-read list.



History is chock-full of women who made incredible contributions to society, yet are overlooked by the public. From pioneers and political dissidents to inventors and astrophysicists, the biographies of these historical female figures deserve a spot on your must-read list, which is continued from last week.

Candy Darling



Rediscover the first trans superstar in Candy Darling's personal journals, chronicling her time in Andy Warhol's Factory and as muse to The Velvet Underground. Darling, who sadly passed away at only 29, was one of the most visible of Warhol's stars and starred in the first, Off-Broadway run of a Tennessee Williams play after the playwright specifically requested her casting. Her witty thoughts capture an era in this memoir.

Free Woman



Often ignored by historians, Victoria Woodhull is a historical figure that drastically shifted the political conversation in the United States. Woodhull's commitment to rabble-raising and activism marked a major shift in the movement toward women's suffrage. She even ran for President of the United States in 1872. Those who opposed her views (and who were likely equally appalled by her unconventional background) heavily attacked Woodhull. She had been twice divorced and held a series of unorthodox careers before running for President.

Even the feminists of her time were infuriated by Woodhull's campaign—she was an advocate for free love, birth control, and the freedom of female sexuality, long before any of those ideas became commonplace.

Continued on page 26

EVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Too much sex may affect your health

EACH person's definition of a good sex life is different, and while some people are perfectly fine to rarely have sex, others prefer to have it multiple times a day.

Still, you might be wondering if it's possible to have too much sex. Whether you're in the honeymoon phase with a new partner, on vacation enjoying getaway sex thanks to all that extra free time, or point-blank love having a lot of sex, you might wonder how much is too much for your body and mind to handle.

The good news is, as long as both you and your partners are happy and comfortable, there's really no such thing as too much sex.

"There's no limit to the amount of sex anyone can have, but there are physical issues that might leave you a little, shall we say, uncomfortable days later," Diana Bitner, an OB-GYN, told Women's Health. Even though you can have as much sex as you're comfortable with, there are plenty of sure signs that your body has had enough.

The first obvious sign is **vaginal dryness**. If things are feeling dry down below, it might be because your body has experienced too much prolonged contact or penetration. When this happens, tiny micro-tears in the vagina can occur, which can be seriously painful.

"Vaginal tears can happen with too much sex, especially if there are any other conditions such as vaginal dryness from low dose birth control pills," Bitner said.

A lot of sex can cause a urinary tract or vaginal infection if you're not careful.

Sometimes you can get a UTI even if you're careful.

The more sex you have in a short amount of time, the less natural moisture your body is able to produce.

"This typically causes friction and pain, which is your body's signal to press pause".

Bitner added that too much sex could also cause irritation, chafing, or rashes on the external skin around the vulva, and your labia could become engorged and swollen.

Another unpleasant, possible side effect of too much sex is an increase in the risk of bladder and vaginal infections. Bodily fluids can knock your vagina's natural pH levels out of whack, making you more susceptible to infection.

You should always use the bathroom before and after sex to help keep your vagina healthy, but too much intercourse could still cause an infection, and you might not notice until days later.

Semen has a pH of seven, which can support unhealthy bacteria within the vagina. "That combined with too much friction from sex could increase the chance of bacteria from the vagina and anus finding their way into the bladder, causing a urinary tract infection."

According to Prevention, common signs of an infection include an increased urge to urinate with little or nothing coming out, a burning sensation while urinating, and urine that is cloudy, pink, or has blood in it, as well as unusual discharge, pain, and odors. But these symptoms don't always appear, so check with your doctor if you're not sure.

People with penises can experience physical symptoms as well.

People with penises can also experience pain, irritation, and



soreness from too much sex.

When people ejaculate eight to 10 times over the weekend from Friday to Sunday, it's going to cause some pain and discomfort when you go to that extreme amount,

Communication with your partner is key

If you're not comfortable with the amount of sex you're having with your partner, talk about it.

Aside from the potential for unpleasant physical symptoms, there's also the psychological aspect of having "too much sex." Kirk told "One or more partners may feel overwhelmed by the expectation to perform sexually more than the other, and this can cause withdrawal and resentment."

You should be regularly checking in with your partner — and yourself — to ensure that the amount of sex you're having is what you're both happy with.

Though compulsive sexual behavior as a psychiatric disorder is a topic that's hotly debated by researchers and medical experts, only you and your partner can determine if your sexual patterns are interfering with your life in a problematic way. If stuff is not getting done — like cleaning the house, going to work, or taking care of your basic needs — in order to have sex, then it's probably too much sex."

When it comes down to it, the choice is up to you.

How much sex you have is entirely up to you — whether that means daily, weekly, monthly, or never at all.

When it comes to the frequency of sex, each person has their preference, which is then limited by their schedule, their sleep pattern, and of course, their partner's availability. "Couples will find their own ebb and flow. There will be times of more sex and times of less. The most

important thing is to stay connected and communicate so that you can weather and enjoy wherever you are on the spectrum.

Communication is the most important aspect to a healthy sex life, so be sure to check in with your partner and with yourself to ensure you're on the same page and enjoying the amount of sexual activity that you feel comfortable with.

Source: Insider



THEY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Things you should avoid doing in your life

LIFE is short but sweet. It can have its challenges and opportunities.

Sometimes life throws us curve balls we were not expecting. During these tough times, you mustn't do something you may regret later in life.

"Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood." — Ralph Waldo Emerson, an American essayist

What exactly should you try to avoid? The answers are more straightforward than you realize.

Assume Your 9–5 Job Will Last for a Long Time and Be Your Only Income

No matter where you live in the world, the state of the economy, or how the job market looks, life can throw you the unexpected. That's why you must be ready for whatever comes your way. The job you are working at now is not guaranteed to be there one month or one year from now.

You can't place all your money in one basket. You must diversify with side hustles and prepare in advance for hard times. You never know when you are going to get the pink slip.

Whether you are 90 days into your new job or have been there for years, you must save enough money to live off it for three months. Also, you have multiple streams of income with side hustles. Relying on one job and one source of income is trouble.

Forget to Live by Your Values and Morals

It would help if you didn't forget how you were raised, your values, and your beliefs.

You probably even created some personal rules along the way. Your values and moral compass will help you make tough decisions and guide you through life.

Make sure that your values align with where you spend your time, and that you are true to what you say. Make sure you stand true to who you are in what you say and do. Make sure your actions back up your words.

Don't Set Goals

Don't be someone who doesn't set goals and doesn't want to be someone. Don't drift through life like a feather in the wind. Set goals, so you know what you want to be and treasure every moment of your life.

Goals help you stay focused and give your life meaning. Look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself who you want to become and what type of lifestyle you want. Write down your top three goals and create a flexible plan to achieve them.

Depend on Other People Too Much

Are you looking to others for constant love? Do you need attention from other people? Do you find that you need others to entertain you?

Focus on what you have going on in your life, not how others can help you

Please don't rely on others too much because you are out of luck when they don't have time for you. Build your confidence to take care of yourself and live a happy life.

Don't look to others to help you. Believe in yourself, find fun by being alone, and develop



skills that add value to other people's lives.

Tell Yourself You Can't Do Something

It's easy to say you can't do something. If something looks hard to do, it's simple to say you don't have the skills to do it. Don't let your fears hold you back.

A subtle change in your attitude can greatly impact your life in more ways than you may realize

Instead of saying, "I can't" to

something, say, "I can" do this. Ask yourself, "why not?" You can do anything when you leave space in your life for possibilities. Don't let your fear of not being to do something take away from the fact that if you set your mind to do something, you can do it.

Dwell on Your Missteps

We all make mistakes. The key is to learn from them, not dwell on them.

Learn to fail, not fail to learn. Making missteps is part of life, and how you approach your mistakes is the key to living a resilient and successful life. Forgive yourself for your past mistakes. Reflect, learn, and move on.

We all underperform in some way in our lives. The key is to change how you view mistakes. View them as opportunities to grow, not ways to keep you from being successful and happy.

Spend What You Don't Have

Living in the moment and spending money you don't have can be easy. If you don't have it, don't spend it. It's as simple as that.

Keep track of your monthly income and expenses. Create a budget. Don't get caught up with keeping up with the Joneses.

Set aside a certain percentage of your paycheck for savings or investing. Be smart by taking away a little each month; over time, that small amount will turn into a large amount.

Take Yourself Too Seriously

Do you have a great sense of

humor? Is it dry or dark? Are you good at making yourself laugh?

It would help if you did not take yourself too seriously to get through hard times. It would help if you laughed at yourself and with others because life can get hard some days.

Forget Who Helped You During Difficult Times

Life gets tough, and you'll most likely have friends and family to assist you when you need it. Don't forget who helped you when you needed it most or were down and out.

Always remember the simple gestures or kind acts that others do. Don't forget to remember the person who took time out of their day to help you. Be grateful and reciprocate that help to others.

Blame Others for Your Problems

"People who blame things rarely change things. Blame is an unassailable change-avoidance strategy." — Andy Stanley, an American pastor and author

You must accept responsibility for your thoughts, actions, and words. Don't blame others for your problems.

You have control over how you feel, act, and talk. You are responsible for the consequences of your behavior. You don't have to do anything others say to do because the power to change your life or fix your issues starts and ends with you.

Source: *Derma Essentia*.





Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi
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What discipline should you give a child?

THE rate of maltreatment and wickedness meted on domestic servants and children in the hands of their guardians these days is a cause for concern.

A trending report by Vanguard of how an 11 year-old girl was allegedly tortured to death in Jos, Plateau State by her guardian is worrisome and brings to question the level of discipline parents or guardians are supposed to give their children.

The 11 years old girl, identified as Margaret Joshua died as a result of alleged physical abuse by her guardian, Mrs. Nneamaka Nwachuku, a Microbiologist who works with one of the Research Institutes in Vom, Jos South local government area of Plateau State.

The victim is from Kebbi State and was fleeing from insecurity in her community before some supposed helper brought her to Jos to serve in the Nwachuku's home

The alleged abuser, a mother of two who did not enrol the victim in any school in the over one year that the girl had spent with them, rather indulged in the daily beating of the girl until she finally died as the result of the assault.

It was gathered that after a recent beating, the girl was forced to sit in a container with hot water which burnt her buttocks and she died in the hospital on Monday.

The sad incident attracted the Plateau State Coordinator of the National Human Rights Commission, Mrs. Grace Pam whose office is following up on the case. She told Vanguard that based on the number of scars and wounds on her body, her guardians must have subjected her to a series of torture during



the period that she stayed with the family.

Pam while narrating the incident said "Our attention was called to the situation on Monday by a staff in the hospital who said that an 11-year-old girl was seriously beaten and injured by her guardian, Mrs. Nneamaka Nwachuku in Vom. The girl had scars and burns on her body. We were told that she was taken to Mandela hospital in Kaduna Vom before she was referred to come to Jos.

"When some of our staff met with Mrs. Nwachuku at the Police Station in Vom where she was detained, she confessed she has been beating her and claimed the girl used to masturbate so she was punishing her so she could stop. She claimed she did not know what used to come over her because she felt bad anytime she beats the child."

Speaking on the burns on the victim's buttocks, the guardian claimed: "she fell into hot water and ran out of the house after the incident for almost 24hrs."

It was however gathered that someone saw the traumatised girl on the street and took her to the Police station at Kaduna Vom, the Police took the girl to the hospital before calling the attention of her guardian as Mrs. Pam expressed worry that, "no action was taken to take care of the girl in her condition for about 24hrs until someone saw her and took her to the Police station".

It was also gathered that this was not the first time the Nwachukus would assault the girl as the Police had earlier warned them against maltreating the girl and asked them to return the girl to her parents. The supposed guardians have not met the girl's parents who are in Kebbi State but are said to have been speaking with them on phone.

However, the case has been transferred from the Police

Station in Kaduna to the Police Headquarters in Jos as investigations continue.

A call for Justice

Stakeholders human rights groups, and the law should take its course in seeking justice for the late Margaret to serve as deterrent for guardians who turn monsters and abuse children under their care who are either relations or domestic servants.

Parents and guardians should know when to set the boundaries

and be aware that abuse is different from discipline. There is no excuse for creating fatal and life threatening injuries in a child in the guise of punishment.

Guidelines for the protection of the rights of the child including a right to education, housing, good livelihood, access to good parenting that is free from abuse must be paramount in the country although most States are yet to pass the Act into Law.



EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Foods that support healthy aging

As we age, the foods we eat can greatly affect our fitness, appearance, quality of life, and disease risk.

Our bodies rely on various nutrients to support the natural aging process. Some nutrients may help slow signs of aging, such as by promoting healthy skin.

It's important to note that eating specific foods isn't going to make you look noticeably younger, and that nutrition is only one aspect of aging well.

Still, adding nutrient-dense foods to your diet can help you look and feel your best as you get older. In general, try to eat:

- healthy sources of protein
- healthy fats
- foods that are rich in antioxidants

Here are nutritious foods that support healthy aging.

Extra virgin olive oil

Extra virgin olive oil is one of the healthiest oils on earth. It's rich in healthy fats and antioxidants that help reduce inflammation and oxidative damage caused by an imbalance of free radicals in the body.

A diet rich in olive oil has been linked to a lower risk of chronic diseases including:

- heart disease
- type 2 diabetes
- metabolic syndrome
- certain types of cancer

In particular, monounsaturated fats (MUFAs) make up about 73% of olive oil. Some studies have



shown that a diet rich in MUFAs may help reduce skin aging thanks to the strong anti-inflammatory effects of these healthy fats. Extra virgin olive oil is also high in antioxidants, such as tocopherols and beta carotene, as well as phenolic compounds that also have anti-inflammatory properties.

In fact, one 2012 study

found that people who consumed a diet rich in MUFAs from olive oil had a lower risk of severe skin aging.

The authors suggested that the anti-inflammatory properties of both MUFAs and antioxidants found in olive oil were most likely responsible for this effect.

Ideally, choose cold pressed extra virgin olive oil because it's higher in antioxidants and less processed than oils that are extracted using other methods. Try adding it to a salad or dip.

Summary

Olive oil has strong anti-inflammatory properties that may protect against severe skin aging and chronic disease.

Green tea

Green tea is high in antioxidants, which can help fight free radicals in the body.

Free radicals are unstable molecules created as a byproduct of normal cell functioning. They can also form in response to stressors from the external environment, such as ultraviolet (UV) light or tobacco smoke. Free radicals can damage your cells if they're present at high levels.

they're present at high levels.

That's where antioxidants come in. These molecules stabilize free radicals so they're unable to cause damage. You usually get antioxidants through your diet — like from green tea.

These may reduce your risk of:

- heart disease
- neurological decline
- premature aging
- other chronic diseases

The polyphenols found in green tea may help reduce external skin aging — from environmental stressors such as the sun and pollution — by scavenging free radicals before they damage the skin.

In fact, many skin care products contain green tea extract for its antioxidant and antiaging properties. However, more research is needed before green tea products can be recommended to reduce skin aging.

That said, consuming a diet high in antioxidants is associated with a reduced risk of chronic disease and healthier skin. And drinking green tea can be a great way to get more antioxidants into

your diet.

Summary

Green tea has strong antioxidant properties. As such, it may help protect your skin against free radical damage that can occur as a result of external factors like pollution or sunlight. That said, more research is needed.

Fatty Fish

Fatty fish is a highly nutritious food that can promote healthy skin.

Its long-chain omega-3 fats are beneficial against heart disease, inflammation, and many other issues.

Furthermore, research has shown that omega-3 fatty acids are linked to a strong skin barrier and may help decrease inflammation that damages the skin.

