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Parties asked not to accept donations above N50, 000,000 P2



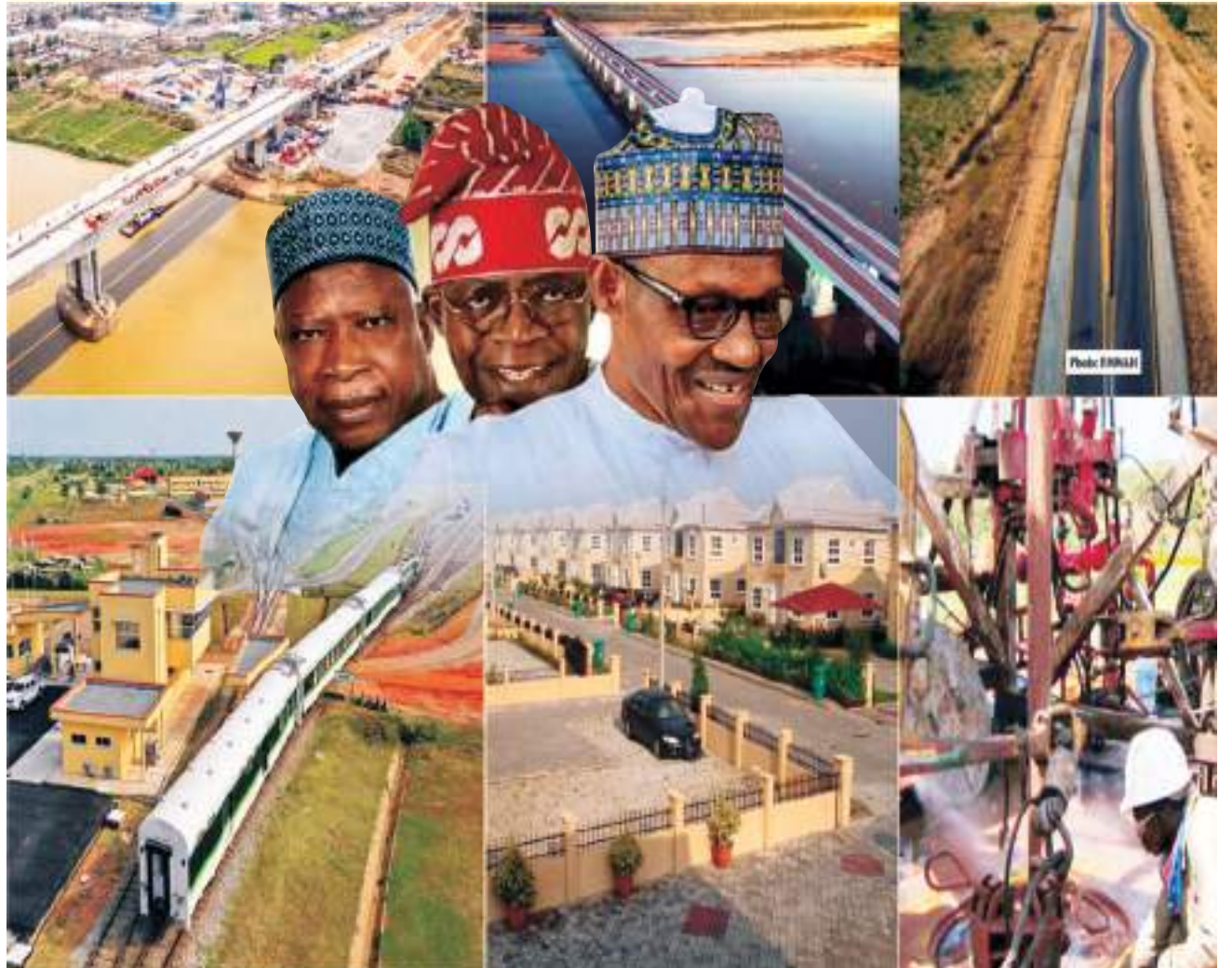
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Can Buhari's legacies guarantee APC's victory?



P5 **ACF member appointed SDP's spokesman**

As next year's General election edges closer, major players within the political spectrum are traversing every landscape of the country campaigning and perfecting strategies that would give them victory. The ruling All Progressives Party [APC], thinks it has performed so well as to secure another mandate from the electorate. But the opposition parties are putting up a formidable fight going into the race with optimism of victory. Yet, there seem to be bumps ahead with each party having of internal wranglings filled with drama and suspense which may make or mar their chances at the polls. Turn to Pages 10, 31



Nigeria as poverty capital of the world

The Federal Government has admitted Nigeria's status as the poverty capital of the world when it disclosed that 133 million of its citizens are currently living in poverty. In its latest National Multidimensional Poverty index reports unveiled recently, the National Bureau of Statistics revealed that 63 percent of Nigerians are poor due to lack of health, education and living standards alongside unemployment and shocks.

The report said, 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.

This is despite various intervention programmes of government. The Federal Government had, recently through the National Social Safety-Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO), claimed to have disbursed about \$700 million from the repatriated Abacha looted funds to over 1.9 million poor and vulnerable households across the country in the last six years.

Acting National Coordinator of NASSCO, Kabir Abdullahi said the project entails conditional and basic cash transfer to poor and vulnerable households, stressing that beneficiaries of the basic cash transfer receive N5,000 every month, while those under the conditional cash transfer receive additional N5000, making it N10,000 every month.

This is even as President Buhari had stated his administration's resolve to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty, insisting that no one will be left behind. But is that however, not contradictory? He said his administration recognizes the importance of data and promised that the federal government will utilise the MPI result in the formulation of policies going forward.

Over the past months, prices of food items have continued to rise as inflation has remained high, even as farmers are not yet totally free to plant and harvest their crops. To make matters worse, the recent flood disrupted the means of sustenance of many Nigerians, further pushing them below the poverty line.

To address this drift, government must take deliberate steps to address the fiscal and monetary quagmire that has tended to impoverish many than lift them out of poverty. Pro-business regulations should be deepened to enable business growth in order to generate more employment.

While it is a thing of concern to many Nigerians, we are pondering why the country's poverty narrative has not changed in spite of the huge government funding on school feeding programmes and other stipends claimed to be given to Nigerians.

Could we assume there is a disconnect between available social welfare opportunities and its uptake; identify which sector, state, senatorial district and groups of persons with poverty incidences, and then use these data to push for behavioural changes that will lead to increase in uptake, influence design and implementation of projects.

Therefore, like many other countries, the report about rising poverty level in Nigeria calls for concern, more so that there have been no convincing measures taken to indicate the template used by NBS and which data base was used to measure the poverty rate.

Should Nigerians believe that the social safety net scheme introduced in 2016 to tackle poverty and hunger has not made any significant impact owing to poor implementation, corruption allegation and politicisation? Only time shall tell.

Parties asked not to accept donations above N50, 000,000

Political parties and candidates participating in the 2023 general elections are not to contribute or accept donations above N50 million, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has ruled.

The electoral umpire stated this in the guidelines for the conduct of political rallies, processions and campaigns, as well as finances and election expenses of political parties, candidates and aspirants for next year's election.

According to the guidelines, "the maximum amount of money or other assets that an individual, a group of individuals or an entity can donate to a political party or aspirant for an election shall be N50 million.

"A political party shall not accept any monetary or other contribution which is more than N50,000,000 except it identifies and discloses the source of the contribution to the commission.

"Contribution to candidates by an individual or entity shall be from 150 days allowed for campaigns to Election Day. Contribution to aspirants by an individual or entity shall be from the date notice of the election is published to the conclusion of party primaries."

The guideline explained further that, "election expenses of political party mean all expenses in cash or otherwise incurred by a political party or candidates as well as party primary expenses of aspirants from the date notice of election is published to the day of election only.

"They exclude expenses incurred before the publication of notice of election. Election expenses of off cycle or other elections shall relate to period between publication of notice for particular election by the Commission and date of election. The election expenses of a candidate shall not exceed the limits prescribed in the Electoral Act, 2022", the guideline stated.

It also emphasised that the election expenses of a political party shall be in three parts; the management of aspirants and party primaries, management of candidates and conduct of elections and miscellaneous election expenses.

"The election expenses of a Political Party for management of Party Primaries shall not exceed two-third (2/3) of the limits prescribed for candidates expenses in the Electoral Act, 2022 for respective elective positions.

"The election expenses of a Political Party for conduct of elections shall not exceed two-third the limit of election expenses of each Candidate multiplied by the number of

candidates the political party shall sponsor in a particular election for elective positions," it clarified.

The guideline also noted that the miscellaneous election expenses of a political party shall include but not limited to; re-election cases against the party, post-election or election petitions and re-mobilisation of party members after elections.

"Every Political Party shall submit to the Commission, detailed annual statement of its assets and liabilities and analysis of its sources of funds and other assets, together with statement of its expenditure between 1st January and 30th March of the succeeding year in hard and soft copy", it added

The Commission insisted that every political party shall notify it of and transfer to the commission any funds or other assets remitted or sent to a political party from outside Nigeria within 21 days of receipt, and where needed, the party shall provide such information as may be required by the electoral body.

For the submission of party election expenses report the guidelines requested that: "Every political party that participated in an election shall submit to the portal designated by the Commission an audited report of its election expenses within six (6) months after an election.

"The reporting period shall commence 360 days to, and including, the Election day. The report shall be signed by the Auditors of the Political Party and counter signed by the National Chairman of the political party supported by a sworn affidavit by the signatories as to the correctness of the content of the report.

"The report shall show the amount of money expended by or on behalf of the political party on election expenses, the items of the expenditure and commercial value of goods and services received for the purposes of election.

"Every political party shall publish the election expenses report it submitted to the commission in at least two national newspapers and on its website."

With regards to submission of election contribution reports, INEC stated that: "Every political party sponsoring the election of a candidate shall submit to the portal designated by the Commission a report of the contributions made to it by individuals and entities within three (3) months after the announcement of the results of an election. The report shall indicate the names, addresses, occupation of donor(s) and the amount of money donated."

It directed every party to ensure its candidates: "maintain a detailed record of all contributions as well as any other source(s) of funds, and the record shall include names, addresses, and occupation of the donor(s) and amount donated.

"Maintain proper books of account and records of all expenses incurred during a political campaign. Do not accept or keep in his or her possession any money anonymously donated or other contributions, gifts or property from any source whatsoever.

"Disclose to the Commission, records of all contributions and other sources of funds for their campaign, as well as records of expenditure in a prescribed format as may be issued by the Commission. Submit detailed audited returns of their campaign expenses to the Commission within six (6) months after an election."

It said, the audited returns of campaign expenses submitted by a political party shall; indicate details of donations, other sources of funding, expenditure on goods, services and sundry expenses incurred for the purpose of an election.

They are to be submitted to the Commission in a separate audited return within six months after an election; signed by auditors of the party and counter signed by the chairman of; and supported by a sworn affidavit by the signatories as to the correctness of its contents.

The guidelines added that: "the Commission may remind Political Parties of their obligation to submit required reports to the Commission in accordance with the provision of Section 90(4) of the Electoral Act, 2022; and applicable sanction(s) for failure to comply as provided in Section 89(4) of the Electoral Act, 2022."

Self-inflicted poverty cause of Boko haram

-Zulum

Borno State governor, Babagana Zulum, has said that there are direct connections between poverty, criminality and Boko Haram insurgency, saying "self-inflicted poverty is a direct cause of Boko Haram crisis in the North-East region."

Zulum said this Friday, when he met members of the Barewa Old Boys' Association (BOBA) at the council chamber of government house, Maiduguri, the state capital.

He identified good leadership as a solution to poverty and insecurity in Nigeria.

According to him, leaders should do the needful by creating more job opportunities for youths to earn their means of livelihood.

"For we the leaders, there is the need to do the needful, create the enabling environment for people to find their means of livelihood. The nexus between peace, security and development should not be over-emphasized, if there is no peace, no development.

"The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has clearly spelt out that security is under the control of the Federal Government but that does not mean that the state governments are not important, but they also played a critical role in the situation within the state.

"Once there is no good leadership, nothing can be achieved. As leaders, we need to ensure discipline and accountability and above all monitoring and evaluation."

Police nab fake EFCC operatives

The Police in Delta State have arrested five suspected fake operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The suspects, who are based in Asaba, Owerri, Port Harcourt and Lagos include Prince Allison (29), George Chisom Onyeweagu (29), Duke Okoro (40), Joseph Osinachi (23) and Onyocha Stanley (32).

A statement issued on Friday, by DSP Bright Edefe, Spokesperson of the State Police Command, said their arrest followed a sting operation by operatives of the Decoy Squad of the command.


Edefe said the operatives, acting on credible information, trailed the suspects to their hideout at a hotel in Asaba, where they hibernate to plan

their next operation.

He said, "The suspects have admitted to have robbed different victims in various parts of the state, they also stated that they sometimes lodged their victims in a hotel for days until they succeed in extorting huge sums of money from them or force them to transfer money into their mobile POS.

"Their white operational Hummer bus, two locally manufactured EFCC jackets, a POS machine and eight mobile phones were recovered from them.

"Six of their victims have identified them as the syndicate who broke into their houses under the guise of being EFCC Operatives. Investigation is ongoing."



With
**Katdapba
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On Sunday

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"For the numerous things done for the people and elsewhere in the past, the bigger challenge of 'bequeathing a secured, united and prosperous Plateau' is no doubt the bigger picture he had dreamt of for years. History beckons on the tall man of Dungung."

Being pastor would have suited Nentawe and Mutfwang

LET'S imagine that those who are reading this know what pastors do: They preach the word in and out of season. However, a component of their work, which regrettably has not been taken seriously, is that they ensure members live in peace with one another in the community.

No need to argue with those who see it differently. If you are a supporter of Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe and Barr Caleb Mutfwang, by now, you would have realized that they have a penchant for peace making. They have displayed this characteristic over time.

If you are deceived by the title of the piece you are reading, you may end being abusive with name calling and perhaps belittle the intentions of the effort.

You must have observed that both are peace ambassadors over time, and having religiously practiced it without pretense, they easily fall into a class that should stand on the pulpit (before the people and rend their hearts about a state in need of recalibration).

Far from being patronizing, the state is in dire need of a leader who knows where we are coming from, and what it takes to lead the state to the promise land.

Knowing where we are headed to and by far what is needed; given their proclivity in the search for peace and stability in governance; it is only proper to want to join them in this search to deepen democracy.

Before I am accused by the other gubernatorial camps of selective amnesia and not being able to access their efforts, permit me to insist that on account of the preponderance of their desire to return the state on the path of progressive peace, they deserve to be considered in this first effort. I shall return to the other gubernatorial hopefuls later, and I hope you give me that benefit.

I am aware that the gubernatorial candidates in the state 'are all brilliant and performing professionals, not lowlife candidates with lust for power and lucre. If we choose well, and give them support-shunning our characteristic self-destroying proclivity for tribalism, religious bigotry etc, this state will be transformed in remarkable ways'.

After the gubernatorial primaries in May 2022, I had elected to write on why the state needs a strong candidate. I had started a feature on Dr Nentawe Yilwatda and was titled: *Waiting for Nentawe to take Plateau to the next level.* I figured then that I would have been accused if I went ahead with that feature almost immediately after the congresses; him being Ngas as I am.

However, here we are today coming face to face with what I had started on June 4, 2022; which has been boosted by a post



Nentawe and Mutfwang: Sharing happy time

made by Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, the All Progressives Congress flag bearer of Plateau State made on October 17, 2022 on his Facebook page.

That put paid to all that I had reserved about his ambition. In more ways than we have always thought; here are two people who have never made pretense about their ambitions and how to go about achieving it. We shall get the meat of it shortly.

Instructive as it was conceived, I am persuaded to believe that we all have a role to play in the affairs of the state; if we desire that we build a respectful future for our children. That post, to all intent and purposes, shouldn't be taken for granted; particularly knowing the role leaders seeking to lead should be involved in.

Both Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe and Caleb Mutfwang are old students of Boys' Secondary School, Gindiri; a town I have sentimental attachment to. If you must know, I still have the stubs of the pencils I used as a pupil at the Demonstration Primary School, until my parents left Gindiri Pastors College in 1972.

Sometimes in 1974, the form for admission to form one was delivered to me by my father, who desired that I return to the town the family had once lived. It was a hard choice to make between Government College Katsina-Ala (where Daniel (Manasseh) Mutfwang and I were class mates), then in the defunct Benue Plateau State and BSS Gindiri. Thank God, Raymond P Gobum became an old student.

There is reason to claim closeness to the candidate on account of the fact that he and I share a history. At the Bible School Fwor, Pankshin, between 1981 to 1985, providence brought his father, Rev Toma Yilwatda and mine, Rev Yunana B Gobum

together. Both are late now. At the end of my father's tour of duty as head of the school, his transfer couldn't have been more rewarding. In Dungung, the birthplace of Nentawe from 1985 to 1993, my father worked there longer than in any other place he was assigned.

The choice of which school one attended should not be an issue for discussion here; what I have tried to bring into focus is to take into account the gamut of the wholesome trajectory that being educated in an institution that has produced many notables, and are today adding value to the development of the country should be worthy of consideration.

Without any iota of dissent, both of them have reason to believe in their capacity to, deliver on the mandate that they seek. Apart from being instructive, the post by Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe gave notice to those who, rather than prod political gladiators to tow the path of peace and establish themselves in the hearts of their followers are busy tearing communities apart with their actions.

He wrote thus: Yours sincerely and Barr Caleb Mutfwang have known ourselves for over 40 years before politics. We stand for peaceful campaigns and elections because we are "For Light and Truth".

"Politics isn't a war but rather a friendly race to win. You will be casting a ballot and not a bullet. The interest of Plateau is beyond politics'. At the annual thanksgiving service of the COCIN Headquarters Church on November 20, 2022, Nentawe displayed what a man should do in time of adversity of another. The camaraderie he exhibited as soon as it was announced that the mother of his opposite number* in the PDP had just passed away; apart from

possibly splitting in two half the donation he brought to church in their names, cannot be anything but love personified.

The comments made on the post were instructive; they genuinely pointed out ways that can lead the state on the path of progressive development. Like many others, we have repeatedly observed a patriotic sense in the conduct of their strategies to get the ultimate diadem. Those who support this genuine concern to get Plateau on the right foot are legion, however, those who are ambivalent, need to take a lesson and move with what they stand for.

In the build up to the 2023 election, yours sincerely believes that there are a number of ways the parties can work out to win. Indeed, as it is often said, 'a good leader fails if he has bad advisers', a lesson followers must not deviate from the good that they are known for.

Over the years, but more of late, yours sincerely has intensely burrowed through writings, documents and media related materials of the APC flag bearer. I paid close attention to his speeches and engagements, and those who know, are quick to point to the fact one does not prepare for the office of a governor in a year. It takes several years of deliberate efforts and plans to stay on course; so much to the point that when they are successfully, a lot stand in awe of it.

Going by what Nentawe Yilwatda has propounded over time, one would have observed in all honesty that leaders are supposed to direct the cause, setting the agenda rather than the led. It is on this note that if you have studied the agenda in ACEES, it is not easy to underrate his preparations for the office. The agenda has been carefully worked out for years for an environment, that if given the opportunity; he could transform it beyond what it is presently.

Code named so, the agenda is targeted at addressing agriculture and critical infrastructures, the economy, youth and gender empowerment, education and security. It is an opportunity to help address these areas which have suffered tremendous deficit in the past; therefore, any action to redeem the state from them would be appreciated.

Even without stepping into the Government House, several years before now, Nentawe's conscious realization that the future belongs to the youth; he had long started to horn their skills for their future, 'for talent and skills will be the currency of our generation, and more than capital, it will represent the critical factor of production'.

The youth have not fared better in the state, and make no mistake; they are some of the most talented, gifted, always motivating themselves, however with limited

opportunities available to them. He is aware, himself, being an expert in ICT, that if given the opportunities and support, they would be able to translate them to reality. No wonder, he has made a commitment that his government if given the opportunity 'will commit ten percent of the state IGR to the Vulnerable Group Trust Fund to support the Youths, women and People Living with Disability to set enterprises, support innovations and creativity that will open the business spaces, create jobs and improve the state revenue'.

How it all started

Without a feel of guilt, let me enter a caveat: By the time Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe entered the fray to contest for the office of the Governor of Plateau State in 2022, I had long started to consult for another person in the same category since 2019. This may help answer questions that may be asked concerning my role.

That was not a crime. I am a professional journalist, whose services can be sought after by anyone. I don't have anything against any politician who genuinely wants to serve. In fact, Nentawe, as many know, has been genuinely birthed for the right purpose. The mass appeal therefore, is not surprising to say the least.

I hope this might not be considered as patronizing of the man, whose entry started long before; and changing the space given and the one created by him. Those who know are aware that governance does not start in a day; it builds momentum over time and opening space in various forms until it hits the roof of acceptance for the office.

Every politician worthy of consideration for leadership has an appointed time to make impact on the people or, as they say, shine for the state. Indeed, the qualities of leadership in a man can be seen or even observed from what he or she does in the community.

If you know the antecedence of Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, and the initiatives that have characterized his life even before assuming public relevance, it won't be long before anyone comes to terms with the rich quality, which tells a story, that indeed ideas will always rule the world.

A lot of people; particularly students have benefited in more ways than one, from different scholarships schemes, computers, empowerment initiatives and other schemes meant to keep them busy and productive, at different locations bearing his imprimatur.

Truly, 'the burden in a man can birth his true leadership vision; brought by the burden he has carried for years. The life to be given can only be made possible by the vision he carries'.

For the numerous things done for the people and elsewhere in the past, the bigger challenge of 'bequeathing a secured, united and prosperous Plateau' is no doubt the bigger picture he had dreamt of for years. History beckons on the tall man of Dungung.



Changing our narrative

THERE was a time we spoke with one voice because there was nothing like religion or ethnicity in our vocabulary. We respected each other's way of life and gave each other the needed space to be who they were.

There was a time we were our brother's keeper. Harm to one was harm to all. One remembers quite vividly a fight we had with our neighbours on the other side of the street in Gangare, Barkin Ladi. On our own side, we were among the Christian minority- we were just about 5 families among about 100 Moslem families. On the other side were the Berom, Christians, the original indigenes of that area. At some point, we were forced to fight with the locals to get them to respect us and let us be.

On the day of the fight, I was not aware that my Moslem friends had chosen me as their representative to fight for them against the leader of the opposing group. It was a plump boy who looked so big due to his weight and height.

I stood outside the large circle made by the two divides and their supporters. When Goliath came out and started taunting Gangare girls, all eyes turned on me. My objections fell on deaf ears as my younger sister and Gangare girls dragged me to the middle of the circle to fight for them. You could say the size of Goliath put fear in me. And like David, I was so smallish.

Goliath saw my objection as a sign of weakness. But that was his mistake. The moment his hands pushed me, it awoke one anger in me. It was the only time he touched me before I beat him to a stupor. Being smallish, my strategy was to be as fast as I could in fights using my hands, legs, head. In no time, Goliath was down breathing heavily. And cheers greeted my efforts.

What am I trying to say? We were Christian minority living among Moslem majority. But it was all for one and one for all. When we were taunted by the locals, we all fought as one irrespective of our religion or ethnic group.

Till date, we see each other as brothers and sisters. This is because that was how we lived together in the early 80s. Our neighbours looked out for our own interests and vice versa.

Sallah celebration used to be a time we looked up to because we used to celebrate together with our Moslem neighbours. In fact, we the Christian minority used to enjoy more goodies and delicacies because everyone wanted to register his presence not only because they were generous, but

because we had grown to love and cherish our relationship.

Once upon a time, we used to have what we call Jos guys. These encompassed everyone that had ever sojourned in Jos whether as a student, corps member, professional or frequent visitor. Anywhere we meet till date, we regard ourselves as one irrespective of religious beliefs, political affiliation and or ethnic group.

One was shocked recently, when my niece told me that in their school in Abuja, those of them that have an affiliation with Jos call themselves Jos family. And they often have each other's back. I was touched because my niece is from Niger State but usually spends her holiday in Jos with me. That is enough for her to call herself Jos girl.

Among my contemporaries, there are Ibo Jos guys, Yoruba Jos guys, Idoma Jos guys, Hausa Jos guys, you name it. And we all have the best interest of Jos at heart.

How you know they have the best interest of Jos is when they tell you: There is no place like Jos'. They don't allow anyone to spoil the image of Jos or give the wrong impression about Jos or its people. And their actions are not detrimental to the progress of Jos.

Their existence is a plus to Jos. We have families like the Onigbindes whose businesses grace every area of Jos; the Olagbameros, Baloguns, Suon of Ogbomosho, the Ozors, Elabos, the Ohadikes, the Afodiles, the Isholas, etc. These families have become household names because they have made Plateau their home and all their actions are geared toward prospering the state.

Where is the new crop of youth who want Plateau to bleed coming from? Do they know our history? Or are they on a mission? Whatever it is, we stand on the promises of God. God will contend with those who contend with us...

If you have a stake in Plateau, your actions show it. By their fruits, we know them. You will want the best for Plateau, you will do the best for Plateau and you will be the best for Plateau.

However, if all you want is for Plateau to bleed, then you are helping in the ministry of Satan - to steal, kill and destroy. And soon the wave will catch up with you. For whatever you sow, you will reap. There are no two ways about it.

Parents, stop engaging in child labour. Your children have rights too. The Child Right Act has been domesticated in Plateau. We await its implementation to put a stop to do many ills against children.

NEWS

Science, technology create wealth, employment- Minister

From
DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Minister, of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. (Sen.

Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora has said that for any nation to make meaningful progress, it must provide an enabling environment to support science, technology and innovation sector that will unlock the enormous potentials for the creation of wealth, employment opportunities, and productivity to engage its youths in meaningful employment.

The Minister said this while delivering his keynote address at the World Science Day celebration, in Abuja.

Science, the minister said is the pursuit of knowledge and its application through the process of methodology based on evidence. He further stated that the relevance of science, technology and innovation cannot be overemphasized as it is the umbrella where STEM evolves.

Speaking on the theme "Basic Science, for Sustainable Development" he said, is intended to brainstorm and fashion out strategic approach for critical activities geared towards achieving the ministry's goal of moving the nation from resource base to knowledge based economy, driven by innovation.

The minister stated that this will no doubt address the problem of innovation as the missing link in the statutory



Abdullahi

responsibility of the ministry which will drive the Innovation agenda, promote productivity, increase socio-economic growth and enhance national development.

Dr. Mamora observed with great interest that the science, technology and innovation sector has achieved a lot, over the past seven years of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration, which was demonstrated through changing the narratives of inadequate funding of the ministry, improved budgetary provisions which resulted in improved R&D outputs across the ministry and her agencies.

Earlier, the Minister of State for Science, Technology and Innovation, Chief Henry IkechukwuIkoh, said that science is the bedrock of

development in the world and its critical component in any meaningful development cannot be overemphasized.

He further stated that science makes life better and easier and so advised students to put more interest in STEM subjects.

Speaking, the representative of Secretary General of UNESCO, Mrs. Eunice Ayara, Head, Natural Science Sector (NATCOM-UNESCO) said that FMSTI is one of the agents driving science, technology engineering and mathematics in the world.

According to her, the importance of World Science Day celebration is to showcase the country's potential to the world through STI.

NAF Safety Review Board convenes in Lagos

From
DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

In what has become a yearly routine in the Nigerian Air Force (NAF), the NAF Safety Review Board (SRB) is currently sitting in Lagos with the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Oladayo Amao as the Chairman.

In a statement signed by Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, Director of Public Relations and Information, Nigerian Air Force which was released to news men recently in Abuja, it said the meeting is usually held primarily to review safety issues in the NAF with the aim of appraising the progress made so far in furtherance of efforts to enhance safety practices.

In declaring the meeting open, Air Marshal Amao stated that, bearing in mind that safety is at the core of NAF's daily routines, the Service remains committed to developing, implementing and reviewing policies to ensure that NAF activities were conducted with utmost safety in an optimally safe environment.

He went on to reiterate the importance of the SRB, which is to guide the NAF in appropriately allocating resources to support all safety systems and build organizational culture that foster safe practices.

Air Marshal Amao added that the meeting was expected to provide an avenue to examine prevalent and evolving safety challenges to enable the NAF adopt safety processes to uphold high safety standards in all its activities. Above all, the CAS noted, the meeting was expected to enable members proffer realistic and lasting solutions to NAF safety related issues in

operations, maintenance, health and environmental practices.

Air Marshal Amao also stated that beyond the discussions dwelling on safety in air operations, the year 2022 safety meeting must also deliberate on health and environmental safety measures and strategies, bearing in mind the consequences of neglecting the working and living environments as well as poor personal health management.

He then directed the Chief of Standards and Evaluation to ensure that all NAF units have at least a safety-trained officer to mitigate the dangers associated with poor safety management and procedures. He also reiterated the need for all NAF pilots and aircrew to continue to be updated with evolving safety measures and ensure they keep abreast with new safety innovations in line with best international practices.

While acknowledging that safety in the NAF remains a shared responsibility that requires synergy amongst personnel, the CAS stressed the need for all to understand that safety demands constant vigilance which the NAF is determined to enforce.

Air Marshal Amao went on to note that the NAF has continued to improve safety culture through the enhancement of safety education through the NAF

Institute of Safety (NAFIS), which has been reinvigorated to conduct broad-based training and ensure that skilled personnel implement NAF safety strategies and processes.

According to the CAS, 'training programmes at NAFIS have recently been reviewed and tailored to meet the needs of various trade specialties.' Air Marshal Amao also noted with delight that NAF pilots and Instructor Pilots have received flight safety training overseas and at NAFIS which has contributed to enhancing their training profiles.

In closing the CAS enjoined the gathering to continue to accord safety the highest priority it deserves in their deliberation during the meeting.