Salmon, one of the most popular types of fatty fish, has additional aspects that may help support your skin's health.

First, it contains a carotenoid antioxidant called astaxanthin, which is responsible for the pink color of salmon.

Source: Healthnews.com



BUSINESS WORLD

Fuel scarcity: Why black market thrives

Fuel scarcity hit the nation's capital in September and has continued to take its toll on residents two months after. Not a few residents have questioned why filling stations hardly stock fuel but the street hawkers continue to make brisk sells even at odd hours. TOPE SUNDAY writes.

THE floods that ravaged Lokoja and its environs in September was said to be responsible for the fuel scarcity that hit Abuja. This was reportedly because of inability of the petroleum tankers to cross to the city centre.

However, weeks after the floods receded, Abuja was still experiencing fuel scarcity, while the street hawkers were cashing out very big.

This is as many fuel stations have remained shut, while others dispensing fuel have queues stretching over two kilometres at every point.

Similarly, Blueprint Weekend gathered that in the outskirts few filling stations sell for as much as N250 per litre which is better compared to N350 per litre the street hawkers offer with litre containers going for N3,500.

The situation has also led to an increase in the cost of transportation with and many car owners, especially commercial drivers lamenting about the development.

Thriving black marketer

This medium can reliably report that black marketers have engaged in brisk business by taking the advantage of the long lasting fuel scarcity in Abuja.

Our correspondent, who visited some fuel stations around Jabi/Utako area of the city, as well as the Central Business District, gathered that a litre of PMS was being sold for N185 and N179, above the N175 official pump price, even in some NNPC stations.

Also, the presence of black marketers was noticed around the fuel stations offering alternative source for motorist unwilling to join the unreasonably long fuel queues.

Blueprint Weekend checks further revealed that in some fuel stations in Kuje, Gwagbalada, and Abaji, all suburbs of Abuja, a litre of fuel was being sold for between N235 and N250 while the street hawkers were selling at one litre for N350.

One of the hawker, who identified himself as Aliyu, told our correspondent that he bought 25 litres of fuel at N7,500 from one of the filling stations in Utako he couldn't sell below his cost price.

He said: "I just bought this 25 litres from a filling station in Utako for N7,500, the attendants have added money. So, I will sell 10 litres for N3,500. That is how I will make my own gains."

Also speaking with this medium, a car owner, Eze Jude, alleged that long queues only surface in fuel stations that sell fuel N175 per litre, while those that sell above N200 witness fewer number of cars.

He added that he preferred to buy fuel from standby black marketers around fuel stations to save time.

"To answer your question, I may say that fuel scarcity we are experiencing in Abuja is unnecessarily prolonged. Unfortunately, some people are making a lot of money from the situation.

"Go to filling stations today, they are selling for between N179 and N185 in the city centre, but in the outskirts we buy a litre for between



N235 and N250 at filling stations.

"Also, you will see black marketers selling their products in front of stations at about N50 to N100 difference from what is sold in the filling station. For the want of time, I prefer black market to the filling station in this kind of situation. Why must I waste my time? No, I can't waste my time at the filling station," he said.

Another resident of the FCT, Olagoke Alabi, on his part said because of the nature of his job, he could not queue at the filling station but always patronise the black marketers for fuel despite the huge price they are selling it.

"On a normal day, I don't like queuing at the filling station, and now that black marketers are very close to the filling stations, I do patronize them, though I buy the PMS at a very high price compared to the pump price at the station. Now, some filling stations are selling between N 185 and N250 in the outskirts. So, I don't need to queue in the filling stations when I can get PMS from black marketers at N300 or N350 per litre", Alabi said.

Why black market thrives

Speaking to Blueprint Weekend an Abuja resident, Haruna Ahmad, alleged that some fuel stations were aiding the street hawkers businesses by supplying them with the product.

He further claimed that the hawkers usually shared the gain from the transaction with the fuel attendants and wondered why they were being allowed to operate freely in the nation's capital.

Ahmad said: "The situation in Abuja is so frustrating. In the nation's capital, black marketers are operating freely and selling fuel without fear. They are doing brisk business very close to the filling

stations.

"Where are they getting their products from? Is it not from the same filling stations where people have to queue for several hours? Some of the pump attendants at the filling stations are conniving with them. They get the product with ease whereas car owners would suffer to buy the same product from the filling stations. This is worrisome, and very discouraging."

In the same vein, another resident Moses Emmanuel alleged that some marketers' attitude of hoarding fuel was encouraging black marketers to extort the populace.

He called on the security agencies to arrest and prosecute the owners of fuel stations found to be hoarding the product in order to serve as deterrent to others.

"Some marketers are responsible for the black market thriving in Abuja because they are hoarding the product. Are fuel tankers not entering their fuel stations again? Some of the fuel station managers are deliberately frustrating motorists who throng their stations. This development makes some of them to be at the mercy of the black marketers," he declared.

On his part, a civil servant resident in Abuja, Emeka Samuel, decried the fact that some car owners preferred buying fuel from the black market rather than waiting endlessly at filling stations during fuel scarcity season.

According to him, the fuel attendants at some filling stations fill cars with 'ordinary air' instead of fuel.

This is against the situation where the customers can see the product they are buying in the black market.



Kyari

"During fuel scarcity season, some of us who are car owners don't trust some filling stations because some of them fill our cars with ordinary air; some others

readjust their pumps. However, at the black market, we have value for our money, though a bit higher, we can see what we are buying," he said.

Source:Blueprint

BUSINESS WORLD

133 million Nigerians poor in health, education

- NBS

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has said 133 million people in Africa's biggest economy are poor in health, education and two other dimensions.

The NBS said this in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report launched recently. The other dimensions are living standards and work and shocks.

It said of the total 133 million, 86 million affected persons live in the North while nearly 47 million live in the southern part of the country.

"The 62.9 percent of people (133 million) who are multidimensionally poor means that they experience deprivations in more than one dimension, or in at least 26 percent of weighted indicators," the NBS said.

It said the average deprivation score among poor people, which shows the intensity of poverty, is 40.9 percent. "Nigeria's national MPI is 0.257, showing poor people experience just over one quarter of all possible deprivations."

The survey, which was implemented from 2021 to 2022, is one of the largest surveys, with a sample size of over 56,610 households in 109 senatorial districts in the 36 states of Nigeria, said Semiu Adeniran, statistician-general of the federation and CEO of NBS.

"At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we commenced plans to conduct the first-ever standalone MPI survey in Nigeria and it is the result of this that is being launched here today," Adeniran said.

He said unlike the Global MPI, which uses three dimensions (health, education and living standards), they added a fourth dimension, work and shocks in this survey.

He said: "This fourth dimension as well as other added variables such as food security, water reliability, underemployment, security shocks and school lag, were all added to reflect the current realities and priorities in Nigeria."

"The survey also has a linked child MPI. This extends the Nigeria MPI to include appropriate indicators for children under five, by adding a fifth dimension of child survival and development."

The MPI is NBS's newest way of assessing poverty in Africa's largest economy, which is different from the popular one-dimensional, linear approach, which only uses \$1.90 per day.

It complements income-based poverty measures by measuring the non-income-based dimensions of poverty, to provide a more comprehensive assessment of the extent of poverty and deprivation.

"This report, which reveals the level of deprivation Nigerians face, will serve as a tool in addressing them," President Muhammadu Buhari said.

Buhari, who was represented by Ibrahim Gambari, his chief



Buhari

of staff, said the government recognised the importance of the data and promised to deploy it in the formulation of policies.

He said: "Data of this report will be integrated within the national social register to facilitate better targeting for social intervention, leaving no one behind. It will be used to influence the allocation of resources. We have just sent an executive bill to the National Assembly for a national social once program."

"Poverty levels across states vary significantly, with the incidence of multidimensional

poverty ranging from a low of 27 percent in Ondo to a high of 91 percent in Sokoto.

"Over half of the population of Nigeria are multidimensionally poor and cook with dung, wood or charcoal, rather than cleaner energy. High deprivations are also apparent nationally in sanitation, time to healthcare, food insecurity, and housing."

Last year, the federal government said it planned to lift 100 million of its citizens out of poverty by 2030, meaning 10 million people every year.

Crypto-obsessed Nigerians reel as FTX collapses

THE collapse of FTX, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, has left Nigerians trading on the platform reeling in losses.

The FTX announced last weekend that it had commenced a voluntary proceeding under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code in order to begin an orderly process to review and monetise assets for stakeholders' benefit.

An estimated \$1 billion worth of customer funds vanished from the failed crypto exchange, according to a Reuters report.

Finder's latest report on cryptocurrency ownership and adoption shows that Nigeria has the second-highest number of Bitcoin owners as of October at 48 percent, up from 16.1 percent in the same month last year. Australia sits atop the table, with 61 percent of crypto owners holding Bitcoin,

the world's most popular cryptocurrency.

In August, Nigeria emerged as the most crypto-obsessed nation in the world based on the increasing number of Nigerians searching the Internet for crypto-related trading, according to CoinGecko, a crypto price tracker. Crypto investors and analysts who spoke with our correspondent said FTX's collapse would affect many Nigerian crypto traders because FTX is one of the biggest trading platforms in the world.

"I have reconciled myself with losing the money with FTX but the most painful thing wasn't the money. It was the faith that was shattered," said Victor Asemota, a Nigerian tech entrepreneur and investor who identified himself as 'FTX Shitcoin BagHolder' on Twitter.

"This FTX thing sinks slowly.



Emefiele

THE Debt Management Office (DMO) says there is urgent need for the Federal Government to moderate the rising trend of borrowings to ensure debt sustainability.

The Director-General of DMO, Patience Oniha, said this recently in Abuja, at a Workshop for legislators.

The workshop was organised for members of the Senate Committee on Local and Foreign Debts and the House of Representatives Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management.

Oniha urged the Federal Government to take steps to rationalise expenditure, accelerate growth in revenues and ensure that borrowings were tied to projects that generated commensurate revenue to service the loans.

According to her, the outlook shows that local and international markets are becoming tighter and interest rates are rising.

"Thus, priority should be less on borrowing and more on revenue from oil and non-oil sources.

"Nigeria's public debt stock has grown consistently over the past decades and even faster in recent years. Consequently, debt service has continued to grow.

"Nigeria's low revenue base, compounded by dependence on crude oil, resulted in deficits over the past decades," she said.

She, however, added that efforts at increasing non-oil revenue were yielding positive results.

Oniha said the government borrowings were usually obtained for the purposes of financing budget deficits;

Urgent actions required to moderate new borrowings

- DMO



Oniha

financing specific projects or activities, and to refinance maturing debt obligations.

She said the processes of obtaining loans by the government were guided by the annual budgets and Medium Term Expenditure Framework, and the Medium Term External Borrowing Plan.

She added that there were also "Stand-alone requests" from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), routed through the Ministry of Finance Budget and National Planning.

She said the country's total public debt stock as at June was N42.8 trillion, comprising N26.2 trillion domestic and

N16.6 trillion external debt stocks.

She added that the Debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio was 23.06 per cent, while growth in total debt stock between 2021 and June was 8.08 per cent.

"At this level, the Debt to GDP ratio is still within Nigeria's self-imposed limit of 40 per cent.

"It is also within the World Bank/IMF recommended limit of 55 per cent for countries within Nigeria's peer group and 70 per cent for ECOWAS countries," she said.

She, however, said the total public debt stock comprised the external and domestic debts of the Federal Government, the 36 state governments and the Federal Capital Territory.

On the loans from China, Oniha said they amounted to N3.6 billion dollars, constituting about 3.6 per cent of the country's external debt.

"The good thing is that Chinese loans are concessional. It is not our dominant source of funding.

"It is actually small but it finances infrastructure, which is a good thing," she said.

The Chairman, Senate Committee on Local and Foreign Debts, Sen. Clifford Ordia, commended the DMO for its efficient management of the country's debt.

Ordia said debt sustainability was an issue of concern, due to low revenue, adding that urgent steps should be taken to boost revenues.

"We all came here today to deepen our capacity in debt management. Nigeria's Debt to GDP ratio has been eliciting concern around debt sustainability.

"The important issue here is revenue growth to moderate the need for further borrowings, and for the DMO to fulfill its mandate of managing the debt effectively," he said.

He advised the Federal Government to observe a sense of propriety in implementation of projects.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that lawmakers were, however, unanimous on the need for the Federal Government to diversify its sources of revenue to solid minerals and other non-oil sources. (NAN)

Looking at the app, I have never been this helpless. I now understand why people went to failed banks to collect their cars, furniture, and generators. Maybe they should settle African customers with stakes they had in start-ups."

Dozie Ulor, a cryptocurrency trader and investor, said a lot of Nigerians traded with the platform and have been left with nothing following the collapse of FTX.

"A lot of Nigerians were trading and also saving money on the platform. I once used the platform. Most Nigerian youths keep BTC, USDT, Ethereum there just like Binance," he said. "Now, it has crashed and all is gone. I have a friend that works with them. He is FTX senior marketer in Africa and earns 2.3million Naira monthly."

According to Ulor, the sad part is that he gets his salary through FTX wallet and does not save in naira. "So he stores most of his salaries there and now the platform has crashed and his seven months' salary is gone," he said.

Ulor said that many Nigerians trusted the platform because of its stability.

"The bankruptcy affected both those who traded and those holding coins with the platform. The coin is called the FTX token. It dropped badly from more than \$20 to less than \$1.5 now," said Emma Onyema, a crypto investor.

"When the saga came up, the company paused withdrawals till now and all of them lost their money because the company is now empty."

According to Onyema, Nigerians who also staked in future trading in the platform have also lost both their amount of stake and value that would have accompanied them if they eventually won in the future.

He said many Nigerian youths

would be at a loss because the platform gave room for many opportunities that Nigerian crypto enthusiasts leveraged.

The exchange was also involved in future trading. "It is also called leverage trading which comes in the form of gambling. People make analyses, which could go positive or negative," Onyema said.

"You get value for your stake when the prediction is right and lose when it goes the other way round. It's more like crediting the winner with the loser's stake."

Explaining how it works, the investor said, "it's more like predicting that this time is going up or down just like a bet.

"When you predict any coin going up for instance and it goes high as predicted, you will get paid with the money staked by those that predicted it going low. At that point, if you don't take profit, that's a loss for you."

Raphael Idu, a financial market analyst at CT Traders, said many people who were up to date with the market were able to withdraw their money from the platform when the news about FTX broke while those who doubted the possibility of FTX going bankrupt did not make the move and have lost all they have.

Idu emphasised that the only way to be saved from the crypto market is to follow the news and know when your funds are at stake.

"When the rumour came, some of the smart ones were able to pull out their money before they closed the site from withdrawal. So those that didn't make that smart step will be regretting it by now. As a crypto expert, trader or investor, what keeps your money safe is getting accurate news at the right time. If you don't follow the trend, you stand the risk of loss at any point," Idu said.

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH
WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR



SME participation in financial market, drive to prosperity

Experts have said that achieving shared and inclusive prosperity in Nigeria will require the increased participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the financial market. GBEMI FAMINU writes.

SPEAKING during a session on maximizing the financial markets for shared prosperity at the 28th Nigerian Economic Summit on recently, Temi Popoola, chief executive officer, of Nigerian Exchange (NGX) Ltd. said the real drivers of prosperity and the economy are SMEs and there is a need to make them more involved in the capital market to drive shared prosperity.

"One of the ways to attract them is through macro-level policies and micro level policies and we can learn from Bulgaria which is the fastest growing country in the world this year leveraging the micro policy route," he said.

He said the NGX and other related agencies can use some of the levers within their control to drive smaller companies to the capital markets.

Lola Alausa, a participant, said the financial market is the bedrock of the economy and plays the role of a matchmaker and allocates resources to where it is needed.

She added that the missing gap in people's participation in the financial market is lack of knowledge and poor sensitization, because many

people place bets but are skeptical about the operations of the financial market

"For us to look beyond the current growth rate that the financial market is experiencing, intermediaries such as the various regulators play and they must assure

stability and grow the trust of people," she said.

She added that the cash outside the financial market is underreported, and that long term value cannot be achieved if people are reluctant to put their money in the financial market.

Zeal Akaraiwe, CEO of Graeme Blaque Group said that the average age of investors is slightly older than it should be and recommended that alternative products attractive to the younger generation should be included in the financial markets.

He added that competency,

transparency and accountability are the foundations of the financial markets and policies also have to be made on this premise to attract people to the financial market.

"If these elements are excluded from policies the financial market will crumble; there should also be more incentives to attract people into the financial market," he said.

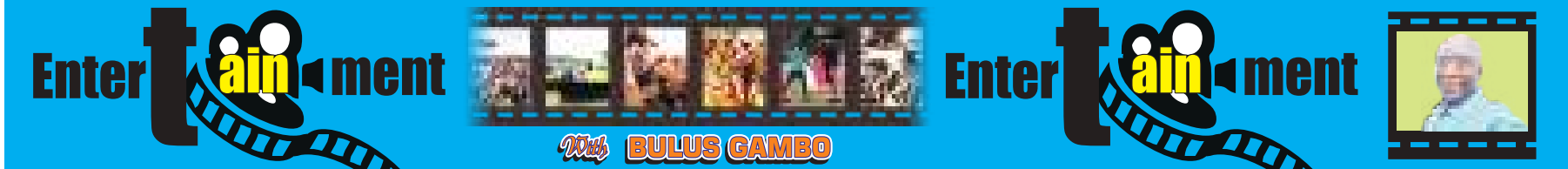
For equitably shared prosperity in the economy, he advised that there is a need to provide better opportunities for businesses while fiscal and monetary policy must be synchronized for the benefit of businesses and investors.

Tola Adeyemi, Regional Senior Partner & Chief Executive, KPMG, Nigeria & West Africa said shared prosperity is about significant access to capital particularly for SMEs.

"Right now there are so many entrepreneurs who are constrained by lack of capital and are forced to access capital on Shylock terms with exorbitant interest rates," he said.

He said to achieve a shared and inclusive prosperity there is need to focus on the issue of access to capital especially for budding entrepreneurs.





'Music has been my major ministerial assignment'

Continued from page 18

passing through different hardships and frustrations of a sort in the hands of their late parents' or husband's relatives. Some of them do have sleepless nights weeping and having reminiscence of their 'deceased' of blessed memories. They could lament, saying 'oh if my husband were alive, or if my parents were alive, I wouldn't have been facing this reality.' Believe me, I was in tears one early morning when I was playing the guitar and this reggae piece dropped in my mind as a message to people. So, generally speaking, that reggae music is a clarion call or "a voice" advocating for the plight of widows and orphans in the society. We need to take care of them and protect them. There are blessings of God attached to this. Thank you.

How many albums and or CDs do you have?

Presently, I have released 2 music albums. The first was in 2012 titled 'Ina riba?' It is an eighth tracks album. And the second was in 2020 titled 'Naan dhi hai' (Great God). And more are expected to come.

You presently reside in Abuja, did you start your career there?

Oh yeah, I am an Abuja based music minister but I actually started my music career as a village boy in Jiblik where I was brought up. But I later moved into the city of Jos, where it became a reality because I needed to gain more improvement and experience as well as access to a recording studio. I moved to Abuja the nation's capital in 2015 after my National Youth Service Corps and since then, music has been taking me to places within and outside the Abuja.

What are some of the challenges you are facing?

Okay like I mentioned earlier, music has a lot of challenges involved in it. But personally, I would like to say that my own challenges include firstly, lack of adequate financial resources for affordable quality music production. The cost of music production is getting higher every day and no good producer would demand lesser price for a recording session. Secondly, "promotion" of the music is another level to contend with. You know music does not stop at composing and recording, but good promotion is required. No matter how good a song is, without the necessary promotion, it can't go far. So, I am also faced with this challenge. Lastly, my music have been mostly on audio CDs and Mp3s without videos. These are some of the challenges in which are all pointing to lack of financial capacity but I am pushing harder and also trusting God to raise help by providing sponsors and supporters for the promotion of my current music and more to come..

What kind of music are you into

at the moment?

I am majorly into gospel music. Although sometimes my music seeks to address societal issues and real-life happenings, it must always point people towards living a transformed and purposeful life Style that is pleasing to God, thank you.

What are some of your future plans?

Some of the plans include first of all, writing new songs that will not only stop within the shores of Nigeria, but that will have both national and international recognition. Secondly, I will like to embark on a music tour whereby I will give my music strong backup. In any part of this country where my music is being played and enjoyed by people who probably do not know the singer, I would honour people's invitations and also organize great music concerts in order to move the ministry to a greater dimension and also spur or encourage other young and upcoming artists. Thirdly, I would like to be signed by any good record label where I would work with them for some years to gain more experience and advancement. And finally, I would have my own record label. Thanks.

What about your advice to other upcoming musician?

Yes, my advice to the upcoming musicians is that they should embrace hard work in music because it pays. Don't rush but spend time to prayerfully work on your life and songs in order to come up with something great and unique. Almost everybody wants to sing nowadays but try to distinguish yourself. Also, they should not despise their days of little beginning because grace and anointing can increase over time as you consistent pursue your dreams in life. You can always grow to attain any high in life if you faint not. Finally, the word of God says in Job 35:10 " but no one says where is God my maker, who gives songs in the night". Therefore, they should study the word of God and ask Him for songs that will stand the taste of time and also transform lives positively in this our generation. Thank you.

What is your final word?

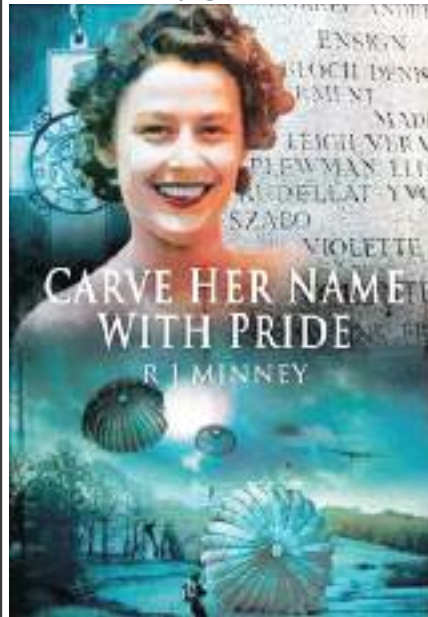
First of all is about giving praises to God the creator of everyone and everything. Secondly, it's a message about living in love with one another and lastly, we should take care of widows and orphans in the society. Thanks. Yes, a very big thanks you to you ma. You have contributed a greater measure in promoting my songs on the radio station and also granting me the ample opportunity to feature on this newspaper to air my comments. May God bless you and the entire Nigerian standard news team/workers. God bless my listeners out there too in Jesus' name. I love you all, let's be ours. Brother's keeper and live in love with one another. I remain yours Tangkat Hope Dach. Thanks.



Biographies of remarkable women you need to read

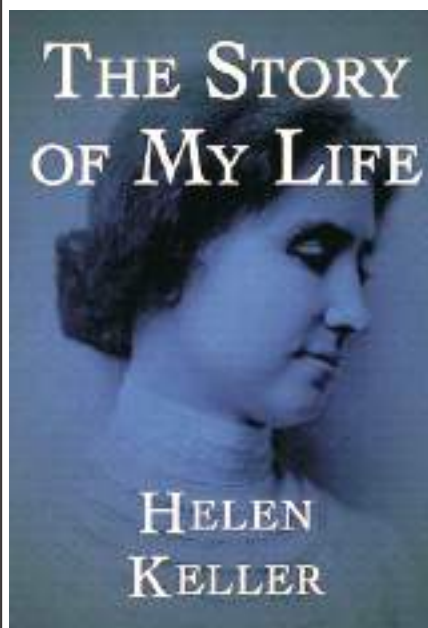
Continued from page 18

Carve her name with pride



One of World War II's most notable female spies, Violette Szabo was a French and British Special Operations agent in occupied France. Szabo's bilingualism was a major asset to Allied forces; she was sent into France to scout out the locations of German munitions factories undercover as a French secretary on her way to a new job. Szabo, sadly, was eventually captured by German forces and deported to Ravensbrück, a concentration camp outside of Berlin.

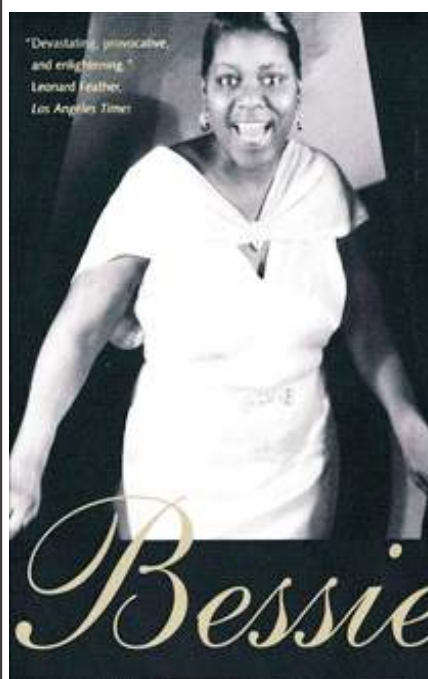
The Story of my life



A story that has been transformed into both stage and film adaptations, Helen Keller has remained an American icon for triumphing in spite of having lost her sight and hearing at a young age. With the help of her teacher—and later devoted friend—Anne Sullivan, she was able to embark on a journey that would change her life forever. Her perseverance led Keller to become the first deaf-blind person to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Keller published this book when she was 22 years old; in it, she testifies to the darkness and silence she experienced before meeting Anne Sullivan. Her narration is rich with descriptions of her view of the world—she refuses to let her situation debilitate her understanding of the world. Keller's positive outlook on life and the testament of her willpower will leave you feeling hopeful.

Bessie



The "Empress of the Blues", Bessie Smith was the highest paid African American performer during the 1920s. Smith was performing by the age of 10, busking on the streets with her brother, Andrew. By the time she was 30, she was the biggest act in the black community, leading shows with as many as 40 supporting entertainers—singers, dancers, musicians—and touring in a custom-built railroad car. Now overshadowed by the singers that followed her, like Billie Holiday, Albertson brings the

iconic singer back to life through interviews with her family and friends.

Change of Name

CHIMEZIE	DESHI	ROSE	IBRAHIM	DORCAS	PLANG
I, formerly known as UBADI CHIMEZIE OGECHUKWU , now wish to be known and addressed as CHIMEZIE OGECHUKWU UBADI-IKEASOMBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DASHI TAPMWA FUKJI , now wish to be known and addressed as DESHI TAPMWA FUKJI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as LANGE ROSE JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as ROSE GAKLIME BETCHING . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as YAKUBU ISHAKU , now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM ISHAKU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as DORCAS VOU AZI , now wish to be known and addressed as DORCAS AZI MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as PLANG EMMANUEL SUNDAY , now wish to be known and addressed as PLANG NANBAL SUNDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
AUGUSTINE	ADAMSON,	OBASI	DANJUMA	SANI	ADEGYA
I, formerly known as LONGKIEM DASHE , now wish to be known and addressed as AUGUSTINE DALONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ADAMS DORATHY ALABI , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMSON, DORATHY ALABI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as OBASI OTUWE LOVE , now wish to be known and addressed as OBASI LOVE MAGRATE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as DANJUMA ADOH , now wish to be known and addressed as DANJUMA ADOR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as LAWALI BILYAMINU , now wish to be known and addressed as SANI BILYAMINU . Correct date of birth is 12/02/1987 not 01/01/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, ADEGYA SUNDAY ALIBIDI , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 15/08/1985 not 15/08/1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
NAZIR	EZEKIEL	OGBOJI	PAM	NIMLYAT	SARAH
I, formerly known as NAZIR RUKKAYATU UWANI , now wish to be known and addressed as NAZIR RABI ONUKU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EZEKIEL ISHAYA NYAKO , now wish to be known and addressed as EZEKIEL ISHAYA NYAKODADDAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as FREDRICK OGBOJI ECHE , now wish to be known and addressed as OGBOJI FREDERICK ECHE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as JOSEPH RUTH JOEL , now wish to be known and addressed as PAM RUTH DUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MIRI CHALYA , now wish to be known and addressed as NIMLYAT CHALYA PONTIP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SARAH TYOSAR , now wish to be known and addressed as SARAH STEPHEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
MAIYAJI	ORISAKWE	PELEM	ABIGAIL	ADAH	DOESA
I, formerly known as DENIS PANSKAK , now wish to be known and addressed as MAIYAJI PANSKAK DENNIS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as HAPPINESS NNASOGU GINIKANWA , now wish to be known and addressed as ORISAKWE HAPPINESS GINIKANWA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as VICTOR AUSTINE LUCKY , now wish to be known and addressed as PELEM AUSTINE LUCKY BANKS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as CHUNDUNG DAUDA PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as ABIGAIL GYANG JATAU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ONAH RAYMOND INNOCENT & RAYMONDONAH , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAH RAYMOND ONA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DASAH JOSEPH , now wish to be known and addressed as DOESA JOSEPH DYEME . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
JOHN	TIMOTHY	SATI	ITSE	MOHAMMAD	GRACE
I, formerly known as NIMMAK ESTHER ZINKAT , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN ESTHER ZINKAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as NANBUT EZRA MESHAK , now wish to be known and addressed as TIMOTHY JOHN EZRA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SELBYEN NELSON GONO , now wish to be known and addressed as SATI SELBYEN KPARNIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM AZI BARDE , now wish to be known and addressed as ITSE JIMMY AZI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MOHAMMAD BINTA AHAMED , now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMAD BINTA AHAMAD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GRACE MAFO LETSUWA , now wish to be known and addressed as GRACE MAFO AGUA-STEPHEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
MICHAEL	NWADUMEME	SHAILONG	DATAU	DALLOM	ROSE
I, formerly known as PROMISE JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as MICHAEL ADINGBU ATUL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as NWADUMEME CHIDI EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as NWADUMEME CHIDIEBERE EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KWALLA MADAKI EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as SHAILONG EMMANUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DATAU EVERESTUS , now wish to be known and addressed as DATAU JOHN EVERASTU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DALLOM CHARITY , now wish to be known and addressed as DALLOM LONGDI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EZEKIEL ROSE NENKANG , now wish to be known and addressed as ROSE CLEMENT JOSHUA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
STEPHEN	LONGPIYA	ISHAKU	ALAMBA	CALEB	JETHRO
I, formerly known as STEPHEN NJIN TUAMKWAP , now wish to be known and addressed as STEPHEN NJIN NA'ANPAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as LONGPIYA KAMSEN J. , now wish to be known and addressed as LONGPIYA JOSEPH KAMSEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ISHAKU SAMSON , now wish to be known and addressed as ISHAKU SAMSON WABBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as RUTH YAKUBU , now wish to be known and addressed as ALAMBA RUTH ISUWA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as CALEB JOEL , now wish to be known and addressed as CALEB JOEL SHUAIBU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as NGUMWAN ANN EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as JETHRO ANN MUSA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
DENNIS	DOGARA	DAUDA	NANLE	BITRU	DADUGUL
I, formerly known as BUNU MANWOR PHILEMON , now wish to be known and addressed as DENNIS DAFILIP MANWOR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DOGARA YOHANNA , now wish to be known and addressed as DOGARA YOHANNA SOJA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAUDA DARWANG DACHOMO , now wish to be known and addressed as DAUDA DACHOMO DACHOMO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ZACHARIAH ZUTNA'AN and ZACHARIAH PHILIP ZUTNA'AN , now wish to be known and addressed as NANLE ZUTNA'AN PHILIP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BITRUS PHILIP , now wish to be known and addressed as BITRUS PHILIP ZIRA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DADUGUL DAUDA , now wish to be known and addressed as DADUGUL HOSEA DAUDA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
JOSHUA	YILJEP	SALAMA	GWOM	SAMUEL	NDA
I, formerly known as JOSHUA MAKWA , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSHUA MAKWA NANTWAK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EDWINNER EDMUND , now wish to be known and addressed as YILJEP EDWINNER EDMUND . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SALAMA MOSES , now wish to be known and addressed as SALAMA MOSES DAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DUNG JANET BULUS , now wish to be known and addressed as GWOM JANET BULUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as FIPWO SHAMWOL , now wish to be known and addressed as SAMUEL FIPWO SHAMWOI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BUKLONG MAGWEN , now wish to be known and addressed as NDA MAGWEN BUKLONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ADAMU	JENA	THERESA	NDUSHU	AUDU	PUPDANG
I, formerly known as DIKE IJEOMA FAITH , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU IJEOMA FAITH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS JENA ESTHER GOMA , now wish to be known and addressed as JENA ESTHER GARBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as THERESA DOMINIC DABOL , now wish to be known and addressed as THERESA DOMINIC . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAJAN GODSAVE , now wish to be known and addressed as NDUSHU GODSAVE DAJAN . Correct date of birth is 23/02/1967 not 03/02/1967. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GABRIEL JUDE , now wish to be known and addressed as AUDU FWANGMUN DAUDA . Correct date of birth is 02/02/1999 not 02/02/2001 and 10/03/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KOPKES PATIENCE CHRISANTHUS , now wish to be known and addressed as PUPDANG PATIENCE GO'AR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