The SRB meeting, which is coming barely a month after the NAF Operations Seminar held in Uyo, AkwaIbom State, where the CAS reemphasized the need for NAF pilots to take extra safety precautions and measures to safeguard and avoid accidental air strikes on civilian lives and properties, is expected to dovetail into a 2-day Safety Seminar from 24-25 November 2022. Papers on how to reposition and entrench NAF safety management systems as well as safety culture in the NAF will be presented by erudite safety specialists to agitate discussions and deliberations.

"What am I trying to say? We were Christian minority living among Moslem majority. But it was all for one and one for all. When we were taunted by the locals, we all fought as one irrespective of our religion or ethnic group. Till date, we see each other as brothers and sisters. This is because that was how we lived together in the early 80s. Our neighbours looked out for our own interests and vice versa."

NEWS

Sen Gyang condoles Mutfwang over mother's loss

From Dorcas Pankyes, Abuja

SENATOR I. D. Gyang has expressed sympathy over the passing away of the mother of Barrister Caleb Mutfwang (BCM), Governorship candidate of the PDP in Plateau State, Kaka Briskila Mutfwang who died at an advance old age.

Senator Gyang says he senses the depth of loss which the departure of Mama would have on BCM and the Mutfwang family coming at a time like this.

The Senator said this in a statement issued to newsmen in Abuja Monday by his SA Media, Precious K. Nyako.

According to the Senator, "Strength and comfort can be drawn from the impact of her life, particularly the



Gyang

height which her children have attained in society being fruits of her motherly care, love and upbringing".

"Senator Gyang along with his family and the

good people of Plateau North Senatorial District commiserate with the Mutfwangs and pray for the soul of Mama to find eternal rest in the Lord", the statement read in part.

Lawmaker called to order over repeated violence

MEMBER representing Bodinga/Dange-Shuni/Tureta Federal Constituency of Sokoto State, Balarabe Shehu Kakale has called on security agencies in the

state to call the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for the constituency, Nasiru Shehu (alias Bobo) to order against repeated political violence allegedly

linked to him.

This is contained in a statement titled: "Condemnation of Repeated Violence and Death Associated with Political Activities of Nasiru Shehu Bobo (APC flag bearer of Bodinga/Dange-Shuni/Tureta Federal Constituency)", which he personally signed and made available to newsmen on Monday.

"I write to condemn in the strongest terms, the

repeated reckless and barbaric political violence that has become the second name of Nasiru Shehu (Bobo), the APC flag bearer of the Bodinga/Dange-Shuni/Tureta Federal Constituency.

That the latest round of such violence just happened on Sunday 20th Oct 2022, when he visited Tureta LGA and which resulted in the unfortunate death of two innocent

young people vis Yahuza Abubakar (18yrs) and Tsalha Haruna (35yrs) and left Rabo Hantsi Dabo and Bello Abdullahi and dozens of others with various degrees of life threatening injuries," Kakale alleged.

He also alleged that Bobo is in the habit of "multiple violations of extant laws of the Federation - Police Act, Road Traffic/Safety, Peace and Public Order Acts, the Electoral Act, Prohibition of

Money Laundering Act, VAPP Act, Child Rights Act, the Human Rights Act and the CBN Act."

According to him, Bobo always mention the respected names of the Minister of Police Affairs, Muhammadu Mai Garidingyadi (Katukan Sokoto) and the IGP Usman Alkali Baba (CFR) as having given him full security/police privileges as a contestant.



Tambwal

Sokoto PDP maps out activities to move party forward

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

THE Peoples Democratic Party Sokoto State led by the Campaigns Committee Council DG, Yusuf Sulaiman, in continuation of its 3 days stakeholders meeting, has mapped out series of activities aimed at moving the party forward. Moreso, it engaged in presentation

of awards to executives from each of the 23 LGAs in the state.

The state PDP Chairman, Bello Aliyu Goronyo during the closing ceremony, said one of the aims of the meeting was to create channels of winning all electoral offices come 2023 general elections.

He also pointed that one

other major aim is to instruct its members to shun away from undesirable acts that could tarnish the image of the great PDP party and also to ensure that supporters are well mobilized come 2023 general elections.

The PDP chieftain also said that responsible people always maintain

laws and orders of their country wherever they may find themselves.

Also at the brief ceremony, the Director General, Campaign Committee Council, Yusuf Sulaiman encouraged the party supporters of equal dividends of democracy if elected into power come 2023 elections.

The former Minister of Transport further said their party is certain to win all elections considering the caliber of candidates the party has both at Federal, states and local governments levels.

According to him, as the Director General of the Campaign Committee Council in Sokoto, everything needed for the success of the elections have already been provided while others are awaiting their time.

He then urged them to always investigate hearsays and rumors before acting.

The meeting that ended late evening had in attendance all the party executives, contestants and major stakeholders.

ACF member appointed SDP's spokesman

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

A former National Publicity Secretary of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Alhaji Muhammed Ibrahim Biu is now the Spokesman of the Social Democratic Party, (SDP) presidential campaign Council.

The National Working Committee, (NWC) of the party at its meeting recently approved the appointment by the presidential council".

National Publicity Secretary of SDP, Ambassador Rufus Alyenigba in a statement in Abuja said, the new spokesman is a former

Commissioner a graduate of ABU, pioneer Resident Electoral Commissioner in Bayelsa State immediate past National Publicity Secretary of ACF and a delegate to the 2014 national conference.

Meanwhile, the coalition of opposition political parties, CUPP said, it has intercepted a plan by some politicians to carry out digital vote buying in the 2023 presidential election.

The new plot of digital vote buying itemed operation wire-wire by the Cupp, will see politicians harvest names account numbers and

voters identification numbers bank verification numbers of citizens arranged in tables for each polling unit on the understanding that money will be sent to each person by electronic means to purchase their vote.

Briefing newsmen in Abuja spokesman of CUPP, Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere claimed that a reliable source availed cup information showing that bank details of over to 10 million voters have been harvested by agents of the ruling APC nationwide.

The CUPP spokesman

also alleged that they used different platforms to harvest the bank details and in a plot

designed soon after the control bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced the policy to redesign the naira.



Mahmud

'Sustain rancour free politics'

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

by the rules of the game. "You should all desist from tampering with any political signpost of other political parties in the

state," he said.

The lawmaker further called on the APC members to sustain more prayers for the victory of the party at all levels during the 2023 polls.



Adamu

POLITICS

Lawmaker tasks FG on security of Bokkos LGC

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

WORRIED by the recent killings and destructions of properties worth millions of naira by suspected Fulani heders (Fulani militia) in some parts of Bokkos Local Government Council, Hon. Solomon Maren has urged the federal direct government to as a matter of urgency direct the Inspector General of Police, Chief of Army/Naval Staff as well as Chief of other security agencies to draft their men to the trouble villages so as to salvage the situation.

Hon. Maren who represents Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives made the appeal in an exclusive interview with **SUNDAY STANDARD** in his National Assembly office, Abuja.

Hon. Maren who looked visibly worried and distraught by the sad development further urged government to investigate the killings as well as bring the perpetrators of the killings to book so as to serve as deterrent to others.

The lawmaker sympathized with the people of their losses during the attacks and stressed that nobody had the right to kill another person or take the law into their hand.



Maren

Maren expressed sadness that since the beginning of the killings up till this time, no single arrest has been made by the security agencies.

Representative Solomon Maren stated that the killers always have a field day in perpetrating the acts because there is always no body or agents to counter them.

'Mobilise electorate to participate in electoral process'

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

NO fewer than thirty journalists in Bauchi benefited from a one day training on conflict sensitive reporting and 2023 general elections, organized by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in collaboration with National Secretariat of Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ).

The workshop which was held at Late Mohammed Abdullahi Hall of NUJ Secretariat in Bauchi, Thursday, was declared open by the National Commissioner and Chairman Information and Voter Education of INEC, Mr. Festus Okoye. He said the media is a critical stakeholder in the political process, stressing that for democracy to thrive, the need for effective information flow cannot be overemphasized.

He urged journalists to ensure they mobilize the electorate to participate in the electoral process through awakening in them the

consciousness of taking ownership of the political process for giving vent to the programmes and activities of the election.

The Deputy Director, Voter Education and Enlightenment, Alh. Nasiru Zakari Mohammed, who stood in for Mr. Festus Okoye, said media professionals at this electioneering time, must see the need to do away with sensational reporting to attract undue attention.

"As the country moves closer to the 2023 general elections, there are obvious headlines that the media must avoid. The media must avoid the breaking news syndrome. Some of the mainstream media are gradually gravitating towards online journalism with the attendant quest for breaking news, which are sometimes not properly verified and

processed".

"The media must be careful in casting headlines and the thirst for sensational headlines, knowing that sometimes, people look at the headlines and draw conclusions without looking at the body of the report. The media must be aware and understand that preparations for elections, the conduct of elections and the resolution of electoral disputes are in a class of their own and cannot be discussed and analyzed from a generic point of view.

In his speech at the occasion the National President of NUJ, Mr. Chris Isiguzo, who was represented by the National Secretary of the Union, Mr. shaibu Usman Leman, described media as an essential factor in the process of democracy which is expected not only to monitor governance and make government accountable but also help to mobilize the public to participate in the process of governance and development.

He said media and journalists should exercise restraint while casting headlines and be wary of 'breaking news' capable of jeopardizing their credibility, calling on the need

the media owners to provide insurance cover for journalists covering conflict and sensitive issues.

"The media should report election activities in line with the electoral guidelines and laws while upholding its ethical standards. There is the need for the media and journalists to provide necessary information needed by the electorate to make right choices among the political parties and candidates," he said.

The NUJ president while

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has assured Nigerians that the 2023 general elections will be water shed.

Director of Voter Education and Publicity, INEC Headquarters Mr Victor Aluko gave the assurance recently at a two day Capacity Building workshop for Journalists and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the North-Central States of Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue, Niger, Kogi, Kwara and the FCT held at Grand Cubana Hotel, Abuja.

According to him, the commission will deliver a free, fair and credible elections to Nigerians and will make the one man one vote policy a reality.

He also maintained that the commission will make the voters register available to political parties. At the capacity building workshop with the Theme; "Conflict-Sensitive Reporting, 2023 General Election and Countering Fake News, Mr Aluko described as fake news rumours that the Commission is planning not to use the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) during the 2023 elections. He reiterated the

commending INEC for providing this training opportunity to journalists to discuss issues bordering 2023 General Election in the country, expressed concern that "over the years many journalists in the course of their work have either lost their lives or had sustained various degrees of their equipment damaged especially during election times. Nothing or little is done to ensure accountability for attacks on journalists and the media in Nigeria, thus the culture of impunity for such attacks persists.

"It is important for stakeholders to work towards minimising these" Isiguzo emphasized.

Also in a Goodwill message, the Resident Electoral Commissioner, Bauchi State Alh. Mohammed B. Nura, said the role of journalists and Media in elections can never be over-emphasized as democratic elections are impossible without the fourth estate of the realm.

He therefore remind journalists of their responsibility in shaping the ongoing political campaigns and urge them to promote issue based campaigns that will assist the electorates in making well informed choices during the elections.

In his vote of thanks, the chairman NUJ Bauchi State council comrade Umar Sa'idu, thanks and commended INEC and the National Secretariat of NUJ for training thirty journalists from Bauchi council, which he believes the opportunity offered will assist greatly in improving their job, thereby helping the Nation's democracy to flourish.

INEC assures on water shed general elections

From LUCY CHINDABA, Abuja



Mahmood

Commission's assurance to the Nigerian electorate that results will be transmitted from the Polling Units electronically to the INEC result view point on the election day. "INEC will use BVAS in all the polling units across the country as their engineers are configuring the BVAS and will transmit election results electronically to INEC result viewpoint on time on Election Day.

The VEP Director emphasised, "that is what we are committed to giving Nigerians, these are innovations to ensure that the election is not only transparent, but clean and credible so that whosoever wins elections, he will know he won clean and clear".

He noted that INEC is training all its over 160,000 staff all over the country because the laws have changed, saying it is also important that Journalists all over know the details of the 2022 electoral act as well as the details of the New technology deployed so that they can inform the people.

The NUJ National President Chief Chris Isiguzo in his Keynote Presentation, "Role of Media in the Conduct of Peaceful Elections" said it is very necessary Journalists should take the issue of peace as a cardinal point and take into consideration the need to be careful so that areas that are already fragile do not explode or implode.

According to him, peace is a basic requirement in any democracy, adding that, no democracy can flourish in the absence of peace.

He said, "While, we concede that it is inevitable to eliminate crises and conflicts from our society, it is important if deliberate efforts are made towards conflict resolution and peace building. "As Journalists, we are expected to develop a

thorough understanding of elections and the electoral process, an understanding of conflicts and convey these to citizens in a way that reflects the truth in all their complexities," he maintained.

The NUJ president also said, media professionals should brace up for the challenges ahead, especially since they are expected to participate in the process of social reconstruction and democratisation by providing a positive and participatory forum for the exchange of ideas, democracy and nation building. He warned that, while discharging their duties Journalists should never attempt to deviate from the ethics of the profession because it will not auger well for the nation.

"The role of the media in peace promotion or conflict escalation has been heightened by several factors which include ownership and funding, editorial policy, and the regulatory agencies, therefore it is proper to suggest peace journalism as an instrument in promoting peace and reducing the dysfunctional conflict to the barest minimum.

Grant and Partnership Manager of Centre for Democracy and Development Mr. Damian Ihekokonye on his part said the training is to equip Journalists and the CSOs with the knowledge on how to identify and counter fake news that may affect the 2023 elections.

"Journalists need to be sensitive to the environment, Nigeria is already having different conflicts across the six Geo-Political Zones, so we are making sure Journalists are responsible in their reportage that will contribute to credible elections



Isiguzor

SUNDAY POLITICS

The South-West and emerging politics of religion

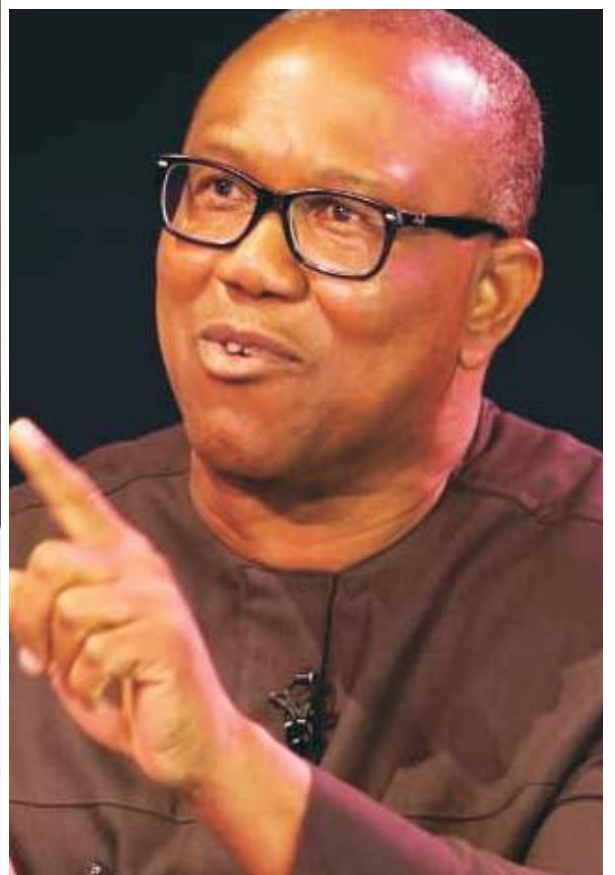
Religion has always been manipulated for political ends, especially in Northern Nigeria. Islamic religious groups "have become one of the veritable tools of political mobilisation in contemporary African democratising societies including Nigeria", said Musa Kabir Umar of the Department of Political Science, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina. NOSA IGBINADOLOR writes.



Tinubu



Atiku



Obi

ABDULLAHI Tanko Yakasai, leader of Northern Young Professionals for Tinubu, in an interview with Arise TV in June, said only a Muslim-Muslim ticket would appeal to predominantly Muslim states of the North to garner votes for victory for the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

"Majority of the states in the North are predominantly Muslim," he had said. "I think we have only three that are predominantly Christians, Taraba, Benue and Plateau states. Out of the 19 Northern states, the majority are Muslims and why are we shying away from the fact that our party needs those votes. We need to gather those votes to get the presidency come 2023; that is the number one thing."

Earlier this month, Rabiu Kwankwaso, presidential candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party, said northerners would not vote for Peter Obi, Labour Party's presidential candidate.

"What I am telling you is, if anybody now from the South-East under this circumstance becomes the presidential candidate of our party or any other party, the implication is that the activities and many other issues underground, northern voters will certainly go for their northern candidate in another party," Kwankwaso had said in a Channels TV interview.

When politicians from the North use the word 'northerner' within the context of political mobilisation and electioneering, they tend to mean Northern

Muslims from the North-West and North-East.

Ahead of the 2023 elections, the South-West, which has for years been sheltered from religious politics that dominates Northern Nigeria, is now seeing the emergence of politics of religion in the region.

It was the Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka who noted the difference between Yoruba religion and the other major world religions, namely Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, which he described as claiming "spiritual monopoly" and "creating a dismal example."

Soyinka described religion as the "handmaiden of acts of violence" when people fail to recognise that spiritual truths can be captured in many religious constructs and that universal truth is too varied to simply be captured in one system.

Late British sociologist and historian of religion, J.D.Y Peel, said: "The Yorubas have a sense of themselves as being exceptionally tolerant of religious difference – and now particularly of having harmonious relations between Islam and Christianity."

The region, according to academics Insa Nolte, Clyde Ancarno and Rebecca Jones' in their 2018 anthropological research on inter-religious relations in Yorubaland, "has not experienced sustained religious conflict, unlike other multi-religious societies elsewhere in Nigeria and beyond. Members of different religions interact with one another frequently, often on an everyday basis."

The 2023 presidential election will further interrogate the

socialised relationship between religion and politics in Nigeria. In the South-West, it will bring to fore the chasm that has been created not with the emergence of Bola Tinubu as the ruling party's presidential candidate, but a rift generated by his choice of a fellow Muslim as running mate.

"Expecting Nigerians to ignore geo-religious sentiment and vote for the best candidate would be naïve in a country where a third of the country's states have implemented Sharia law," The Africa Report said.

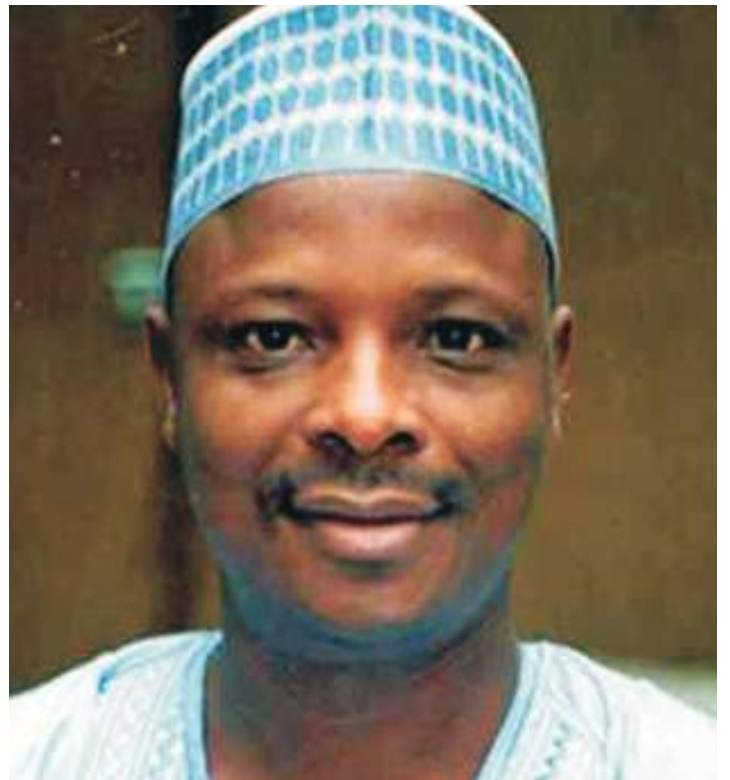
Wole Olaoye, a public commentator, in a November 2021 treatise, had lauded the religious tolerance in Yorubaland. "It is understandable that some people from a background of religious acrimony may find the Yoruba brand of tolerance strange," he said.

According to him, unlike in other parts of Nigeria, Islam in the South-West is part of the progressive movement, not stuck in the middle ages.

In October 2021, the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), a Lagos-based organisation, insisted on a preference for a Yoruba Muslim president.

"It is our belief," Ishaq Akintola, the founder of the organisation, said, "that Yoruba Muslims need federal might to eliminate or at least scale down the tornado of oppression and the Tsunami of anti-Muslim sentiment that pervades the South West. Only a Yoruba Muslim president who knows what has been happening can do this effectively. Who feels it knows it."

In May, Muhammad Mansur



Kwankwaso

Aliyu, MURIC's chairman in Sokoto State, urged Muslims in the South-West to register to vote, and vote to make a point.

He said: "Our brothers in the South who are facing persecution on a daily basis must allow their number to count by ensuring that they obtain their voters' cards. Muslims constitute the majority in a place like the South-West but unfortunately, they are still facing oppression today because they have not been leveraging their majority status."

"The opportunity has now come. Go all out and get your voter's card. Your voters' card is your weapon of liberation. A majority population that fails to vote is, technically speaking, a

minority. We, therefore, urge you to spare no efforts in getting your voters' cards in readiness for the 2023 general election.

"We are looking forward to an election that will reveal the true picture in the region. A majority of people that has been turned into a minority due to their apathy for politics must wake up from its deep slumber. We must stop the stereotyping, the segregation, the religious apartheid and the hijab paranoid."

For perhaps the very first time in the South-West, the people of the region are being drawn into making political choices based on their religious beliefs.

Local Organising Committee Presidential Campaign Flag Off

Appreciation! Appreciation!!

The Local Organising Committee of the Presidential Campaign flag off, Plateau State very sincerely and heartily wishes to thank His Excellency, **President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR**, President and Chairman of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, **Senator Abdullahi Adamu**, the Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates of our great party, His Excellency, **Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu** and **Senator Kashim Shettima**, the Executive Governor of Plateau State and Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, **Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong**, the Senate President, His Excellency, Distinguished **Senator Ahmed Lawan**, Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, **Rt. Hon Femi Gbajabamila**, Members of the National Assembly,

All Progressive Congress Governors, Members of the Federal Executive Council Members of the Presidential Campaign Council, Patrons and Stakeholders of the Presidential Campaign Council, esteemed party members and supporters, the creative industry, all security agencies, Civil Liberty organisations, gentlemen of the press and many others too numerous to mention for making the Presidential Campaign flag off in Jos on Tuesday 15th November a huge and monumental success.

We remain highly indebted to you all for honouring us with your esteemed and distinguished presence which we shall continue to cherish for a very long time.

The collective resolve by the APC family in Plateau state to massively vote to deliver all candidates of the All-Progressives Congress at all levels received a great boost with your presence and show of love and passion for our great party.

Let me seize this opportunity to thank our party faithful in Plateau state for the hospitality demonstrated to our guests before, during and after the Presidential Campaign flag off.

Plateau State, indeed remains the true Home of Peace and Tourism.

God bless the APC! God bless Plateau State!!

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Signed:

**Rt. Honourable Ahmed Idris Wase CON,
Deputy Speaker Federal House of Representatives and Chairman,
Local Organising Committee, Presidential Campaign flag off,
Plateau State.**

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

Below is a general assessment and expectations from some of the participants. (bld) Hon. Samuel Iliya, Leader Jos East Legislative Arm (bld) I actually count it a privilege to be part of this workshop. The training has been an eye opener and I have really learnt a lot of things. It has been very educative, very challenging and very motivating. Some of the areas we have been informed on has to do with our responsibilities at our various local government level. In fact, the issues mostly has to do with our representation.

We as legislators are representatives of our people before any other thing, and I am happy that one of the speaker's did justice to that. He spoke on some of the attributes and characters we need to possess as a representative. He also discussed on the ethics of leadership, and legislative responsibilities etc.

At the end of this experience, I would have been properly equipped and ready to take on areas that were lacking believing that my skills would have been sharpened. By virtue of all that I have learnt, I can categorically tell you that I have been properly educated to better carry out my responsibility as a leader.

The organisers have really tried honestly, only that we wished that the exercise would have come earlier. As you know, we are almost clocking one year in office and most of us did not understand what it entailed but all the same we are grateful. I pray that our tenure as legislators lasts up to three years and I assure you that if we have that ample time, and with what we have learnt so far, you will be surprised at the improved performance of the legislature at the local level.

Hon. Nanzin Miner, Leader Langtang North Legislative Arm (bld). Sincerely, I have learnt a lot in the course of this training and have realised that there were so many things that we were doing ignorantly as a legislative arm. With the knowledge that I have acquired here, I am sure to pick up and improve on the legislative business. When I get back home, I promise that Langtang North legislative arm will begin to do things differently as a result of this training. You must be aware of what is going on between us as legislators and the executive.

Yes, we agree that some things were done wrongly while initiating the impeachment process but as lawmakers, we have been better informed on

how to follow due process on impeachment matters as prescribed by the law.

That is not to say that the issue has been withdrawn, we are still on the matter and this time, all due process is being adhered to. Hon. Pansat Sylvester, Majority Leader Mangu Legislative Arm and Vice Chairman Councillors Forum of Nigeria, Central Zone (bld).

As legislators in the local government on the Plateau, I will say that this is what we have been waiting for because we

'We have been fully equipped to function better



Hon. Baba Hassan

cannot venture into a business that we know little or nothing about. This capacity building workshop is timely. Personally, this exercise has prepared my mind towards what is expected of me as a legislator. It has also opened my eyes on things I never knew about pertaining to legislative business. As far as I am concerned, this is one of the best achievements in my life so far as a legislator. Reason being that it has exposed me on what I need to do going forward so as to bring the dividends of democracy to the people I represent at the grassroots.

Hon. Grace Laraba Vanderpuye, Councillor Representing Vanderpuye Ward (b l d) Well, for some of us in Jos North we will describe this as an additional training because we have been privileged to have attended one in the past, and it was courtesy of Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan, our representative at the state assembly who also happens to be the House Committee Chairman on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

The opportunity presented itself when we as a legislative arm were confronted with certain challenges. At that time, we were not comfortable with

what was going on in the local government council between us and the executive, even though we knew what our rights were.

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

Hon. Sylvester Kwapnoe Ari, Majority Leader Jos North Legislative Arm (bld) Truly speaking and looking at this capacity building workshop, you will realise that indeed it has been a mind blowing experience.

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

Therefore, I see this workshop as the best idea so far and I want to say kudos to the Chairman

House Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan who stood his ground to ensure that we are trained with plans to continue training the state local government legislative arm on issues that will sharpen and broaden our legislative insight. After today, my constituents should expect a better representation, quality governance at the grassroot that will require more interface and interaction with them.

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

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

"The organisers have really tried honestly, only that we wished that the exercise would have come earlier. As you know, we are almost clocking one year in office and most of us did not understand what it entailed but all the same we are grateful. I pray that our tenure as legislators lasts up to three years and I assure you that if we have that ample time, and with what we have learnt so far, you will be surprised at the improved performance of the legislature at the local level."

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Abdullahi



Tinubu

2023: Can Buhari's legacies guarantee APC victory?

As next year's General election edges closer, major players within the political spectrum are traversing every landscape of the country campaigning and perfecting strategies that would give them victory. The ruling All Progressives Party [APC], thinks it has performed so well as to secure another mandate from the electorate. But the opposition parties are putting up a formidable fight going into the race with optimism of victory. Yet, there seem to be bumps ahead with each party having hiccups of internal wrangling filled with drama and suspense which may make or mare their chances at the polls. KENNETH DARENG writes.

IT is now certain that the name of the incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari will not appear on the ballot. What is also certain is that one among the Presidential candidates will take over as the Commander – in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria come May 29, 2023.

The list of those interested in taking over Buhari's Job comprises an array of leading Presidential contenders in the likes of former vice President Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic party [PDP], former Lagos state Governor Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu of the ruling All Progressives Congress [APC], former Kano state Governor and one time Defence minister, Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, former Anambra state Governor Mr Peter Obi, and a hosts of other presidential pretenders joining the pack.

By the pedigree of all the candidates, the 2023 presidential election is perhaps going to be the most keenly fought battle in recent history going by the level of preparedness of all the political parties in terms of mobilization of supporters which is mostly drawn from the youth groups including a strong financial war chest to prosecute the campaigns down to the election day.

However, what may be the

selling point for the ruling All Progressives Congress [APC], is the legacies that the President is about to be leaving behind in just a couple of months as rightly alluded by Abu Mohammad, in his comments; 'politics', [The Nation, November 8, 2022], noting that, the recent ministerial retreat for performance review of the Buhari administration clearly reeled off his achievements within 8 years.

Further stating that, participants at the recent retreat held at the State House Abuja, minced no words in stating that the event was designed to reflect on the progress made by his administration by reviewing the status of implementation of the policies, programmes, and projects of government in line with the aspirations of Nigerians.

"Though many of his critics, especially political opponents, seem oblivious of the successes of his government" Citing the comments of former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, who was the keynote speaker at the retreat shared his experience and how he institutionalized a similar programme in his country. Opined to how political opponents tended to underplay efforts of the ruling party.

"For my first term, one of the key issues I had to struggle with was an opposition that would block anything that we did, not on the basis of whether it was good or bad but because it was a

government policy that we must oppose." He said.

According to President Buhari, he receives weekly progress update from the Secretary to the Federal Government Mr Boss Mustapha so as to ensure completion and delivery on flagship projects despite challenges, his ministers worked relentlessly to implement policies, programmes and projects contained in the ministerial mandates signed by them and permanent secretaries in 2019.

And these he said are closely monitored, reviewed and analysed by the Central Delivery Coordination Unit [CDCU] through quarterly performance reports of the 29 ministries including Office of the Head of Service of the Federation.