Salem University to graduate 960 students

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SALEM University, Lokoja, is to graduate 960 students during its 5th Convocation Ceremony billed to take place on the 25th of this month at the convocation square of the institution.

The university also has concluded plans towards the establishment of colleges of Medicine, Engineering and Agriculture to enable desiring candidates wishing to study the courses have the opportunity to do so. Prof Alewo Johnson-Akubo, the University Vice Chancellor (VC), disclosed this at the pre-convocation press briefing held in his office on Thursday.

The VC said that the introduction of new colleges became imperative in view of the high demands from the numerous candidates looking for admissions into the university.

"Considering the demands from the numerous candidates to our university, we intend to establish the Colleges of Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture and a host of others in the interest of our teeming youths both within and outside Nigeria.

"It will interest you to know that we don't want to disappoint nor discourage candidates desiring to study some of these courses in our institution, hence the plan to add these colleges to what we already have. It will interest you to know that only recently, we mobilised the first set of graduands of our Law College for the mandatory one year Law School.

"The cheering news is that



Bello

during our 5th Convocation Ceremony coming up on Nov. 25, we will be graduating 960 students in a population of global leaders found worthy in character and learning to be awarded with first class in various disciplines," he said.

Johnson-Akubo said, "the convocation for the release of our change agents will begin with the Convocation Lecture with the Topic: "Beyond the 2023 General Elections: The Role of the Media in Deepening Democracy in Nigeria" scheduled for Thursday, Nov 24 at our Law College Auditorium."

He said the guest lecturer to do justice to this topic is a veteran journalist per excellence, Mrs Eugenia Abu, the Managing Partner/CEO, Eugenia Abu Media, and former Executive Director of Programmes, Nigeria Television Authority (NTA).

He said that in spite of some challenges, the university has

achieved some feats, which include, accreditation of all university's programmes by the National University Commission (NUC) and mobilisation of its first set of 36 Law graduates for the mandatory one year programme at the Nigeria Law School,

While appreciating the media, the VC said it has a great role to play as the watch dog of the society by ensuring that all the electioneering campaigns and the conducts of the elections are well reported to the approval and satisfaction of Nigerians and the international community.

"As the 2023 general elections is fast approaching, journalists must not be seen to be bias in any form but display their professionalism in a plausible way and manner for the development of Nigeria," he advised.

KOGI State in North Central Nigeria has won the World Bank's Awards of Excellence in three categories - Fiscal Transparency and Accountability, Debt Sustainability and Domestic Revenue Mobilisation. The significant awards were conferred on Kogi State at the Federal Government of Nigeria/World Bank States Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) Dinner with Governors/Award Night, held at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja on Monday evening.

The Kogi state commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley Fanwo, while briefing journalists in Lokoja on the giant feat, said that the objective of the World Bank's State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability Programme is to promote focus and attention of Nigerian states towards improvement of their PFM systems, processes and institutions.

The Auditor-General of Kogi State, Yakubu Okala, who also spoke to journalists attributed the success of the state in the areas of fiscal transparency and accountability to self-discipline, as well as the institution of a transparent and accountable governance system by Governor Yahaya

Kogi begs World Bank award of excellence

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Bello from the inception of his administration.

"The state is blessed with an incorruptible governor who also provides leadership from all fronts, a professional to the core that has surrounded himself only with persons that have the capacity to deliver.

"The philosophy of the Governor of the State, His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, is making every single kobo available work for the entire of the state, hence he has instituted self-discipline, as well as transparent and accountable governance system from day one of his administration. "He does not condone any form of abuse or misuse of the state's resources at the disposal of any responsible officer," the state Auditor General said.

SFTAS is aimed at strengthening fiscal transparency to help build trust in government, facilitating accountability in public resource management and ensuring sustainability in the participating states. The National Programme Coordinator, Ali Mohammed, who signed the invitation

letter to states said, "The SFTAS programme has achieved important milestones with remarkable improvement in fiscal transparency and accountability; increased domestic revenue mobilization; increased efficiency in public expenditure; and strengthened debt management."

The dinner was therefore organized to celebrate the achievements of SFTAS since inception. Recall that the World Bank, in July 2021, commended Governor Yahaya Bello for refunding \$4.63 million surplus funds under the Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP).

The commendation was conveyed in a letter of appreciation, signed by its Regional Director, Shubham Chaudhuri, describing the step as a sign of good leadership.

According to the World Bank, the Governor's action made it possible for the organisation to extend its projects to other states facing deficit funds and to extend the closing date of its projects.

Olawale coved and worked for APC

By PALANG KASMI

GOVERNOR and Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council Simon Bako Lalong has described the Late Lagos Lawmaker, Hon. AbdulSubur Olawale as a person who loved



Lalong

- chairman

government's dedication to youth empowerment, health, education and employment was of great importance to human capital development.

He urged journalists to continue to work in accordance with the ethics and guidelines enshrined in the profession.

In Shagari LGA, Alhaji Aliyu Dantanin, the Chairman, while addressing newsmen described the projects executed by the present administration in the state as the best ever witnessed for human development.

"As I am talking to you, the legacy projects executed by the present administration cut across all the 23 LGAs of the state".

In Bodinga LGA, Alhaji Abdurra'uf Labbo, the Secretary of the council, explained that the government had executed projects of great value to societal development.

Labbo said the projects comprise of electrification projects, construction of a new council cretariat, schools' renovation and expansion, among numerous others.

and worked hard for the APC. He also said he will be remembered as committed and ardent supporter of the Asiwaju Bola Tinubu Presidential bid.

The governor disclosed this in a statement while commiserating with the people and Government of Lagos State over the demise of Olawale, who died in Jos shortly after attending the APC Presidential Campaign flag-off at the Jos township Stadium.

The Lawmaker has since been buried in Lagos, reports SUNDAY STANDARD.

Governor Lalong in the statement expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the immediate family, friends and associates of Late Hon. AbdulSobur Olawale popularly known as

Omititi, his constituents and to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State.

"The death of the lawmaker is a huge blow to the Lagos State House of Assembly where he served the people of Mushin Constituency 2 with courage, determination and passion".

"The commitment of Olawale to the cause of the APC and the candidacy of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu saw him not only mobilising support for the party and the candidate, but also motivated him to come all the way to Jos to be part of the flag-off of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign".

Lalong prayed to God give the family the fortitude to bear the loss and his soul eternal rest.

Over 78 projects executed by Tambuwal in Yabo

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

IN Yabo LGA of Sokoto State, no fewer than 78 major projects were executed by Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal in Yabo Local Government Area of the state.

Alhaji Halliru Kilgori, Chairman, Yabo Local Government Area disclosed this while briefing gentlemen of the press during the tour of the area.

Kilgori stated this during an assessment tour of projects

sites and activities of government by journalists in the state.

According to him, the projects executed in the LGA had greatly improved the people's well-being and were of great benefits to the development of the area.

He further said that they have truly experienced dividends of democracy in their domain and "we witnessed the giant strides of the state government across the area, he said.

"This commitment has been turned into reality in spite of the global economic challenges, Covid-19 pandemic and insecurity," he added.

The chairman, while going round with the team of journalists, led by the Secretary of Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Sokoto State Council, Muhammad Nasir Bello, explained that the projects have direct benefits to the people.

He also stated that these projects included the upgraded General Hospital Yabo, provision of befitting teaching and learning environment through expansion and total renovation of both primary and secondary schools across the LGA.

Others he said include the 1.5 million litres daily semi urban water supply project, rural road networks, district head's palace and N20, 000 disbursed to 100 youth each as empowerment support, among others

Also speaking, Alhaji Muhammad Maiturare II, the District Head of Yabo appreciated the state government's commitment in executing legacy projects across the state.

Maiturare said that the



Tambuwal

NEWS

Oil, gas discovery in Bauchi, advantageous to state

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

BAUCHI State Governor, Sen Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir has declared that the discovery of oil and gas in the state has never been an issue nor a cause of misunderstanding between Bauchi and the neighbouring state of Gombe.

The Governor rather said that the process is on course, emphasizing the need for teamwork in order to achieve the aim and make the discovery a reality and beneficial to the two states in particular and the country at general.

Bala Mohammed was speaking when he received in audience, the Gas Monitoring Committee of the National Revenue Mobilization and Fiscal Commission (RMFC) on a courtesy visit at Council Chambers, Government House, Bauchi.

The Governor said that "We in Bauchi and Gombe, we are grateful that Allah has blessed us with this endowment and I assure you as I discussed with you privately, as a point of leadership, we are not going to quarrel with our neighbours".

According to him, "We know that by virtue of our exposure that oil or hydrocarbon deposits are ubiquitous, they can move anywhere. I come from the local government where this natural endowment is found and I know the whole desert is endowed".

Bala Mohammed added that "Ebonyi is going to benefit from it because we have been benefitting from the resources which were endowed to the Niger Delta and we know the exclusivity of it under the Federal Government law and order because oil and gas and other natural resources are under the exclusive reserve of the Federal Government".

He said that "Today, our day is met, we just presented the 2023 budget proposal with a lot of deficit. And of course, we know our resources and our endowment, we are a federating entity and we are federalists because we believe in the supremacy of the Federal Government and we believe in the subsisting system under the federal laws and orders". The Governor then reiterated the interest of his administration to sustain its partnership with the Commission for the economic development of Bauchi State.

He also commended the Commission for its competency in the management and distribution of resources and called for stakeholders' engagement for better service delivery.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the delegation, Barrister Patrick Mgbegu Nworu, congratulated Bauchi State Government on the oil and gas discovery in the state, saying that the Commission will assist to harness all its natural resources.

According to him, "We are here on your invitation, an invitation on the fact that if we proposed this retreat and you said that you don't want it, we will not come in the air. Since you invited us, I thank you".

He added that "I thank you so



Mohammed

much and congratulate you and the entire people of Bauchi State for the discovery of mega hydrocarbon deposit in Bauchi State. You see, the first thing is always the first thing but the second thing comes better planned". According to him, "I was trying to tell His Excellency that the major challenge we have in natural resources wherever it is found in Nigeria, is that it is always driven by export, export wide when the owners of the clothes will go to the market naked".

He stressed that "that is the major challenge in natural resources derivatives in Africa including Nigeria. I give an example that some areas in the Niger Delta that are bringing the fuel we are using are not selling it even at N250 per litre. They are selling it much more than that because the whole

idea was based on Dollar. We didn't look at the domestic utilization hence our retreat here, Gas utilization plan for Nigerians".

Patrick Mgbegu Nworu added that "And this gas is abundant in Bauchi State, you are heavily endowed with natural gas and other petroleum products".

"Your Excellency, on this ground, we came specifically to organize a retreat to let us have more knowledge on this endowment God has given us, how to tap it, how to utilize it for the benefit of all from the village where it is, nobody will be left out. It is capable of employing millions of people.

It will be wrong for it to employ people in China without employing people in this place where it is found", he explained.

Gombe set to hit Universal Health Coverage 2030

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

last week, I am very pleased to inform you that we met with His Excellency, the Governor of Gombe State, Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, who has given his commitment to the release of the 1% of the Equity Fund, as well as the Basic Health Care Provision Fund counterpart fund.

"A memo has already been submitted to that effect and we believe in the next couple of days or weeks, we should have that money released to the



Yahaya

Executive Secretary of GoHealth, Dr Abubakar Musa, told journalist during its quarterly media engagement that enrollment and accessing services of GoHealth has been steadily increasing by the day.

According to him, the dream of achieving the Universal Health Coverage by 2030 in Gombe State is realisable having recorded over 80,000 beneficiaries of the scheme for both the formal and informal sectors since inception in less than two years.

He said, "The implementation of the second phase has commenced with over 40,000 poor and vulnerable persons who have been enrolled.

"We have introduced a new digital tool, which the agency developed with which it identified the poor and the vulnerable from the society in Gombe State and categorise them based on their vulnerability before enrolling the most poor of those identified". Dr Musa said.

Funding for the scheme doesn't seem to be a challenge for its smooth operation because, "Just

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

THE number of Lassa fever confirmed cases have increased to 975 as of November 6, 2022 according to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Lassa fever outbreak has also killed 177 people in the country so far in the year.

The situation report for Week 44 which was made available to newsmen in Abuja showed that the cases were reported in 26 states across the 106 local government areas.

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention noted that of all confirmed cases, 71 percent are from Ondo, Edo and Bauchi states.

Lassa fever is a viral hemorrhagic fever and an accurate viral illness and has a high mobility and mortality rate, as well as economic and health security implications.

According to the report, of all the confirmed cases, 71 percent are from Ondo State (33 percent) from Edo, 25 percent and Bauchi 13 percent.

The predominant age group affected is 21-30 years (Range

Lassa fever cases increase to 975

0 to 90 years median age 30 years). The male to female ratio confirmed cases is 1:0.8, the

number of suspected cases has increased compared to that reported for the same period in 2021/and no health worker was affected in the reporting Week 44.



Ehanire

National Parks Service tasks media on reportage

THE National Park Service (NPS) on Wednesday in Abuja urged the mass media to assist the Service to deliver its mandates through their news reportage.

The Conservator General (CG) of the NPS, Dr Ibrahim Goni said this while receiving awards of excellence from three mass media outfits.

"We need aggressive

public enlightenment so that people do not only know us as an organisation, but know us with what we do as an organisation and how we contribute to their survival.

"I want to appeal to the media to disabuse the public minds from illegal killings, felling and destruction of our vegetation.

"Nigeria is being labelled

as a country where illegal wildlife trafficking passes through," Goni said.

The CG commended some stakeholders in the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking and expressed satisfaction that illegal wildlife trafficking had been reduced drastically.

He commended the mass media for identifying NPS' activities for awards of excellence in service.

Goni promised them that the awards would spur the Service to deliver more on its mandates.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the three media outfits are the Verbatim News Network Limited, Newsday Express and BOJTV.

Mr Tobs Agbaegbu, Editor in Chief of Verbatim News Network Limited, said the award was given to the CG being a core stakeholder in matters of the environment and management of wild animals in the national parks of Nigeria.

Agbaegbu added that the award was also given to him for NPS's core mandate in preserving, enhancing, protecting and managing vegetations in the country.

Also, the representative of Newsday Express, Ms Ukatu Chijindu and Mr Joseph Uzuakpundu from BOJ TV commended the CG for excellence in service delivery.

The Verbatim News Network Limited gave the Integrity Ambassador Award and Integrity in Public Service Award to the CG.

The Newsday Express gave an award on Excellent Leadership while BOJ TV gave the award on Leadership Excellence of Nation Building Hero Award to Goni.

agency. That will enable us enroll the end of the year, the additional poor and vulnerable," programme will be rolled out", he said Dr. Musa.

He outlined two new programmes to be introduced by Musa said, is that the agency is engaging the management of the travellers Health Insurance Scheme.

"GoHealth is about to sign an MOU with the Gombe State Transport Company, Gombe-

The Management of the Gombe State University has already keyed in into the programme and committed to enrol all its students in the next academic session.

"There is a Medical Levy that students normally pay to those institutions at the beginning of every academic session and that is the medical levy that will now be channelled to GoHealth, to be able to provide that service.

"It's not going to be a new charge on the students, but rather a better utilisation of the Medical Levy that the students are already paying to their institutions and a guarantee to a more quality service," said Dr. Musa.

GoHealth has a mandate to provide Universal Health Coverage (UHC), to all Gombe state residents through an equitable and transparent mechanism for pooling of resources to finance quality health care via a number of pre-payment programmes.

The Agency has commenced various programmes to achieve its aim since its inception.

FEATURE

Perspectives in Museum education practice in Nigeria

Museums are important educational environments and offer a considerable learning potential. Collections exhibited in museums provide learners (pupils, students and others) with a tangible connection with time, places, events, or people and allow them to experience the evolution of human history and cultural heritage. Learning in museums helps pupils understand the historical value of objects, respect diverse cultures and understand multiculturalism. IKOKU NKECHI STELLA, writes.

EXPLORING museums gives students the ability to engage actively in the process of acquiring knowledge and to express thoughts and emotions. Effective use of museums can lead to multifaceted learning, development of critical thinking skills and acquisition of lifelong learning skills of 21st century.

The word 'Museum' was derived from the Greek word 'Museion'. In Greek mythology, it means a temple dedicated to the "Muses"—the nine daughters of the Greek God "Zeus". Zeus protected and encouraged Greek arts in the form of poetry, music, dancing and history. The definition of the museum is always changing. This is because; the museum focuses on the society, when the society changes, the definition of the museum also changes. However, the definition of museum has evolved in line with developments in the society. Since its creation in 1846 the International Council of Museums (ICOM) has updated this definition in accordance with the realities of the global Museum Community. The Museum as the treasure house of the human society is also regarded as the memory of mankind. ICOM (2007) succinctly captures the functionality aspect of the Museum when it says: "the Museum is a non-profit permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public which acquires, conserves, researchers, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purpose of education, study and enjoyment". Museums are visited more often than ever before, and as a result, are offering far more educational and interactive experiences to draw in a greater audience. As such, it is important to define how learning takes place in the museum setting, and also, how the museum experience can be refined in order to better accommodate visitor learning and their experience. The problem is, however, the museum setting is a nontraditional and unstructured environment, far different than the classroom, and museum staffs, usually reserved to maintaining the collection and nothing else, are now being forced to build the museum experience around the visitor.

Museum education is a specialized field devoted to developing and strengthening the education role of informal education spaces and institutions such as museums. Ezeokeke (2018) observes that museum education is the totality of educational activities undertaken by museum to effectively communicate with a diverse public, using heritage resources as its guide and catalyst. Kerri (1993) further states that museum education involves the use of non formal activities whereby people are educated with cultural heritage of different ethnic groups and are also taught different arts and crafts. Going by various definitions of museum education, it means that education in the museum embraces every aspect of and it is participatory because it deals with a diverse public. Museum education is now seen as vital world over an integral part of a well-managed museum and an essential part in the discipline of education.

In 1990 when the Committee on Education (EdCom) first published its Statement on Professional Standards for Museum Education practice, it was at the forefront of reexamining issues



critical to museum education. It was forecasted that the following decade would witness the transformation of the public dimension of museums. American Association of Museums' (AAM) Museum Education Task Force published Excellence and Equity in 1992; AAM revised its accreditation criteria and Museum Assessment Program to evaluate individual institutions' interaction with their audiences; and the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant applications required museums to detail education services and the processes in place for assessing learning. Federal agencies and nonprofit foundations, including the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Lila-Wallace Reader's Digest Foundation, came forward with millions of dollars to support new efforts to make museum collections accessible. Today most museums continue to struggle with the political realities of implementing the primary premise of Excellence and Equity: to combine "intellectual rigor with the inclusion of a broader spectrum of our diverse society." With increased responsibility and scrutiny, the museum educator's role has been shifted, revised, reformed, and stretched in unimaginable ways. As the Committee on Education releases its revised Principles and Standards, it does so a little older and a little wiser.

Furthermore, museum pedagogy is influenced by constructivism, postmodernism, and critical multiculturalism (Yenawine, 2013). Museum educators employ different teaching strategies, including Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) and the dialogical model of art interpretation. There is no single "best practice" in museum education because one "best" is not best for everyone. Every organization is different in some way—different missions, cultures, environments, and technologies. What is meant by "best" are those practices that have been shown to produce superior results; selected by a systematic process; and judged as exemplary, good, or successfully demonstrated. The current museum education practice is out to:

Engage the community and serve the museum's audiences:

To develop and maintain sound relationships with community organizations, schools, cultural institutions, universities, other museums, and the general public. It also reflects the needs and complexities of a changing society shape content and interpretation toward relevant issues and create a broad dialogue. **Address and employ a diversity of perspectives: This practice** acknowledges that a variety of interpretive perspectives—cultural, scientific, historic, and aesthetic can promote greater understanding and engagement. It also provides multiple levels and points of entry into content, including intellectual, physical, cultural, individual, group, and intergenerational. It engages members of diverse communities to contribute their perspectives to museum collections and interpretation. Also, it promotes the elimination of physical, socio-economic, and cultural barriers to museums.

Demonstrate excellence in content knowledge: To master the content related to the museum's collections, exhibitions, and mission. To collaborate with scholars and specialists, conduct research to advance and improve the museum profession. To provide professional development and training for new and established staff to share current education methods, new media, developments in scholarship related to learning theory and evaluation, and best practices in the field.

Incorporate learning theory and educational research into practice: To base methods and design of interpretation on museum and educational learning theories. Apply knowledge of cognitive development, educational theory, and teaching practices to the types of voluntary, personal, and lifelong learning that occur in museums.

Employ a variety of appropriate educational tools to promote learning:

To Demonstrate a broad understanding of communication strategies and media. Use techniques and technology appropriate to educational goals, content, concepts, and audience.

Involve education staff in the design and use of technology to advance learning; and evaluate the

educational tools used by the institution.

Promote education as central to the museum's mission: To

ensure that education is clearly incorporated into the mission, goals, and financial strategy of the museum. To include educational considerations in interdepartmental discussions involving planning, development, and implementation from conception to completion, integrate educational expertise into exhibition design and interpretation. To contribute museum education expertise to a broad array of institutional efforts to discover and address the needs of the community. To share responsibility for the economic health of the institution and demonstrate management skills related to fiscal and human resources.

Set goals and measurable objectives and adopt strategies to achieve and document them:

To develop interpretation with specific educational goals supported by integrating content and learning objectives for targeted audiences. Develop interpretation to serve the academic mandates of school, college, and university standards or mandated state education frameworks for schools. In an ongoing and ethical manner, collect data from and about visitors to measure learning and document the impact of the museum experience.

To collect data from visitors and non-visitors to determine the best education services to meet their needs and interests. Incorporate evaluation findings into the planning and/or revision of interpretation. Distribute research results to the learner, the museum community, relevant academic institutions, funders, and the greater public to strengthen the field of museum education.

Promote professional development within the museum community:

Recognize and share the value of continuous learning with colleagues. Persistently seek opportunities to expand the knowledge of learning theory, education methods, evaluation, media, management, scholarship related to the museum's collections, and best practices in the field. Foster an institutional atmosphere that

encourages professional development; and disseminate current ideas through publications and other appropriate media.

Promote a spirit of inquiry and openness to new ideas and approaches: To recognize and share the joys of learning with all people. To promote the complementary nature of formal and informal learning at every stage of life.

Influence public policy in support of museum learning:

Work individually and with professional associations to influence public policy at the regional, state, and national levels. Demonstrate to public policy decision-makers the importance of museum learning in a pluralistic society.

However, the professional standard for museum education practice includes: accessibility, accountability and advocacy. This is further broadened as:

FOCUS ON AUDIENCES AND COMMUNITY: Museum educators have knowledge of and respect for the audiences their museums serve. They promote museums' public service role within our changing society.

DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVES: Museum educators use interpretive practices that acknowledge the variety of cultural, scientific, and aesthetic points of view that contribute to visitors' understanding. They create opportunities that enable informed viewpoints to receive judicious consideration.

EXCELLENCE IN CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY: Museum educators have a solid grounding in the history, theory, and practice of the disciplines relevant to their institutions. They demonstrate knowledge of human development, educational theories, and teaching practices related to the personal and group learning that takes place in museums.

ADVOCACY FOR AUDIENCES: Museum educators facilitate a spirit of teamwork and collaboration within the museum to promote the best interest of audiences.

ADVOCACY OF EDUCATION: Museum educators promote education as central to advancing the mission and goals of the museum.

DEDICATION TO LEARNING: Museum educators possess a love of learning and a commitment to nurture and develop an informed and humane citizenry

In conclusion, as museum education has developed as a field of study and interest in its own right, efforts have been made to record its history and to establish a research agenda to strengthen its position as a discipline in the wider work of museums. In the 21st century, the importance of interdepartmental teamwork in the achievement of the museum's education mission; the responsible use of new technologies; an emphasis on rigorous planning, implementation, and assessment; and the importance of public advocacy to the future stability and strength of museums cannot be over-emphasized.

Ikoku is of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Abuja.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



APC: After flag off, what next?

Continued from page 10

waiting for the event to kick off.

A work free day was declared in view of the traffic congestion envisaged and the resultant disruption to movement and other activities to enable the public come out enmasse to give the president a rousing welcome.

If there is anything that Governor Simon Bako Lalong wants to achieve is the fact that the protestations which came in the wake of his appointment as the Director General by a cross section of some party faithful and even non party members produces a result that could put pay to those reasons advanced for accepting the role in the PCC.

Seen from another perspective, however, 'Governor Lalong who is the Director General of the Tinubu/Shettima APC Presidential Campaign was set to re-launch Jos, as the political capital of Nigeria at a time many think it is almost impossible to hold any political event of that magnitude in the Tin City'.

History beckons on Jos

Consider this as example: "Some 60 years ago that is 'as far back as 1962, the Action Group, one of the major political parties of the 1st Republic led by Chief Obafemi Awolowo held its National Convention at the African Sports Club in Jos'.

Since then, Jos has continued to attract major political meetings; what 'with the vibrancy of Plateau sons and daughters in national politics coupled with the growth and development of the Tin City, Jos became a center of attraction for many good reasons,

attracting tourists, businessmen and women and politicians of all hue and colour'

As much as those who do not understand the nature and character of the people of Plateau State; a number of pundits would have preferred that it is not held here. They would have wanted it held elsewhere like in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) or in another location, while preferring Plateau to be out of the equation. Some have curiously cited security reasons and all those, saying the state has had a history of insecurity in the last 21 years or even more.

The night the event was held, a terrorist attack was launched on Maikatako village of Bokkos Local Government Area. The rising incidences of attacks and destruction of farm crops, livestock and other properties within the general Bokkos area, said Governor Lalong in a statement is becoming worrisome and it must be checked.

Their concerns may not be totally out of place, yet if you consider the efforts that have been deployed by government and the communities to stem the tide and restore its lost glory, far outweigh the devilish plans to subjugate the genuine efforts to bringing peace to the state and its various communities. For the event to be held in the state at this point, signifies the determination of the people to put the past behind them and forge ahead with the life known with the communities that make the state.

No wonder, Governor Simon Bako Lalong, a day before the flag off, he had said the state 'will sustain its track record of hosting national party conventions and presidential campaigns that produced Nigerian Presidents'.

He added: 'The history is very clear and God is writing this history himself. Anybody who is declared here goes on to win the Presidential elections. We know of Abiola and Obasanjo. Asiwaju is also going the same way because we have been blessed. I am very impressed with the show of hospitality and excitement among the citizens'.

Chief of Staff to the Director General of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Organization, Hon Yakubu Datti says, 'the cool weather and the gentle breeze seem to disseminate the positive aura that results in victory for presidential candidates hosted in Jos'. For the All Progressives Congress, as a party, they believe this cannot be any different from what had taken place in the past. If it happens, history will be repeated not created.

Did all go well at the venue?

The event was reported to have gone well, except as noted by the APC state Publicity Secretary, Hon Sylvanus Namang the death of the lawmaker representing Mushin Constituency II in the Lagos State House of Assembly under the banner of the APC, AbdulSobur Olawale. Popularly called Omititi, he slumped after attending the flag off at the age of 60.

At some point the venue

became rowdy and chaotic. Reports allegedly indicated that people lost money and valuables, particularly phones apart from some supporters who came from one of the north east states were alleged to have been disarmed of dangerous weapons. They were the same group whose behavior intermittently disrupted proceedings at the stadium, which certainly must have raised the adrenalin levels of guests at the venue.

Last Tuesday during the Presidential Flag off in Jos, it was apparent that a statement was meant to be made by the ruling party. The essence of such events could truly not be lost in the organization; given the caliber of those who attended the event from all over the country.

The preparations reached pitch high with the inauguration of the 40-man local organizing committee by Governor Simon Bako Lalong on November 6, 2022. The committee headed by the Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt Hon Ahmed Idris Maje went to work as soon as it was inaugurated.

The combination of activities starting Monday was a signal that nothing was being left out to chance. The 'show of power' by the military which started from the Operations Safe Haven (OPSH) headquarters traversing major roads in the city.

At the same time, a carnival of artistes from Nollywood and Kannywood and supporters had kick started at the overhead bridge at the secretariat junction and in two different locations in the city in a motorcade was

massive had moved round entertaining motorists and passersby.

Having gone through the mills, and picked a presidential candidate and running mate; despite the backlash against the choice in the latter, the party has continued to meet groups, individuals and organizations to explain its positions and the way forward. Not all has been well on all fronts.

That the party has trudge on and set the machinery for election appears to say that it has put behind the hullabaloo which came in the wake of the choice of its presidential running mate, Senator Kashim Shettima.

While everything may not be said to have been laid to rest, at least, the Director General of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council, Governor Simon Bako Lalong has stepped up his acts consistent with the desire of the party to retain power in 2023.