Buhari stated that, "We have implemented high impact projects across the length and breadth of the country that meet the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians," stressing that some of them include the completion of 326km Itakpe- Ajaokuta- Warri rail line and railway ancillary facilities, the completion of 156.5km Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge railway modernization project with extension to Lagos port, Apapa.

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

country. Key among these projects are the construction of 1.9km Second Niger Bridge linking Anambra and Delta states with 10.30km approach road rehabilitation, construction and expansion Lagos- Shagamu-Ibadan dual carriage way; the ongoing rehabilitation of Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria-Kano road among others," he said.

According to President Buhari, his administration sustained its commitment to infrastructure development in the last 7 years and that this was evident in the handing over of 941km of completed SUKUK road projects across Nigeria.

Other laudable efforts of government enumerated by the President are the 21 selected federal roads totaling 1,804.6km, embarked upon under the Road Infrastructure Development and Refurbishment Investment Tax Credit Policy. They are funded by the Nigeria National Petroleum Limited [NNPL]. The government was able to extract similar collaborations from Dangote Industries Limited and other corporate organizations to improve the Nigerian road infrastructure.

A lot of Nigerians are elated about the reestablishment of the Nigerian National Carrier, which is presently at 91 percent completion, and is expected to commence flight operations before the end of 2022. A big plus

for this, is the certification of two of Nigerian International Airports [Lagos and Abuja] by the International Civil Aviation Organization. The Kano and Port Harcourt airports are undergoing similar process.

"On the economy, we have witnessed seven consecutive quarters of growth after negative growth rates recorded in the second and third quarters of 2020. The GDP grew by 3.54 percent [year on year] in real terms in the second quarter of 2022.

"This growth rate represents a sustained positive economic performance, especially, for the non-oil GDP, which fell by 4.77 percent in the second quarter of 2022 against the oil GDP that grew by 11.77 per cent. Most sectors of the economy recorded positive growth which reflects the effective implementation of the economic sustainability measures put in place by this administration." Buhari noted.

He also noted that in order to boost communications and digital economy sector, Nigeria's Broadband coverage has been upgraded to 44.32 percent and is being reinforced by 77.52 percent 4G base stations nationwide.

In the Power sector, which the government prioritized, by implementing the 'willing Seller policy,' there has been increase

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NEWS

Qua'an-Pan mourns loss of representative

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

THE Executive Chairman Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council, Hon. Ernest Abner Da'a has described the death of member representing Qua'an-Pan North Constituency at the Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Eric Dakogol, as a colossal loss to the Local Government and Plateau State at large.

Hon. Da'a expressed heartfelt sympathy to the immediate family, people of Qua'an-Pan North and the entire local government area over the loss, urging them to take solace in God.



Da'a

While commiserating with his family and members of his

constituency, Hon. Da'a, said he received with shock the sudden demise of the Honourable Member,

describing the deceased as a humble, committed and loyal politician.

The council chairman also extended his condolence to the Speaker and Members of the Plateau State House of Assembly over the sad incident, saying, Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State and Nigeria will miss a true democrat who stood for impactful legislation.

Da'a said the late Honourable Member, who died on Monday 21st November 2022 has paid his dues in his party (APC) and stood firm for democratic ideals throughout his legislative undertaking.

Hon. Da'a prayed for the repose of his soul, asking God to comfort the family and the Assembly.

Karu Chairman bags best performing chairman award

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Karu Local Government Council, Hon. James Thomas (Jarumin Kodape), has been awarded as the best performing local government chairman of the year 2022 by the Nigeria Service Award, at its second Annual Service Award Night held in Radio house, Abuja.

The Chairman said "Awards are given in recognition of one's performance or achievement in his works.

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

This award is recognition of God's manifestation in our affairs. The award will go a long way in motivating us to put more efforts in service to humanity.

On behalf of myself, I wish to dedicate this noble recognition to God Almighty who has given us the strength to work. I also dedicate it to my mother

who stood by me all through this journey of life, and to my boss and principal, His Excellency, Governor Abdullahi A Sule. My family especially my darling wife, and the good people of Karu Local Government Area who stood by me and my government, not forgetting all my disciples and the Jirgin Talakawa family, I dedicate it to you too.

The award is in recognition

of his service since assumption of office and the sterling performance in the area of infrastructural development, poverty alleviation, security, empowerment, youth engagement, and far-reaching contribution to fostering progress in the affairs of critical significance in relation to your local government and state in general.

Court declares Bwacha Taraba APC gov. candidate

THE Court of Appeal sitting in Yola, had on Thursday declared Senator Emmanuel Bwacha as the authentic and lawfully nominated governorship candidate of the APC in Taraba State for the 2023 General Elections.

In an emergency press briefing in Jalingo by the Director, Media and Publicity, Bwacha for Governor Campaign Council (BGCC), Aaron Artimas, described the judgement as historic and monumental.

"In a summary judgement, the Appeal Court ruled that the institutions authorized by law to monitor and authenticate the conduct of primaries are the Independent Electoral Commission, INEC and the security agencies and the respective organisations have presented reports to the effect that the primaries had been successfully conducted.

"The Court held that the

From **VICTOR GAI, Jalingo**

lower court merely engaged itself in academic exercise by exploring into irrelevant issues," Artimas stated.

According to him, the judgement was not only a "vindication of our faith in the Nigerian Judiciary but also a divine answer to the prayers of millions of Tarabans whose faith in God's positive intervention was not diminished".

Bwacha while congratulating the entire people of Taraba State for the landmark victory, promised to take his campaign to all the nooks and crannies of the State in order to directly engage with the people and to acquaint himself with their problems.

One of the aspirants, David Sabo Kente (DSK),

had sued the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Senator Emmanuel Bwacha and the All Progressives Congress, the first, second and third defendants respectively at the Federal High Court Jalingo about the conduct of the May 26, 2022 APC governorship Primaries held in Taraba.

The Court therefore, in September, declared the APC

governorship primaries a nullity and ordered the conduct of a fresh primary within 14 days of the judgement.

Meanwhile, Kente, responded to the judgement this way: "On the judgement of the court of appeal, I and my lawyers will study the judgement, consult my party and explore the next line of action in the next few days".

CMMRC, CIPP condemn Bokkos killings, destruction of farms

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

CONFLICT Mitigation Regional Council Plateau State and Community Initiative to Promote Peace (CIPP), have condemned in totality the gruesome attacks and senseless killings, destruction of farm produce and the killing of animals, in particular the killings of women and children.

This was contained in a press release signed by Comrade Sadeeq Hongs, Joint Secretary of CMMRC, CIPP and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD on Saturday in Jos.

CMMRC is calling on the state government to swiftly investigate these ugly incidents of unlawful killings of innocent citizens with a view to bringing the culprits to justice.

They urge the citizens to

keep calm, maintain law and order and conduct themselves peacefully as they ventilate their grievances on the current state of affairs in their domains.

They said they share in the grief of those who lost their loved ones. "We commiserate with them and pray God to comfort and strengthen them."

In line with the motto of Plateau State, which is home of peace and tourism, they demand that all the organs, persons and authorities of the government in Plateau State should promote and preserve peace while praying for wisdom, courage and willingness to what is right in order to achieve peace and tranquility throughout the State.



Buhari unveils new naira notes

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari unveiled the new naira notes of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), on Wednesday.

The unveiling took place at the council's chambers during the Federal Executive Council (FEC), meeting.

Governor of CBN, Godwin Emefiele has announced that the apex body would not extend the January 31st, 2023 deadline for the final introduction of the new naira notes.

Court orders INEC to resume voter registration
A federal High Court in Abuja has ordered the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), to resume the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR).

The court presided over by Justice Inyang Ekwo, also directed the INEC to ensure that eligible Nigerians are not deprived of the opportunity to have the voter's card for the forthcoming poll.

Buhari inaugurates Kolmani oil drill

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari broke the jinx of a fruitless search for crude oil in the Northern part of Nigeria.

He officially kicked off the drilling of crude oil in Bauchi and Gombe States on Tuesday

He did the ground breaking ceremony of the Kolmani oil prospecting lease at the Kolmani field site located in both states.

Iran players decline to sing the national anthem.

IRAN declined to sing their national anthem before their World Cup match with England on Monday in an apparent expression of support for anti-government protests in their home country.

It was reported that some fans shouted and jeered during the anthem and others held up signs saying "Woman life, freedom."

Fake AIG nabbed in Abuja

THE FCT Commissioner of Police (CP), Sunday Babaji, has paraded a 61-year-old man, Olakunle Adesola, for posing as an Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG).

Babaji, while speaking with newsmen at the Command's headquarters in Abuja on Thursday, said the suspect was arrested following series of petitions and reports at various formations and units of the police Command.

He said that the impostor, who resides at Liberty Estate by Spring Road in the Abuja Metropolitan Council (AMAC), was arrested on Sunday, November 20, 2022, by the Command's intelligence operatives at the Our Lady Queen of Nigeria Pro Cathedral, Garki, Area 3, where he had already defrauded scores of worshippers.

Lalong commissions six blocks of classrooms

EXECUTIVE Governor of Plateau State, Rt.Hon. Simon Bako Lalong has commended the Executive Chairman of Plateau State Universal Basic Education (PLSUBEB), Prof. Matthew Sule.

Lalong stated this during the commissioning ceremony of the newly completed six classrooms storey building at the Transfer Baptist Science Primary School in Shendam Local Government Council last Thursday. He pointed out that this would enhance the quality of primary education in Plateau State.

Compiled by Hosea Nyamlong



SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'2023, opportunity to elect true representatives'

Hon. Danjuma Azi is the Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP) Plateau State House of Assembly Jos-North West candidate for the 2023 general elections. In this interview with Bulus Gambo, the candidate X-rays the forthcoming elections and discloses his vision for the people of his constituency. Excerpts:-

Can you tell me about you?

I'm Hon Danjuma Azi, JP, PDP Candidate for Jos-North West Constituency for PLHA elections, come 2023. This is my second contest, I contested in 2018 and lost at the primaries and re-contested in 2022 and to God be the glory, I came out victorious. This victory, seriously humbled me. Why? Because, it was God's grace that saw me successfully through and to Him, I returned all the glory.

I must also thank all those who believe in me and my capacity to deliver. I will forever remain grateful to my teeming supporters and others who reposed their confidence on me.

What is your vision to your constituency?

My vision for the constituency is to add value from where my predecessor will stop and also to mutually respect all the constituents and without greed, give them what rightfully belongs to them. After all with all sincerity of purpose; looking at the sacrifice which they made to enable me serve them by ensuring that I win the primaries, certainly, I must do the best I can to help them. I Therefore, intend to carry everyone along, as my slogan goes, "Everyone Counts'23". Everybody will have a place to belong during my tenure, when elected. Open door policies will be enshrined, where constructive criticisms will be welcomed. I will be open to all and ensure that no one is left behind.

What is your take on the resent redesigned of naira notes?

If the reason behind the re-designing would be followed sincerely, it will improve our economy, fight corruption. I also believe that the prices of goods and commodities will positively be affected as well as the value of our currency against other nations' currencies. Generally, the present rate of inflation would be drastically improved. It will help improve the GDP of the economy. Therefore, this development will greatly improve our system whereby the common man will be affected positively.

As we approach 2023 general elections, what are your thoughts about the event?

It will be yet another privilege for the citizens of this country to correct any perceived wrong done by the present government and to have another opportunity to improve the general decline and rot in almost all the sectors of the economy. It will present another chance for those elected to ensure the strategic development of new ideas and these new leaders will also implement new ways of doing



Azi

things. This development will kick-start a better Nigeria and a nation which we all would be proud of. If the truth must be told, our nation is going through a lot and only visionary leadership based on sincerity of purpose will save us all.

There are at the moment significant concerns about the behaviors of our political actors, their comments are causing tension, what is your sense of judgment?

Their behaviours are highly condemnable and calls for sober reflection as regards the unity of the country which must not be compromised. Therefore, I call on the electorates to sincerely pray and seek the face of God for guidance and direction. Above all, we need to understand that politics is a game for winners and losers, sometimes to be a better politician, one must taste defeat. But again, we must put the interest of our country above all. We need each other and or one another and we must conduct ourselves peacefully so as to give a good impression of this country

to the wider world. we must sustain the legacies of our founding fathers and sustain democracy in this country.

What are the chances of your party at the forthcoming 2023 elections?

The chances of my party are going to be excellent and unprecedented one. As every Nigerian has seen what the present government has offered them, we must be prepared for an alternative which would be in the best interest of our country. Everyday, the inflation rate in the country is increasing uncontrollably, banditry and kidnaping have become the order of the day and hunger is in the land. So, electorates will try another redemptive way, and that another way, is PDP.

Are Nigerians prepared for these elections?

Yes, they are fully prepared and waiting for the desired change. Not the previous change Nigerians yearned for, but a more positive one, this will however come with prayers and supplications to God. A change

which could better the lot of our people. A change which can improve the living standard of the vulnerable in our society. This is what the citizens of this country are yearning for.

What is your reaction to INEC's preparation?

So far, the preparations have been good and needs our collective support across party lines. With the present introduction of BVAS and with recently conducted elections in some states, this has really given us hope and assurances, that it will definitely improve. However, we as individuals must also do our best by staying away from acts capable of jeopardizing the interest of our nation. We must be patriotic and be law abiding so as to help the electoral body achieve its set objectives as far as this election is concern. Anything short of this will bring calamity on the people of this country. we must change our ways of doing things for the benefit of all. We must leave behind a nation where or which our children will be proud of us.

Are the Citizens of this country aware of what is at stake?

They are all very well aware of all activities on ground and that which is needed going forward. Almost all eligible voters are fully enlightened and ready to cast votes for candidates of their choice. This time around, many know what is at stake based on the sufferings of the common man in the country. The Nigeria of today is quite different from that of the past few years. Things have greatly changed for the worse and we are facing a disaster today, we must therefore know these facts as we go into these elections to enable us choose good leaders. This if done will help us a lot in this country. I just pray for a better Nigeria where we will all be integrated and a platform created for us to unleash our potentials for the nation to move forward. This has always been my humble prayers and I know that God will answer our prayers as we have suffered enough in this country.

Do you think we will have a peaceful elections?

I'm an optimist and I trust God, it would be peaceful. You can notice that most candidates are working very hard to woo electorates for their votes. Campaigns have been lifted and progressive campaigns are ongoing. Therefore, I am very optimistic that we will get it right this time around.

What is your general advise?

We should pray earnestly and must contribution our quota towards the actualization of a

“
So far, the preparations have been good and needs our collective support across party lines. With the present introduction of BVAS and with recently conducted elections in some states, this has really given us hope and assurances, that it will definitely improve. However, we as individuals must also do our best by staying away from acts capable of jeopardizing the interest of our nation. We must be patriotic and be law abiding so as to help the electoral body achieve its set objectives as far as this election is concern. Anything short of this will bring calamity on the people of this country. We must change our ways of doing things for the benefit of all. We must leave behind a nation where or which our children will be proud of us.”

SUNDAY FEATURE

Is fertility a successful marriage determinant?

Is child birth a motivation for women and men in marriage? Some people go the extra mile to have children to please their spouses even if it's not convenient for them. It therefore becomes very disturbing if couples get married and such expectations are not met. The question which needs an answer therefore is; can marriages work amidst infertility? JENNIFER YARIMA writes.

It is very disturbing that our happiness, love and peaceful coexistence are mostly tied down to certain things that we can easily do away with. Children are gift from God and he chooses to bless individuals according to his wish and plans. If a marriage is not blessed with a child, it does not necessarily mean that such a union is not acknowledged by our creator. Should that be the bases for our joy in matrimony? With or without children, yours sincerely think that it should never determine the direction of marriage.

For most people, having children is immensely important and not being able to have children is a major life problem. There are some couples who have deliberately agreed to enjoy their marriage without children around them and that has not affected their relationship in anyway so long as their romantic life is intact. A considerable body of research in western countries has shown that involuntary childlessness has strong psychological consequences which affect women most.

The most frequently mentioned effects are distress, raised depression and anxiety levels, lowered self esteem, feelings of blame and guilt, somatic complaints and reduced sexual interest. For a small minority of women and men in the Western world, these effects are at a clinical level or can be considered extremely serious if not properly managed. Are you aware that childless couples have difficulty in relating with friends and family members who have children?

Such persons are stigmatized to a large extent for no fault of theirs, they are isolated, avoided and not get mixed up with the privileged of our society. Most of them are disrespected, ridiculed, rejected and suffer verbal abuses through all sorts of name calling. It is worst in old age where people without children have less or no social support and less robust network for independent living as compared to old people with children. They are vulnerable, prone to attacks and humiliations. Many of them are tagged witches and wizards, attaching unconfirmed misfortunes in families and communities to them, since they don't have close relatives as strong defenders in their trying moments.

The society has so conditioned the minds of people on couples with a view of classifying them as productive or not. It's terrible with the women who are usually at the receiving end of such bitter experiences. Because of the unpleasant way they are treated, some have gone the extra mile to get children at all cost. A woman once lamented that she wish she could hold pregnancy for one month and have miscarriage, it would be better for her so long as she would be considered a productive woman. Imagine the extent of pains childless women go through in our society.

One is aware of certain personalities in the Holy Bible where God himself closed their womb. In that aspect, can it be termed as a curse? The Bible presents all forms of infertility as a gift from God. Pregnancies occur when God remembers women and open their wombs. Biblical women who experienced periods of barrenness often understood their inability to conceive as a divine withholding of blessing.



Barrenness in the Bible is not the same as what modern Western people understand as infertility. While modern medicine has made it possible to recognize infertility as a medical problem often with identifiable causes and treatments, the main remedy for barrenness in the Bible was prayer and divine intercession. Even today, despite advances in the diagnosis and treatment of infertility, many individuals and communities still hold strong beliefs about barrenness which are similar to those expressed in the Bible.

The controversy surrounding this issue is also not unconnected with individuals' mindset that is centered on children as a motivation in marriage. A certain woman explained that she wouldn't mind giving birth to many children because at each birth, certain celebrations are made to welcome the newly born and honour the mother with gift items and special meals which she might not ordinarily get if such things don't happen. A word of caution for such women is to be careful so as not to give birth to the number of children one would not be able to adequately raise. If the children are not handled with care, such blessings can turn into sorrow.

Yours sincerely was in Niger Republic few years ago in a remote village in Tauwa State to be precise and came across an elderly woman in her domain who commands a lot of respect and powers. She claimed to offer help to childless women who came from different parts of the world. As pleasant as that information

sounded, one wondered what her source of power was that she could do such an extra ordinary act. When the team went into her compound, there were certain features seen, ranging from brown cows, brown sheep, goats, chickens and in the same colour. When it was obvious that most people were a bit scared of the environment, I went closer to the old woman who offered me a place to squat close to her on a mat.

Immediately I then saw more than ten women all standing at a particular direction within the compound. When I asked her who those women were and what they were doing, she frankly confessed that they came to seek for children which they have found. Surprisingly, they were all carrying male children in their hands and smiling which she said they were blessed with by the spirits. At this point, one was skeptical about the prospects of these kinds of children in the society. The all important question therefore is, can such children truly bring good fortunes to the family or catastrophe? That is left for your conscience to judge.

Some people have gone this far in getting their children because of how they have been pushed to the wall by the attitudes of others. Modern reproductive technology seems to be a good measure to solving this life threatening problem called childlessness. How then does this work? In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) is one of several techniques available to help

people with fertility problems have a baby. According to experts, an egg is removed from the woman's ovaries and fertilized with sperm in a laboratory. The fertilized egg called an embryo is then returned to the woman's womb to grow and develop.

It's rather unfortunate that as simplified as this method looks, it is quite expensive and not readily available for those in need because the cost is a huge barrier to actualize the dream of motherhood. It is the privilege few that can afford the cost that smile away with its outcome. Last year, a lady who had gone through pains of childlessness approached our association to seek for financial assistance to have the modern method where she explained that, she was required to pay one million naira to go through the process. "It became obvious for me that the joy of motherhood has eluded me and I am in for trouble from my in-laws who have become thorn in my flesh, if God does not intervene in my case". She was quoted as saying.

Presence of children in marriage must never be the determining factor for couple's happiness. Whether unions are blessed with children or not, efforts should be made to make marriages stable. The society should never make such people go through unnecessary pains after all; no one has the power to make things work for himself without God's intervention.

SO, the editor gave me a special assignment: to find out if a woman could become the President of Nigeria. I wish I could conduct an opinion poll by employing some data science skills so as to give a presentation with histplots and boxplots and do some data-based political analytics and prediction but that would be killing a fly with a sledgehammer. Our reality is staring us in the face and every woman needs to join me in answering this question realistically.

Can a woman become the President of Nigeria? Before we look at the yeas and the nays, let us look at the country we call Nigeria. We are an overly complex stubborn lot, but we can be good followers because we hardly ever challenge the government except in front of our TV sets or while reading our newspapers. It is always a cowardly monologue. Only a small group in the population can boldly tell the government where it is going wrong and even then, it is a significant risk. We follow until we are boxed into a corner and then we look for change. Our politics is laced with regionalism and tribalism which often overrides the voice of reason.

We are also a unity in diversity. We are the largest country in Africa. We speak a sea of languages with many dialects. We have various tribes and cultures that differ one from another. We apply elements of our cultures to our politics. We are blessed with many resources both human and material and we are known abroad for many positives and negatives. Nigeria is a melting pot of various tribes, cultures and ways of life. This implies that we have interests that may not necessarily agree with each other.

Yeas.

Let us look at the proposed resume of the female President. A woman can rule Nigeria if she has the capacity and the capability to manage diversity, and if she can emphasize what we have in common and deemphasize what we do not have in common. She can become the president if she understands and knows how to manage the political factors and stake holders in the polity. If she knows how to horse trade and negotiate from the north to the south, if she knows how to go beyond ethnic and cultural lines for followership, if she has achieved many milestones in her personal and professional life and if she has contributed in developing her constituencies.

If leadership is nurturing, then a woman can rule without any challenges. However, leadership in Nigeria is finding the balance between nurturing and starving because a leader will need to have a lot of viable solutions to proffer and a lot of stubborn problems to solve or starve off as the situation requires. Finding this balance will require a high degree of calculation and strategy and a low degree of emotion. Can a woman find this balance, since she is known to live in her emotions? If she can, then she can become the president of Nigeria.

The female President should be old enough to be wise and young enough to be energetic. She should be of a sound mind. She should be physically strong and healthy. She should be fifty-nine and below. Any woman above sixty is not qualified to run for President because sixty is the statutory retirement age in Nigeria. Why should that restriction stop with civil servants only? Any woman who is sixty and above should please go and play with her grandchildren. Geriatrics and good leadership do not go together because leadership needs a strong body and a clear mind.

The Female President should be highly educated. May be a professor. The world is moving at the speed of light. Technological advancements are shaping our way of life today and as such the female President should be a woman of profound academic knowledge who places a premium on education: learning, unlearning, and relearning.

She should be astute in global and local politics. She should have a deep knowledge and desire for business education and development for therein lies our economic growth and developments. She should understand international, bilateral, multilateral, and global politics and relations.

Education and character determine the quality of leadership. A woman will lay down her life for her child. As such, a woman would want to make Nigeria secure for her children and children's children. She would sacrifice herself to create a better future for Nigeria so that her children would live better lives. This will also require a deep knowledge of our ailing economy and the strategies required to treat it and nurse it back to life.

Leadership will also require her to be frontal and brutal sometimes because leadership is not all about how kind she is but her ability to adapt to the situation. Bullet for bullet, bomb for bomb and sometimes bomb for bullets. She should be able to bring up the Thatcher in her when the need arises and have support in doing so. She should be able to wear the pants and ride into

battle like Queen Amina of Zazzau because she is going to be the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the biggest country in Africa. This job is not for weaklings. It not for ornamental and fragile women. It is not for faint hearted woman who longs for nothing but submission, house wifery, protection and provision. Her job is to secure and protect her compatriots without emasculating her husband.

What type of shepherd should she be? One that runs away when danger looms or one that protects her sheep with her life. Can she look at our national treasury without craving for gold, diamonds, yachts, private jets and mansion in Paris, London and Dubai with taxpayers' money and at taxpayers' expense? Can she work around the clock without sacrificing stately matters for her beauty sleep?

Is she a "gangster"... yes, a good leader



The presidency: Can she?



should have a "bad girl" mask that says "boundaries" to obnoxious elements that thrive on destroying what she is building because followers are in three categories: the good, the bad and the ugly. She should be able to speak in all three languages. She should have a little fear factor. It is absolutely ok if some people call her an angel while others call her the B world because leadership is a double-edged sword. It is the face of Janus with a lot of integrity. Can she make far reaching security decisions to secure her country without flinching? Is she strong mentally and emotionally strong?

Leadership is hard work. Is she a diligent worker? Is she a strategist? Is she a resource manager? What is her leadership style? What is the place of leadership skills and mentoring to her? Is she willing to fill the gap and raise more young people to become even better leaders by the time she retires? Is she a servant-leader or a dictator? What are her core values, what is her vision and mission for Nigeria?

The issues that have ailed us such as state police and autonomy of the state. Is she willing to consider change in our constitution to address our current realities? Is she open to change? Can she manage the change process? Can she lead with equity and integrity? Can she maintain our federal character and remove dependence on federal allocation by strengthening the states? Can she create an export economy? Can she support small businesses to grow into conglomerates? What can she do to address our infrastructural deficit and poor investment climate, especially, concerning security, energy, transportation, water, and health care?

What does she know about technology and industrialization? Does she know how to transform Nigeria from an emerging market to a developed and an industrialized nation? Does she know how to multitask? Does she understand the place of international relations and international business in our economic development? Does she know how to court nations with mutual interests and benefits? Does she understand when to and not to practice protectionism and to what degree, for the benefit of job creation and growth? If we have a woman that can do 90% of these, then she can become the President of Nigeria

Nays

One cannot be around men without learning something. I learn from their discussions and their conversations. Men live with their heads and women live with their hearts. Too much heart in a leader is weakness and too much head in a leader is wickedness. One day, I overheard a conversation that was quite serious to my mind but the two men having this conversation where bantering. They were discussing politics. One of them said to the other "can you imagine what it would be like to have a female President?" In response, the second man laughed. He said "it will take only

one handsome spy from another country to seduce her, and she will tell him every State secret. They had a good laugh. Conclusion was women are too emotional to be in leadership positions especially not a leadership position that sits on top of the pyramid.

There is a big difference in our behaviour and reaction. A man can be with a beautiful spy from Siberia and not mention one thing about the smallest hamlet in the smallest village in the smallest local government of the smallest state in his country. It means that women are fickle and considered weak for the position of leadership. It means that they have to be extra ordinary to lead. It means that what comes to a man naturally has to be cultivated by the woman if she desires to sit in the saddle of leadership. No wonder Queen Amina of Zazzau was a woman like no other. A military general long before the days of feminism. Question is do we still have such women?

Men only respect a woman who wants to step into leadership, which was hitherto reserved for the men, if she is able to prove her mantle. If she can meet the requirements, she will lead. Today, women are more concerned with special seats without rolling up their sleeves and putting in the challenging work. How many women have won the position of councilors and local government chairpersons? Who is that first female Governor? We salute the women in our houses of assemblies, and we pray that they will learn the ropes enough to ascend to the Presidency one day. We also salute the female Governorship candidates and wish them same.

I asked a political scientist if a woman could become the President of Nigeria and he received my question with a laugh. He asked me if I knew Madam Sarah Jibril and the one vote she got during the primaries on her party platform. Of course, I remember her. He went on to say that a woman cannot become the President of Nigeria based on our antecedents. He pointed out that women are their own enemies. He added that according to data, there are more women than men in Nigeria, but our problem is the lack of cooperation amongst women. Instead of supporting each other like the men do, women are often remarkably busy with comparison, competition, and gossip. Women are very petty and emotional, he said. I agree with his analysis of the situation

Furthermore, women do not have the political infrastructure to aspire for the Presidency. On the party level, women are relegated to the periphery. They are mere appendages in the party structure. We have never had a woman as a party chairperson. Women are lucky to have a woman leader within the party. How much are the women contributing at this level? Do they sit at the round table with the men in the decision-making process? Do they display extraordinary or ordinary knowledge and wisdom in the area of political strategy and how to push the party forward or are they more concerned with being

given special treatments because of their gender? At this point, I have to salute all the women that put in the challenging work, brains, and resources to get voted into political positions. Question is, do we have any of them who can occupy the Presidency and lead us like the female presidents in other countries? How are they learning to lead? Do they have mentors? Do they know Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf? Are they asking her questions? What about H.E Joyce Hilda Banda, H.E Catharine Samba-Panza, H.E Amina Gurib-Fakim and H.E Sylvie Kiningi? Before women can lead in Nigeria, they must learn from those who have found the path to the Presidency in other African countries.

I asked our political scientist about the place of the women in their party structure, and he said that it is hinged on our culture and religion. He said that the place of the woman is well defined in these areas, and this has been superimposed on the structure of our political parties. When asked how women can break this jinx, he recommended advocacy. We have been doing advocacy for long. How well are we succeeding? What is the content of our narrative? May be if we stop asking for preferential treatment and start asking for opportunities to demonstrate brilliance and brawn within our cultural context, maybe we will be able to gain the respect of the men enough to contest on merit, for political position within the party structure and all the way to the Presidency.

Culture is not static. Culture has evolved and will continue evolving but that requires innovation, doing things differently. Instead of pulling each other down, women need to play like the men. Women need to cooperate and stand behind each other. We need to rephrase our narrative when it comes to feminism. The average man metaphorically shuts the door in our collective face the minute he hears equality. This is not a black or white thing. It is a man's thing. He could do it overtly or covertly. Do we really need to be equal with the men? What has that done for us so far? How about quietly demonstrating what we can do on merit as a way of changing the mindset of the Nigerian man so that we can be taken more seriously in the political arena? How about we stopped demanding for special treatments and demonstrate the capacity to lead though a solution-oriented mindset, though problem solving, intellectual and emotional and intelligence.