The APC's Renewed Hope comes with high expectations. Governor Lalong insisted that the flag off ceremony heralds the nationwide campaigns that will see the party traversing the nooks and crannies of Nigeria to mobilize, galvanize and propagate the Renewed Hope Agenda that Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his running mate Kashim Shettima are bringing to Nigerians. Already, there is great excitement and expectation over the prospects of an Asiwaju government which promises to serve the people and carry them along just as Mr. President has done over the years!

METRO-FOCUS



Turning begging into business

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

BEGGARS have resumed the streets of Jos in full force, devising new means of begging without appearing as beggars. The norm now is to pretend to be a stranded traveller in need of financial assistance to enable them continue their journey.

Another popular method is to work on the emotions of people, claiming they travelled from far to visit a brother or sister, but on reaching their destination, they discovered that the relation they had visited had travelled out. These category of liars tell their stories without batting their eyes. They are so believable that before you know it, you are giving them your last kobo.

A lady who fell victim said she was accosted by this middle aged woman at Ahmadu Bello Way who claimed that her son had been on admission for some time. Working on her emotions, the middle aged woman said, by the sheer mercies of God, they had been discharged. However, they could not leave the hospital because of the huge bill they have to settle. She pleaded almost in tears that anything the lady gave would mean a lot to them.

Moved by the story, the lady said she emptied her bag and gave the middle aged woman to help pay her son's bills. Sadly, barely two months later, she saw the middle aged woman around Old Airport Road. This time around, she was dressed well, and even wore lipstick and jewellery. Mama did not recognise her and approached her with a cock and bull story. The lady said, her mistake was that she didn't allow Mama to land before she attacked her.

Mama was saying this time around that her husband ran away and left her with several kids which she has to feed. The moment she sensed that she had overstepped her boundaries and had bitten more than she could chew, mama took off as fast as she could without looking back.

It was observed that in the past, the activities of street begging in Jos

was for persons in bad conditions, wretched and physically challenged persons.

Metro Focus reports that recently, there is a departure from that as able bodied and energetic men and women are engaging in the act of begging as a means of livelihood. They use it as a strategy to solicit for arms from members of the public indirectly.

The influx of beggars from other neighbouring states into Jos city is gradually becoming a threat and nuisance to the lives of citizens in the state. Unlike in the past, today's beggars can pass for an average Nigerian. They are well dressed and look good. The only similarity is that they all beg but using different tone and approach.

The number of those who have fallen victim is increasing by the day as the number of these unsuspecting criminals is increasing every day due to the little risk associated with the business. These criminals are scattered within Jos metropolis and environs, mostly in areas where economic activities are taking place, including motor parks within the city centre and environs.

They keenly monitor citizens' movement to choose who would be their prey. Metro Focus in an effort to engage one of the supposed stranded traveller that claimed to have traveled from Sokoto State, missed the chance when the lady mistook the reporter for a security personnel.

Earlier in the discussion, she pretended to have been waiting for her brother to transfer the sum of three thousand naira to her first bank account which later turns out to be false. Because in the first place, she had no bank account reading First Bank.

A point to note is that these beggars normally target people that are well dressed and good looking. They believe that such category of persons would help them because of their appearance.

From every indication, the act of begging has become a social

business, money making venture to some lazy, criminal minded and shameless healthy citizens in the society. They have taken to begging as an easy way out that does not require any effort but the act of deception. No wonder, many people have embraced it as a profession.

In a chat with a resident of Jos North that refuses his name to be in print, he said that he is afraid that with the increasing number of beggars within the city centre which is alarming, he believes some citizens choose to be lazy deliberately. They prefer to beg for arms whenever they are in need. And considering the harsh economic situation, most people have resorted to high class begging. Unfortunately,

he said, criminals have joined the ranks, pretending to be beggars just so that they would rob citizens of their belongings.

MallamAbukabarUmaru, a trader and a resident of Jos North said that he is not happy with the increase in people begging for arms from the public. And it seems the government is less concerned and does not see the need to rehabilitate such citizens to become better people in society.

He stressed that begging is an age-old social evil bedeviling most third-world countries. He however calls on the government to eliminate such practices and those found wanting should be punished according to the law, especially criminals.

"Plateau State is known for its peaceful and accommodative nature. Whatever it takes, it should not be allowed to become a den of criminals that would want to disrupt the peace and tranquility of the state".

Metro Focus believes the increase in the number of beggars is not unconnected with the upcoming festive period. It is a tradition in Nigeria among Christians that during Christmas, people spend a lot of money on food and clothing to make merry.

In addition, these beggars normally target people that are well-dressed and good-looking, believing that such category of persons would help them because of their appearance.



SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG PRESENTS 2023 BUDGET

Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) recently presented the 2023 Appropriation budget to the Plateau State House of Assembly



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong reading the 2023 budget at the PLHA



Plateau House of Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda delivering his speech after the Governor presented the budget



Hon. Philip Peter Dasun, member, representing, Pankshin North (left) and other honorable members listening to the Governor



One time Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Isa Chungwom Song (right) flanked by former Speakers listening with rapt attention



From left are, President Customary Court of Appeal, Justice Blessing Lyop Dalyop, APC Governorship candidate, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe and APC State Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature



Deputy Speaker, House of Reps, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase (right) with Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, member, representing PKK, Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi and Grand khadi of Sharia Court of Appeal, Justice Umar Abdullahi Ibrahim



Minority Leader, PLHA, Hon. Peter Gyendyeng making comments



PLHA, Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong (right) in a handshake with the former, Deputy Speaker, now member, House of Reps, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi

Photo: DANLADI DUK

Becoming a better driver

Attitude Survey: Check your own driving attitudes

Use this questionnaire below to assess your driving attitudes. Try and be as truthful as possible- the more truthful you are, the more accurate the result will be.

If the table shows you have a high crash rate, you need to think seriously about what you can do to change the attitudes that put you at risk.

Attitudes to driving

Listed below are some statements about driving. For each one, show how far you agree or disagree with it by ticking the appropriate number. For example, 1 means that you strongly agree with the statement, etc. (SA-Strongly Agree-1, A-Agree-2, Undecided UD-3, D-Disagree-4, SD Strongly Disagree-5).

S/N	Item	1. SA	2. A	3. UD	4. D	5. SD
1	Decreasing the speed limit on expressway is a good idea	1	2	3	4	5
2	Even at night time on quiet roads it is important to keep within the speed limit	1	2	3	4	5
3	Drivers who cause crashes by reckless driving should be banned from driving for life	1	2	3	4	5
4	People should drive lower than the speed limit when it is raining	1	2	3	4	5
5	Cars should never overtake by the right lane even if a slow driver is blocking the left lane	1	2	3	4	5
6	Penalties for speed violation should be made more severe	1	2	3	4	5
7	In built-up areas where there are a lot of pedestrians, the speed limit should be 20km/h	1	2	3	4	5
8	Drivers caught driving against a one-way lane should be subjected to psychiatric examination	1	2	3	4	5
9	Drivers apprehended for use of phone while driver should have their driver's license suspended for five years	1	2	3	4	5
10	Parents of underage drivers should be jailed for two years without option of fines	1	2	3	4	5

When you have finished, you can add up the numbers which you have ticked, if you scored less than 15, you tend to agree with the statements. If you scored between 15 and 21, you are generally neutral on the average. If you scored above 21, you tend to disagree with the statements. Drivers who tend to disagree with these statements turn out to have approximately five times the crash risk of those who agree.

Acknowledge resistance to change

Most driver would accept that developing a safety conscious attitude is important, but a problem exists when we believe our own attitudes are right and are reluctant to accept evidence to the contrary and embrace the need for change. Attitude to speed is a key area where there is often resistance to change. To access your own attitude to speed, complete the following questionnaire:

Driving speed

For each question, tick the number corresponding to the answer that applies to you during your normal day to day driving (not during emergency driving). 1-Never or very infrequently, 2. Quite infrequently, 3. Infrequently, 4. Frequently, 5. Always.

S/N	Item	1. NVI	2. QI	3. I	4. F	5. A
1	How often do you exceed 90km/h on the highway?	1	2	3	4	5
2	How often do you exceed the speed limit in built-up areas?	1	2	3	4	6
3.	How often do you drive fast?	1	2	3	4	5

When you have finished, you can add up the number which you have ticked. If you scored less than 7, you tend to speed infrequently. If you scored between 7 and 12, you tend to speed a little more frequently. If you scored more than 12, you tend to speed often. Driver who indicate on this survey that they speed often have about three times the crash risk of those who speed infrequently.

If you had scored more than 12 on the second survey, do you agree that you have a greater risk of causing a crash? Or do you think there are mitigating circumstances in your case? If yes, make a list of these and then decide whether they are genuinely mitigating or they spring from your reluctance to accept change.

Discussing this with a colleague could help to make your research – based assessment more objective. Many drivers who are fast, aggressive and inconsiderate are quite happy with the way they drive and do not accept that it is unsafe. They tend to think that their behaviour is more common than it really is, and that it is a function of external pressures than any choice of theirs. These rationalizations create barriers to attitudinal change and need to be challenged from complacency to allow for change.

Recognize your own vulnerability

If you have inappropriate attitudes towards driving and are able to acknowledge this, the remedy is to identify safety as your primary concern. Consider the elements that improve your unsafe driving attitudes and how you can change them.

NEWS

Senate commences 2021/2022 NACA budget investigation

From JIDAUNAYANUNG, Abuja

THE Senate has commenced investigation into the 2021 and 2022 budgeting system used by the National Agency for the Control of Aids in preparing its annual budget.

Chairman Senate Committee on Primary Health Care and Communicable Disease, Senate Elisha Abbo disclosed this recently when the Director General of NACA, Gambo Aliyu appeared before the committee for the 2023 budget defence.

He expressed displeasure over the discrepancies in the budgeting system of the agency, stating that putting recurrent items under capital budget was a misnomer.

To this end, Senator Abbo therefore refused to accept the 2023 budget of the agency, stating that the anomaly must first be corrected in previous budget allocation before consideration was given to



Lawan

the current one.

The chairman however, set a 3 man adhoc committee to look into the budget process of NACA.

"The fact that things have gone wrong for 100 years doesn't make it right. We must change how things are done. How can a board

meeting be captured as a capital budget? This is not just discrepancies in the budgeting system of the agency," he stressed.

The chairman also queried the level at which grants and aids received by government agencies were not accounted for.

PPBA renews call for security architecture decentralizing

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Plateau State Peace Building Agency (PPBA), has made a renewed frantic and compelling call to the Federal Government to decentralize the security architecture using the constitutional provision that empowers the subnational units to police territories directly under jurisdiction.

This came in a press statement signed by the Director General of PPBA, Joseph Lengmang, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the state capital following renewed attacks in Bokkos Local Government Area Tuesday.

The DG, said, "the deteriorating security situation in Bokkos Local Government Area, Plateau State in the last few weeks has been a source of

concern for not just the Plateau Peace Building Agency, (PPBA) but; for people of good conscience.

"We are indeed saddened by this sudden twist of events and its attendant consequence on the socio-economic environment in Bokkos in particular, moreso that the harvest season is at its peak. These retrogressive tendencies of citizens taking the law into their hands at the slightest or in all ramifications, is an ill-wind that blows no one any good.

"We are thus compelled to renew the call for the decentralization of the security architecture of the country especially the constitutional provision that would empower the sub-national units to police territories that are directly under their jurisdiction. This would go

along way in checking these orchestrated commando-styled attacks on communities by criminal elements", he stated.

While commiserating with families of those who lost loved ones and property in this needless violence, Lengmang said the call for interventions by peace building actors such as PPBA, as well as other non-state actors, was largely contingent upon as a fairly secure environment.

He commended the security operatives for the prompt response to the challenge. "We however urge citizens to cooperate with security agencies in order to check further deterioration of the security situation in some parts of Bokkos and other places.

"We also commend the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt.Hon.SimonBakoLalong, KSGG for the directive issued to all security agencies in the state to go after the perpetrators of these attack in Maikatako and other parts of the state.

"Perpetrators of violence must be made to face the full weight of the law to serve as deterrent to others that may be contemplating carrying out such violence on innocent citizens", the PPBA Director General appealed.



Alkali

SUNDAY FEATURE

Prospects of antiquities for Museums and monuments

Security all over the world is so important that no organization no matter how reserved can do without it. Its operation and provision may defer from organization to another. However, the role of antiquities protection officers in the National Commission for Museums and Monument (NCMM) which was established under Decree 77 of 1979 remains the custodian and protector of the Nigerian cultural and natural heritage and within the template of the law working of the Antiquity Protection officers is provided with the necessary support that will enhance the performances of the antiquities protection officers. MRS. LADI BATURE writes.

THEREFORE, in its effort to ensure the protection of Nigeria Natural Heritage the management of National Commission for Museums and Monuments the security unit was designated in 2014 as ANTIQUITIES PROTECTION UNIT (APU) that will play the roles of protecting lives and properties of the Commission. Fire outbreak, prevention of theft, vigilant to visitors and staffs, advising management on security matters and ensuring the safety of Nigerian National Heritage by vigilant to the Galleries and stores.

However, the ANTIQUITY PROTECTION UNIT (APU) need to be strengthened to achieve its objectives measures by introducing the various forms of crime technique which include the traditional mechanical device technique, electronic device technique, punitive crime prevention technique and human physical presence, these should apply to all security beats in the museums premises throughout the country in addition in the various types of patrol to be implemented and practice fully without execution i.e the foot patrol should fully be on force on a beat like the Galleries, stores. Officers on duty are expected to use sense of sight, smiling and touch during foot patrol to be done by two (2) officers on duty moving on opposite directions that will make a human presence at all time.

In addition to the foot patrol,



in a larger museum such as Lagos, Jos, Umuahia and Osogbo etc vehicle patrol is to be introduce this will enable a wider coverage that foot cannot do in a small period of time, the vehicle patrol is more effective if electronic gadgets of communication made available for effective communication with the appropriate authorities in case of emergency for the effective protection of Nigeria priceless artifacts, the needs for boarder patrol to be taken into

consideration by a combined team of Uniform personnel to be attached an antiquity Protection Officer, who have the knowledge of identifying objects, aerial patrol which is another form of patrol to be undertake in collaboration with airforce will also help in checking the activities of illegal diggers of Archaeological sites which in will notify the Head of Antiquities Protection

Unit within the area through any means of communication (Radio message) this will help control illegal trafficking of Nigeria Artifacts to neighbouring countries.

The introduction of Dog patrol for an Antiquity Protection officer in places such as Airports, Seaports, Railway stations and parks will aid in selecting illegal trafficking of Artifacts in addition of the fore-mentioned patrol research which is another form of security

checking can also be utilize and can play a vital role in the role to be played by Antiquity Protection officer, this will help in detecting weapon of destruction into the office and control of theft. For the practical performance of the Antiquity protection officer the following security tools are to be made available: mental selector, electronic, mechanical and frisking to be backed by training and training to be up to date in modern techniques of tackling crime.

To achieve a very sensitive protective measure an Antiquity protection Officers needs some essential information management to enhance a greater performance through quality information management; such as proficiency in report writing, good interpretation skill and attending social events.

Antiquity protection officers in the museum have a big role to play in crime prevention against valuable collections kept for present and future generations its protection is a paramount responsibility of staff in the museum right from the Director General to the least staff of the National Museum Commission for Museum and Monument.

Mrs. Ladi Bature is a staff of National Museum Commission for Museums and Monument.



SUNDAY FEATURE

Body beautification in Igboland

Body adornment in Igbo land is as old as the Igbo man. It is the act of making oneself or another more appealing, beautiful or attractive by adding some type of ornaments, designs or makings on the body. Adorning the body consists of improving and sometimes altering the natural body. ALIKA CECILIA N. writes.



THE body as it were, is the physical structure of the human being that we can see and even feel.

When adorned, the body may be transformed permanently, for instance, when it is tattooed (made by making small holes on the body and filling them with coloured dye), scarified or pierced,. It may also be transformed temporarily when adorned with such additions as jewelry, clothes, hair styling, painting of the body, etc.

The medium for body adornment can be metal or non-metal, for instance in the use of precious stones like diamond, ruby, beads, cowry, shells, body dyes, white chalk (nzu), textile, elephant tusks or ivory, animal skin, leopard tooth, etc. However, both metal and non-metal media could be combined in the course of beautifying the body. Non-metal aspect of body adornment (body painting and patterning) will be considered.

The Igbos have over the years developed forms and styles of adorning the body which tend to express their creative abilities and values. Through body adornment, the Igbos make statements about status, sex, age, occasion, etc. for instance, status in Igbo land is visibly marked by certain items of adornment. In the olden days, an Ozo titled man in Anambra, apart from having his face scarified was also identified by his

head gear with eagle feathers, shoulder cloth, an elephant tusk trumpet, etc. Titled women were also identified by their attire. For example, in Nsukka, a titled woman's paraphernalia included ivory leg llets, ivory bracelets, locally woven cloth tied around the chest, beads, cow whisks, etc.

When we talk about sex also, the girl child is beautified and differentiated from the male child by the piercing of her ear lobes and short pieces of broom stick or thread inserted into the holes and tied at both ends. For the Igbo therefore, body adornment starts from the cradle and every physical part of the body is an object for adornment.

In prehistoric period,

adornment in Igbo land was limited to body painting and patterning as a result of the absence of clothing. Thus, vegetal and animal colouring substances like uri (indigo), ede ala (a type of cocoyam), uhie (camwood), liquid from the larvae of some insects, were used by all Igbo men and women in patterning their bodies for display especially at occasions. Uri (indigo) biologically known as *randi cordata* was the most widespread form of body patterning. The word "Uri", applies not only to the tree and its fruits but also to the decorative patterns drawn with the liquid from the fruits.

The brown oblong pod contains the seeds which are removed and

ground. The liquid squeezed out from the paste turns brown and is put in a clay pot and mixed with fresh palm oil. Water from new bouldia leaves (*ogirisi*) is squeezed into the mixture to make the drawing last longer on the body. After the liquid is applied on the desired part of the body, orange thorn or sharpened piece of wood is used in making the beautiful designs. The substance is washed off the next day and re-applied. It stays for two more days and is finally washed off. The main design stays on the body between five and eight months before it gradually fades away. Uri is mostly applied during festive periods or on special occasions like when a young lady is about to

be married.

Ede ala or Uri-ala, is another plant colouring substance used in body beautification. This plant belongs to the cocoyam family. The specie used is known as ede inyanke. The tap root of the cocoyam is cut, ground until the colour turns yellow. The liquid from the flute-like projection on top of the cocoyam plant is added to the paste to increase the liquid and to make the pattern last longer on the body. The design is then made and left on the body overnight, and this would have swollen up in the morning making the area light. The swelling subsides several days after the painting is washed off. A little quantity of camwood- uhie is added in order to project the designs making them more vivid and bringing out more blackness. The design could stay on the body for one month before it gradually fades.

Nki, known as tattoo in English Language, is another form of body decoration. The juice from uri (indigo) seeds and the juice from the bark of coconut tree are mixed with red oil. The red oil is believed to lessen itching, make it smooth and shiny. An admixture known as 'onunu', believed to have healing properties is also added to the mixture. Various designs like leaves, one's names, animals etc. are made on the body with a sharp needle-like object known as "ogriga". The mixture is then applied on the designs made with the needle and is allowed to stay on the body for three to six days before it is washed off. The design turns deep green and the application is washed off. Though painful, the patterns come out beautiful and stay a life time on the body.

Body colouring substances were also extracted from pounded caterpillars (insect) for the purpose of body beautification. The extracted juice is mixed with potash and lime juice. When painted on the skin, it causes wheals or ridges to appear and remains for a good length of time.

Body beautification (patterning/painting) in Igbo land especially in the prehistoric period was done for aesthetics, religious and ceremonial purposes. There is no gain saying the fact that while various forms of body beautification like jewelry, clothing, hairstyling etc. have come to stay, body painting/patterning has fizzled out among the Igbo people.

Alika Cecilia N. a staff of National Commission for Museums & Monuments Abuja.

In prehistoric period, adornment in Igbo land was limited to body painting and patterning as a result of the absence of clothing. Thus, vegetal and animal colouring substances like uri (indigo), ede ala (a type of cocoyam), uhie (camwood), liquid from the larvae of some insects, were used by all Igbo men and women in patterning their bodies for display especially at occasions. Uri (indigo) biologically known as randi cordata was the most widespread form of body patterning. The word "Uri", applies not only to the tree and its fruits but also to the decorative patterns drawn with the liquid from the fruits.

SUNDAY SPORTS

Delta refutes reports on Nwosu's health rumours

DELTA State Government has debunked insinuations in some quarters, including social media, that the health condition of a former Captain of Green Eagles, Henry Nwosu, who is receiving treatment at Asaba Specialist Hospital, Asaba, was deteriorating.

Newsnow said that, addressing journalists shortly after visiting the football legend at the hospital, the Chief Press Secretary to the governor of the state, Mr Olisa Ifeajika, said contrary to rumours, Nwosu was positively responding to treatment.

Ifeajika disclosed that the health condition of the renowned footballer had, contrary to speculations, improved significantly from the condition he was at the time he was admitted into the medical facility.

According to him, the rumour that Henry Nwosu is not doing well in his health condition; that he is not eating again and not even walking nor talking again is clearly baseless as there is no iota of truth in it.

He said that the state government took over Nwosu's medical care and general well-being since he was brought to Asaba Specialist Hospital.

"As soon as we knew that he was here at the Asaba Specialist Hospital three or four weeks ago, His Excellency, the Governor, Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa, asked that we should come and find out how true it was.

"I came here with the Commissioner for Health and we found out that it was true that he was in this medical facility and he told us that he was better than he was when he came.



Gov Okowa

"And, immediately, on the instructions of the governor, we directed that every bill on his health should be passed to the state government. In fact, we asked that the family should not pay the bills that were already outstanding at the time.

"But, we were surprised with the rumours that he was not doing well in the hospital; that he was not eating again and that he was not even walking or talking again.

"Added to that rumour was that he was being taken away from the hospital on the prompting of Lagos State Government which planned to take over his medical care.

"Nobody from Lagos State Government has contacted us on that and it is not true that some other interests had discussed with Delta State Government expressing willingness to take over the former footballer's health care..

"In a state where we have everything, you can see the environment where he is. We even moved him from the private ward where he was to a VIP ward.

"And, he (Nwosu) has said that he is a lot better now. As the Chief Medical Director just said, Nwosu has had a better attention and he is quite better than how he was when he was brought in from Imo State.

"I spoke with him last night and he said that he would not want to leave because the Governor had been very wonderful to him and that the medical attention was also wonderful."

Meanwhile, Nwosu who was accompanied by his two sisters and a medical Doctor arrived the local wing of the Murtala Mohammed Airport at exactly 7.20 pm from Asaba on Wednesday.

He was immediately ferried in a waiting ambulance to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital facility at Ikeja.

Osimhen 'attainable' in January for United

NIGERIAN star, Victor Osimhen, is said to have attracted interest from Manchester United with reports in the media suggesting that a move in the January transfer window could be on the cards.

Newsnow said that, following the likes of Erling Haaland and Darwin Nunez, Osimhen is now emerging as

THIS year's edition of the annual CBN/NFF Football Competition will begin on Wednesday next week with 12 teams battling in group stage encounters in Kano and Akure cities.

Newsnow said that, at the Draw ceremony held inside the NFF Secretariat, Abuja on Wednesday, the organizers disclosed that the group phase attrition will last between 23rd - 30th November, with two groups playing in Kano and the other two playing in the Ondo State capital. The quarter final matches take place 1st - 2nd December also in Kano and Akure.

Semi-final matches will be decided on 6th December at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Stadium, Bauchi while the Final will be staged at the Pantami Stadium, Gombe on Saturday, 10th December.

At the event were NFF's Technical Director, Augustine Eguavoen; Director of Media and Communications, Ademola Olajire; Ag. Director of Competitions, Ruth David; Head of Audit, Mathias Yohanna; Head of National

CBN/NFF football competition to hold in Kano, Akure



Gusau

Competitions, Ayo Abdulrahman; Head of Marketing, Alizor Chuks; Head of Women's Football, Amina Daura; Head of Protocol, Barnabas Joro and; Special Assistant to General Secretary,

Mohammed Ameenu. Mr. Obibia Edere, Head of Events Management and Wudiri Musa (Senior Manager, Events Management) represented the sponsors, Central Bank of Nigeria.

'England favourites to win 2022 World Cup'

LIONEL Messi named England as one of his favourites to win the World Cup in Qatar - but he's also eager to get going himself.

BBC SPORT said that, the 35-year-old winger named three sides that he believes are capable of winning the upcoming World Cup. Messi, who'll be going to his fifth World Cup finals with Argentina, gives England, Brazil and France a better chance than the rest of the teams participating. He also commented on the mood within the Argentina camp as they look for their first World Cup triumph since 1986.

Speaking to the South American Federation CONMEBOL, he said: "Whenever we talk about candidates, we always talk



Messi

a hot prospect for big clubs in Europe. It is believed that the Red Devils view the Napoli forward as a long-term target for their attacking department.

Also, the Mirror reports that United have identified Kylian Mbappe as one of the candidates to replace Cristiano Ronaldo at Carrington and that the English giants could fork out some £150 million for the Frenchman.

However, the same report mentioned that Osimhen is a 'more attainable' target in the January transfer window. While Mbappe is seen as the 'dream' signing for United, Osimhen's valuation of £60 million could prompt United to pursue the African star.

Other than the 20-time English League champions adding Osimhen to their radar, Chelsea and Liverpool have reportedly showcased interest in the prolific Serie A star as well.

That being said, it remains to be seen where the Nigerian will end up next as a move away from Napoli draws ever closer.

the same teams. If I have to put some above others I think Brazil, France and England are a little bit above the rest. But the World Cup is so difficult and so complicated that anything can happen."

"We are very excited. We have a very nice group that is very eager, but we think about going little by little."

Argentina will want to go one better than they did in 2014, a year in which they lost in the World Cup final to Germany thanks to an extra-time Mario Gotze strike. Surprisingly, Hansi Flick's side don't factor into Messi's consideration in terms of favourites for the upcoming

finals. Argentina are unbeaten in 35 games across all competitions, last tasting defeat on July 3, 2019, in that year's Copa America semi-final against Brazil. They're just three games away from beating Italy's all-time record of 37 games without a loss.

The PSG man will know that this is likely his last shot at winning the one trophy his illustrious cabinet is missing. His full attention will be on helping Argentina get off to the best possible start when they take on Saudi Arabia in their opening game on November 22.



Osimhen

SUNDAY SPORTS

Plateau's Vera wins 2022 Lagos Women Run marathon

VERA-Yohanna finished the 10km race in a time of 29.38.72 to win the seventh edition of the marathon while Hauwawu Haruna of Lagos State came a close second as she also broke the half-hour mark with a finish time of 29.27.59, with Delta State's Charity Agofure coming third with a time of 30.13.17.

Despite the star-studded list of elite athletes on parade, Vera-Yohanna, a teenager, held sway right from the start point at the Onikan Roundabout and though she was intermittently overtaken at different times, she had enough firepower in her to breast the tape first at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena Finish point.

Speaking to journalists after her triumph at the Lagos Women Run, Vera-Yohanna said she is excited to win the prestigious race, having put in so much hard work in the past months.

"I am very happy to win the Lagos Women Run, I have been training hard for this race and I am happy that God gave me the victory," she said.

Her time was the fastest-ever winning time by a Nigerian at the Lagos Women Run in its seventh edition.

Also in the veteran category, Plateau State trio of Elizabeth



Maisaje

Nuhu, Kundung Steven and Janet Dung claimed the top three positions.

For her efforts, Vera-Yohanna took home N1 million while Hauwawu and Agofure got N500,000 and N300,000 respectively.

Asaba 2022: Okowa tasks contractors on projects

DELTA State Governor, Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, has charged contractors handling various projects for the 21st National Sports Festival, tagged Delta 2022, to double their effort and deliver the facilities as scheduled.

Newsnow said that, Okowa, who is the Vice Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), paid a visit to the Stephen Keshi Stadium, Asaba, where he expressed satisfaction with the level of work done so far.

He, however, advised the site engineers to be safety conscious.

Okowa was accompanied by some members of his executive council, including the Secretary to the State Government, Chief Patrick Ukah (who is the Chairman of the Local Organising

Committee), the co-chairman of the LOC, Chief Tonobok Okowa, and the Adviser to the LOC, Evangelist Solomon Ogba.

The governor inspected facilities, including the new indoor sports hall and multi-purpose complex, the new swimming pool, the new weightlifting gymnasium and the main bowl of the Stephen Keshi Stadium, where new tartan tracks are being laid.

Meanwhile, Secretary of the LOC, Chris Anazia, has said that the November 28 to December 10 scheduled date for Asaba 2022 National Sports Festival still stands.

Anazia, who is the Director General of Delta Sports Commission, revealed yesterday, that work has

reached an advanced stage in both the indoor sports hall and the tartan track.

"All the necessary facilities inside the indoor sports hall are being fixed. Those in charge of painting are also working. The tartan track is getting shape. In a couple of days from now, the entire complex will change and we are looking forward to welcoming athletes from all over the country on November 28," Anazia stated.

Djokovic 'happy' visa ban overturned

NOVAK Djokovic confirmed he will play at next year's Australian Open, saying he was "very happy" his visa ban had been overturned.

BBC SPORT said that, the Serb, a nine-time champion, was deported before this year's

event after his visa was cancelled in a row over his Covid vaccine status.

He was automatically banned for three years from entering Australia, but on Tuesday learnt a visa would be granted.

Speaking to reporters at the ATP Finals in Turin after reaching the semi-finals, the former world number one added: "It was a relief obviously knowing what I and people closest to me in my life have been through this year with what happened in Australia and post Australia obviously.

"Of course, I want to go back there, I want to play tennis, do what I do best, hopefully have a great Australian summer."

When Djokovic arrived in Australia in January, Covid cases were skyrocketing and government rules required anyone entering the country to be vaccinated, unless they had a valid medication exemption.

He did not meet the requirements for entry, the government said, so his visa was cancelled and he was

Two Nigerian athletes face 10 year jail terms

FORMER Nigerian jumper, hurdler and sprinter, Seigha Porbeni, is sad over the travail of African Games 100m champion, Raymond Ekevwo, and five other athletes, who have been indicted by the United States of America for wire and mail fraud.

"Remember when I said that Yahoo Yahoo was the problem of our male athletes. Now, they have been caught in fraudulent cases in America. It is sad," Porbeni told The Guardian.

Newsnow said that, already, two of the athletes, Emmanuel Ineh and Toluwani Adebakin, have been convicted by America of Internet fraud and will be sentenced to 10 years in jail.

According to a statement released by America's attorney's office of the southern district of Mississippi, the two Nigerians pleaded guilty to charges of "sending thousands of illicitly obtained proceeds to fraudsters in Nigeria as part of a larger mail fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering conspiracy."