I have a deep admiration for solution-oriented women who are leaders in corporate governance. They remind me of Queen Amina of Zazzau. They are path finders. Wikipedia speaks of Queen Amina and I quote: "After the death of her parents in or around 1566, Amina's brother became king of Zazzau. At this point, Amina had distinguished herself as a "leading warrior in her brother's cavalry" and gained notoriety for her military skills. She is still celebrated today in traditional Hausa praise songs as "Amina daughter of Nikatau, a woman as capable as a man that was able to lead men to war."

Women who are corporate leaders in banks, large companies and conglomerates and women in the upper echelon of our security infrastructure are the brand of women we need in our Presidency today. Women who can revive our economy and secure our country, women who embody the character and personality about which we have spoken. Women who can change the Architecture of all the infrastructure that have impact on our national life for the better.

"Amina daughter of Nikatau, a woman as capable as a man that was able to lead men to war"

Where are the Queen Aminas of our Time?

THE blessedness of Jesus the anointed one. When a man becomes born again and confesses Jesus as his Lord and Saviour, he enters into blessedness; this blessedness means God no longer holds them responsible for the sin of Adam. The sin of Adam is the unbiblical cord that connects humanity to Satan's right to afflict it. Jesus has broken the right of Satan to afflict. It is a joy and a privilege to be connected to Jesus, the anointed one and His anointing.

The core anointing on Jesus in His office as Christ, the anointed One, as Messiah, is to save. Every anointing of the Lord Jesus Christ is geared towards salvation, the deliverance of the human race. If it was possible to dissect Him, and look at every fiber of His being, we will find every fiber wired to save the human race. God's desire in sending Jesus is that everyone that receives Him becomes connected to Him and connected to this preserving anointing He carries. This anointing has the ability to deliver you from eternal damnation and to deliver mankind from any affliction of the devil upon the face of this earth.

It is risky for a human being to live his life without this vital connection to Jesus, the anointed One and His anointing. This is why we preach the gospel. The good news is that it is open to whosoever will. As many that hear this good news and receive this good news; when you become born again; when Jesus comes into your life, that anointing comes into your life. The anointing to preserve, to deliver, to prosper, and to elongate your life; that anointing to help you fulfill your years, destiny and calling, in spite of the opposition of the devil in this world.

The anointing will cause you to be victorious; to exalt your horn like the horn of a unicorn. That anointing rests upon your life and everyone who has named the name of the Lord Jesus for salvation and has become a born again believer. Everyone shares in that anointing. That is the good news; that God has opened this anointing to the entire human race and we can

now be delivered from hell, as well as from a life that is hell on earth.

The anointing will help you find meaning and fulfillment in life. It will preserve you and defend you. It will fight for you all the days of your life. Jesus is that saving anointing; He is our saviour and deliverer from sin and sickness. Glory to God for evermore!

1 Peter 2:24 says, who his own self bare our sins in his

Jesus did, you are delivered from hell, you are delivered from satanic affliction.

Satan and sin have no dominion over you. Sickness has no dominion over your life. That is a very important part of the Gospel. The Bible says in Isaiah 53:5 that, the chastisement of our peace was laid upon Jesus.

The word peace in Isaiah 53:5 is a Hebrew word that means "Shalom". It means, "to have



Life
Limits.

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The anointing and victory therein



own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed. When Jesus took your sin on the cross, He also paid for your healing. The same sacrifice that dealt with sin, dealt with sickness and disease. The moment you become born again, not only are you saved from an eternity in hell; you were also delivered from every satanic affliction and sickness.

Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord will reveal. What does it take to walk in all of these dimensions of salvation? Believe the report, believe what Christ did, believe it with your heart, and begin to declare it in your mouth; that as a result of what

nothing missing, nothing broken". This implies that the price has been paid for you to have peace with God with your eternal destiny settled and have the anointing of God flowing in your life to help you in this race of life. Friends, there is absolutely no situation this anointing cannot resolve.

The peace of God also applies to your body so that you do not have to be sick anymore because Jesus took that sickness. Jesus is also our saviour from sickness and disease and infirmities. Jesus is also our saviour from poverty, want or lack. The Bible says in Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. I like to say this in the first person, the Lord is my shepherd, I do not want.

The power of Christianity is in the confession of faith - the declaration of the Word of God with your mouth. Something happens when you agree with God and speak like He is speaking concerning your life. You have to say what the scripture is saying. The word of God is spoken to be spoken. It is not spoken to be kept quiet.

The Lord has assured us in Hebrews 13:5 & 6, that He will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Remember, the Word of God is spoken to be spoken. When you repeat what God says, the faith of God begins to rest upon you and your situation to bring the required results you need.

God's plans for you includes your material needs being met. Jesus' first priority was demonstrated when He came in human flesh and stripped Himself of every privilege for our sake. His second priority was to bear our burdens. He took our sin upon Himself, breaking the power of sin so that we will be declared innocent of all guilt and all the sin of Adam that came upon us.

So, as you believe the Scripture and declare them with your mouth, the power of God begins to create supernatural occurrences for provision to come into your life. Any and every aspect of our salvation responds to our

declaration of faith. As you believe it with your heart, and declare it with your mouth, you will experience these supernatural benefits.

Jesus is our saviour. The anointing He carries brings salvation in the area of preservation of life. Psalms 103:2 says, Forget not his benefits. These benefits exist for us in Christ and Jesus carries the anointing to fulfill this in our lives. One of these benefits is that He redeems our life from destruction (Psalms 103:4). By destruction I mean that which seeks to put you in the grave or any pit of life, any trap that the enemy has to cut off or afflict your life. Jesus is anointed to deliver you from the pits that the enemy sets in this life.

Anything that is dear to you, Satan hates, because you are connected to Christ. But thank God for the anointing upon whosoever confesses Jesus as Lord and saviour. Jesus redeems our lives from destruction. What a privilege!

This anointing is available, whatever your religious inclination. Jesus is looking at you as an individual now and is saying, whoever will come and drink of this water of life. If you have never made Jesus your Lord and master, it is time to do so. It does not matter if you were born and brought up in a Christian family or not; salvation is a personal thing. It has nothing to do with where you were born but has everything to do with what you will do now with this message. Would you receive Jesus as your Lord and saviour? The Bible says, Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:21).

Today, I encourage you, I charge you, make Jesus your Lord and saviour today. While it is today, while you still have breath in your nostrils, make Jesus your Lord and saviour. Pray this prayer from the depth of your heart and say,

Dear Lord Jesus, I come before you today. I believe you came to this earth to die for my sin. I receive your work of salvation. Forgive me my sin. I receive you as my Lord and saviour. Wash me clean by your precious Blood. Write my name in the book of life. From this day forward, I declare I am your very own child; you are my very own Father.

If you prayed this prayer, you have just become a child of God, I congratulate you!

"The anointing will cause you to be victorious; to exalt your horn like the horn of a unicorn. That anointing rests upon your life and everyone who has named the name of the Lord Jesus for salvation and has become a born again believer. Everyone shares in that anointing. That is the good news; that God has opened this anointing to the entire human race and we can now be delivered from hell, as well as from a life that is hell on earth."

INTERNATIONAL

DRC fighting resumes, M23 say ceasefire deal doesn't affect them

Fighting resumed between troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and M23 rebels in the country's east on Friday, as the armed group said a ceasefire deal between African leaders "doesn't really concern" them.

Reporting from Kilimanyoka, outside Goma in eastern DRC, Al Jazeera's Malcolm Webb said fighting is ongoing in the west of M23's territory, around Chumba, Swagara and Bwiza. Military sources told Webb that M23 is "reinforcing, bringing in more fighters, more weapons" ahead of the 16:00 GMT ceasefire deadline.

The Tutsi-led M23 group is waging its most serious offensive in eastern DRC since 2012, further destabilising an area where multiple armed groups have wrangled over land and resources for decades.

The ceasefire deal brokered between African leaders in the Angolan capital Luanda on Wednesday called for the withdrawal of the rebels from "occupied zones" and their "withdrawal to their initial positions".

But Lawrence Kanyuka, the political spokesman for M23, told the AFP news agency on Thursday that: "M23 has seen the document on social media ... There was nobody in the summit [from M23] so it doesn't really concern us ... Normally when there is a ceasefire, it is between the two warring sides."

According to Wednesday's deal, if the rebels refuse to stop fighting, the east African regional force being deployed in Goma "will use force" to push them out.

Al Jazeera's Webb, reporting from near the front line on Thursday, said, "Kenyan troops have arrived here in the last few weeks, started clearing ground for their first military field post which is just north of the city of Goma ... UN peacekeepers are also here."

He said in absence of a ceasefire, people were waiting to see "if the presence of more foreign forces is going to prevent further advances by the armed group".

Thousands have been displaced in recent weeks as DRC's army has struggled to stop the M23's advance. Many have sought refuge in and around Goma, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the front line, which the rebels briefly seized in 2012 before they were pushed back the following year.

On Thursday, hundreds also marched in Goma to protest against the ceasefire agreement, saying it does not tackle Rwanda's alleged backing of the M23 group.

Demonstrators made their way through the city centre behind banners denouncing the international community's "silence and ambiguity" towards mass killings organised "via Rwanda".



Tshisekedi

"These accords and summits do not interest us. What interests us is peace and security," civil society activist and protest leader John Banyene told the Reuters news agency.

The march ended at the French and British consulates, where Banyene read out a memorandum asking foreign powers to sanction Rwanda and Uganda for their alleged involvement with the M23.

"These people have already organised so many summits on the DRC that have not brought any solutions," protester Placide Nzilamba told Reuters.

DRC accuses Rwanda of backing the M23, though Rwanda denies this. The

United Nations in August said it had "solid evidence" that Rwandan troops had been fighting alongside the M23; the United States and European Union have called on Rwanda to stop backing the group.

The resurgence in fighting has caused a diplomatic rift between DRC and Rwanda. African leaders under the auspices of former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta are mediating in the crisis.

Wednesday's mini-summit in Luanda was attended by the DRC's President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwandan Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta, but not Rwandan President Paul Kagame. There were no representatives from M23.

Iran has sent additional units of Special Forces to fortify its northern border with Iraq and clamp down on what it says is infiltration by Kurdish opposition groups, Iranian state media reported on Friday.

Gen. Mohammad Pakpour, chief of ground forces of the paramilitary Iranian Revolutionary Guard, said "armored and special forces" units had been deployed to west and north-west provinces to bolster existing border security, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The deployment aims to prevent infiltration and the smuggling of weapons in the north by Kurdish opposition groups exiled in Iraq that Tehran claims is orchestrating country-wide anti-government protests. It is a claim the Kurdish groups deny and to date Iran has not provided any evidence to support it.

Iran has several military bases near the Iraqi border and forces have been present there on a rotating basis for decades.

ADVERTISEMENT

The troop movement also comes after Iraq issued directives for boosting security along its side of the border to prevent further bombardment by Iran, according to a statement issued by Iraq's military spokesman Maj. Gen. Yahya Rasool. Kurdish opposition groups have bases in Iraq's Kurdish-run northern region.

Earlier this week, Iranian officials were quoted in state-run media as saying they did not have plans to conduct a ground military operation to

UN considers Haiti sanctions targeting gang leader 'Barbecue'

root out opposition groups from the bases, despite having reportedly threatened to do so during the visit by top general Esmail Ghaani to Baghdad last week.

Country-wide protests engulfed Iran in September following the death of a young woman in police custody for violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code for women. The protests have become one of the greatest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the chaotic years after its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Mahsa Amini, 22, died Sept. 16, three days after her arrest by Iran's morality

police. Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated in police custody, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained.

A UN mission in Haiti works with the government to strengthen political stability and good governance, rights protection and justice reform and to help with organising free and fair elections.

UN peacekeepers were deployed to Haiti in 2004 after a rebellion led to the removal and exile of then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Peacekeeping troops left in 2017 and were replaced by UN police, who left in 2019.



Rouhani

Ex-'street general' returns to Ivory Coast



Ivory Coast politician Charles Blé Goudé, once seen as a divisive figure, has flown home after being acquitted by the International Criminal Court.

His charisma and fiery rhetoric led to his nickname "street general".

But as a key ally of former President Laurent Gbagbo he was accused of being behind some of the post-election violence just over a decade ago.

Around 3,000 people were killed in a brief civil war that followed the disputed 2010 presidential poll.

MrBléGoudé, 50, arrived in Ivory Coast's main city, Abidjan, on a commercial flight from neighbouring Ghana on Saturday afternoon.

There was heavy security at the airport and his

supporters were advised not to go there to show respect for all the victims of the 2010 conflict.

But thousands of them gathered in the suburb of Youpougon - a former stronghold of MrBléGoudé's - where he was expected to make a statement, according to his entourage.

In 2010, MrBléGoudé was head of the pro-Gbagbo Young Patriots movement.

Mr Gbagbo had declared himself the victor of that year's election, which the electoral commission said had been won by his main rival, and current President, AlassaneOuattara.

Fighting broke out and eventually ended when Mr Gbagbo was captured in April 2011. He was later arrested and taken to the International Criminal Court

(ICC) in The Hague.

MrBléGoudé fled Ivory Coast the day before Mr Gbagbo's capture, going to Ghana by road where he lived in hiding for almost two years.

He was then arrested and transferred to the ICC where he first appeared in 2014 charged with committing

crimes against humanity, including accusations that he led a militia.

But both Mr Gbagbo and MrBléGoudé were acquitted in 2019 after the judges said that the prosecution had failed to prove its case. The decision was confirmed by the ICC's Appeals Chamber last year.

Malawi's Chilima charged with corruption

Malawi's Vice-President SaulosChilima has been arrested on allegations that he accepted

money in exchange for awarding government contracts, the country's anti-corruption agency said.

He is accused of receiving \$280,000 (£230,000) from a British businessman "and other items", a statement said.

DrChilima pleaded not guilty to the corruption charges in court on Friday.

He had already been stripped of his powers in June when he was first accused by the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

It had identified him and another 83 Malawian officials as allegedly having corrupt dealings with the British businessman, named as ZunethSattar.

DrChilima, who is now out on bail, is facing six charges, the first time a

sitting vice-president has been in this position in Malawi.

He was questioned by anti-corruption officials on Friday morning in offices that had been cordoned off by security officers. Previous attempts to question him had been disrupted by his supporters.

His backers appeared to clash with police as he entered the court in the capital, Lilongwe, on Friday afternoon, the Reuters news agency reports video from local media as showing.

While some Malawians see the arrest as a serious move in the fight against corruption, DrChilima's backers say that it is part of a political witch hunt.

MrSattar, who was born in Malawi, was arrested in the UK in October last year and is out on bail.

He is accused of using

The former president returned to Ivory Coast in June 2021, where he has since tried to play the role of a peacemaker urging reconciliation.

MrBléGoudé obtained a passport from the Ivorian authorities in May and shortly after got the green light to go home.

connections with senior Malawi government officials and politicians to fraudulently obtain contracts to supply goods and services.

The contracts related to armoured personnel carriers, food rations and water cannons, **the Financial Times reported in May.**

MrSattar has denied all wrongdoing.

DrChilima came to power in 2020 as the running mate of President Lazarus Chakwera. They are from different political parties but entered a coalition to defeat the incumbent Peter Mutharika.

The vice-president had previously campaigned on an anti-corruption platform, promising to end decades of sleaze in government and ending poverty in one of the world's poorest countries.

INTERNATIONAL

UK voters warm to new leader Sunak

Rishi Sunak has been Britain's prime minister for a month. In the tumultuous world of U.K. politics in 2022, that's an achievement. Sunak, who took office a month ago recently, has steadied the nation after the brief term of predecessor Liz Truss. Britain's first prime minister of color, Sunak has stabilized the economy, reassured allies from Washington to Kyiv and even soothed the European Union after years of sparring between Britain and the bloc.

BUT Sunak's challenges are just beginning. He is facing a slowing economy, a cost-of-living crisis — and a governing Conservative Party that is fractious and increasingly unpopular after 12 years in power.

Opinion polls have good news and bad news for Sunak. The public quite likes the 42-year-old former investment banker, but his party is another matter.

In a survey by pollster Ipsos, 47% of respondents said they liked the prime minister, while 41% disliked him.

"That's definitely better than Boris Johnson was getting earlier this year," said Gideon Skinner, Ipsos' head of political research. But he said Sunak's popularity "is not showing signs of rubbing off onto the Conservative Party brand."

In the same survey the Conservative Party was liked by just 26%, and disliked by 62% — the worst figures for the party in 15 years. The Ipsos phone survey of 1,004 adults is considered accurate to within plus or minus four percentage points.

Many voters welcome Sunak as a change from Truss and her predecessor Johnson, who after three scandal-plagued years in office. But the party has been in power since 2010, making it hard for Conservatives to avoid blame for the country's financial woes.

Lingering allegations of misconduct also are tarnishing its image. On Wednesday Sunak appointed a senior lawyer to investigate allegations of bullying against his deputy prime minister, Dominic Raab.

It's not impossible for the Conservatives to rebuild their popularity before the next election, due by the end of 2024. But it won't be easy. Current polls suggest the Labour Party would win handily.

At the height of the coronavirus pandemic Sunak, then Britain's treasury chief, gained popularity by spending billions to support shuttered businesses and pay the salaries of furloughed workers.

Now he has to deliver bitter medicine. Britain's economy is being weighed down by the pandemic, by Brexit and especially by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has driven global energy prices sky-high.

Millions of people in Britain have seen energy bills soar, though a government-imposed cap has prevented even higher prices. Pandemic-related backlogs and staff shortages have caused record waiting times for health care in Britain's National Health Service.

The situation was made worse by Truss' ill-advised September package of unfunded tax cuts, which torpedoed the U.K.'s reputation for economic



King Charles

prudence, weakened the pound, drove up the cost of borrowing and triggered emergency central bank intervention. Truss resigned last month after less than two months in the job.

"I fully appreciate how hard things are," Sunak said in his first address to the nation on Oct. 25, warning of "difficult decisions to come."

An emergency budget last week helped buoy the pound and calm markets — at the cost of 25 billion pounds (\$30 billion) in tax hikes and the prospect of public spending cuts down the road.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast this week that the U.K. economy will shrink by 0.4% in 2023 and grow by just 0.2% in 2024, the worst outlook among Group of Seven industrialized countries.

Boris Johnson's departure caused concern in Kyiv, where his staunch support for Ukraine's resistance to Russian invasion won admiration and respect.

Britain has given Ukraine 2.3 billion pounds (\$2.8 billion) in military aid since the start of the war, more than any country except the United States, and has lobbied allies to do more to help Kyiv.

Sunak traveled to Kyiv last week to reassure President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Britain's policy would not change under his leadership. "I am proud of how the U.K. stood with you from the very beginning," Sunak told Zelenskyy. "And I am here today to say the United Kingdom will continue to stand with Ukraine."

London is keeping up its flow of support, announcing in the past week that it will deliver anti-aircraft guns, anti-drone

technology and three Sea King helicopters to Ukraine.

But while support for Ukraine is secure, defense spending could face a squeeze. Sunak has dropped a commitment made by Truss to increase defense spending to 3% of gross domestic product by 2030.

Britain's relations with its closest neighbors and biggest trading partners have been tense since it left the now 27-nation European Union in 2020. Johnson and Truss both seemed to delight in riling the bloc to placate the powerful euroskeptic wing of the Conservative Party.

Sunak has been more emollient, making warm calls to European leaders in the days after taking office. Achieving concrete change is more difficult, given the power that ardent Brexiteers hold within the Conservatives.

Britain's departure from the EU in 2020 brought customs checks and other barriers for businesses trading with the bloc, sparked a political crisis in Northern Ireland and ended the free flow of EU nationals into Britain to fill vacant jobs.

Britain could ease trade friction if it agreed to align with EU rules in some areas, such as veterinary or food standards. But after reports that the government was seeking closer ties riled euroskeptics, Sunak said this week that he would not accept "alignment with EU laws."

David Henig, a trade expert at the European Centre for International Political Economy, said that backlash "has revealed just how deep the Europe problem is for Rishi Sunak and for the Conservative Party."

He said Sunak is a long-time Brexit supporter, but also a



Sunak

pragmatist who "just wants a relationship that works — and it quite clearly doesn't at the moment."

"I think the problem is that he has no great fresh ideas as to how to make that work, and a lot of internal opposition," Henig said.



My life has been a miracle

- Evangelist Lucky



to encourage these local. I have an audio and video studio, one of the largest in the state. I also have a vehicle which is dedicated to promoting artists around. I have up to 28 speakers and to boost our work. Therefore, we have the equipments to promote any artist which we sign under our label. We will ensure that we promote such artists throughout all the local councils we have here on the Plateau.

Why is it that you have not gone outside Plateau State to ply your trade like most other artistes in the state?

I have gone to many places. My skin color is lighter than you can think so many people do think that I am not from Plateau State. Others think I am Igbo and by the way, I have stayed in Owerri, Anambra and Maiduguri. Therefore, I have gone to many places in this country. In fact, I refused to sign for a label in Niger Republic I would have been staying there. But it would interest you to know that some of them are coming to engage me right here in my studio is Lucy

You have been in the music industry for some time now, how far so far?

I have been in the music industry for the past 22 years. When I joined the service I left it for a while but after my accident which, I later recovered, I permanently went into music industry proper. I think I have released about 14 albums and in all I have released about 21 albums now. The one I will release on the 10th of April 2022 here in Jos, the Plateau State capital at Plateau State Polytechnic will feature the two more albums. This will be followed by a musical tour to some local government areas including Shendam, Langtang, Bokkos and Mangu. I want to visit such places to serve as an encouragement to others. I want to also use this opportunity to sign some upcoming gospel artists under my new label.



We want to use this tour

Music World Studio in Pankshin. So some of them from this republic are here working with us in

Continued on page 26

Female celebrities who suffered leaked tape scandal

Paris Hilton



Paris Whitney Hilton is a famous American media personality, actress, model, socialite, and singer. In 2004, the alleged Hilton's tape was released on the media. The incident happened three years after the video was recorded. Fortunately, the celebrity became a famous star overnight.

Tiwa Savage



It is no longer news that Tiwa Savage's tape has been trending all over social media. The popular Nigerian celebrity had openly revealed that she was being blackmailed by an unknown person. She further stated that the blackmailer demanded a huge amount of money. Presently, the celebrity has kept quiet and hasn't said anything about the issue.

Continued on page 26

EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Personal secrets you should never tell anyone

HAVE you ever told someone more than they need to know?

No, but after having a phone conversation, you think you should have said less.

All things being equal, you are not alone. This is only for you, so don't read it anyone else.

The truth is that a lot of us have a bad habit of wearing our hearts on our sleeves. Even people who don't know us will be able to see us. We don't need that at all. Secrets are what make life taste good, all things being equal, so we don't really need them. Keeping a clear separation between your personal life and your professional life is a difficult (but important) skill to master. You must be very careful about who you share your secrets with, because not everyone wants to be nice.

Importantly, you should be careful so that the small things in your own life can't be used to hurt you. It's good to have a basic list of personal information you should never give to other people. In case you don't know how to make your own rundown, we're here to help you out! Indeed, we've added a few insider facts that you should always try to keep to yourself, no matter how strong the desire is to share them with everyone.

As Joan Collins says, "The secret to having an individual life is not answering too many questions about it."

The following is a list of things. Is there 6 things you shouldn't tell your friends?

1. In the past, I was angry.
We all have bad stories about our own lives that we can tell about people we don't like. It may be hard for you to think of those classmates or former partners who made you angry years ago, but maybe you still do. There's no doubt about it. In every case, it's best to let go of these feelings and look into them as little as possible. This is true for you as well as for other people, because



pessimism is bad for you. To feel and to pay attention. People like to talk to people who are positive and have interesting stories to share, not people who worry about people they don't know. Relinquish anything that's making you stressed. Try to focus on the present, and you'll see that more and more people will be eager to talk to you.

2. Material things
Obviously, some things in life are worth more than they cost. It's true that sometimes we can't help but brag about the new car we just bought or the new phone we just bought for a low price. Parks and Recreation may not tell you this, but your partners don't want to know about how you've been taking care of yourself. It can make you look like you're too focused on how much money things are worth instead of how important they are. The best frill is being unobtrusive. You should try to spread it all over your talks.



3. Goals for the Future
You might think it's crazy, but there is science behind the fact that you're more likely to reach your long-term goals if you don't tell anyone else about them. At the point when you tell others what you want to do in the future, you almost feel like the satisfaction of achieving the goal has been taken away from you. Accordingly, you don't work as hard to get it. As long as you don't talk about your goals, though, you have a much better chance of getting them done. What's more, when you've done that, you can tell the whole world about it.

In this case, your income
Only people who work at your bank should be able to find out more about how much you make. It's not a good idea to talk about

money in public because no one can tell what anyone else's financial situation is. It might look like you're bragging about something that doesn't have any real value. Cash, as well as information about accounts, can break up relationships in a bad way. When your financial situation is made public, people start to look at you in different ways without you being able to stop them. That way, you won't be in a situation where you don't know how much you're getting paid.

5. Great things have been done.
Some people say that good deeds always bring good luck. That's true, but if you start bragging about it, it changes into a completely different story. You should never be afraid to do well.

In this way, you're taking away the good you've already done. Many of the world's best humanitarians aren't well-known for a good reason. There should be more attention paid to those you're helping and less to yourself when you do something kind.

6. Problems in the family
If it's your distant family or your close family, keep the issues under wraps, no matter who they are. Try not to get people's trust mixed up. As someone who is close to these people, you've been told about these secrets. They haven't let you tell them to everyone in your group of friends, though. They had faith in you, and breaking that faith is the most terrible thing you could do. Be aware of what others know that you don't. Because of this, you can expect them to treat you the



EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Stay healthy this harmattan season

COLD, dry and dusty air is what the harmattan season is known for. The surroundings is usually dusty with outbreak of Flu and dryness of skin which leads to crack skin. Most people experience cough & sore throat which is due to the dry dusty air inhaled from the surroundings. Also, dry skin and broken lips are common during the harmattan season.

In addition, the weather makes people susceptible to flu & cold and although the body has adaptive mechanisms that help reduce the effects, it is only wise to take good care of ourselves in order to prevent infections and stay healthy

STEPS TO STAY HEALTHY THIS HARMATTAN SEASON
Drink Plenty of Water

Because of the extreme dryness of the air, It is of utmost importance to increase fluid intake this period to reduce dehydration. While going out or in the office or wherever you find yourself, ensure you have a bottle of water with you at all times to increase the motility of mucus.

Warm tea like Peppermint Tea or Arabian Tea will help provide you with warmth to fight cold.

Drink Turmeric Ginger Tea with Honey & fresh lemon juice

Turmeric Ginger Tea, Honey & fresh Lemon juice is a natural remedy which soothe the dry irritated areas of the throat and give you the comfort you need, this combination also relief sore throat and cough and keeps you warm.

Bathe With Lukewarm Water:

Oh yes, you heard it right! Lukewarm Water ☐ The mornings are really cold and having a shower with cold water never an option; however, on the contrary, hot water isn't also an advisable option for you as it strips the skin of its natural oil barrier, thus resulting in dryness and itching. Hence, opt for lukewarm water.

Eat Plenty of Fruits and Veggies

Fruits and vegetables are good sources of vitamins and minerals which are essential to stay healthy and hydrated during these harmattan season. They contain a high water and vitamins content, which helps to reduce dehydration & dryness of skin caused by the dry air this harmattan season. The fruit also helps fight infections and build immunity against a chronic cough and other infections associated with common cold.

Take Products That Boost Your Immune System

Research shows that the Harmattan dust particles affect negatively the health of the people causing the respiratory disease to adults and children. Health cases such as cough, catarrh, and respiratory disease are mostly reported in the hospitals during the Harmattan season.

Foods like citrus fruits, broccoli, garlic, ginger, spinach, almonds, sunflower seeds, turmeric, papaya, green tea help boost your immune system and hence help prevent infections these harmattan season.

Exfoliate Your Skin

Exfoliation is a process of removal of the oldest dead skin cells from the skin's surface. Exfoliating your skin a few times a week will help shave off dead and dry skin cells and allow new skin cells to come up.

Make sure you use a gentle body scrub like sugar or coffee twice a week. Note however, that if over exfoliation occurs, your skin's oils will still be depleted, and because of the dry harmattan weather, dry skin may eventually occur.

Wear The Right Clothes

Wearing the right clothes in this harmattan season helps to prevent common infections or diseases that spread during this season. Thick and heat absorbable clothes keep heat released from the body trapped inside and limit radiation of heat to the surroundings. Hand gloves and well-covered shoes also



provide enough warmth that you need.

8. Choose Safe Products

The harmattan season is not the time to use harsh content on your skin like high alcohol or astringent content face cleansers or hand washes as this will strip your skin off its natural oils.

Also, opt for mild products such as a moisturizing body wash, a cleanser that contains ceramides (fatty molecules that make up the outer barrier of your skin) as they help the skin hold in moisture and an oil based body lotion such as Palmer's Cocoa Butter; you can even moisturize using shea-butter or olive oil.

Skin Care

People usually develop cracked lips and skin during this harmattan period. The following can help protect the integrity of your skin and prevent dryness. Good body moisturizers can be used to prevent dryness of the skin. They are easily absorbable and increase the hydration of the skin. Other home-made moisturizers are:

Eat Healthy Fats

Not all types of fat are bad for you. There are healthy fats you can consume without the fear of excess cholesterol and also can be heart-

healthy. Healthy fats give you energy. You can get healthy fat in nuts, seeds, almond oils ,Coconut oil and fatty fish.

Avocados are also a great source of healthy fats.

Drink Healthy Tea Always

Healthy Herbal Teas are loaded with antioxidants which fight free radicals in your body. Free radicals are compounds that can cause harm if their levels become too high in your body.

Drink Herbal teas that contain garlic like Immunity Tea. Scientists think garlic has some things in it that may fight the common cold. They're still figuring out how exactly, but early studies are promising. However it works, it's a good excuse to toss in a few extra teabags.

Remember Your Hands, Feets and Lips

One of the worst things about harmattan is the dry lips, hands and feet that comes with it, this makes moisturizing of utmost importance this harmattan season.

Your hands, feets and lips are the most vulnerable areas of your body during the harmattan season. As a result, you need to

take extra care of these areas as we tend to swipe out the moisture from polyunsaturated fats such as when we eat, or visit the bathroom or change shoes/walk barefoot.

To maintain a soft and succulent lips, hands and feets this harmattan season it is necessary not to leave your house without a lip balm and your hand lotion handy.

Doing all these will go a long way to help you stay healthy this harmattan season.





Reality Bites

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Things to do to get through hard times

LIVING at a time when the country is facing an unstable economy, high inflation rates, security and social challenges makes life to take a toll on many individuals and families.

This is because people are the worst hit by such economic, security, social challenges as it affects their livelihoods, lifestyle, living costs, mental well being, and other areas of their lives.

I think what should be paramount in surviving the hard times is being resilient. This requires perseverance and creating a positive spirit and way to survive at all odds.

According to Tony Robinson in her article titled "Simple things to do to get through hard times on lifehack.com, "Life is a series of peaks and valleys. Sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down. But it's the difficult times where we need a little more support and guidance".

"I'm a firm believer that it's how you respond in your moments of defeat that really defines the type of person you are. When you can improve your ability to navigate the difficult times, you not only live a happier life, but you also grow as person. Here's how to make getting through hard times less difficult" says Robinson.

Robinson however suggests the following proactive ways to cope with hard times and life challenges:

Stay positive

"Life is not the way it's supposed to be, it's the way it is. The way you cope is what makes the difference." - Virginia Satir

I know this may sound cliché, but the thing about clichés is that they're typically true. Staying positive is only a small part in getting through the difficult times, but it's an important part. When you stay positive, you're putting yourself in the best position possible to not only make it through those bad times, but become a better person in the process.

You can do one of two things when life takes a turn for the worst. You can remain positive and remind yourself that there really is a light at the end of the tunnel and that you'll make it through, or you can curl up in the fetal position and relegate yourself to being nothing more than a victim of circumstance.

I'm not saying that you can never have a bad day, or get a little discouraged, or shed a tear. But I am saying you have to eventually pick up the pieces and start moving forward.

Get creative

There are times when you can't do much to change your situation. You just have to deal with it. But there are other times when you can actively work to make the situation better. The solution won't be in plain sight, because if it was you probably wouldn't have gotten in that situation in the first place. But if



you can take a step back and see the bigger picture, you may discover some things that can help you.

A great example of getting creative during a difficult time is the story behind Wrigley's gum. The founder, William Wrigley Jr. was a soap and baking powder salesman in the 1890's and he always offered free gum to all of his clients. With his career as a salesman taking a turn for the worst, he noticed one thing that forever changed his life; people loved the gum he gave away more than the products he was actually selling. It was that one creative insight that got him through that difficult time and made him a monumental success.

Learn from the difficult times

"Facing difficulties is inevitable, learning from them is optional" - John Maxwell

When I find myself in middle of an ugly situation, I like to pick everything apart and see what went wrong and what I could've done differently. I always end up learning something that helps me and I eventually get a really clear picture of what I need to do to make sure I'm not in the same situation again. Or if I do find myself in a similar situation, I know what to do to minimize the difficulty of the situation.

It's easier getting through a difficult time when you know the chances of it happening again are slim to none.

Change it up

After you identify the key takeaways from your difficult time, you just need to make a change. If it's a change you can implement immediately, do it. You don't want be in the middle of a difficult situation longer than necessary. If it's something that you can't implement right now, take note of it so you can use it when the situation calls for it.

But it's pointless to learn from the difficult times if what you learned doesn't directly affect your actions. I've really come to embrace the difficulties and struggles that life hands me because I know there's a silver

lining in each one of them. You're a lot more resilient than you give yourself credit for.

Know what you're grateful for. Gratitude means showing appreciation for all the good in your life, instead of focusing on the negative. Get clear about what it is that you're grateful for.

Write out everything in your life you can think of that you're grateful for having or experiencing. An even more powerful exercise is to think of the one person you're most grateful for, and write a note explaining why you're so grateful for having that person. Then give him or her a call and read that note to them. The difficult time you're going through will start to seem less significant when it's compared to everything that's going right in your life.

Focus on what you can control, not what you can't.

Some situations are beyond your control and no matter what you do, you can't change a thing. You're setting yourself up for frustration when you focus your time and energy on things you can't control. You're also making the situation seem even more bleak than it actually is because you're focusing on the negatives.

You should instead focus on the things that are within your control because that's the only

way you can make a change that's actually going to help you. Make a list of everything you can control about the situation and divert all of your focus towards those things. Anything that's not on the list, doesn't get any attention.

Realize you've come a long way. Sometimes we get so focused on the road ahead, that we never look back to see what we've already traveled. Give yourself credit for everything you've already done.

You'll give yourself a confidence boost when you realize that you've already made so much progress and the light at the end of the tunnel will get brighter.

Build up your community. Having the right people around you is one of the most important things you can do for yourself when the times get tough. You want to surround yourself with people who are loving, caring, honest, and available.

You need them to be loving because a little love always makes the bad days seem a little brighter. You need them to be caring because it helps to have someone who cares about your well being as much as you do. But you also need them to be honest. You need someone who can look you in the eye tell you truth. Their honesty may be that one piece of

information you need to get through the tough time.

And you need them to be available. When you pick up the phone looking for some compassion or honesty, it helps to have someone who's actually going to answer. Community is also important because it helps to have someone who understands what it is that you're going through and can relate to your situation. If you can find a community who has been through what you're going through, you can find out how they made it and then apply that to your own life.

Be kind to yourself

You need to care for yourself to survive tough times. Take a walk through the park, lift some weights, read an amazing book. It doesn't matter what you do, just do something that gets your mind and body engaged at a higher level than wallowing in self pity.

Forgive

If someone else is at fault for the bad situation you find yourself in, the natural response is to harbor anger or resentment towards that person.

But what if instead, you forgave that person. You accepted what happened, but you no longer held it against them. You would feel better, because now instead of focusing on the negative feelings you have toward that person, you can focus on moving forward. You can't really get through a difficult time when your every thought is about how upset you are with the person who got you into that mess. It just makes things more difficult.

Or maybe the difficult time you're going through is a direct result of something that you did. I've been there before, and I know I continually beat myself up about it. I couldn't forgive myself. I almost felt obligated to be hard on myself. The problem with that is, it only makes things worse. You get caught in this revolving door of self hatred and feeling worse, and there's a swirl of anger and frustration and self doubt. Its ultimately a recipe for disaster.



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Living

Simple steps to identify pure Honey

IT is of upmost importance you learn how to identify pure honey. We encourage our customers to take **Herbal Tea** with Pure Honey due to the high amount of Vitamins and Minerals Honey contains. However, this is only true in pure honey and a lot of what you find at the grocery store is not pure honey.

A lot of times, what you call pure honey is mixed with high amount of water or glucose solutions. This process is called adulteration of honey and it takes away from the health benefits that you receive from honey. So, how can you tell pure honey from fake honey?

Three Ways To Identify Pure Honey And Fake Honey

1. Crystallisation of the Honey

Overtime, all honey will crystallize into something looking like granulated sugar. Take a look at the bottle and see what the honey inside of it looks like. If it is crystallized in the store, this is probably pure honey. If it is liquid, you could keep it for some days to see if it solidifies. Putting it in the refrigerator will speed up that process. If your honey never turns into crystals, then sorry, it is likely that you do not have pure honey on your hands but fake honey.

2. Read the Product Label

Before you purchase any products not just honey in the market, you should always learn to read labels. Manufacturers who are kind enough would list the actual content/ingredients of their product.

Make sure that the ingredient list of the honey does not contain high-fructose corn syrup or glucose. These are two substances that are usually added to honey that keep it from solidifying. Companies also add this to the honey so that they get more honey out of their batch.

3. Test For Honey

There are other ways to test and identify pure honey from fake honey:

3(a). Water Test For Honey

Mix a tablespoon of honey with water. If the honey dissolves easily, it is not pure, as pure honey should remain intact when dipped into water.

3(b). Vinegar Test

Mix some honey with water, then add four or five drops of vinegar. If the liquid turns

foamy, that is not pure honey. It may have been adulterated with a substance called gypsum added to it.

3(c). Gravity

Put some honey onto a spoon and hold it up. If the honey falls quickly, then this is not pure honey, probably water has been added to it. Good quality, pure honey, will stay on the spoon or fall slowly.

3(d). Match Test

Dip a match into the honey and try to light it up. Pure honey will light up and burn due to the sugar content. Other low-quality honey that usually contains water will not light up as the water in the honey will prevent it from lighting and burning.

3(e). Bread Test

Dip a piece of stale bread in

honey. Leave the bread inside the honey for ten minutes and then pull it out. If the bread is still hard, then you have pure honey. If the bread will be soggy, then the honey has been adulterated with water.

3(f). Iodine Test

You can also use iodine to tell pure honey from fake honey. Just mix honey, water and a few drops of iodine. If the mixture turns blue, then the honey has been adulterated with flour or starch in it.

Next time you go to the grocery store to buy some Herbal Tea and honey, do a quick check for the products that has the honey crystals before you buy and go home for further testing to ensure that you have unadulterated pure honey and enjoy all the

health benefits that comes with it.

Do you know that pure honey can be tampered with by

manufacturer's to better meet the market demand and increase their income, rather than to meet your health goal?

Source: GOTEA.COM



ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

Naira redesign: What CBN must do urgently

The CBN may wish to have a rethink about the ubiquity of personal DOMICILIARY accounts in Nigeria. At the end of the day, it is a policy and a privilege for Nigerians to hold DOM accounts of any type. The CBN reserves the right to cool out the policy from time to time if it believes it has become an avenue for the siphoning of its reserves.... If the black market is no longer available on the streets, people will take that option and avoid the trouble of arrest or fraud. Writes TOPE FASUA.

THE Central Bank of Nigeria has activated one of its core functions, which is the management of the currency, after a 17-year inactivity on that front. I have traced the history of how Nigeria has managed her currency since we had our own – the Nigerian pound – in 1959. That first currency was issued by the Federation of Nigeria, under the supervision of the British Colonial Administration. The colonial government departed the next year, 1960. When Nigeria became a Republic in 1963, the currency was redesigned to reflect the fact that it was now issued by the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

During the war in 1968, there were reports of currency abuse and trafficking as a result of the conflict – or perhaps the Nigerian government chose to change the currency to render those looted on the other side of the war useless. The currency was again redesigned. In 1973, Obafemi Awolowo supervised the creation of the naira, our own indigenous currency, which took the same value as the Nigerian pound. Then in 1977, the 'Murtala' (N20 note) was created as the country's largest currency note and in memory of our fallen leader, Murtala Muhammad, who was mowed down by coupists on the 13th of February 1976.

By 1978, the N1, N5 and N10 notes were created with different colours. By 1984, when General Buhari and colleagues seized power, they decided to change all the currency colours, giving a small amount of time for everyone to turn in their old notes. In 1991, the N50 note was created. In 1999, the N100 debuted. Year 2000 saw the creation of the N200 note, while the N500 note was created in 2001. By 2005, still under CBN Governor Soludo, the N1,000 was created and there was an unsuccessful attempt to reintroduce coins – which are good for controlling inflation and reducing the cost of currency management. Since 2005, nothing has happened on that front.

The idea behind pulling currencies and redesigning them from time to time, is an operational one, and it is all about risk management. Nigeria has a big challenge with currency counterfeiting, with many such operations all over the country. Nigerians have even been caught in the past counterfeiting several currencies in other countries – Uganda and Kenya as cases in point. Within Nigeria, there have been major busts of currency counterfeiting operations in every state. One chap was caught while attempting to print N20 billion in Banana Island and Parkview Estate in 2019. Another pastor in Ikorodu was caught in 2013 and should still be in prison. A mere Google search reveals many such busts all over the country. Perhaps a fair proportion of the N500 and N1,000 in circulation is forged.

A central bank or currency management regulator in a country should not sit back and just watch. 17 years is a very long time to rein such people in. Add to that the fact that Nigeria thrives on corruption and many corrupt people hold cash in bulk in their soak-aways or overhead tanks. What about the fact that Nigeria has waited for this long to deploy the instrument of finance against kidnapers, bandits, terrorists and all these other guys who have destroyed our society? We have been pumping money into buying guns and helicopters, instead of following the money and squeezing these criminals out of their comfort zones. This terrible situation could only have lasted this long because we have now made disunity into a badge in Nigeria. It looks like very little brainstorming goes on around our major problems. Perhaps those who lead us at every level preferred the money slushing around for so long. But everything must come to an end at some point.

In the time since the announcement was made, a number of Nigerians have been throwing tantrums of all sorts, some alleging that the timing is not right or that this is not the priority for now. Most surprising are much respected people, including intellectuals in the president's economic team. Also, the naira had initially lost value against the dollar, depressing to as low as N900, as some people 'fed' to the US dollar and away from the naira. The rationale for a normal person to start changing his/her naira to dollar is convoluted but those who have no hope in Nigeria – because they are not making any efforts to help but to game the system –

say it is normal. This option is for Nigerians with slush funds though. A salary earner will not do that because dollars are not accepted – or understood – in the local markets. As that went on, these 'highly sophisticated' economic thinkers pushed for the CBN to abandon the 'official' rate and take on the value of what we know as the 'black market' for the naira.

From a former governor of the central bank to economic advisers and every one in between, they almost pushed Nigeria into the abyss. No thoughts were given to the consequences of such a flippant decision. Even an illiterate of economics knows that if the naira is valued overnight by the CBN at N900, the black market will move to N1,800 or N2,000. For our own good, these guys have to be shut up. They have enough dollars stashed away and want to keep dictating the pace of things. We also have to be thankful that the CBN is not easily manipulable to them. Unfortunately, the vice president is in this camp, and keeps making pronouncements that are directed at devaluing the naira. He was again at the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) opening event saying something about how the naira is not properly valued. I think I will hold him responsible for most of the naira's woes since 2015 when they came into office. He it was who signed off that the N198 official rate be equated with the 'black market' in 2016. The official rate became N360. Buhari was abroad sick then. The black market moved to N500 and has since been unreachable.

How can a country plan on black market rates? How can black market rates be quoted openly in newspapers and even network news? Except, of course, because our hearts are black and evil. The black market is an illegal market, even though that illegal market is traded openly in Nigeria and everyone has access to it. Bureaux de Change should not trade standing on the street or under trees. They should be in their offices and all transactions (even \$100 changed to naira) must be receipted and documented. Let anyone who needs to buy or sell dollars take their identification along and BDCs must be punished by CBN if they are found to ignore or forge documentation (because they do that a lot). Buhari has a big role to play here to at least retrieve some of his lost image. Note that his vice is working at cross purposes with him when it comes to the value of the naira. He belongs to the ultraright wing on matters of the economy and with those guys, there is no hope for the common man.

The naira rate then recovered in the 'black market' from N900 to almost N650. Recall that we could have been pushed to adopt N900/\$1. We should probably take a lesson from the disaster going on in Ghana. When that country redenominated its currency from 9,200 Cedis to \$1 in 2007, Nigeria almost copied that idea. I was one of those who pushed then through my writings that we were not ripe for that yet. Thankfully, President Yar'Adua did not agree with the idea. Ghana 'floated' its currency, following the advice of foreign bodies that it always listens to. They enjoyed the euphoria of a faux 'strong' currency for a while when the new Ghana Cedi was 0.92 to \$1. Then they were lulled to sleep. Today, 0.92 has become GhCedi 15/\$1. In other words, what was 9,200 has become 150,000. Nigeria has been lucky to date, in spite of our many excesses.

So, somehow the naira redesign move now has multiple implications and is not only about operational counterfeiting issues but also a window to establish a better trajectory for the naira in terms of its value. The Central Bank must seize this opportunity and I also advise President Buhari to do the same. In Economics we always talk about unintended consequences. The first phase was the slump in the value of the naira as people moved money from their soak-aways to buy foreign currency, especially those who are too criminal to put the same in a bank. A second phase could be marked by the strengthening of the naira in that same black market. A third face may be precipitated by the CBN if it acts quickly and decisively to take the narrative away from speculators and currency saboteurs. Already, those who never wish well for Nigeria are gloating that the currency will fall to N1,000 now that the N650=\$1 cannot be held firm.

Below are what I think the CBN should do now. Some of these steps will require political backing. Only Buhari can get the 'Mallams' off the streets. And anyone trading dollar on the streets must be arrested. With a



Emefiele

little incentivisation, these guys can get off the streets and that will be a new vista for this country and its financial markets. The BDC sub-sector must also be urgently reorganised. Let's go:

CBN should work with the BDC supervising body to consolidate them into not more than 100. This may mean that several of them would be merged such that they don't need to find more capital. There are only 130 BDC brands in UAE, and 145 in the UK, which are heavy tourism-oriented countries. BDCs are designed to aid tourism. So, what are we doing with 6,000 official BDCs and perhaps another 20,000 or more traders, whom the president of the association of BDCs refers to as 'ungoverned territory'. This evokes another spectre of terrorism and the neglect of governance;

New modus operandi should be administered for the BDCs. The business is very profitable on the basis of their fee-based income but they need to be reorganised to meet global standards. Also, BDCs could be involved in local and foreign transfer business, including remittances, subject to limits. ALL transactions are to be documented by the CBN and close supervision (daily supervision) needs to be enforced. This means that the CBN has to employ more feet on the ground for this active daily work. Also, BDCs are a great source of corporate employment all over the world. It is not a place for semi-literates, honestly;

CBN must ensure political support around properly criminalising the street trading of foreign exchange. It is the ease of access to the so-called 'black market' that has resulted in so much indiscipline and the constant volatility around naira rates;

CBN should ensure the education of newspaper houses, TV stations and other media, including the new media, around why it is an anomaly to report 'black market' rates as the 'real rates'. Also, CBN should engage and write intellectuals, including those who may be consultants to it or advisers to the Federal Government, about the implications of talking down the naira or valorising the black market. There is indeed a black market for everything, including currencies in every country, only that it is properly treated as illegal, and people approach them with great fear and trepidation and a foreboding sense that anything could happen. These black markets are on the same plane as the dark web and are run by drug lords and men of the underworld. People who go there are such that do not want their transactions traced. Again, Buhari should redeem his image;

CBN should take note of the recent IMF intervention on this matter, especially the concern about financial and real dollarisation and their distortions in the economy. The IMF had advised that "Financial dollarisation-related financial instability would need to be addressed via policy responses such as a central bank forex reserve buildup

and associated regulation." What this means is that the CBN will have to be firm in the area of regulation, as this is the surest way of ensuring a forex reserve buildup. Nigeria is a perfect case study for what the IMF described as hysteresis and bi-monetarism. But we must not allow hysteria to run our economy. From what the IMF explained, financial dollarisation is when transactions are done in local currency but savings in foreign currency (dollar). However, the escape by savers in dollars further reinforces inflation by amplifying external shocks, thus defeating the purpose and leading to a race to the bottom (a vicious cycle and hyperinflation). This happens as people hoard dollars, making dollar/naira rates higher and imports (which is almost everything here) more expensive. The people thus amplify imported inflation. Talk about a snake swallowing itself. We are hurting ourselves in Nigeria and it makes no sense;

CBN must be careful of information asymmetry and compromises from within. It is a fact that every Nigerian who is financially buoyant accesses the easy black market today and the disappearance of that market will mean that we would all technically lose money. But then, we will be losing money in the interest of our country and its long-term survival. The first bitter pill will have to be swallowed by central bankers, for this is the right thing to do. Also, the CBN should educate every Nigerian that having a single rate that clears the market is a myth. Nowhere in the world do we have a single rate. Not even from one BDC to another, or even in the same BDC. The margins should however be thin – not more than 10% of quoted rates (the I&E – Investors and Exporters window being our benchmark now with as much transparency as we can manage);

CBN should raise the PTA limit to \$10,000 BUT only \$2,000 of this should be paid in cash. The rest should be loaded in dollar debit cards. Indeed, I believe we should detach a bit from the fixation with the dollar, and also issue GB pounds and euros to those going to where those currencies are spent. Also, it could peg the family access limit at a maximum of \$30,000, no matter how large, and once a year. Whereas some families can afford to spend more on a simple holiday, now is the time to appeal to everyone's patriotism;

The CBN should also try to meet other Form A (Invisible Trade) transactions and reduce the frustration around import transactions presently experienced by businesses. However, technology should be deployed to curb the many incidences of attempted round-tripping by Nigerians who raise fake import forms;

CBN could also use this opportunity to power the e-Naira and its proposed domestic card. The e-Naira could enable Nigeria's currency to attain a level of compatibility which has been elusive for some time. This will be based on guarantees to the international community by the CBN. The Nigerian card could also serve this purpose, just as the Indian Rupay card, and China's Unionpay is doing. Every country is now taking charge of their own destinies;

If it becomes very difficult to change dollars on the streets and CBN can get the BDCs on its side (I don't see why not), the Bank may incentivise holders of dollar cash to deposit these at the banks and/or change them at a premium to I&E (official) window rates. This way, the CBN may be able to get more dollars to fulfil its burgeoning obligations;

In the alternative, the CBN may consider, in addition to outlawing black market dollar trading, the removal of personal domiciliary account privilege for Nigerians for now. When people 'save' in dollars and people change their salaries into dollars, they are taking a position against the naira and a self-fulfilling prophecy situation occurs – the naira will keep falling;

CBN must be able to cause the revaluation of the naira in the official markets to indicate market direction and move against speculators and currency attackers if the 15 points above can be achieved. We have to be able to show that the naira is not going to hell;

CBN must ensure a focus on the naira and a gradual but certain shift of mindshare of our people from the dollar, such that with the naira we are able to reboot our economy by increasing the velocity of the money supply and for payment of fully local services – like labour; People have speculated that the CBN will not print all the N3.2 trillion it is taking out of circulation and that makes sense. Scarcity of the naira at some point may lead to people changing their dollars back into naira cash, just to live their normal lives, thus strengthening the naira. Scarce naira cash, coupled with the new innovations that the CBN is bringing up (such as the naira domestic card) will also lead to better adoption of e-banking. In the UK, for years now, a third party cannot pay cash into any account. In most countries they have since gone contactless;

The CBN must assure the markets that it is impossible for people to walk to the Central Bank, obtain \$10 million and swap it to get a huge premium, the way former Emir Sanusi has been repeatedly claiming. Or is it?;

The CBN must avoid the dilemma between sector deregulations (downstream petroleum, for example), and unilateral devaluation of the naira (often arbitrary and baseless but being pushed by several powerful individuals and interests, locally and internationally). The devaluation of 2016/17 undid the deregulation of the petroleum sector by the Buhari administration and left us with spiking inflation and an eroded standard of living, while the deregulation still remains a problem. In other words, the CBN should try not to devalue the currency for now;

Public officials, especially those whose opinions can sway the markets heavily, should be made to understand that the markets are watching what they say. They are better off keeping their opinions to themselves. The public should also be educated that their country's currency is their representation, and we should stop working to destroy the currency. Thatcher reechoed Stalin when she said that 'To destroy a country, first debauch its currency'. Why are Nigerians today debauching their own currency?;

Further misconceptions that we must get rid of include the idea that a currency's value is SOLELY determined by its productivity. No. If that was true, then the British pounds should trade at around £30 to £50 to \$1, after all the US economy is much bigger, the population is larger and the goods and services produced in the US are more sophisticated and science-based. Even the UK is losing bright people to the US in every field – even to China these days. So why is the pound trading at £1/\$1.19?;

The CBN may wish to have a rethink about the ubiquity of personal DOMICILIARY accounts in Nigeria. At the end of the day, it is a policy and a privilege for Nigerians to hold DOM accounts of any type. The CBN reserves the right to cool out the policy from time to time if it believes it has become an avenue for the siphoning of its reserves. This is a touchy policy, so the CBN can offer Nigerians a premium of up to N100 to sell dollars officially into its position. If the black market is no longer available on the streets, people will take that option and avoid the trouble of arrest or fraud.

BUSINESS WORLD

Agric, ICT boost GDP to 2.25% in Q3 – NBS

INFORMATION and Communication Technology (ICT) and agriculture are among the key sectors that boosted the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Nigeria by 2.25 per cent in the third quarter of 2022.

According to a report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released on Thursday, oil revenue dropped to 4.2% as production also dropped averagely to 1.2 million barrels per day. This means the economy is steadily relying on the non-oil sector, which contributed 94.34%.

Recall that the Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Clem Agba, had said the Nigerian economy now runs on revenue from the non-oil sector as oil no longer contributes to the government's coffers.

But the oil production drop indicated that despite the discovery of illegal pipelines and the signing of a security contract with a former militant leader, Government Oweizide Ekpemupolo, alias Tompolo, the country is yet to meet its OPEC quota.

Meanwhile, NBS has said the GDP was a drop from



Mustapha 4.03% in the third quarter of 2021.

It blamed the slow growth on the recession and the challenging economic conditions that have hindered productive activities.

"The Q3 2022 growth rate decreased by 1.78 per cent points from the 4.03% growth rate recorded in Q3 2021 and decreased by 1.29% points relative to 3.54% in Q2 2022," it said. It however said the real GDP grew at 9.68 per cent when compared to the second quarter of 2022, "Reflecting a

higher economic activity in Q3 2022 than the preceding quarter.

"In the quarter under review, aggregate GDP stood at N52,255,809.62 in nominal terms. This performance is higher when compared to the third quarter of 2021 which recorded aggregate GDP of N45,113,448.06, indicating a year-on-year nominal growth rate of 15.83 per cent."

It added that agriculture contributed 29.67 per cent in real terms with crop production the major driver of the sector, while industries contributed 18.37 per cent and services 51.96 per cent.

THE Central Bank of Nigeria is targeting 95 per cent financial inclusion by 2024.

In line with that, the Federal Government has launched five strategic policy reports with a view to actualising the target.

Meanwhile, the CBN has disbursed N1.07tn to farmers under the Anchor Borrowers Programme. This was disclosed by the bank's communiqué no 145 released after its recent Monetary Policy Committee meeting in Abuja.

The reports launched at the ongoing International Financial Inclusion Conference in Abuja on Thursday were: Revised National Financial Inclusion Strategy; National Strategy for Leveraging Agent Networks for Women's Financial Inclusion; National Fintech Strategy and Nigeria Financial Services Maps (NFSMaps); and Payment System Vision 2025.

Nigeria's President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd), said at the event that his administration understood the impact of financial inclusion on economic growth and development, having provided the enabling policy environment to achieve the expected results.

Buhari, who was represented by the Federal Capital Territory Minister, Mohammed Bello, said: "For instance, in 2019, I launched the Micro Pension policy which was aimed at deepening pension penetration amongst M.S.M.E.s and the informal economy. We also

CBN disburses N1tn to anchor borrowers programme

initiated policies for Micro-Insurance and Collective Investment. These initiatives are geared toward providing access to a wide range of financial products and services to the underserved in line with our National Financial Inclusion objective."

The President said financial inclusion stakeholders had been in the forefront of providing innovative solutions for addressing some of the pressing issues facing the country. He noted that in order to increase financial services access points in underserved locations in the country, the Central Bank of Nigeria had issued the Payment Service Bank regulatory framework.

He said through the Shared Agent Network Expansion Facility (SANEF), the number of agent banking locations in the country had moved from 86,000 in 2018 to over 1.4 million in 2022. He further said that the launch of the eNaira in October 2021 had not just put Nigeria on the global map but also provided it with the currency for the digital economy.

At the financial inclusion conference, the CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele, said that in 2008, 52.2 per cent of Nigerian adults were financially excluded, but this had reduced to 35.9 per cent by 2020.

Emefiele further said that while the number remained high when considered in absolute terms, it was a huge improvement when

compared to the country's position in 2008.

"This change did not happen by accident but resulted from the decisive and concerted approach by National Financial Inclusion stakeholders to address key pain points and bottlenecks that were deterring financial inclusion," he said.

He disclosed that from 2012 to date, over 59 policies and initiatives had been implemented by stakeholders to achieve the objective of financial inclusion, noting that the policies and initiatives cut across sectors such as banking, insurance, capital market, pension sector and institutions responsible for infrastructural development for financial inclusion.

"From 2015 to date, over 4 million small-holder farmers cutting across all states in the country were provided concessionary credit facilities. While this has boosted the economic fortunes of these farmers it also improved national food output, prevented food insecurity and created over 2 million jobs in the process."

The CBN's Deputy Governor, Aisha Ahmad, who headed the organising committee of the conference, said Nigeria was at a tipping point in terms of financial inclusion. She said financial inclusion had reached 64.1 per cent today from 53.7 per cent in 2011, noting that the country had made progress in this area.

Inflation hits bottled water producers, as price soar

THE Association of Table Water Producers of Nigeria has announced plans to shut down operations, and hike prices of sachet and bottled water due to the high cost of production and raw materials.

It noted that the temporary closure would enable operators to clean the system and change some production lines before the commencement of the new price.

The Federal Capital Territory Chairman, Mohammed Akwuh, stated this in Abuja, at a two-day capacity building for members, tagged "Quality product, sustainability and climate change in an unstable economy."

According to him, ATWAP has encountered so many challenges in the course of

production, adding that the issue of a power outage has been one of the major challenges faced by producers.

He added that the outcome of our sales goes on the economy of the country.

"The increase is long overdue. We are truly looking into that for an increase and Nigerians should expect that.