The statement read: "Two collegiate athletes were convicted today before America's District Judge Kristi Johnson for transferring thousands of dollars to Nigeria as part of a complex fraud scheme, announced Attorney Darren J. LaMarca and Special Agent in Charge Jermicha Fomby of Federal Bureau of Investigation's Jackson Field Office.

"According to court documents, Emmanuel Inch, 23, and Toluwani Adebakin, 25, pleaded guilty to violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957, for engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activities, collectively sending tens of thousands of illicitly obtained proceeds to fraudsters in Nigeria as part of a larger mail fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering conspiracy.

The two Nigerians are said to be roommates at William Carey University and were arrested after they were found culpable of committing



Porbeni

Internet crimes.

Ineh represented Nigeria at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games, where he won silver, while Adebakin is a 200m and 400m runner.

Both defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on February 15, 2023, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Ekevwo, the reigning African Games 100m champion, and two other athletes, Anikeme Etim and Mercy Abire, as well as Zimbabwe's Ngoni Chadyiwa, have been indicted by America's district court for the Southern District of Mississippi's eastern division, Forest

County, for committing mail and wire fraud.

At the 2019 edition of the African Games held in Rabat, Morocco, Ekevwo, ran 9 seconds to win the 100m gold, thereby returning Nigeria to the podium as African Games champion 12 years after Olusoji Fasuba last did it in Algiers.

Before their indictment for mail and wire fraud by America, Porbeni had warned that the Yahoo Yahoo phenomenon was the major issue affecting the performance of the nation's male athletes at international competitions.

And at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which

ended on August 8 in England, only women athletes made the headline by winning 12 gold, nine silver and 14 bronze medals. No single Nigerian male athlete could mount the podium.

The situation became worrisome for Porbeni. In his article entitled: 'Dwindling Performance of Nigeria's male track and field stars,' Porbeni stated then that the dwindling performance of the nation's men in recent international competitions, including the World Championships at Oregon, the U.S. and the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, on stakeholders' refusal to deploy science in athletes' identification, growth and development.

At Oregon 2022, Team Nigeria made big headlines through the efforts of a world record-breaker, hurdler Tobi Amusan, and long jumper, Ese Brume, who won gold and silver respectively on the last day of the competition after all the male athletes had fizzled out.

"Moving along with the prevailing economic and social changes in the country today, the male child is more affected or targeted. The introduction of online trading or the Yahoo Yahoo phenomenon has provided a serious distraction to our male athletes," Porbeni had warned.



Djokovic

automatically not allowed to return to Australia until 2025.

But Immigration Minister Andrew Giles - whose government came to power in May - has overturned the ban.

Djokovic's detention and deportation dominated the headlines in the build-up to this year's Australian Open.

Many people in Australia cheered the decision, but it also sparked an uproar among supporters who gathered outside his hotel, as well as in Serbia.

Just hours after learning he would be able to compete in

Australia in January, Djokovic was on court putting in a clinical display against Andrey Rublev to reach the semi-finals of the ATP Finals.

He did not face a single break point in a 6-4 6-1 win over the Russian, who was left smashing his racquet on the floor at times in the face of 69 minutes of ruthless tennis.

Djokovic made the breakthrough against Rublev in the 10th game to take the first set before embarking on what he described as a "flawless" second set.

"I played very, very well," Djokovic, 35, said in his on-



The 3000 steeple chase is among events listed for Asaba 2022 National Sports Festival

SUNDAY SPORTS

Ahead Qatar 2022 World Cup



Qatar will cross swords with Ecuador in the opening game of the 2022 FIFA World Cup today. Photo credit: @FIFAWorldCup Source:

Qatar bribes Ecuador \$7.4 Million to lose opener

THE decision to award Qatar hosting rights for the 2022 World Cup has been marred by controversy, including allegations of corruption and human rights violations.

Major reports and rumours alleging the host country bribing its opponent, Ecuador is making the rounds. Qatar are billed to square off against Ecuador in their World Cup opener at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor.

The build-up to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar has been less than spectacular owing to the Middle East nation's deplorable human rights record interlaced with allegations of corruption.

Qatar's decision to host the biggest sporting festival across the face of the earth has been described by critics as attempts by the oil-rich nation to use football to cleanse its image on the international scene, best described as sports washing.

Another layer of allegations has been added to the already well-documented fractured state of Qatar.

According to Amjad Taha, the regional director of the British Middle East Center for Studies and Research with over 400,000 followers on Twitter, Qatar has bribed players of Ecuador ahead of the opening game.

He reveals that the World Cup hosts bribed eight Ecuadorian players \$7.4 million to lose the opening game of the World Cup.

As of the time of writing, organizers of the tournament, FIFA, and the government of Qatar are yet to deny the rumours.

Meanwhile, FIFA has written to World Cup teams urging them to focus on football in Qatar and not let the sport be dragged into ideological or political battles.

Sports Brief reported that Netflix has officially released its explosive docu-series that reportedly lifts the lid on widespread and systemic corruption in the world governing body for football,

FIFA. Titled FIFA Uncovered, the four-part docu-series sought opinions of whistleblowers, experts and former and current officials of FIFA. It touches on a variety of subjects, the key among them being how Qatar and Russia were awarded the hosting rights of the World Cup in 2022 and 2018.

We dominated Super Eagles

MANCHESTER United midfielder Bruno Fernandes has declared Portugal's readiness to shine at the World Cup after helping the Selecao trounce Nigeria.

In a sold-out Estádio José Alvalade in Lisbon on Thursday evening, Portugal ran out 4-0 winners in their final warm-up match before jetting out for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Bruno Fernandes was at the heart of everything good about the Portuguese, the midfielder scoring the home side's first two goals.

The first was a first-time finish past goalkeeper Francis Uzoho while the second was from the penalty spot after Bernardo Silva's cross struck the arm of the lively Bright Osayi-Samuel.

Gonçalo Ramos and João Mário added two more goals in the second half of the encounter, moments after Emmanuel Dennis missed a penalty for Nigeria.

Pleased with the Selecao's display, Fernandes believed Portugal were perfect against the sorry Eagles.

"The perfection didn't exist or at least it is very hard to accomplish, but we made a great game, dominating every level," Fernandes told Sport TV.

"It was a win that gives us great confidence ahead of our debut against Ghana. We are a



The Portuguese national team put four goals past the Nigerians in a one-sided affair in Lisbon on Thursday

team, it is not about individuals and we have a great group, young players that are up-and-coming and hungry. We are ready for the World Cup."

Argentina miss González to muscle injury

THE cold hands of injury have stormed the camp of favourites, Argentina. World Cup La Albiceleste have been hit with the crushing news of a muscle injury suffered by Fiorentina attacker Nicolás González.

The two-time world champions have been tipped as favourites by bookmakers and begin their title bid against Saudi Arabia on November 22.

González, who was named in Lionel Scaloni's 26-man squad for the Mundial, suffered a muscle injury which ruled him out of the impending global showpiece in Qatar.

The news was made public via Argentina Football Association's verified Twitter account, hours after head coach Lionel Scaloni had hinted there would be alterations to his final list.

In Gonzalez's absence, Atletico Madrid attacker Ángel Correa has been summoned to replace the 24-year-old forward. He joins a growing list of players to miss the biggest sporting festival across the face of the earth, which commences today.

Despite the devastating news to have hit the Argentina camp,

show. Cameroon is among the favorite African teams as they'll be making their eighth World Cup competition in Qatar. Following their incredible performance in Italia 90, the West African nation has struggled to make a huge impact in recent World Cups after failing to go past the group stages over the last five tournaments. The five-time continental champions are dreaming of following the footsteps of the legendary Roger Milla's team that dominated many competitors in Italy in 1990.

Back in Italy, Cameroon reached the World Cup quarter-finals and led the would-be semifinalists, England, at a

certain point during the quarter-finals. But will the current generation of the Indomitable lions match the performance of their predecessors, or will they make another quick exit in the group stages?

This year, the Indomitable lions will be facing Serbia, Switzerland and Brazil in Group G. Unfortunately, Neymar and company are the favorites to dominate the group but don't underestimate the Indomitable Lions desire to break their poor world cup form.

For Tunisia, their new manager Jalal Qaderi will lead their sixth appearance at the world cup this year after taking over from Mondher Kebaier. Unfortunately, Tunisia has yet

to make it past the knockout stage in all their five appearances. But will this tournament mark the end of Tunisia's disappointments? France, Australia and Denmark are all lined up ahead of them, and the services of players like the brilliant Kylian Mbappe and Christian Eriksen will offer a stern test unlike any other.

On the other side, Morocco is seen as one of the strongest African teams, with plenty of stars competing for their sixth run. A lot will depend on the performance of PSG fullback Achraf Hakimi, but he should get support from the likes of EPL's Sofiane Boufal and Ayoub Al Kaabi, who plays in Turkey. However, they're in the tough Group F that features the Luca Modric-led Croatia, Kevin de Bruyne's Canada and the football powerhouse Belgium.

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Disheartened fans sympathise with Mane

FANS have taken to social media to sympathise with Senegal star Sadio Mane, who will miss the World Cup in Qatar. Senegal confirmed on November 17 that their talisman will not recover in time to feature at the tournament.

Mane sustained an injury in Bayern Munich's Bundesliga clash with Werder Bremen, just before the Mundial break. Football fans all said the same thing after Sadio Mane was officially ruled out of the Qatar World Cup with a knee injury. Initially, there was a slim glimmer of hope that Mane could make the tournament, as the Senegal FA said the Bayern Munich star would miss the first 'few' games. But two days later, a conclusion arrived at is that Mane would require surgery on his knee, and would, hence, miss the tournament.

As reported by the BBC, the Senegal international was forced off with a knee injury during Bayern Munich's Bundesliga clash with Werder Bremen on November 8.

The Lions of Teranga are in Group A, and will have to play games against the Netherlands, hosts Qatar, and Ecuador without their talisman. Fans reacted to

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Argentina have been dealt a crushing blow, following the injury to Fiorentina forward Nicolás González just days before the start of the 2022 World Cup



Sadio Mane of Bayern Munich on the pitch during the Bundesliga match against SV Werder Bremen



2022 FIFA World Cup kicks off today

WORLD Cup kicks off in Qatar on today, and while this may be an unusual tournament due to the time of year, one thing remains consistent – our dedication in ensuring the safety of the public.

Superintendent Lee Edwards said: "We want everyone – football fans or otherwise – to feel safe throughout the tournament.

"We know international football tournaments can provide great scenes as large sections of the country come together to show their support for their favourite teams."

Unfortunately, events like these can lead to behaviour that spoils the atmosphere for the majority.

Superintendent Edwards continued: "I would ask everyone to drink responsibly and consider their behaviour throughout this tournament, especially as we are entering Christmas party season.

"Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to antisocial behaviour or public order offences. Officers and staff will be patrolling hotspot areas to reassure all those out for a good time, and to tackle the minority whose behaviour spoils the great atmosphere for others.

Meanwhile, FIFA President Gianni Infantino, has expressed his full support to the match officials at the FIFA World Cup, praising their dedication,



professionalism and ability to cope with pressure. "These 129 match officials are doing the most difficult job of all of us, either here in Qatar or at home" he said. "They are top professionals; they are motivated in an incredible way."

"The referees for us are not only one team, but they are Team One. They are the most important team at the World Cup because without the referees' team, there is no World Cup."

The FIFA President suggested that fans who get angry at decisions should try to put themselves in the referee's position.

"I am as much a fan as everyone else and I get upset as much when there is a mistake or when I simply don't agree with the decision of the referee because I support a

I am asking everyone to try to put yourselves in the shoes of the referees just for a moment. Imagine you

were on the ground in front of 80,000 people in a stadium, a few hundred million on television and you have to take instant decisions, the FIFA president said.

He said that the pressure could not be underestimated. "We will have 3 million people watching in stadiums, 5 billion watching on TV and they will scrutinise -- rightfully -- every decision taken or not taken by the referees," he said.

The 129 match officials come from 47 countries in all six continents and, for the first time at a FIFA World Cup, include six women. "The preparation they have been done is top level and, for this reason, I have the biggest confidence in Team One," said the FIFA President, who also called for respect.

"We have to respect the referees, we have to respect their work, their professionalism that got them to this level, the preparation they have undertaken, he said."

Pierluigi Collina, Chairman of FIFA's Referee's Committee, said that the referees had been told to protect the players and football's values. He said that simulation was a lack of respect towards opponents and said referees would also be on the lookout for players who provoked contact to try and win a penalty.

He added that there would be no room for dissent and that any kind of stoppage during play – whether it be for injuries, time-wasting or goal celebrations – would be compensated in stoppage time.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino hit out at criticism of Qatar from Europe on the eve of the World Cup.

The game's global governing body has been attacked for its decision to take the finals to Qatar, where the treatment of migrant workers and the rights of people have been in the spotlight.

Ahead of the opening game of the tournament today, Infantino said: 'We have told many, many lessons from some Europeans, from the western world.

'I think for what we Europeans have been doing the last 3,000 years we should be apologising for next 3,000 years before starting to give moral lessons to people.'

"Infantino added: 'Today I feel Qatari. Today I feel Arabic. Today I feel African. Today I feel gay. Today I feel disabled. Today I feel (like) a migrant worker.

'Of course I am not Qatari, I am not an Arab, I am not African, I am not gay, I am not disabled. But I feel like it, because I know what it means to be discriminated, to be bullied, as a foreigner in a foreign country. As a child I was bullied - because I had red hair and freckles, plus I was Italian so imagine.

'What do you do then? You try to engage, make friends. Don't start accusing, fighting, insulting, you start engaging. And this is what we should be doing.'

In a remarkable hour-long monologue at his final pre-tournament press conference in Doha, Infantino made a number of statements that caused raised eyebrows and sharp intakes of breath inside the auditorium.

Gianni Infantino hit out at critics of the host nation before appearing to compare his own experience to that of the marginalised.

'If Europe would really care about the destiny of these young people,' Infantino said in reference to the migrant workers. 'Europe could do as Qatar did, create some legal channels, where at least a number, a percentage of these workers could come.'

No alcohol, sausages, or porn at world Cup

THE arrival of the fans in Qatar to experience the 2022 World Cup, which starts Sunday, November 20, the first concerns about how different the experience will be compared to previous World Cups have also surfaced.

There is also a degree of fear regarding the strict rules of behavior demanded by the Qatari authorities, different from those in the West, which create uncertainty among the fans who will flood to Qatar from different parts of the world.

The German Embassy in Doha has published on its website a handbook entitled "Useful information for visitors to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar" which, we understand, can be extended to visitors from other parts of the world.

In a section called 'Rules of conduct and

recommendations', fans are encouraged to avoid public displays of affection, regardless of sexual orientation and that "use of obscene language or gestures may be an offense punishable by imprisonment or fine. Drunkenness is prohibited".

It also warns about items that should not be brought into the country.

And, on a more serious note and affecting the freedom of LGBTQIA+ people, it states that "criminal law in Qatar is shaped by religious moral concepts. The traveler should be aware that same-sex relations and extramarital sex are forbidden and subject to criminal prosecution".

It also warns of the usual mode of driving in Qatar and the high number of fatal

road accidents.

Meanwhile, the timing of a beer ban announced two days before the World Cup start was unfortunate and would create unease among fans, Germany team director Oliver Bierhoff said.

Bierhoff added that FIFA's

plan to use a number of captains' armbands with different slogans was equally baffling given that Germany and some other European nations would wear their own anti-discrimination 'One Love' armbands to promote inclusion.