"After this training, we are going to shut down for a while so that we can actually clean the system and change some production lines before the increase.

"We will give every consumer value for their money. There is a need for an increment because of production cost and sources of raw materials."

The National President, Clementina Atvie, said the training will provide a

sustainable solution to the challenges the association has been facing and also bring its members into full compliance with the regulatory agencies' requirements and global best practices.

"Inflation is what is killing 99 per cent of water producers. A lot of our factories are shut. Many of our members cannot cope. That is why we are asking the federal government to come to our aid," she said.

She disclosed that ATWAP had declared war against quacks and unregistered members, adding that those caught had to be reported to the Standard Organisation of Nigeria, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, for prosecution.

"Anybody that starts production today, whether registered with NAFDAC or not we know because our drivers sell water and bring it into the environment.

Speaking on the importance of the training, Atvie said that the training was organised to teach members how to produce quality water and to make sure that most production waste which is not biodegradable turned into another kind of wealth.

"Based on that, ATWAP came up with a self-regulation policy and training to make our people aware and get used to means of giving Nigerians potable water. "We are going to do it in all the 36 states and that is what we have started today. We are training our members not only on how to produce quality and wholesome water, we are also training them on

the cost to eliminate quacks.

She added, "99% of our members do not even know the cost of our production. So, when you make them know that, they will now put the best pricing affordably and make us to still remain in business because water is life. Again, with the way things are going, you can see climate change.

"To mitigate environmental problems, we have also decided to use this training to teach our members the roles they are supposed to play in our environment by making sure that most of our production waste which is not biodegradable turned into another kind of wealth that can be used to enhance our environment."

Nigeria's Q3 economic growth slows to 2.25%

NIGERIA'S economy grew by 2.25 per cent in real terms in the third quarter of 2022, the National Bureau of Statistics has said.

The Gross Domestic Product, which measures the size of the economy, expanded at a slower rate than in the third quarter of 2021, the NBS said Thursday.

The NBS said this growth rate declined from 4.03 per cent in the third quarter of 2021.

According to the bureau, the reduction in growth is attributable to the effects of the 2020 recession and the challenging economic conditions that have impeded productive activities.

"The Q3 2022 growth rate decreased by 1.78 per cent points from the 4.03 per cent growth rate recorded in Q3



Emefiele



Ahmed

2021 and decreased by 1.29 per cent points relative to 3.54 per cent in Q2 2022," the report said.

However, the bureau said compared quarter-on-quarter, real GDP grew at 9.68 per cent in Q3 2022, reflecting a higher economic activity in Q3 2022 than the preceding quarter.

The report said the real growth of the oil sector declined 22.67 per cent (year-on-year) in Q3 2022 indicating a decrease of 11.94 percentage points relative to the rate recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2021.

It said growth also decreased by 10.91 per cent points when compared to Q2 2022 which was -11.77 per cent.

The non-oil sector grew by 4.27 per cent in real terms.

This rate, the NBS said, was lower by 1.18 per cent points

compared to the rate recorded in the same quarter of 2021 and 0.50 per cent points lower than the second quarter of 2022.

This was driven mainly by Information and Communication (Telecommunication), Trade, Transportation (Road Transport),

Financial and Insurance (Financial Institutions), Agriculture (Crop Production) and Real Estate, accounting for positive GDP growth.

"In real terms, the non-oil non-Oil sector contributed 94.34 per cent to the nation's GDP in the third quarter of 2022, higher than the share recorded in the third quarter of 2021 which was 92.51 per cent and higher than the second quarter of 2022 recorded as 93.67 per cent," it said.

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE ATTSAR

Entrepreneurship and Nigeria's sustained growth quest

Entrepreneurship is the the activity of setting up a business or businesses and taking up the associated financial risks in the hope of a profit. It's sometimes driven by pursuit of individual intuitiveness, talent and deliberate efforts in learning. But mostly, it is started small and nursed through stages, to become Small and Medium Enterprise, possibly, a large entity at last. CHIJIJOKE



HOWEVER, Professor Stephen Ocheni said Nigeria had a potential of becoming one of the major players of global economy but it could not attain this height before now, except for neglect of a core segment of the economy- entrepreneurship and over-dependence on oil. He made the assertion while presenting the Lead Paper, titled: "Entrepreneurship Education for Sustainable National Development", at the 2019 yearly National Conference and Home-Coming of the Institute of Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) on Wednesday.

Ocheni, who received an Award of Excellence on Academic and Human Development as a Distinguished Alumnus of the university, having graduated with a doctorate degree in Financial Management, reinstated his firm believe in entrepreneurship as panacea to ongoing economic issues.

The former Minister of State for Labour and Employment, lamented that the economy had been import-dependent and un-diversified, saying that the conference was meant to address the next step toward economic recovery with entrepreneurship education as one of the strategies for achieving sustainable economic development.

Economists and financial analysts have maintained that the major obstacle to economic growth of poor nations is lack of educated entrepreneurs, who are able to mobilise and coordinate production inputs.

In Nigeria, it is a risk for

financial institutions that are able to give loan to do so, when viable businesses are classified bad due assessed lack of managerial experience. To them, such loan advance is as good as "throwing money away." Of course, notable among the challenges of entrepreneurs in Nigeria are inadequate financial resources for start-ups, expansion, irregular power supply, lack of unity and mutual trust among Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and poor product developments.

In many cases, there is complete absence of books of accounts, engagement of unskilled and cheap labour and inadequate infrastructure leading to very high production/operational costs. There is also lack of patronage of their products by government agencies, use of obsolete technology for processing, lack of succession plan, inaccessibility to international markets and competition with cheaper imported products. Ocheni said it has been established that despite the critical role of entrepreneurs in the economic development of a nation, African countries are yet to fully develop strategies to tap the inherent resource endowment, leading to backwardness.

The professor of Public Sector Accounting, therefore, called on the Federal Government to consider the establishment of an Entrepreneurship University that would focus mainly on research and development, as well as literacy training of entrepreneurs, extendedly an

introduction of a Bachelor's Degree programme in Entrepreneurship Development for all universities.

"Equally, the curricula of existing polytechnics should be restructured to promote entrepreneurship education and the production of skilled manpower in line with their traditional roles." Potential entrepreneurs among students can be found in all disciplines and not limited to the economics or business students alone. Since these talents can be found in all disciplines, it becomes imperative that appropriate curricula should be developed to accommodate all," Ocheni said.

As a strategy for evolving homegrown solutions to challenges, it has long been suggested that tertiary institutions in the country be modeled in form of hands-on, such that graduates are equipped for what they can do for themselves, as opposed to the current "job hunt" after school. But with the will, the National Universities Commission (NUC) can as a matter of policy, enforce the teaching of basic entrepreneurial courses in all universities as a compulsory course.

He said that in the areas of instructional facilities and qualified lecturers/technicians/instructors, universities were advised to collaborate with the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) which had sufficient manpower in vocational training. "NUC should, specifically, develop appropriate benchmarks for assessing the

standard of entrepreneurial education programmes offered in Nigerian universities. "The National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) should do same for polytechnics and technical colleges with equipped technical laboratories," he said.

The Keynote Presenter, Prof. Ismail Junaidu, who is also the Executive Secretary of Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), noted that countries that deliberately invested in entrepreneurial education tend to demonstrate a higher regime of sound economic and technological development.

"It was recommended that for us to tap into the opportunities available in entrepreneurship, we must inculcate the elements of entrepreneurship into teachers' education programmes to enable the them deliver lessons capable of unleashing the creative ingenuities in the learners and make our youths the hub for development and progress," he said. The Director of the Institute of Education, UNN, Prof. Kay Onyechi, said that attention to entrepreneurship would create room for youth employment and sustainable economic development.

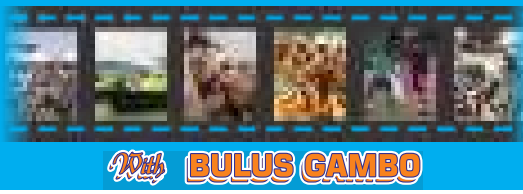
Noting that the conference was in fulfilment of the statutory vision of the founding fathers and mandate of the institute to provide world-class education, she said the event was a clear testimony that the institute is rising to the socio-economic challenges facing the nation. President Muhammadu Buhari had introduced the Economic Recovery Growth Plan (ERGP) to address three major areas- accelerate growth, investment in human development and building a globally competitive economy. These were to address the country's challenges and lay the

foundation for economic diversification, inclusiveness and sustainable growth.

Ocheni commended Buhari for demonstrating the political will and determination to reduce unemployment rate among the youth through job creation and skills acquisition training of the National Directorate of Employment, Social Investment Programme and other policies. But to promote entrepreneurship, he recommended that friendly bank interest rates should be applied on loans to entrepreneurs and be encouraged to open business bank accounts distinct from personal/family accounts, a simple condition for advancing loan to an applicant which many could not satisfy.

He said it is time to invest more in the provision of infrastructure facilities, which is the base of any thriving entrepreneur, as easy access to a reliable and quality infrastructure increases productivity and efficiency, lowers the market costs, increases access to available markets and sustainable growth.

"Government should avoid tougher business regulations, which discourage business take-off, but rather a simplified business regulation required to unleash the entrepreneurship potential of a nation." Keep tax rate at a reasonable level for small and medium sized enterprises which contribute more significantly to job creation and economic growth than they do to tax revenue," he added.



My life has been a miracle

- Evangelist Lucky

Continued from page 18

Plateau State.

How did you ventured into music?

As you know, I am a stammer and would not have been into music. But this music has helped stabilized me. God gave me an assignment and had to take care of this problem. So, Jesus chose me to be a messenger.

Lots of gospel musicians have cried loud due to lack of support, what do you think has been the problem?

To say the truth, I did not also find it easy. It was very difficult for me when I started but with God; all things are possible. We have many people who can help upcoming musicians but have not done so which is very discouraging.

I follow my programmes with much passion and don't wait for such kind of support which most times don't come to fruition.

When God gives an assignment, He provides. Many of our elders don't support us but if it is a social gathering, you see them there. I have been struggling on my own and not relying on such support which does not come.

How have you been able to combine music and evangelism?

God has always been there for us. Sometimes you sing and then minister to people. So the combination has been good for me. We thank God.

Tell us a bit about this your two albums dedication please?

As I said, I will be releasing two albums. Many musicians will be coming for the show. The Mupun culture will be there mind you I am Mupun. The Afizere will also be there amongst many others. I will also share some items with the vulnerable



w o
m e
n

We have many who have experiences these senseless attacks in the state and we must make life better for these kinds of people. There will be music and assistance for the widows. It is going to be good.

Can you tell me a bit about yourself?

My name is Evangelist James David Lucky, a Gospel Artist and Audio and Video Producer on the Plateau. I want to thank God for all He has done in my life especially for the promotion and where He has taken me to in my career. I want to also appreciate God for my wife and how she has been supporting me.

It may interest you to know that I had worked with a security organization in the past. However, I had an accident which no one expected that I would survive. I retired subsequently based on medical grounds. I remain grateful to God for seeing me through this ordeal and I subsequently understood that my retirement was further transformed by God to open corridors of success in music to the glory of our Lord and savior. Everything about my success has been a miracle.

Female celebrities who suffered leaked tape scandal

Continued from page 18

Kim Kardashian



Kim Kardashian became more popular after the recorded tape was revealed in 2007. It was said that the tape was recorded in 2002. Kim Kardashian is a renowned American media personality, businesswoman, model, actress, and socialite. At first, it was not easy for the American celebrity, however, she was able to scale through.

Jane Mena

Jane Mena is a well-known Nigerian dancer. The alleged tape of Jane Mena circulated online and became the talk-about of many social media users.

Maryam Booth



Maryam Booth is a famous Nigerian actress who acts in both Kannywood and Nollywood movies. In 2020, the news of this actress trended online. She suffered a leaked tape saga. Maryam accused her former lover, Ibrahim Rufai, popularly known as Deezell, of leaking the video. Fortunately, the actress was also able to scale through.

Paige

Paige, a female wrestler also suffered from depression after her tape was leaked and she struggled with injury. It was said that an unknown person stole the tape from her tape.

Source: premiumtimesng.com

Change of Name

POLIT	EKEH	CHUNG	MANGZIK	IBRAHIM	GARBA
I, formerly known as GOKAT SAMSON , now wish to be known and addressed as POLIT SAMSON GOKAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EKEH OBIANUJU , now wish to be known and addressed as EKEH OBIANUJU ELIZABETH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MANJEI RACHEAL JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as CHUNG RACHEAL GYANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BENITA MESHAK , now wish to be known and addressed as MANGZIK RINRET MESHAK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as HUSSAN IBRAHIM , now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM HUSANNI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOHN A HANNATU , now wish to be known and addressed as GARBA HANNATU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
YILYEL	EMMANUEL	ASABE	JOHN	HAJARA	LEKLAT
I, formerly known as YILYEL DAPAI , now wish to be known and addressed as YILYEL DAPAI MANGTAI . Correct date of birth is 05/04/1991 not 10/02/1981. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as IMMANUEL RAUTA , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL RAUTA . 01/01/1992 not 04/02/1991. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AGYLE PROGRAMME , now wish to be known and addressed as ASABE MAMMAN . Correct date of birth is 25/12/1968. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOHN BLESS , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN BLESSING KWIDOM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as HAJARA SULEIMAN , now wish to be known and addressed as HAJARA HARUNA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GOEWAM JESSICA LEKKAT , now wish to be known and addressed as LEKLAT JESSICA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
IBRAHIM	ADA	ANAS	KING	YOHANNA	JACOB
I, formerly known as IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD SAIDU , now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM IBRAHIM SAIDU . Correct date of birth is 01/07/1987 not 02/04/1983. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as CATHERINE CHRISTOPHER , now wish to be known and addressed as ADA GRACE AMEH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ANAS USMAN ALIYU , now wish to be known and addressed as ANAS ALI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KING LUKA , now wish to be known and addressed as KING LUKA DAWAP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SAMUEL CHUNG NUHU , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA ALBERT CHUNG . Correct date of birth is 01/01/2001 not 03/03/1993. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JACOB JOB PANKISS , now wish to be known and addressed as JACOB PANKYES DAVWED . Correct date of birth is 07/07/1977 not 07/07/1976. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
HASSAN	KEREN	DANLADI	JACOB	KAZAH,	NIMMAK
I, formerly known as CIRMAK WUYEP TYEM , now wish to be known and addressed as HASSAN WUYEP LAKLE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KEREN DAGAT DACHUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as KEREN SIMI DACHUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DUWA SHADRACH DANLADI , now wish to be known and addressed as DANLADI DYENAN SHADRACH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SAMUEL JACOB , now wish to be known and addressed as JACOB SAMUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KAZAH VINCENT , now wish to be known and addressed as KAZAH VINCENT RAPHAEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as NIMMAK NANSUR , now wish to be known and addressed as NIMMAK NANSUP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ASHIRU	AJANG	SATI	BAWA	MRS. ENDURANCE	EZEKIEL
I, formerly known as JAMILU HASHIRU , now wish to be known and addressed as ASHIRU JAMILA AMINU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AJANG CHRISTOPHER , now wish to be known and addressed as AJANG CHRISTOPHER ITSE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SATI RAYMONG DANOK , now wish to be known and addressed as SATI PETER RAYMOND . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BAWA JEROME PAUL , now wish to be known and addressed as BAWA PAUL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MISS. USMAN HADIZA HASSAN , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ENDURANCE ABEDNEDO AGBANDANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EZEKIEL JAMES OLAWALE , now wish to be known and addressed as EZEKIEL JAMES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
PATIENCE	FA'IZA	ABWO	OLORUNSHOLA	DANJUMA	BURGET
I, formerly known as PATIENCE YAKUBU BULUS , now wish to be known and addressed as PATIENCE EMMANUEL CHUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AI'NAU ARMIYAU , now wish to be known and addressed as FA'IZA KWAMANDA MUHAMMAD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOCK JOAN AMOS , now wish to be known and addressed as ABWO JOAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as OLORUNSHOLA VINCENT OLUWAROTIMI , now wish to be known and addressed as OLORUNSHOLA VINCENT SUNDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ANAGPNAM DANJUMA , now wish to be known and addressed as DANJUMA MANTEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ISHAYA LAITU DILOS ISAAC , now wish to be known and addressed as BURGET LAITU ISAAC . Correct date of birth is 11/11/1986 not 11/10/1982. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
MAISAMARI	TAPSUT	DADUGHUN	DUWA	ZAM	GODIYA
I, formerly known as MAISAMARI HELEN LADI , now wish to be known and addressed as MAISAMARI HELEN YUSUF . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAKWANG BENMUN JOEL , now wish to be known and addressed as TAPSUT BENMUN JOEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DADUGHUN ESTHER NAVIN , now wish to be known and addressed as DADUGHUN NARIN-ESTHER SAURAYI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ISTIFANUS NASHUKA CECILIA , now wish to be known and addressed as DUWA NASHUKA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ZAM IBRAHIM EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as ZAM IBRAHIM HARUNA . Correct date of birth is 02/01/2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as FAVOUR YILLENG , now wish to be known and addressed as GODIYA FAVOUR YILLENG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
LANGKOP	JONATHAN	BEATRICE	DAUDA	ADEDIRAN	HOLY
I, formerly known as DINGKOP DALWUS LANGKOP , now wish to be known and addressed as LANGKOP AMOS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DIMAS SALAMA CLETUS , now wish to be known and addressed as JONATHAN PEACE MONDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BEATRICE JOSEPH , now wish to be known and addressed as BEATRICE KURIA DAUDA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAUDA MANJI , now wish to be known and addressed as DAUDA MANJI ISRAEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as OYETEJU OYEDEJI , now wish to be known and addressed as ADEDIRAN OYETEJI ADERONKE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GABRIEL NANFAR MAKAMA , now wish to be known and addressed as HOLY GABRIEL NANFAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
NASIRU	ADAMU	LUKA	NENFWOTMWA	AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!	
I, formerly known as NASIR ALAMIN IBRAHIM , now wish to be known and addressed as NASIRU ALAMIN IBRAHIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ALIYU ALI ADAMU , now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMU ALIYU MADOR . Correct date of birth is 12/07/1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as LUKA LARBA , now wish to be known and addressed as LUKA LARABA PAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as NENFWOTMWA SIMON MAFWALAL , now wish to be known and addressed as NENFWOTMWA GOYOL MAFWALAL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<p style="text-align: center;">The Nigeria Police Force, Divisional Headquarters Riyom, Plateau State Command, Jos.</p> <p>This is to notified the general public that the following unclaimed items/Exhibits are due for Auction sales. Therefore any one with proof of ownership should come forward to claimed his/her property before the expiration of this notice.</p> <p>The Items are as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scrapped Toyota Camry Chassis No. 4T1BE32K554392178 Scrapped Toyota Camry Chassis No. 4T1B922KBVU090352 Scrapped Jinchang Motorcycle <p style="text-align: center;">SIGNED A.Y. Zali Nig Enterprises AUCTIONEER</p>	
NAYEN	ANWA	ADAMU	MOMI		
I, formerly known as CHINLENG NANAYEN ASABAR , now wish to be known and addressed as NAYEN DAFLOK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ANWA LINUS DANIANG , now wish to be known and addressed as ANWA DASHE DOEGAP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ADAMU NEEDIKE 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 MOMI AUWALU , now wish to be known and addressed as MOMI ADAMU . My correct phone No is 09067598852 not 08072331276. All former documents remain valid. Union Bank and general public to please take note.		

SUNDAY FEATURE

Impact of ASUU strikes on students

Nothing can be more shocking than learning that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has embarked on not less than 16 industrial actions between 1999 and 2022.

For those who may not know, a major factor triggering our university lecturers to be laying down their tools, intermittently, is the failure of the government to fulfill an agreement it once entered with the academic union.

Another factor is the failure of the lecturers to reinvent themselves and face current realities, and find fresh ways of resolving their incessant disputes with the government.

Each time the ASUU strike rears its ugly head, one is forced to conclude that both the government and our lecturers lack empathy for us the students. Better put, they don't have our interest at heart.

The recurrence of ASUU strike has numerous negative impacts on us, something the government and ASUU don't consider when they fail to come to an agreement. We lost a whole session to this same madness two years ago. The same thing is already happening now, with the ongoing strike.

Since an idle mind, as they say, is the devil's workshop, it goes without saying that idle students, forced to remain at home by the ongoing ASUU strike, can be instigated to joining criminal activities such as cyber crime, kidnapping, armed robbery and the likes of it.

It is however good to note that during ASUU strikes, some students devote their time to relevant learn vocational skills. And learning a skill is crucial especially now that there is no hope in securing a sustainable job after graduation. However, a skill is just a bonus to getting quality education.

According to Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." If the strike persists and if future strike actions are not averted, there is every possibility that more students

Nothing can be more shocking than learning that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has embarked on not less than 16 industrial actions between 1999 and 2022. For those who may not know, a major factor triggering our university lecturers to be laying down their tools, intermittently, is the failure of the government to fulfill an agreement it once entered with the academic union. RASHEEDAT SHUAIB writes.



when will universities open for students to resume?

will lose interest in higher education.

Sadly, too, some young ladies have been forced into early and unprepared marriage by their parents during this course of this painful strike. It is not all parents that will agree to let ASUU waste their children's youthful age. That is why they won't mind marrying off their daughters, as the needless industrial action festers.

Meanwhile, what the lecturers' union demand from the government is for it to honour its own promises made in 2009 for improved funding of the university system and working condition of the lecturers.

Though the government has now devised means of strategically disowning the 2009 agreement signed between its representatives and ASUU, it should be reminded that government is an institution and not persons. Change of administration should not be an excuse to renege on binding commitments made by the government especially

that relating to a critical sector like education.

Underfunding of the education sector, over the years, has had collateral effect on country. Our universities, hitherto exemplary centres of excellence that attracted academics from far and near, have now become grotesque carcasses of their former selves.

In a shameful development, Nigerians from lower and upper classes fall over themselves to leave the shores of the country for studies. A report released last year put the figure of what Nigeria lost to overseas studies at N1.5 trillion per annum. It could be higher.

Embarrassingly, countries like Ghana, Uganda, Togo, et cetera - that were hitherto considered far below ours in all respect, have now turned to our preferred destinations. Ghana alone is estimated to be benefitting from about N160 billion from hundreds of Nigerians trooping there to pursue university education.

While those who should act to better the system of

education send their children to choose universities around the world, the result at home is a further nose-diving of what remains of quality in the universities. Last year, a committee headed by erstwhile Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, which conducted a need assessment of universities, came up with a report that unearthed the odious rot in the system.

The report, which was commissioned by the government itself, bared it all on the appalling condition of the universities both in human and infrastructural terms. While the teacher-student ratio stands on the average at the embarrassing figure of 1:100, basic teaching tools in laboratories, workshops and libraries were discovered to be either grossly inadequate or nonexistent.

In most, if not all, the universities, students have no adequate boarding facilities while some defecate in the open, due to absence or inadequacy of toilet facilities. These same students, according to the report, take lectures in jam-packed lecture halls and theatres.

The consequence of this criminal neglect of the education system is the soaring number of half-baked graduates coming out from these institutions. Though the teachers could not be absolved of blame in this, it is however fair to expect a good

result when the condition for good performance is set.

Under the decrepit condition of our university system today, expecting well-refined graduates to come out of it is like sowing a maize seedling and expect to harvest wheat.

This round of strike is another sad reminder of how successive governments have relegated education to the lowest rung of its ladder, to the detriment of the much desired human capital development for the country.

While money is being spent on frivolous and self-satisfying ventures that would have no benefit to the average citizen, education is being left to suffer with only occasional handouts in the name of budget, which is also rarely implemented to the latter. The lecturers cannot be spared of blame earlier. Patriotism is not supposed to be reserved for government officials alone. What level of sacrifices are they willing to make to resolve the ongoing impasse? How reasonable are the demands they are making now in the face of current economic realities and the fact that having shut the schools for six months, it is debatable if they are deserving of salaries for the period they have not been working. Both ASUU and the Federal Government must stop this childish bickering and consider our plight. Our lives must matter. Our future matters. Our aspirations matter.

"Sadly, too, some young ladies have been forced into early and unprepared marriage by their parents during this course of this painful strike. It is not all parents that will agree to let ASUU waste their children's youthful age. That is why they won't mind marrying off their daughters, as the needless industrial action festers."

SUNDAY FEATURE

The way forward on Nigeria's healthcare delivery

In a civilized climate, this wouldn't stir interest but in Nigeria where public officeholders largely manifest adversely in contrast to public interest, it should. Recently, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo underwent a leg surgery in a hospital in home-country. It was a departure from the flawed status quo. Over the years, at any slight ailment, people in authority fly abroad with public funds which chiefly accounts why healthcare centres are left in decay. Osinbajo literally displayed leadership acumen, *CARL UMEGBORO - Writes*

THE message is simple – a prudent leader can't live foreign, abandoning the led to their fate in home facilities. The action is a template that must be sustained for a turnaround. Government is about the people. This accounts why Section 14 (2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, explicitly provides; "It is hereby, accordingly declared that (b) ... the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government."

The nation's leader, Muhammadu Buhari is more or less a foreigner as far as healthcare is concerned. In fact, the bills on his medical trips to London, crews alongside the aircrafts aggregately should fix a world-class clinic at the State House for government officials and critical issues. At a point, the first lady, Aisha Buhari on 9th October, 2017, by mission or omission raised an alarm over the deplorable condition of the State House Clinic. But after that, what changed? To shuttle a foreign land for healthcare, from inauguration to the end, and presently on countdown to handover after an aggregate eight years in office is an anomaly.

Also, by writing-off preceding administrations, it was justifiable to begin with overseas healthcare after inauguration, but unacceptable to sustain it to the end. Nonetheless, for severe cases, foreign healthcare is expedient.

The health sector critically suffers the same neglect as the education sector; most public officeholders abandon home institutions. Even jamborees overseas too. Recently, the Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike cheerily posted snapshots while on vacation with his Abia State counterpart, Okezie Ikpeazu in Turkey, France amid sundry crises including ASUU strike, which has grounded all federal universities in the country leaving students wondering about. Wike also posed at his son's overseas convocation when students are helplessly at home.

Obviously, public officeholders are largely, grossly insensitive, manifestly do not grasp the term 'leadership', else, their healthcare, education, jollity overseas alongside family members will be rare.

Back to healthcare, the government must pay compelling attention to the healthcare sector for a strong and healthy nation which contributes to the gross domestic product (GDP). For emphasis, healthcare includes breastfeeding on account of its sundry and compelling health benefits. Thus, to promote compulsory breastfeeding, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared 1-7 August annually as the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) for awareness and advocacy.

During a field trip to Lagos state



The Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH)

recently, a report by Mrs. Olubunmi Braheem, State Nutrition Officer, Ministry of Health suggests the 2022 – WBW in the state was impactful. From the intensive advocacy for exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) practices, the state reportedly launched breastfeeding toolkits for creation of breastfeeding spaces in workplaces, outlined activities to support nursing mothers, and advanced it with a symposium – focusing on healthcare actors and community actors.

At the Health Centre in Egbe-Idimu LCDA, the claims were arguably buoyed. Ditto at three other Health centres shuttled. However, outside those health centres, the grassroots obviously need vigorous sensitization. So, beyond the WBW activities, the challenge is sustainability of the promotion alongside plan implementation to meet the target. It is therefore expected that there should be success stories during the coming year's WBW for evaluation. Patently, the state 'talks the talk' in a joint statement by UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell and WHO Director-General, Tedros Ghebreyesus on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week – 2022 but remains to be seen if it 'walks the walk'. Thus, time will tell. The joint statement

emphasized;

"As global crises continue to threaten the health and nutrition of millions of babies and children, just for protecting our planet as the vital importance of the ultimate natural, breastfeeding as the best possible sustainable, first food system, start in life is more critical than ever. This World Breastfeeding and development of millions of Week, under its theme – Step up infants".

It laments that fewer than half of all newborn babies are breastfed in the first hour of life, increased resources to protect, leaving them more vulnerable to disease and death. And only 44% of infants are exclusively breastfed in the first 6 months of life, short of the World Health Assembly target of 50% by 2025, and to equip health and nutrition workers in facilities and communities with the skills they need to provide quality counselling and practical support to mothers to successfully breastfeed. Added to these by the two global health bodies is protecting them from common childhood illnesses. And

protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding is more important than ever, not just for protecting our planet as the ultimate natural, sustainable, first food system, but also for the survival, growth and development of millions of infants".

And

health-care workers from the unethical marketing influence of the formula industry by fully adopting and implementing the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes, including in humanitarian settings; and implement family-friendly policies that provide mothers with the time, space and support they need to breastfeed are likewise requisite.

These horrid trends alongside needed interventions necessitated the duo (UNICEF and WHO) crying out, demanding from governments, donors, civil society and the private sector to step up efforts to prioritize investing in breastfeeding support policies and programmes, especially in fragile and food insecure contexts. This outcry is noble and deserves attention. Thus, synergy had better gather momentum in public interests as proper development of infants is essential.

Back to healthcare, the government must pay compelling attention to the healthcare sector for a strong and healthy nation which contributes to the gross domestic product (GDP). For emphasis, healthcare includes breast feeding on account of its sundry and compelling health benefits. Thus, to promote compulsory breast feeding, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared 1-7 August annually as the World Breast feeding Week (WBW) for awareness and advocacy."



Government of Plateau State

Ministry of Health Headquarters

VACANCY

Internal and External Advertisement

Applications are invited from interested and suitable qualified candidates for the position of Executive Secretary Drug and Commodity Management Agency Plateau State.

A. JOB DESCRIPTION

- To coordinate the day to day operations of the Agency
- To ensure efficient and effective use of resources to promote growth of the organization
- To ensure adherence to the operational guidelines at all levels
- To establish protocol agreements with different partners or stakeholders.
- To ensure the implementation of the policy of the Governing Board.
- To carry out any other assignment as may be directed by the Governor, Governing Board and State Drug Revolving Fund (DRF) Committee.

Appointment to the position of Executive Secretary is by tenure of four (4) years at the first instance and renewable thereafter for another period of four (4) years subject to satisfactory performance and no more.

B. REQUIREMENTS

- Candidates must be of proven integrity and possess sound managerial skills.
- He/she must be a pharmacist registered with the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria having not less than 15 years cognate experience including in Health Commodities, Health Supply Chain Management.
- He/she must not be below the rank of a Director in the State Civil Service or an Assistant Director in the Federal Civil Service or a similar position in private or development setting.
- He/she must possess an advance degree in Management, Supply Chain Management, Public Health as International Development, Project Management or relevant field is an added advantage.
- Minimum of five (5) years relevant work experience in a similar organization, at the State, National or International level with at least three

(3) years in Policy Planning and Partners Development is also an added advantage

- Expertise in research, communication, policy analysis, diplomacy, advocacy and resource mobilization is desirable.
- He/she also must develop ability to work with minimum supervision in a complex and diverse environment.
- He/she must possess computer skills, excellent in interpersonal skills, proficiency in English.

C. REMUNERATION

The salary is consolidated and benefits are as obtainable in the Plateau State Civil Service.

D. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applicants are to attach to their applications fifteen (15) copies of Curriculum Vitae (CV) giving details in the following order.

- Full names with surnames underlined
- Date and place of birth
- Nationality
- State of origin/Local Government Area
- Marital Status/Number and Age of children
- Current postal addresses including telephone number and email address
- Educational institutions attended with dates.
- Academic/Professional qualifications with dates
- Names and address of three (3) referees who shall forward confidential reports on the candidates directly to the office of the Permanent Secretary
- Applications are to be forwarded to the office of the Permanent Secretary not later than two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.

NOTE:

Only qualified candidates shall be shortlisted for interview and must come along with original of all credentials on the date of the interview.

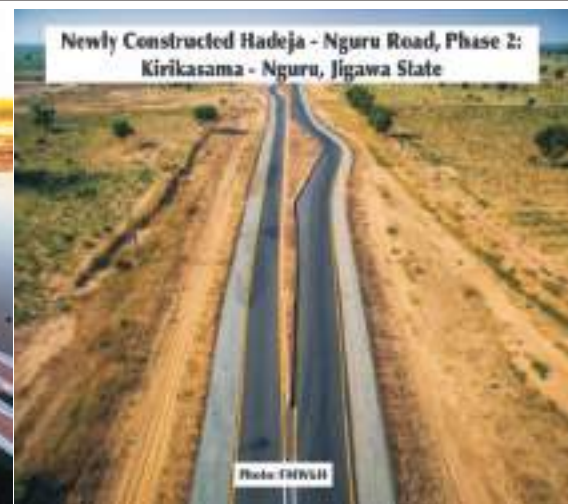
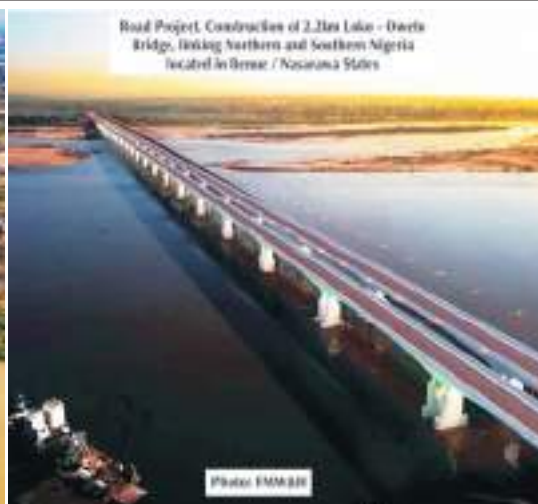
SIGNED

ANASTASIA .H. DONJUR (MRS)

Permanent Secretary

For: Hon. Commissioner of Health

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



2023: Can Buhari's legacies guarantee APC victory?

Continued from page 10

underserved homes and industries. Meanwhile, the government, has been carrying out a number of critical projects through the Transmission Rehabilitation and Expansion Programme, targeted to actualize improved power supply to all Nigerians by 2025.

In addition, there is a partnership between the Nigerian Government and the German Siemens AG through the Presidential Power Initiative to increase electricity generation to 25,000 Megawatts [MW] in six years is on course, and the first batch of transformers is already in the country.

President Buhari recalled that in line with the action taken to move the country forward, he had signed the much awaited Petroleum Industry Act [PIA] into law on August 16, 2021, providing a legal, governance, regulatory and fiscal framework for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, as well as the development of the hosts communities and related matters.

"Hence, with the PIA, we have unbundled the National Petroleum Corporation and have established the Nigeria National Petroleum Limited, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission and the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority" He said.

Although the country has

suffered more than a fair share of global terrorism, but the Buhari administration has made tremendous effort to tackle the menace of national insecurity which had slowed government progress in providing dividends of democracy to Nigerians. And to strengthen national security, President Buhari said his government substantially invested in arms, weapons and other critical hardware as well as a continuous training for the Armed Forces.

"The Nigerian Air Force, has acquired 38 brand new aircraft and is expecting another batch of 36 new ones. While the Nigerian Navy, has been equipped with new platforms, sophisticated riverine ,Rigid Hull Inflatable, Seaward Defence, Whaler and fast Attack Boats as well as Helicopters and Capital Ships.

"To boost the number of our Police personnel, 20,000 policemen have been recruited, trained, fully integrated and deployed in 2021 and 2020. This exercise has strengthened our Community policing strategy,

which is enshrined in the Police Act 2020." Buhari added.

While assuring Nigerians of his administration's unwavering commitment to fight corruption. President Buhari noted; "We will continue to review and prosecute high profile corruption cases and ensure speedy completion."

Other important successes recorded and listed by the President are the implementation of the Social Investment Programmes and other socio-economic programmes and policies, passage of the National Health Act, which has enlisted 988,652 poor and indigent Nigerians in the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund [BHCPF].

Also part of President Buhari's legacies include the accreditation and capitalization of 7,373 Primary Healthcare facilities under the National Health Insurance Scheme pathway, while 7,242 primary Healthcare facilities are being decentralized and financed under the National Healthcare Development Agency in addition to massive Federal

Government investment in the Agric sector of the Nigerian economy.

Meanwhile, the plateau state Chairman of the All Progressives Congress [APC], Hon. Rufus Bature, in an interview granted to Kolade Adeyemi, [The Nation – Tuesday, November 8, 2022], talked about the chances of the party in the coming general elections. According to him, "By the special grace of God, the APC will be in power beyond 2023. I am confident that the APC is going to win from top to bottom; we are leaving no chance for any opposition.

"We have good relations with the people; we have never shied away from telling them the truth. We always let the people know what is on ground; we are open and transparent and we tell the people the true situation of things. My joy is that the people know what they want. In 2015 some people never gave President Buhari a chance in the election, but you could see the number of votes he got in the election.

"This time around, the personality and the humanitarian posture of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the successes recorded by the APC government led by President Muhammadu Buhari, which has performed very well despite the various challenges such as that of insecurity which Nigerians know it did not start within this administration. Like I said, we are going to win from top to bottom." Rufus said.

However, with the gale of endorsements across the six geo-political zones of the country with politicians made up of women groups, farmers ,artisans, peasants and youths coming out to mobilise for the victory of the APC, it may seem like a walk over on paper.

But looking at the formidable opposition especially with the likes of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party [PDP] and the emergence of a likely Third Force i.e, the Labour Party which is gaining grounds among the Nigerian youths, and also another strong movement known as the Kwankwasiya now domiciled in the New Nigerian People's Party [NNPP], it appears the ruling APC should be prepared for a big battle in 2023.

This time around, Buhari's name will not be on the ballot, but how his legacies would play out to boost the chances of the ruling APC can only be decided by Nigerian voters in the next few months from now.

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

METRO-FOCUS

Lack of maintenance culture and wastages

By JIDAUNA DARING

IT has become a worrisome phenomenon that most government owned vehicles bought for official use to enhance productivity in the service have been abandoned or left to rot far years. In most of such establishments, such vehicles are seen gathering dust and make the place unkempt.

A common habit with Nigerians is lack of service which is part of poor maintenance culture make vehicles to be grounded easily especially when funds that are requested for service vehicles are not approved or approved but not released so as to enable drivers to service the cars at the appropriate time for official use at all times.

Again, lack of functional government vehicles or cars affects day today running's in the government circles in different ways. Some of the vehicles abandoned and left to rot can be repaired. This is because some of the problems are minor ones that may not need huge money.

It is an undisputable fact that, when government cars are parked for years without using them. Some parts of such abandoned vehicles when coming back to pick it for repair, it is sometimes discovered some parts are



missing or have become rotten because such cars have over stayed in the sun or rain during the rain season. it is also a fact that buying new cars on the existing one that

are faulty and can equally be repaired makes governance expensive.

In this regard, government should ensure that all its cars have insurance cover when it comes to accident cases, which is not the wish of any driver to become a victim of such a bad story.

Another bad side of this is the fact that, abandoned cars accommodate rodents that pose a serious threat to human activities within the office premises. Some places where such vehicles are abandoned have become bushes with overgrown grass.

In fact, another reason why government abandoned vehicles are on the increase is because mechanics are no longer employed as it used to be in the civil service.

It therefore behooves governments to henceforth place its priority on employing mechanics into Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) both at the federal and state levels including the local government. It would no doubt go a long way to address cases of abandoned government official vehicles that are left

to rot. In this regard, a civil servant is someone that is gainfully employed to work in the civil service.

This indicates that civil servants have remained and would always remain the engine room of government in any given administration at all government levels. In this order, it is glary that, the cases of functional or abandoned government vehicles affect the workers' good service delivery in government departments and units.

This is because what is supposed to be done within a short time may be achieved within a long time.

It is against this background that some civil servants who spoke with Metro Focus stressed the need for government to always release funds for MDAs so as to enable them have functional official vehicles.

They emphasized the need for drivers to imbibe the culture of good maintenance of government vehicles whenever money is approved and released for them to service the vehicles bought for office use.



SUNDAY PEOPLE

LALONG RECEIVES GOSA 2022

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) on Wednesday received on a courtesy call, National President of Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA), Engr. Sunday Hyat, mni, Head of Civil Service at Government House, Rayfield Jos



Governor Simon Bako Lalong with members of high table singing the GOSA anthem



National President of GOSA, Engr. Sunday Hyat, mni delivering his speech



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong responding to the message from the GOSA National President



National PRO of GOSA, Yakubu Taddy (right) flanked by Gindiri Old Students Association during the visit



Immediate past National President, Prof. Rotgak Gofwen (left) flanked by other GOSAS



Some members of the Plateau State Executive Council



Engr. Sunday Hyat, mni, National President of GOSA signing the visitors register watching is one of the pioneers President of GOSA, Dr. Obed Ikwuegbu (Babanyara)



Cross section of GOSA members during the courtesy visit

Photos: DANLADI DUK



Road Runner

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Becoming a better driver Developing your hazard awareness

SOME information processing goes on at a subconscious level but a prompt can summon our attention to it. An example is the way we prick up our ears when we hear our names mentioned. In a similar vein, experienced drivers rapidly and automatically switch their attention to events happening outside their field of focus because they have a subconscious and instinctive understanding of the implications of particular traffic situations.

At this point in our analyses of driving proficiency, it is necessary to analyze some examples of hazardous traffic situations and remedies thereof. These examples are aimed at facilitating your understanding of potential hazards in different situations. They are further meant to 'pre-sensitize' your awareness so that when you encounter such situations, you already know what hazards to look for and can respond to them more quickly.

Alertness

Alertness determines the amount of information you can process. It can be thought of as mental energy and its opposite is tiredness or fatigue. Alertness depends to some extent on your personality. Extroverts (outgoing people who need a lot of external stimulation) are probably more susceptible to fatigue than introverts (inward looking people

who shy away from high levels of stimulation).

To drive, we need to remain alert -ready to anticipate, identify and respond promptly to hazards. However, most driving is routine that places less demands on our abilities and the risk of crashes from moment to moment is negligible. This relatively low level of stimulation makes it to lose concentration and we need to take active steps to maintain it. In bus urban traffic, the demands of driving may be sufficiently stimulating, but on long journeys on highways or expressways, other forms of stimulation are needed.

Alertness and anxiety

Alertness depends on your level of anxiety and there is an optimum level of anxiety for any task. A small of anxiety arising from a sound understanding of the risks involved can help to maintain alertness and readiness to respond. No anxiety at all dampens your responsiveness and decreases your reaction speed. Too much anxiety can result in failure to process information and respond appropriately.

You can help yourself to stay alert by:

- ❖ □ Consciously assessing the level of risk
- ❖ □ Constantly updating your assessment
- ❖ □ Talking yourself through the risks of the traffic situation.

If you actively maintain your awareness of the risks in this way, it will help you to keep anxiety at an optimum level and you will be less

likely to neglect a potentially dangerous situation.

Fatigue

The ultimate loss of alertness is falling asleep behind the wheel and this has accounted significantly to road traffic crashes. Professional drivers need to be aware that fatigue is related to the total time spent at work and not just the time spent at the wheel. If you are tired from other duties before embarking on a journey, you are much more a risk from fatigue during the journey. As they say, 'body no be wood'. Fatigue is a particular problem for professional drivers owing largely to professional and social pressures that often make them continue driving beyond their safety limit. Professionals recommend 30 minutes rest after every four hours of continues driving. At such breaks, drivers can alight from the car and take a work or go for light food like snacks (not heavy meal that will further weigh them down and induce dozing and sleeping).

Monotonous conditions

Driving for long periods of time in monotonous conditions such as low-density traffic, fog, at night or on an expressway reduces stimulation and promotes fatigue. Most people experience some fatigue, whatever the conditions, if they drive for longer than four hours at a stretch.

Watch out for how to combat fatigue in next edition. Keep a date.



NEWS

Shun ethnic, religious sentiments when voting

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja – Senator Daduut

AHEAD of the 2023 general elections, Senator (Prof.) Nora Ladi Daduut has urged Nigerians to shun ethnic and religious sentiment when voting. She added that it would be more rewarding if they elect a president that has the capity and capability to govern the country well.

Senator Daduut who represents Plateau South Senatorial District in the Red Chamber, made the appeal in a statement made available to National Assembly Press Corps in Abuja.

According to her "next years election will not be about tribe, or turn, but the turn of Nigerians to decide who to govern them and govern them well".

To this end, the lawmaker specifically urged Nigerians to vote for the Bola Ahmad Shettima candidacy in order to move the country forward.

"We are looking for these



Daduut

people because of their track records during their days as Governors of Lagos and Borno State. Respectively and the massive developments brought to their respective states and their various

contributions to the country at large.

"You don't need any other study in Nigeria because it is obvious that these people have contributed their quota to the development of the country".

Lalong flags off senatorial campaign

By PALANGKASMI

PLATEAU State Governor Simon Bakolalong has inaugurated his Campaign Council to enable them kick start campaigns for his senatorial bid in the 2023 elections.

He expressed great optimism that his party the APC will convincingly win, in the forthcoming elections in the Zone as well as the entire State and country at large.

While performing the ceremony at the Campaign Office in Shendam, the Zonal Party Headquarters, Lalong said the APC has performed excellently in the zone since 2015 which will be consolidated in 2023.

"While we sweep the votes for the Plateau South Senatorial Zone in the elections next year, let us also deliver all our candidates from the Houses of Assembly, Representatives as well as the Presidency", said the governor.

He thanked the people of the Southern Zone for giving him an opportunity to serve them over the years.

"I do not take this opportunity lightly because it shows the trust and confidence you have in me. This has again reaffirmed the kind of support you have given me within the last 7 years as Governor of Plateau State. Such support has not only given me courage and confidence to serve the people of the State, but also attracted the attention of Northern Governors who made me their Chairman".

"Even the APC at the National Level and indeed our Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu has seen your goodwill and decided to appoint me the Director General (DG) of the Presidential Campaign Council".

Lalong also said without them honouring him at home, no one outside will recognize him and even give him any assignment.

He used the opportunity to assure the people of the zone that as DG of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, the party will win the elections at all levels and retain power.

While tasking them to give the APC their votes for the Presidency, Lalong said "Our Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu is an experienced politician with track records of achievements in all sectors. As his DG Campaign, I can assure you that under his Presidency, Plateau State and in particular the Southern Zone will benefit a lot. Let us not toy with this golden opportunity" he said.

APC State Chairman Hon. Rufus Bature represented by his Deputy, Zonal Chairman, Abdullahi Nyalun, Majority Leader of the Plateau State House of Assembly Naanlong Daniel, Shendam Local Government Chairman Alex Naantuam and other speakers said the candidacy of Governor Lalong is a blessing to the Southern Senatorial Zone and Plateau State at large as he has gathered a lot of experience that will be very valuable when he gets to the national assembly.

APC Gubernatorial candidate Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda said Governor Lalong has earned his place at the national assembly by the virtue of his experience and performance which makes him suitable the position in the Red Chambers.

He applauded the Governor for taking Plateau to national

politics and earning the confidence and trust of his colleagues to serve as Chairman Northern Governors Forum as well as being appointed as the Director General of the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Council.

Senator representing Plateau South Senatorial District Nora Daduut appreciated Governor Lalong for facilitating her going to the Senate and said she will also reciprocate by working hard to ensure his victory. She debunked insinuations that she was not in support of his candidacy, describing it as pure mischief.

The Governor presented 10 cars donated by his supporters to the Campaign Council which were received by the DG Campaign Council Hon. Nimfel Longvel with assurance that they will do their best to penetrate all nook and crannies of the Zone for total victory of the APC.

Earlier, the Governor had commissioned a model primary school structure built by the State Universal Basic Education Board in Shendam where he assured that his administration will continue to prioritise education.

Chairman of the SUBEB Board Prof. Mathew Sule said the school which used to operate morning and afternoon shifts will now operate one shift with the commissioning of more classrooms which were done because of the approval of the Governor.

He was also at the Palace of the Long Tel in Tunkus, Mikang Local Government area to commiserate with him over the death of his brother.

PROBATE NOTICE

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

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS
Sule David Dakub, late of Plateau State. Died on the 27th Aug., 2021, at one Man Village New Nyanya, Abuja.	Dakup Mandela David & Ayuba Sule Dakub, New Layout Bokkos, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State, lawful son/brother of the said deceased.	Mallam Bittinger Mshelia, late of Plateau State. Died on the 20th December, 2022, at Rayfield Med. Hosp. Jos, Plateau State.	Clara Mshelia -Whyte No. 1 Sybil Iroche Street Lekki Phase 1, Lagos State, lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Godwin Gamde, late of Plateau State. Died on the 12th October, 2016, at Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Abraham Abi Gamde of GRA Quarters Shendam LGA Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased.
Danladi Botluwa, late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st of Sept, 2022, at Dokan Kasuwa LGA, Plateau State.	Yonsoem Botluwa Lazarus ofDokan Kasuwa Quaapan son of the said deceased.	Awodele Oluranti Olukunie, Late of Plateau State. Died on the 12th May, 2022, at Jos, Plateau State.	Awodele Oluwatoyin Omolara, of Federal Low-Cost Jos Plateau State. Lawful widow * of the said deceased.	Obi-Emeruwa Nnamdi Oyekachi, late of Maiduguri Borno State. Died on the 2nd October, 2022, at Maiduguri, Borno State.	Onyinyechi Cynthia Emeruwa of No. 83 Tudun Wada Road Jos North LGA, Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Miner Mary, late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th August, 2021, at Hillingdon Hosp. Hillingdon, London.	Selcan Miner G.R.A. Jos North father of the said deceased.	Elijah James, late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th August, 2022, at ECWA Evangelical Hospital, Jos.	Hellen Elijah James special Site, Near Dakwak Hospital, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State, lawful widow of the said deceased.	Mohammed Kolo Panti, late of Plateau State. Died on the 1st July, 2022 at FCVMLT, Clinic Jos.	Ndagi Aliyu Panti of Gero Junction Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.
Nandom Dauda, Late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th April, 2021, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Manbyen Dorcas Ayuba of Behind Phototek Abbatoir Jos South LGA, lawful widow of the said deceased.	Bisidi Samuel Zangama, late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th Aug., 2022 at Zabolo Bassa, LGA Plateau State.	Zangama Bisidi Zachariah of Zabolo Bassa LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Pegoelung Shitvel, late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th May, 2022, At Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	Fredrick Shitvel of Kufai Yelwa Shenda LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.
William Talshak, late of Plateau State. Died on the 20th sept., 2010, at Gung, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Talshak Roseline Midim of State Low-Cost, Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Alexander Ilya Makyal, late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st Sept, 2022 at Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	Makyal Fwangmun Sule of Opp. Lamingo Garden road , Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	suleiman Saleh, late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th Sept., 2022 at Lagos State.	Vaniah Suleiman & Esther Bako of Zipack Kafanchan Kaduna State, lawful widow/son of the said deceased.
Abdulmalik Al-Hassan, late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th Sept., 2021 at Kurgwi qua'an Pan LGA, Plateau State.	Abdulmalik Al-Hassan Naziru of Kurgwi Quaan Pan LGA Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Denkwap Manomi Daniel, late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th Nov., 2021 at Namu, Jepjian Angwan Waziri Namu Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State.	Maanlas Denkwap Manomi of Angwan waziri, Namu Quaan-Pan LGA, Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased.	Aku Musa, late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th Jan., 2022 at BUHT, Bassa LGA, Plateau State	Emmanuel Awuga Aku Musa of No. 6 rahwol Kanan Rayfield, Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.
Alhaji Zakari Mamman, late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th July, 2008 at Jos, Plateau State.	Mohammad Alhaji Zakari NO. 2. Bot close Secretariat Link road GRA Jos, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Onwura Benedict, late of Plateau State. Died on the 27th Feb., 2005 at Enugu State.	Onwura Sylvester Emeka of V. 34 Afodume Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	John Atsi, late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st Jan., 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Solomon Anin Atsi & Kaze Sunday Atsi of No. 3 Kyan Rikkos Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful sons of the said deceased.
Yilji Ramji Yakubu, late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th July, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Yilji Christiana Ramji of Busa Buji Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful widow of the said deceased.	Musa Elizabeth, late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st December, 2020, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Gayus Musa Dabo of Zandi Village Jos East LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Mashat Bitrus, late of Plateau State. Died on the 2nd June, 2022 at PSSH, Jos.	Emmanuel Bitrus of COCIN LCC Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.
Nehemiah Takik Ji'ah, late of Plateau State. Died on the 12th February, 2022, at Gen. Hosp. Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Jiah Golshak'ah Nehemiah of COCIN 2 wal in Kanke LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Elizabeth Abimbola Oyegoke, late of Plateau State. Died on the 27th January, 2019, at United Kingdom.	Adebisi Adetoro & Akinola Olawale Oyegoke No. 188 Olayinka Adewuyi, Lekki 143, Lagos State, lawful sons of the said deceased.	GRMA Iliya Ayiku Samson, late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th June, 2022, at North LGA, Bauchi State.	Iliya Lydia Ayiku & Iliya Ayiku of shendam Court Jos Plateau State, lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.
Oputa Gloria Nkechi, late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st sept., 2021 at , Jos, Plateau State.	Fred Oputa & Emeka Oputa of Plot 63 Yinging New layout Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful husband/son of the said deceased.	Awu vicor Obin, late of Kaduna State. Died on the 10th June, 2012, at Gwantu, Kaduna State.	Abigail Awu of ERCC Theological seminary Fadan Ayu, Kaduna State, lawful widow of the said deceased.	Isa Musa also known as Musa Hauwa Isa Umar, late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th Feb., 2022, at Angwan Kuyanba, Wase LGA, Plateau State.	Musa Isa of angwan Kuyanda Wase LGA, Plateau State, lawful daughter of the said deceased.
Dangoli Chiroma Gombwai, late of Plateau State. Died on the 31st October, 2019 at Rantya, Jos, Plateau State.	Aaron Dangoli Chiroma & Menyok Dangoli Chiroma of No. 97 IDOH Itsego Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful sons of the said deceased.	(ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) Ag. PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA JOS		Diyasu Yakubu Allahbura,, Allahbura Seratu No. 5 wase late of Plateau State. Died on the 20th june, 2022, at Kanam LGA, Plateau State.	lawful daughter of the said deceased.

FEATURE

Flooding and devastating effect on environment

By **BEATRICE NUHU AYUBA**

THE complexity of anthropogenic activities of man without adequate attention geological structure of most cities of developed and developing nations has undoubtedly contributed to reoccurrence of disasters and consequently poses threat to environmental sustainability in most of these nations. This irrefutably has led or accumulated to unsolved challenges. Among the unresolved challenges being faced are vicious flood incidences experienced in the last four decades in Nigeria. Flooding, therefore, is the most common disaster in Nigeria. The majority of Nigeria's states are increasingly suffering from annual flooding during the rainy seasons caused by increased precipitation linked to climate change.

The occurrence is a recurring decimal in their world countries where there is intensity in land use, hazard development, and unprecedented urbanization among others. Most of these cities are also characterized by uncontrolled development, substandard and inadequate housing, poor infrastructure provision and development, poor planning process and administration, weak urban governance, poor land use structure resulting to slums. These plethora of problems are bedeviling cities of third world countries and Nigeria in particular.

Consequently, there has been unprecedented occurrence of floods and its associated negatives in most of the urban centres in Nigeria, reports have shown that devastating flood disaster had occurred in Ibadan (1985, 1987, 1990 and 2011), Osogbo (1992, 1996, 2002 and 2010), Yobe (2000), Akure, (1996, 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006) and the coastal cities of Lagos, Ogun, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Uyo, Warri among others in 2012 (Olaniran, 2019). This claimed many lives and properties worth millions of Naira.

Several anthropogenic factors have contributed to the incidence of flood. Among these factors is the encroachment of development to flood prone areas. The incursion into such areas have been progressive until now because of unprecedented urbanization and industrialization which has undoubtedly resulted into large scale massive deforestation, loss of surface vegetation and farmlands. The incursion of unplanned and controlled development into urban infrastructure facilities violate the major objectives of physical planning and consequently result into misused land thereby creating disorderly arrangement or urban landscape and the occurrence flood that is mostly evident in cities of third world countries". Arising from these incongruous and haphazard developments in cities of their world cities, the occurrence of flood, particularly in Lagos, has been known to be paramount to some areas or local government in the state. According to Oyebande (1990) water will always find its way if not well channelized. Its choice route often poses problems to man by tampering with his physical environment, health and products of agriculture, urbanization and industrialization. This has created a lot of social and economic cost on the environment and the citizenry. Few among these social and economic impacts on the environment are: outbreak of health diseases, infrastructure failure, mental health effects, building collapse, destruction of agricultural farmland and products.

Flood has been reported as a major and devastating problem in some sectors of the economy. Its effects are very severe to virtually all forms of land use. The severity of its impact is also reflected on the rate of development of most nations that experience such. Thus if adequate attention in terms of preventive measures are not put in place towards controlling its sporadic occurrence and its associated impacts particularly during rainy season, its incidence can turn a developed nation



back into a developing nation.

Unlike some natural disasters, rainfall flooding can be controlled with proper planning and the provision of necessary infrastructure. Nigeria's flooding is mainly human induced with current poor urban planning practices and the inadequate to non-existent environmental infrastructure contributing to and exacerbating the issue. The absence of a national Flood Risk Management (FRM) strategy or comprehensive flood risk maps, for example, are indicators of the lack of attention paid to Nigeria's flooding problem.

The suggests designing and implementing adequate FRM strategies comprising proper spatial planning and infrastructure would help in controlling the floods which adversely impact Nigeria's sustainable development.

The SDGs are global goals for achieving environmental and human development by the year 2030. Nigeria's path to achieving them is marred by the major issue of recurrent flooding.

Causes of flooding in Nigeria

While climate change has led to more rains than in the past which has increased the incidence of flooding, Nigeria's flooding is mostly human induced and exacerbated by human-nature interactions. The human-nature interactions that cause flooding in Nigeria form the focus of this paper include, but are not limited to.

1. Poor or non-existent drainage system: This is a major human-included exacerbates of the flooding experienced in Nigeria. Most residential areas in Nigeria have no drainage system and rely on natural drainage channels, and it is common for buildings and other infrastructure to be constructed in a manner that actually obstructs these drainage channels, and it is common for buildings and other infrastructure to be constructed in a manner that actually obstructs these drainage channels which results in flooding during the rainy season. Nigeria's increasing urbanization has seen a growing proportion of ground surfaces concerted, which means there is no percolation of water, and adequate

drains are not in place to take care of the surface runoff. The lack of provision for drainage is one of the main causes of urban flooding in Nigeria. There is a pressing need to construct drainage systems to tackle the flooding problem.

2. Poor waste management system: Poor waste management is one of the anthropogenic factors contributing to, and worsening the already difficult flooding problem in Nigeria. The poor attitude of Nigerians to waste disposal has been an uncontrollable phenomenon. Drainage blockages linked to poor sanitation practices are common in Nigeria's highly populated urban areas. Roadside dumping, canal dumping, and dumping in rains is commonly practiced among a large proportion of the population. This causes blockage and results in flooding during the rainy season.

3. Unregulated urbanization: Flooding and urbanization are intricately related in both developing and developed countries. Over 50% of Nigerians live in urban areas today. Nigeria is witnessing high urbanization rates without commensurate provision of urban infrastructure and amenities. Agricultural lands are also being increasingly converted to residential areas to accommodate housing needs and development is carried out without proper controls and infrastructure in place, thus worsening the flooding problem. Urban planning in Nigeria is poor and this compounded by numerous compliance problems; this poor planning is a primary cause of the flooding being experienced in Nigeria. Nigeria's flooding is therefore inextricably linked to poor urban development practices.

4. Weak implementation of planning laws and corruption: Nigeria's current planning laws are standard but their development and implementation are poorly controlled. Political interference in planning work, understaffing and a lack of working equipment are factors that negatively impact effective planning and the execution of duties by the planners. The lax implementation of planning laws means construction projects on natural floodplains and storm water paths are approved, which exacerbates the flooding problem and impacts on sustainability. Corruption is also a factor. It is not

uncommon for town planning officials to accept bribes and over flood issues-these may include the unauthorized use of land, the alteration of approved construction plans in areas that obstruct drains and natural waterways, substandard construction of infrastructure like bridges which subsequently collapse during the rains. Resulting debris reduces the carrying capacity of the channels which induces flooding and worsens the problem originally being addressed.

The people also capitalize on the loophole of ineffective development control and a lot of times extend their buildings over the approved areas and in some cases go as far as building approved areas and in some cases go as far as building drainages. This non-implementation of laws is inimical to achieving sustainable urban development. Lax planning and the lack of valid building approvals are the root cause of irresponsible developments with attendant consequences.

Why the problems persists

Historically, Nigeria has been more focused on post-disaster flood response that control. Reducing and addressing exposure to flood risk is now a national priority in the Nigerian government disaster risk management agenda. A national framework, now in place, aims at moving reactive flood response and recover to pro-active risk management, however, nothing concrete has been done and a national FRM strategy to ensure harmonization of practice is still not in place. This is not encouraging despite the comprehensive post-disaster needs assessment conducted in 2012 by the federal government with international collaboration.

This raises questions on the political will to achieve this goal. Funds are readily released post-flood but not pre-floods to avert it. In 2017 alone, the Nigerian government released as much as N1.6 billion as a post-flooding response.

Inadequate attention has been paid to flood control and management on a nationwide level and efforts aimed at addressing the challenge have lacked

proper coordination and therefore, failed. Despite evidence of flood interventions in the past, the lack of an integrated FRM practice means that sub-optimal solutions are adopted and in numerous cases, more problems are created in the process. For instance, in 2017, parts of Port Harcourt city witnessed massive flooding as a result of improper channeling of drains to a burrow pit which got filled up during the rainy season causing water to flood into the surrounding suburbs and cause flooding of unprecedented magnitude.

How to reduce flooding problems in Nigeria?

1. Filled in the knowledge gap about climate change.

Efforts should be made towards re-educating Nigerians on the dangers posed by the climate change and what individual Nigerians can do to mitigate the effects as evidenced in the perennial flooding of some part of the country.

2. Refuse should be discarded properly.

Like earlier said, when the free flow of water is obstructed, water becomes a flood. In Nigeria, it is common to find people throw the dirt into moving water as a means of disposal. This may however, solve a problem temporarily but in the long run, the vast accumulation of those dirt causes water drainage pipes to get blocked and because water has to move, everywhere becomes flooded.

3. Dirt should be disposed of only in a refuse bin and the Government should enact laws that will penalize defaulters.

Dams should be created also to help store up excess water from flooding the city and also, not just creating the dams when it is not raining, the government agency assigned to the dams should do their best to make sure that the dams are dry enough and ready to receive more water in the next wet period because a filled dams is of no use when it rains.

4. More trees should be planted.

Nigeria is one of the countries that is currently losing its trees. When there are tress on the land, water dries up faster and easily because trees are known to absorb a lot of water. Rather than reduce the number of water absorbing agents, more should be added to their team.

5. Levees and dykes should be built around rivers to aid obstruct the flow of river water into low lands.

Just like a piece of land is fenced, rivers should also be fenced to avoid the heavy outpouring of its content thereby causing damages to lives, agriculture and infrastructure.

Conclusion

Nigeria is a signatory to the UN SDGs and flooding impacts on many of the SDGs. Flooding threatens sustainability because it negatively affects the economy, social life, environment, and health. The negative impacts of flooding are not restricted to a particular geographic area as the disruptive effects delay progress toward the SDGs. However, the negative impact are felt more in developing countries like Nigeria because of its lower level of development. At present there I no concrete legal framework or flood management policy to address this perennial problem. Therefore, the solution to this problem lies in the need to raise the level of awareness to this issue and continue to conscientize Nigerians to be proactive and responsive to this perennial problem.

Ayuba is of the Institute of Archeology and Museums Studies, Jos.

SUNDAY SPORTS

Aina gets return date from hamstring injury



The Nigeria international has missed recent games for club and country due to an injury

SUPER Eagles defender Ola Aina is a few days from returning to football action following a lengthened spell on the sidelines due to injury. **Newsnow** said that, Aina last featured for Torino in a Serie A clash at Udinese on October 23rd. The 26-year-old scored his first goal of the season in that encounter to power Il Toro to a fine 2-1 win over the Flying Donkeys. But Ola Aina has not made the matchday squad for Torino since then after suffering a myotendinous lesion in his left hamstring.

The health issue was expected to keep the former Fulham loanee on the sidelines until the end of the year. The Nigeria international has since missed Torino's wins at home to AC Milan and Sampdoria, the loss at Bologna, and the 1-1 draw away to Roma. Aina was also not involved as Nigeria's Super Eagles fell to an embarrassing 4-0 loss to Portugal in Lisbon last week. There is, however, good news for Ola Aina as his injury is healing faster than previously anticipated. According to Torino Granata,

Aina is only a few days away from joining Torino's first team training. With his contract expiring next summer, Aina's stay in Torino remains in the balance. A few clubs from the Premier League are monitoring the situation as Torino and Aina continue negotiations regarding extending his contract. "Your opponent gets tired and can't get into it, our pressing was exceptional and the 16 players we used were superb - although we still have room to improve."

'Some players were cowards'

EX-AUSTRALIA coach Justin Langer says some of his former players were "cowards" for making complaints about him in the media. **BBC SPORT** revealed that, reports in Australia suggested unnamed players were unhappy with Langer's leadership style. He resigned in February having been offered a six-month contract extension despite winning the T20 World Cup and beating England 4-0 in the Ashes. "Everyone was being nice to my face," Langer, 52, told the BackChat podcast. "But I was reading about this stuff and half of it, I swear to God and on my kids' lives, I could not believe that is what was making the papers. "A lot of journalists use the word 'source'. I would say, change that word to 'coward'. "Because what do you mean 'a source says'? They've either got an axe to grind with someone and they won't come and say it to your face, or they're just leaking stuff for their own

agenda, I hate that." Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley responded by saying he wanted to "correct inaccuracies" in Langer's account. "I am disappointed by Justin's comments unfairly criticising some of our players," Hockley said. "Regular formal and

informal opportunities to provide and receive feedback took place throughout his tenure, which is consistent with a high-performance environment. "Following a comprehensive process, Justin was offered a short-term contract extension,

which he rejected." In May Langer criticised Richard Freudenstein, then acting chairman of Cricket Australia, for his lack of support. Australia, now coached by Andrew McDonald, start a two-Test series against West Indies on 30 November in Perth.



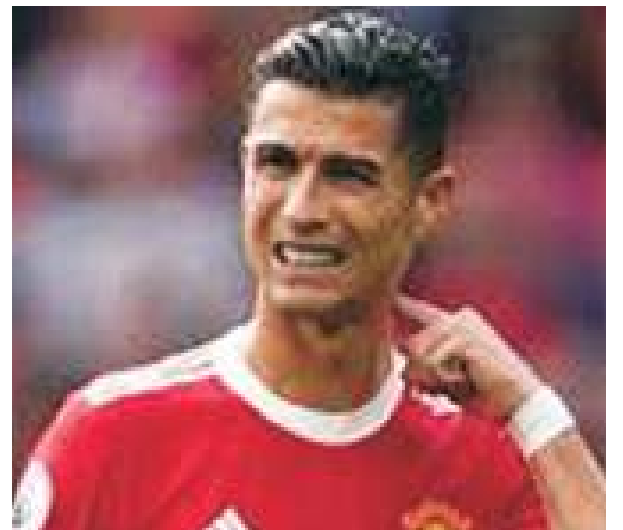
Justin Langer (front, centre) coached Australia from 2018 to 2022

World Cup 2022: Fernandes accepts Ronaldo exit

PORTUGAL midfielder Bruno Fernandes says it was a "dream" to play with Cristiano Ronaldo at Manchester United but "nothing lasts forever". Ronaldo's contract with United has been mutually terminated. Portugal begin their World Cup campaign against Ghana on Thursday and Fernandes says the players have not been distracted by Ronaldo's situation. "We haven't discussed the topic - we are all focused on the national team and the World Cup," said Fernandes. Ronaldo's United exit follows a controversial interview in which the 37-year-old criticised the club and said he had "no respect" for manager Erik ten Hag. Fernandes added: "You know how important playing for Portugal is for Cristiano and for all of us. It is the dream of every player. Our focus is 100% on the national team and we are all aware of what we have to do.

Fernando Santos, who said: "It [Ronaldo leaving Man Utd] is something that hasn't even been discussed. No comment about that in our time together. There has not been the conversation at any point. "The players have time for themselves to do whatever they want, but they know have to be focused to try to win this competition. "You have seen what happened in the first few games with big surprises. The legacy is us, that is critical." Ghana finished bottom of their group in the African Cup of Nations earlier this year, but qualified for the World Cup after a win over rivals Nigeria in qualifying. Coach Otto Addo says his side's opponents will not be

affected by Ronaldo's situation as "everybody wants to win". "I don't care, it's not our problem and I don't think it's a big problem," Addo said. "Everybody wants to win and we're at World Cup level, I don't think this can disrupt anybody." Ghana captain Andre Ayew also admitted Portugal would be favourites for the opening Group H game. "As my boss said it's not really our problem what's happening in the Portuguese team, they are great professionals, playing for top teams, they will be ready for the World Cup," said Ayew. "Portugal are the ones who are favourites on paper, we have to show on the field, that on paper is not what will happen on the pitch."



Ronaldo

'Never been a Ronaldo fan, always go for Messi'

NIGERIA legend John Obi Mikel has explained why he is a fan of Paris Saint-Germain forward Lionel Messi and not Cristiano Ronaldo. Goal said that, the 37-year-old Ronaldo is currently a free agent after his contract was terminated by Manchester United. The 35-year-old Mikel, who played for a host of clubs in Europe, most significantly Chelsea, has picked his favourite between Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, and explained why he doesn't particularly like the Portugal forward. "For me, when a player has so much ego, I don't really get it. He's never been one of my favourite players and that's why I always go for Messi really." The former Super Eagles midfielder further believes Ronaldo's exit from Man United was a horrible situation which should have been avoided. "I mean, if someone comes out and gives such an interview, what makes you think, if he signs for your club in January, he won't do the same?" he asked. Getty "So, I mean, every club is going to be aware of that... but listen, he is Cristiano Ronaldo; he's one of the greatest players ever to have played the game. I think he's going to get another club in January and continue his football career. "But for me, it's just a horrible scenario, he's done so much for the club, and to see it end this way, it's just horrible. On

his part really, I would say that interview shouldn't have been done, wrong timing as well." "It's just not right. It doesn't look right for such a player that has achieved so much in the game." Ronaldo and Messi are currently representing Portugal and Argentina at the 2022 Fifa World Cup finals in Qatar. Ronaldo scored as the Selecao defeated Ghana 3-2 on Thursday. Meanwhile, Messi scored from the penalty spot but Argentina lost 2-1 against Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. Ronaldo and Portugal will return to action for their matchday two fixture against Uruguay at Lusail Stadium on Monday while Messi and Argentina will hope to make amends when they take on Mexico at the same venue on Saturday.

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Mikel

SUNDAY SPORTS

World Cup 2022:

Will thrashing Costa Rica make Spain contenders?

By CHRIS BEVAN

WHATEVER England can do, Spain can do better... but does thrashing hapless opposition in your opening game really turn anyone into instant World Cup contenders?

Because while Spain's seven goals against Costa Rica outscored England's six against Iran and was also their biggest ever World Cup win, we surely cannot judge Luis Enrique's side properly until they have faced a meaningful test.

That should come in their next match, on Sunday against a Germany side who will be fighting for their future in this tournament after their shock defeat by Japan.

There was still much to savour for Spain and their supporters at Al Thumama Stadium, of course, especially Gavi's delicious volley to make it 5-0, but it was evident from the start that this was a giant mis-match and the scoreline reflected the huge gulf between the two sides.

Costa Rica were the last team to qualify for Qatar, thanks to a play-off victory over New Zealand in June, but barring a huge improvement they look likely to be one of the first teams to be eliminated.

Spain ripped through them far too easily, sometimes straight down the middle of the pitch, and the game was finished as a contest after barely half an hour when Ferran Torres converted a penalty to make it 3-0.

They kept coming forward in waves in the second half and more goals followed even after Enrique made a raft of changes - like England some of their substitutes got involved in the scoring.

Costa Rica were not just outpassed - they managed 241 to 1,043 - they were also outclassed, and failed to muster a single shot at goal. The closest they got to that was four touches in the Spain area, two in each half.

Former England defender Gary Neville saw those sorry statistics as more of a sign of how bad the



Spain's victory over Costa Rica is their biggest in the World Cup

2014 quarter-finalists were, rather than how good Spain were.

"Well done to Spain they've done their job," Neville said on ITV. "I didn't think Costa Rica could get any worse in the second half but they surpassed their first-half performance. They were hesitant. They were a mess.

"I can't just measure Spain at all on that. Costa Rica are the first team in 32 years to not have a shot at goal, that can't happen.

"They've had multiple World

Cups. There was nothing out there today. I have no idea what's just happened.

"Spain keep the ball, we know that, but that is as bad as it gets for a team that has got a lot of experience."

Former England goalkeeper Rob Green added on BBC Radio 5 live: "Spain have been brilliant but I'm tempted to say this game won't tell us a lot about them in this tournament. The strength of the opposition, Costa Rica really

haven't made it difficult.

"They made it a walk in the park for Spain. Realistically, the substitutions Spain made in the second half, they were bleeding youngsters, resting old legs; Costa Rica knew the game was up."

You could argue, of course, that not allowing your opposition a sight of goal while scoring seven yourself is not to be sniffed at, and Spanish football expert Guillem Balague preferred to focus on the positives for Spain.

Balague told 5 live: "It was just the perfect performance, you could see after three goals Costa Rica had given up.

"But how many shots on target for Costa Rica? Or attempts? Zero. In the World Cup, you don't get these type of performances, the same way you don't get the type of performances England gave against Iran.

"We're talking about the same kind of level. They are, at the moment it seems, ahead of the rest."

Maybe we are better off not thinking about what the size of this Spain victory means and instead focus on the fact they have, for once, got their World Cup off to a winning start.

They had lost their opening match at their previous three tournaments, including in South Africa 2010 where they went on to win it - and it was clearly unwise to jump to any early conclusions about their prospects back then.

It is Germany and Argentina who have been upset this time and, in a tournament that has been full of shock results in its first few days, Spain's young stars like Gavi and Pedri instead sent out a statement

of intent that they could be the ones causing some surprises in the coming weeks.

Green added: "It's what Spain needed. Coming into this tournament they had a few questions, young players coming in, can they find and come up with answers? Well, it's been a perfect training session for them because that's pretty much what it has been.

"It's not been a contest, it's been a warm up. There will be bigger games to come but if you're getting more than 1,000 passes in a game, then that's an incredible achievement."

Understandably, Spain's players seemed pretty pleased with their performance, as well as the outcome.

Dani Olmo, who opened the scoring with what was Spain's 100th World Cup goal, said: "I don't think it was a question of Costa Rica being bad. It was about our team being strong.

"I think the win was what we were due. We deserved to win after taking the game to them. I think our team is strong and that is the path that we need to follow. It was a confidence boost for sure."

But managers are rarely satisfied so easily and, just as England boss Gareth Southgate hailed his side's attacking display against Iran but was unhappy at seeing them concede a couple of late goals, Spain boss Enrique called his team "exceptional" - before adding they can do better next time.

"Our objective is to continuously dominate the play, and for that you have to have the ball," Enrique told TVE.

"Your opponent gets tired and can't get into it, our pressing was exceptional and the 16 players we used were superb - although we still have room to improve."



SUNDAY SPORTS

Murray wants to play his 40s after 500th tour win

JAMIE Murray believes hitting the landmark of 500 tour level wins is "a cool thing to have achieved" and hopes to keep playing into his 40s.

BBC SPORT said that, Murray, 36, achieved the milestone partnering Matthew Ebden at the recent Rolex Paris Masters.

The Scot has won seven Grand Slam titles in men's and mixed doubles.

"To be honest I had absolutely no idea I was on 499 or was even close to that," Murray told BBC Scotland.

"It is a cool thing to have achieved. It probably just means I have been playing forever but I am still ultra-competitive. I still love playing, love travelling, really enjoy the tour and hopefully I can rack up a few more wins before I call it quits.

"We have been on the tour a long time now. I could probably play, maybe until I am 40, maybe 41. If I look after myself and my body feels good, I will play as long as I can, as long as I feel like I am still competitive and in with a chance to win big



tournaments."

The former world doubles number one was speaking in Aberdeen to promote next month's Battle of the Brits - Scotland v England tournament, which is taking place in the city.

Jamie and his younger brother Andy will be the star attractions at the event, which had to be cancelled last year because of Covid-19.

Three-time Grand Slam winner Andy began the year well outside the world's top 100, but has since climbed up to 49th in the global men's standings.

"The biggest thing was that he was pretty much fit to play a full season, which was a big step forward for him," said the

older Murray brother.

"He missed a few tournaments in the second quarter of the year, he played a lot of good tennis, he had a few good wins, I think he probably would have liked to have pushed on more than maybe he did but for him the big confidence is that he knows that he can play a full season on the tour and hopefully that will relax him.

"He still has a lot of great tennis in him. I am sure he still believes he can, otherwise he wouldn't still be playing I don't think, so I'm hoping for good things for him. There are opportunities there at the top of the men's game for him to get back up there, I really believe that."

Chelsea squad best we've had - Hayes

CHELSEA boss Emma Hayes said her squad is the best the Blues "have ever had" as her side maintained their perfect start in the Women's Champions League by seeing off Real Madrid.

BBC SPORT said that, second-half goals from Sophie Ingle and Erin Cuthbert helped the hosts ease to their win at Kingsmeadow.

Chelsea remain favourites to win Group A, and are now five points clear of second-placed Paris St-Germain.

"This team is on another level," said Hayes.

"This is the best squad we've ever had. I think that learning from previous years and learning from losing in the final [against Barcelona in 2021] helped."

Following a drab first half, the Blues took the lead through Sophie Ingle's 67th-minute header after Millie Bright

flicked on a corner.

Erin Cuthbert's dipping cross sealed the points with 15 minutes left, catching out goalkeeper Misa Rodriguez.

Chelsea, who returned to the top of the Women's Super League on Sunday after beating Tottenham at Stamford Bridge, came into the match leading the group, two points ahead of unbeaten Real Madrid.

After a 1-0 win over Paris St-Germain and an 8-0 victory against Villaznia in their two other Champions League matches, a bouncing Kingsmeadow crowd was expectant.

They came close through Fran Kirby's early curling effort in an otherwise uneventful first half.

With 25 minutes to go there was a nervous energy at Kingsmeadow with Real Madrid growing into the game, but that was soon replaced with relief after Ingle's opener.

And Chelsea nearly added a third through two Niamh Charles efforts at the death as they cantered to victory.

Hayes praised her side's maturity, adding: "I think a couple of years ago we'd have got impatient, especially in the first half.

"It was a calm dressing room at half-time. When these two teams are so relatively matched, I'm starting to see the importance of our experience.

"We certainly play better European football, we're becoming more accustomed to it."

This was the first meeting between Chelsea and Real Madrid, but Las Blancas boast a fine record against English teams in the Champions League having knocked out Manchester City for the second consecutive season in August's qualifiers.

The visitors came to west

London having only lost once this campaign, against Barcelona in the Primera Division where they sit third in the table.

And though they struggled in the opening exchanges, last year's quarter-finalists grew into the game as Esther Gonzalez saw a fierce shot blocked shortly after the restart.

But it was to be their only meaningful effort, with Chelsea the better side on Hayes' first game back at Kingsmeadow since recovering from surgery.

BBC SPORT maintained that, so far this year 17 athletes from the East African country have been suspended by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for a range of violations.

A further eight Kenyans have been provisionally suspended, with the outcomes of their cases pending.

Yego, who won the javelin world title in 2015, is irritated by the news of each sanction by the AIU, and has called for more athletes to speak out about the dangers of doping.

"Whoever is indulging in these drugs should be ashamed of himself or herself," Yego told BBC Sport Africa.

"We should raise our voices and create awareness. If we do not speak up, then we are going [down] a very dangerous path. Then Kenya will be nowhere in athletics."

The 33-year-old continued: "Ignorance is the worst thing, that has killed many athletes."

"Maybe someone wants a shortcut to success. The only way to success is serious training. Responsibility lies with athletes here."

In response to the glut of positive doping results

Doping putting Kenyan athletics on 'road to nowhere'



Diana Kipyokei, winner of the women's race at the 2021 Boston Marathon, has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for a banned substance

involving its athletes, a government minister says Kenya will launch "a serious war against doping".

"We are going to criminalise doping to levels you cannot imagine. We are going to be very, very harsh," said Ababu Namwamba, the cabinet secretary for Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts.

"Kenya is a very proud sporting nation. We pride ourselves for being world-beaters, but we beat the world playing clean. I want all of us to say 'no' to doping."

The AIU has handed out bans for a range of violations by Kenyans but has observed a recent trend in the country, with 10 athletes testing positive for triamcinolone acetonide since last year.

In comparison, only two other athletes have returned positive tests for the banned substance during the same period.

"There is no getting around it - there is a lot of doping in Kenya," the head of the AIU, Brett Clothier, recently told Kenya's NTV.

"This is a very serious issue and this is a very serious moment for Kenyan athletics. We are getting much better at

catching athletes and there is really nowhere to hide."

Kenya is among seven countries deemed a 'Category A' federation - the highest doping risk - by the AIU, meaning athletes from the countries have to undergo at least three tests in the 10 months prior to a major event to be able to compete there.

Athletics Kenya says it is "doing everything possible" to "unearth the perpetrators" of the doping scandals which have rocked the country.

A statement from the governing body added it intends to "maintain its no-holds-barred fight" against the use of prohibited performance-enhancing substances.

The organisation said it had undertaken a countrywide initiative to equip athletes and coaches with skills and knowledge to fight doping and has put in place "stringent measures" to prevent athletes from "falling prey to unscrupulous coaches and managers".

Namwamba says he aims to bring proposals to amend Kenya's laws to criminalise doping.

Woods beats McIlroy to claim \$15m

TIGER Woods pipped Rory McIlroy to the \$15m (£12.6m) prize for generating the most media interest this year - despite playing only three events in 2022.

BBC SPORT maintained that,

Woods, 46, beat the world number one to top spot on the PGA Tour's 'Player Impact Programme' (PIP).

The scheme was introduced last year to reward competitors for generating positive interest in the PGA Tour.

McIlroy, who earned \$18m (£15m) when he won the Tour's 2022 FedEx Cup title, got \$9m (£7.5m) for being second.

Woods also won the inaugural bonus programme in 2021.

The PIP was designed to reward players who generate the most interest in the PGA Tour, with metrics such as Google searches, news article mentions and social media reach and engagement taken into account.

As in 2021, Woods played a limited schedule this year even before his last tournament in Scotland in July as he continues to recover from injuries sustained in a car crash in February last year.

This season, the 15-time major winner finished 47th at the Masters, withdrew from the US PGA Championship after three rounds and missed the cut at the Open Championship.

McIlroy's \$12m reward arrived just two days after the 33-year-old captured the DP World Tour's order of merit title for the fourth

time.

The Northern Irishman became just the second player to win the FedEx Cup and Race to Dubai titles in the same season after Henrik Stenson in 2013.

Three-time major winner Jordan Spieth won \$9m (£7.5m) for finishing third in the PIP, ahead of fellow American Justin Thomas and Spain's Jon Rahm.

England's Matt Fitzpatrick, who won the US Open in June, earned \$5m (£4m) for finishing inside the top 10 while Ireland's Shane Lowry picked up \$3m (£2.5m).

Last year's PIP runner-up Phil Mickelson was ineligible after leaving the PGA Tour to play on the Saudi Arabian-backed LIV Tour.

Bryson DeChambeau, Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka and Bubba Watson, who were all in the top 10 in the inaugural PIP rankings last year, also exited the PGA Tour for LIV.

Woods will return to action in the Hero World Challenge, an event he hosts in the Bahamas, between 1-4 December.

The 82-time PGA Tour winner will also partner McIlroy against Spieth and Thomas in The Match, a 12-hole exhibition in Florida, on 10 December.



Chelsea have won all three of their Women's Champions League matches this season

Bosso invites 40 to Flying Eagles' camp in Abuja

Head Coach of the U20 Boys' National Team, Isah Ladan Bosso has called up 40 players to begin camping in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja from Monday, 28th November in preparation for next year's Africa U20 Cup of Nations finals in Egypt.

The list is made up of five goalkeepers, nine defenders, 13 midfielders and 13 forwards. The players will stay at the Serob Legacy Hotel in the Wuye area of the nation's capital.

The seven-time African champions triumphed at the WAFF U20 Championship held in Niger

Republic in the month of May and thus qualified to represent the zone at the 2023 Africa U20 Cup of Nations to be staged in Egypt 18th February – 12th March.

All four semi-finalists at the U20 AFCON will fly Africa's flag at next year's FIFA U20 World Cup finals holding in Indonesia.

Goalkeepers: Nathaniel Nwosu (Water FC); Kingsley Aniagbosu (Giant Brillars); Saheed Jimoh (Adoration FC); Kehinde Ogundele (Insurance FC); Edward Ameh (Mailantarki FC)

Defenders: Oluwatosin Adegbite (Enyimba FC); Benjamin Frederick (Nasarawa United); David

Sholumade (Akwa United); Sunday Haruna (Wikki Tourists); Dominion Ohaka (Water FC); Shaibu Hassan (Smart City); Solomon Agbalaka (Broad City); Adedoyin Odele (36 Lion); Junior Nduka (Remo Stars)

Midfielders: Daniel Daga (Dakkada FC); Hassan Anas (Vandrezzer FC); Ogbelu Onuche (Fosla FC); Udoh Godwin (City FC Abuja); Muhammad Aminu (Gombe United); Sambo Shehu (Katsina United); Samuel Longbak (Plateau United); Ozuka Ogochukwu (Katsina United); Alex Oyewah (Bayelsa United); Obiaku

Ifesinachi (36 Lion); Caleb Ochedikwu (Mavloon FC); Christopher Chinedu (Unique FC); Isaac Ayuma (Mavloon FC)

Forwards: Rilwanu Haliru (Mahanaim FC); Tolulope Ojo (Phoenix FC); John Edwin (Water FC); Divine Nwachukwu (Insurance FC); Albert Hilary (Plateau United); Ibrahim Yahaya (Wikki Tourists); Umar Badamasi (El-Kanemi Warriors); Adam Abdulrahman (Mahanaim FC); Azeez Akintunde (3SC); Sunday Emmanuel (Empire FC); Emmanuel Jonas (Niger Tornadoes); Francis Ayuba (Nasarawa United); Emmanuel Justin (Unique FC).



Bosso

Super Eagles star could join Osimhen at Napoli

Super Eagles striker Victor Osimhen could get a Nigeria teammate at Napoli soon as the club is monitoring Bright Osayi-Samuel's situation at Fenerbahce.

Osayi-Samuel left English football for the Turkish Super Lig last January, and he has grown in leaps and bounds.

The Okija-born wingback has

been a brilliant addition to the Fenerbahce side, making 83 appearances and recording three goals and six assists.

Osayi-Samuel has impressed so much that in less than two years, his

value as per transfermarkt has risen from just over €500,000

to €9million.

Well, the 24-year-old versatile player's hardwork has not gone unnoticed, and he could be on his way out of Fenerbahce.

According to Futbolder, the Partenopeans are keeping tabs on Osayi-Samuel, and they could

move for him next summer.

Osayi-Samuel could be a real asset, as he can play in midfield and defense.

Napoli have done business with Fenerbahce recently, as flying defender Kim Min-Jae was bought from the former Turkish champions for

€18.5million last summer.

Osayi-Samuel is currently valued at €6million, and Napoli could go all out for him to add some quality to the team.

The 24-year-old played his first game for Nigeria in their 4-0 loss to Portugal on the 17th of November.

Super Eagles coach charged to work magic quickly



The pressure is beginning to build on the Portuguese tactician after he led the Eagles to an embarrassing heavy defeat to the Selecao

Former Nigeria international striker Peter Ijeh has charged coach Jose Peseiro to get the Super Eagles playing better in no time.

Under Peseiro, the Super Eagles have claimed two victories over Sierra Leone and Sao Tome and Principe in the Africa Cup of Nations qualifying series.

More alarming, though, is that the 2013 Afcon winners have lost five other matches to Mexico, Ecuador, Algeria, Costa Rica, and Portugal.

And former goal-king Ijeh is displeased that Peseiro is yet to get the Super Eagles playing with a discernible style more than six months after his appointment.

In an interview with *The Telegraph*, Ijeh noted, "He has been with the team for some time and up til now, I don't know his philosophy. We don't know the pattern and playing style of the Eagles."

"Peseiro hasn't put his personality on the squad and the results have also not been coming his way. He has lost about five matches now as Eagles coach. Look at the big teams we have played; we lost almost all of those games; we beat Lesotho and Siera Leone, but we haven't made our mark in big games."

"You don't need to spend all the time in the world to be able to build a team that people will be able to identify as your own with the tactics, philosophy, and playing pattern."

The Super Eagles missed out on participation at the 2022 FIFA World Cup but the three-time continental champions are favourites to book a spot at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations.